

# Couple slain; community rages



**'They did everything together':** Sue Pittman and her lover, Christine Puckett, "did everything together," according to a friend. On May 5, they died together, inches apart, on their driveway, shot at point-blank range.

■ Candlelight vigil June 9 to focus attention on case

By STEVEN M. CULVER  
The Michigan Tribune

Sue Pittman and her lover, Christine Puckett, "did everything together," according to a friend. On May 5, they died together, inches apart, on their driveway, shot at point-blank range while they dug holes for new fence posts.

James Brooks, the women's 65-year-old neighbor, is charged with two counts of open murder.

What happened on the driveway that day, to some, was the culmination of a 25-year-long feud between Brooks and Pittman. To others, it is a clear case of a crime motivated by hate.

To keep attention focused on the case, an ad-hoc group of ac-

*Continued on page 4*



*Susan Pittman*



*Christine Puckett*

# Vigil to focus attention on case

*Continued from page 1*

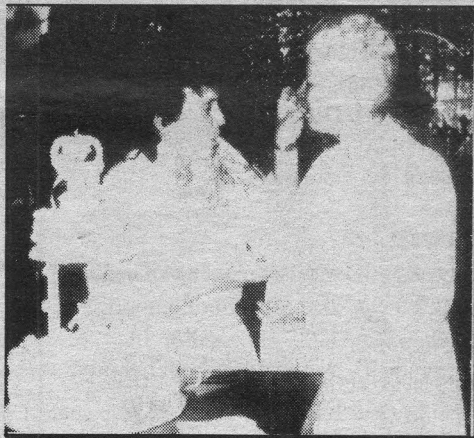
tivists have scheduled a candlelight vigil June 9 at 8 pm on the steps of the Frank Murphy Hall of Justice in downtown Detroit.

Brooks will face a competency hearing the next day.

"As a community, we must send a message that violence against lesbians and gay men is unacceptable," reads a flier announcing the vigil. "United as a community, we will mourn our losses, nurture our sisters and brothers, and stand up and speak out against anti-lesbian and anti-gay violence."

Pittman and Puckett were active members of Detroit's lesbian and gay community. Both served on the board of Affirmations Community Center.

"Sue and Christine were members of our community and there is a lot of grief and anger at their murders," said Jan Stevenson,



*Pittman and Puckett at their holy union.*

executive director of Affirmations. "The vigil will bring a sad but necessary focus to the threats and abuse that our whole community endures." □