

THE COMMUNITY'S HOME LOAN RESOURCE...

Office
503.297.9900
Evenings/Weekends
503.780.1561
Toll Free
1.877.826.9900
Email
colleenw@mtgadvocates.com
www.mtgadvocates.com

- New purchase
- 100% equity loans
- Pre-qualification by phone or fax
- Refinance/cash out
- Pre-approved loans
- Residential, commercial & investment property
- Appointments at your convenience

*"I'm available
when you are!"*



Colleen Weed

**MORTGAGE
Advocates**

9900 S.W. Wilshire Street • Portland, Oregon 97225



Corner of Sandy Blvd. & NE 64th
3106 NE 64th
Portland, OR 97213

*Gifts
for Romance
in an
Elegant Setting*

It's My Pleasure

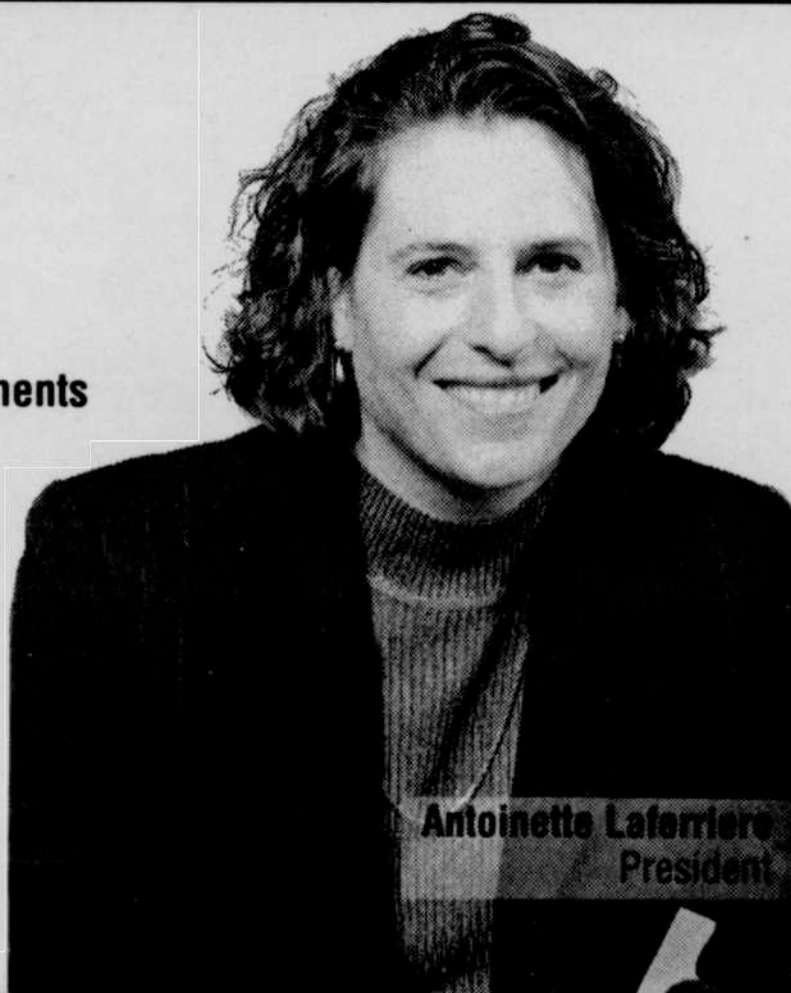
A Place of Romantic Invention

503-280-8080
www.teleport.com/~pleasure

Financial freedom and peace of mind
Interested?

Let me assist you with comprehensive financial planning
and investment management

Stocks
Bonds
Mutual Funds
CD's
IRA's and Roth IRA's
401(k) Rollovers
Tax Advantaged Investments



Antoinette Laferriere
President

**GRIFFON
FINANCIAL
GROUP, LLC**
Financial and Estate Planning Services

503 528 2800

E-mail: alaferriere@rjfs.com

5440 SW Westgate Drive, Suite 110 Portland, OR 97221

Securities and financial planning offered exclusively through
Raymond James Financial Services, Inc. Member NASD/SIPC

WORLD news

THE NETHERLANDS

Dutch gay marriage legislation cleared its final hurdle in the Senate on Dec. 19 and will take effect in April. The new laws will allow same-sex couples to marry under the same statutes as heterosexuals and to adopt children.

