



Give the People Light and they will find their own way.

# The Wisconsin Light

## U.S. State Department Opens Foreign Service to Gays

[Washington, D.C.]—Gays and Lesbians in Foreign Affairs Agencies (GLIFAA), a Lesbian and Gay employee group, has announced a major breakthrough in governmental foreign service hiring policy.

The 1993 announcement by the State Department of the annual Foreign Service Officer Examinations now includes sexual orientation in its non-discriminatory clause.

Franklin E. Kameny, long-time D.C. Gay activist and expert on federal civilian employment and security clearances, said that the new wording represented a "180-degree reversal" from the policies of "those benighted days" of the '60's, when security clearances and top-level positions in the Foreign Service were forbidden to anyone who was openly Lesbian or Gay.

GLIFAA President David Buss praised State's action and said that his organization's next goal would be to win domestic partner benefits for Lesbian and Gay Foreign Service employees.

What this would mean is that spouses of Gays would qualify for free travel, diplomatic passports, housing and schooling.

GLIFAA urges Gay, Lesbian and Bisexual Americans who want to serve their country to take the Foreign Service Officer Exam.

Registrants must be U.S. citizens and at least 20 years-old. Registration materials may be obtained by sending a postcard to: Foreign Service Officer Examination, U.S. Department of State, P.O. Box 12226, Arlington, VA 22219.

**Editor's Comment:** The exam is lengthy, rather tricky, but not all that hard, I didn't think. It's worth a try. Go for it.

## Lesbian Avengers Roller Skate For Gay Rights in Virginia

By Bob Roehr

The Lesbian Avengers rolled into suburban Fairfax County, Virginia, to fight for truth, justice and the right to hold hands while roller skating.

On August 6, four young women went to the Franconia Skating Center to celebrate Janel Brooks' 24th birthday. During the time announced for couple skating, Clarity Haynes and Lynn Borowitz took to the rink and began skating holding hands.

That provoked a frenzy of announcements over the loud speakers that the time was "for couples only." A rink official skated up behind them, whistle blowing, threatening to have them arrested for trespassing if they didn't comply and leave the floor, which they eventually did. Then the police arrived and escorted all four women out. Management refused to refund their entry fee.

The display of homophobia shocked and angered the Lesbian Avengers, a direct action group formed after the March On Washington. They vowed to return to the scene to fight the bigotry. Others called to express their support after the story appeared in the *Washington Blade*.

On Friday night, August 20, about 50 people assembled in Franconia for an action sponsored by the Avengers. Half infiltrated the rink, paying their \$5.50 entrance fee.

Avenger leader Carla Uriona said, "It was kind of funny. There were a lot of people that we didn't recognize, so we had this Lesbian Avenger greeter at the door trying to figure out if people were Gay or straight."

At first they just skated. Then, on Uriona's signal, the Gay and Lesbian couples began to hold hands. The management looked uneasy, but didn't act. So, Uriona and her partner pushed it a little farther. They began kissing while they were skating, "which is really hard

## Censorship Sought at Sussex and Hales Corners Libraries

Children's Book, 'Daddy's Roommate,' 'Wisconsin Light' Targeted

[Milwaukee]—Five library systems nationwide have censored a Gay-themed children's book, said the publisher, Sasha Alyson of Alyson Publications, Boston. But, Alyson added, a far greater number have withstood challenges to the controversial *Daddy's Roommate*.

The five systems include: Mercer County, New Jersey, Bladen County, North Carolina, Gwinnett County, Georgia, Moss Point, Mississippi and Martinsville, Virginia. Now Sussex, Wisconsin seems about to join the pack.

Peter Meissner, N67-W25913 Silver Spring Drive, filed a petition to get the book, *Daddy's Roommate* removed from circulation. Meissner said he was not satisfied with the response from Library Director Joy Botts and that he would take his complaint to the Library Board.

The hearing is likely to be held September 16, 1993 at the library, N644-W23760 Main Street in Sussex.

In a statement released Tuesday, August 31, 1993, Botts said that she and the other three members of the Reconsideration Committee had reviewed the book and had unanimously agreed that the book should remain in the children's room of the library. However, the book would be shifted from fiction to the children's non-fiction.

Meissner said he was not satisfied with that arrangement. "It's a fiction book," he said. "It doesn't make sense to say it's non-fiction. Labeling it as a children's non-fiction book is saying that it is a true story."

Meissner added that "I am not a Gay basher. I have no problem with homosexuals. I just don't like their

behavior and I don't want it presented to children in a positive light."

