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# Just Out

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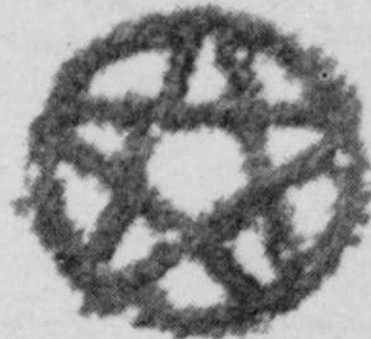


inside  
*Bambi Inspires James  
Canfield Signatures*  
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Portland, Oregon FREE



Ceramic fertility goddess by Anna Carpentieri graces her garden

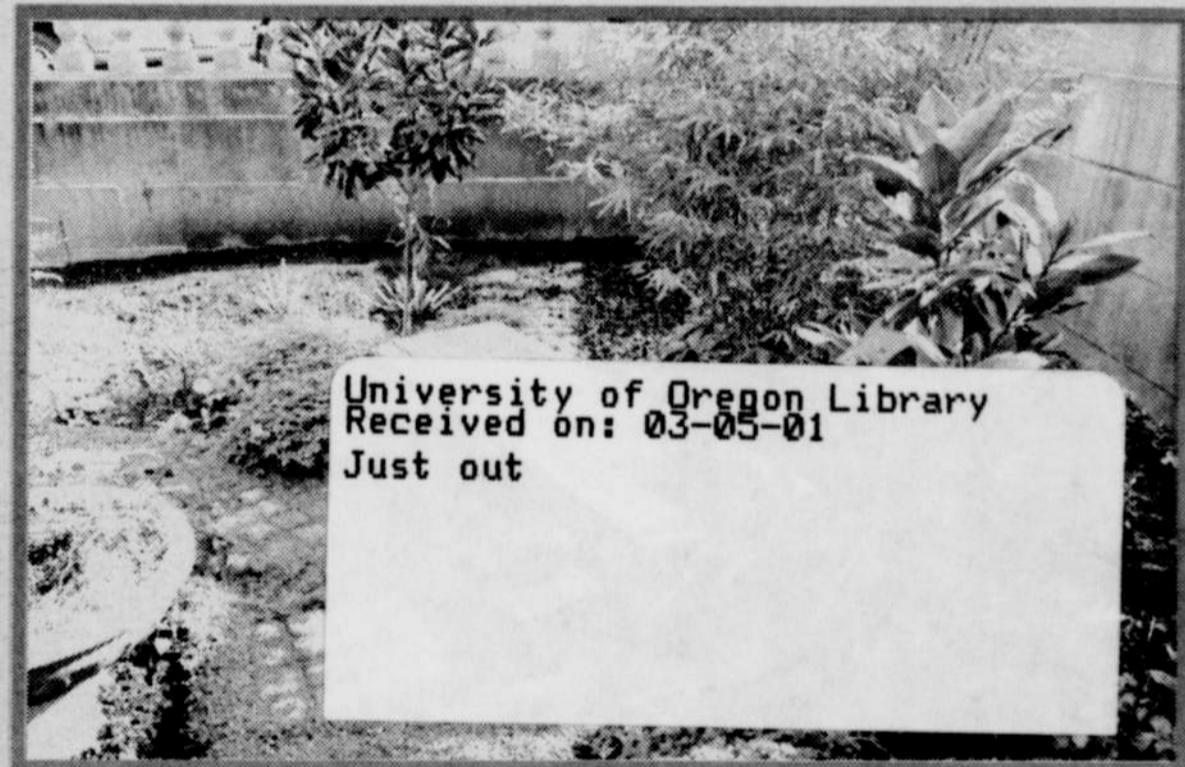


## CREATING HEAVEN ON EARTH

*Gardens as places of healing,  
magic and spiritual inspiration*

BY ORIANA GREEN

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Just out

A quiet corner of the Keeston Lowery Memorial Garden at City Hall

## Higher learning

Portland woman struggles to rid campus of shame

BY JONATHAN KIPP

**R**ebecca Kenney wants people to know that Mount Hood Community College, where she serves as director of continuing education and adviser of the Pride Students' Alliance, is becoming a better place for sexual minorities to teach, work and, most importantly, learn. "It really is a time of change here," she says.

The metamorphosis from a staunchly conservative college to one



Rebecca Kenney

that just is starting to recognize and deal with its own institutional homophobia has been slow. But Kenney's tenacity, patience and political astuteness—and even her sense of humor—are beginning to pay off.

No one appointed her to help spearhead the effort, but as the college's only out sexual minority faculty or staff member, she didn't have much choice. "Someone needed to come forward," she says.

The struggle to help co-workers and administrators understand that the college wasn't doing all it could do to make everyone welcome on campus was a tiring one for Kenney. For two years she found herself surrounded by homophobic statements at meetings, policies that didn't include gay families and institutional denial that ran deep. And while she stepped forward and did what she thought she could do to help make things better, she grew increasingly frustrated by only cursory change.

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## Moving On



Jaime Balboa steps down as Basic Rights Oregon executive director

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