Although several nations have passed gay registered partnership laws, the Netherlands is the first to grant gay couples access to regular marriage. "We're the first country in the world where there is no distinction made on the basis of gender," said Onno Hoes of the national gay rights group COC.

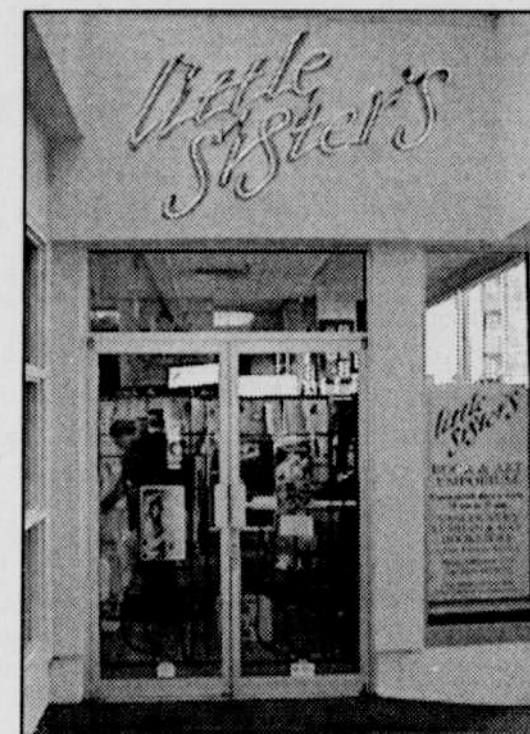
Dutch gays have had access to a registered partnership scheme since 1998. Gay couples will not be allowed to adopt foreign babies—because of the Dutch government's fear of Third World homophobia—and couples from other countries, gay or straight, cannot marry in the Netherlands.

The legislation was supported by the liberal and labor parties of the governing coalition, with additional support from left-wing opposition parties. The opposition Christian Democrat party and small religious parties opposed the bills.

The Vatican denounced the laws' passage. "The Catholic church contests these revolutionary innovations which in the name of freedom seek to legitimize a union regarded by the universal consciousness as going against nature," the church said. "The family in its natural and Christian model is undergoing a serious affront and is losing its role as the base of society."

CANADA

Vancouver's Little Sister's Book & Art Emporium suffered "excessive and unnecessary prejudice" from Customs Canada officers who repeatedly seized gay erotica sent to the store, the Canadian Supreme Court ruled Dec. 15. The court rewrote Customs law to



switch the burden of proof in obscenity cases from the importer to the government.

"This changes in our view utterly the relationship of Canada to expression materials," John Dixon of the British Columbia Civil Liberties Association told the Canadian Press wire service. "From now on, it will be



Kate Winslet (left) had no problem with same-sex nookie in 1994's *Heavenly Creatures*

UNITED KINGDOM

Titanic star Kate Winslet is upset that her newly acquired \$1.16 million home on a island in the Thames river in Surrey, England, is next door to a popular gay cruising spot, the *Sun* reported. "Every day dozens of homosexual men cruise past her home, park around the corner and have sex with strangers," the newspaper said.

According to a police spokesman, Winslet "said she had nothing against gay people and has lots as friends, but there is a big difference when men are driving past the front door and stopping 150 yards up the lane to have sex in the bushes. It is a one-way lane and she has to drive past them daily. We have said we will monitor the situation and send patrol cars down there."

A *Sun* reporter claimed to have been "beckoned" twice "by lone men standing by a tree."

"Two men climbed together into the back of a camper van," the newspaper said. "A search revealed scattered used condoms and gay porn magazines."

almost impossible to prove a book—the text—is obscene. That is an enormous ratchet forward."

Little Sister's manager Janin Fuller called the ruling an "incredible indictment" against Customs' "unscrutinized tyranny at the border." The court's decision was a 6-3 split with dissenting justices wanting to strike down entirely the laws under which the Customs service operates.

Since 1984, officers seized material headed to Little Sister's 261 times and destroyed it if the bookstore did not prove the material was not obscene. Now, they must release material after 30 days if the government has not proved it is obscene.

The Little Sister's case first went to court in 1994. Lower courts found that foreign erotica headed to the store was seized routinely while the same books and magazines often arrived safely at straight bookstores and, in some cases, were even on the shelves of British Columbia public libraries.