Alyson said that there were 28 other libraries that had come under heavy attack for carrying the children's book, "yet refused to censor it in any way."

"From New Mexico to Florida, from Vermont to Washington State, librarians have resisted political pressure, petitions, and even pickets, to defend the right of all children to see their families represented in books," Alyson said.

Alyson said that his company continues to publish new children's books that deal with Gay issues. "There's no way the religious right can attack every book we publish. In the long run, they're losing this fight," he said.

## Milwaukee Act Up To Demonstrate For AIDS Funding

[Milwaukee]—ACT UP Milwaukee is targeting the City of Milwaukee over the amount of municipal funding AIDS receives. ACT UP's research as discovered the following information:

The City of Milwaukee, with a population of 628,088, spends \$69,200 a year on AIDS. This is less than Seattle, Washington; Columbus, Ohio; Tampa, Florida — all of which have similar populations to Milwaukee. For example, Seattle, which according to the 1990 census, has a population of 516,259, has allocated \$435,000 for AIDS in 1993.

According to ACT UP, the City of Milwaukee does not have a strategic plan for how to fight the AIDS pandemic; a plan that would specifically detail programs and funding amounts to be utilized to fight AIDS.

### ACT UP Demands

To remedy this situation, ACT UP demands that Milwaukee increase its annual AIDS spending by \$25,000. These funds would be divided up between AIDS-service organizations (ASOs) and community-based groups (CBOs), with the City retaining an amount to finance a education campaign.

ACT UP proposes that upon allocation of these funds, there would be a committee consisting of ASOs and CBOs — the Milwaukee AIDS Project (MAP), United Migrant Opportunity Services, the Milwaukee Indian Health Board, the Institute for Child and Family Development, Isaac Coggs and ACT UP — that would decide together how and where these funds would be divided and spent.

ACT UP further demands that Milwaukee "quickly and efficiently" facilitate the drawing up of an AIDS Strategic Plan to fight AIDS in the city. This would involve two things, ACT UP says.

1) Using City moneys and resources to set up meetings with ASOs and CBOs, including ACT UP, that would identify what deficiencies exist in the fight against AIDS and what needs to be done;

2) A commitment from the City to agree to implement the AIDS Strategic Plan once finished.

### Target City Hall

ACT UP is calling for people to join a "Target City Hall" demonstration to demand that Mayor John Norquist take the lead with his 1994 budget proposal (due out by the end of September). People wishing to participate should assemble at the Riverwalk by Marshall Field's (Wisconsin Avenue and the Milwaukee River) at 11:30 a.m. on Tuesday, September 14 1993.

For more information, call ACT UP at (414) 769-8708.

By Sue Burke

[Milwaukee]—In response to a complaint by a patron, the Hales Corners Library Board of Trustees, will appoint a committee to recommend whether the library should continue to place *The Wisconsin Light* newspaper in its public brochure rack in the library entrance.

The committee should make a recommendation to the library board at its Dec. 1 meeting.

Hales Corners resident Jeff Baas told the library board Sept. 1 he objected to the pictures in some of the advertisements in the newspaper. By carrying the newspaper, he said, the library advocated the sale of the items in the ads, such as phone sex, books and products that seemed to involve promiscuity.

Baas, 26, an elementary teacher in Wauwatosa, said that "if one of my fifth-grade students picked up this paper, I would be sickened, personally. Perhaps I say this because of my religious conservative beliefs, but it's also more than that."

In an interview, *Wisconsin Light* Executive Editor Terry Boughner said the newspaper was distributed at the library at the request of the library director.

He said *Wisconsin In Step* magazine formerly had been distributed at the library, but there had been complaints about *In Step*. The librarian said that she believe that there should be a Gay publication in the library, Boughner said, so she asked *Wisconsin Light* to send 10 copies of its free biweekly publication instead.

"So we did. And that's been going on for two years and nobody's said anything," Boughner said.

Baas described himself as a "believer in god and his word" but said he came as a private citizen. He said he picked up the newspaper a couple of months ago while he was visiting the library and was "shocked."

"The pictures in it were beyond what should be distributed in public libraries not so much because it was a Gay newspaper, but if it was in fact men and women that I saw I would be here tonight," Baas told the library trustees.

After the meeting, asked by television reporters to show what he meant, he pointed out pictures on the covers of books illustrated in an advertising insert from *Lambda Rising*, a Gay and Lesbian book seller.

He said he wanted the newspaper removed from the library, but when asked by reporters, he said keeping the newspaper behind the counter but still available to patrons might be a compromise, although he hadn't thought about it much.

"It would certainly be better than having it on the shelf where kids could get at it," Baas said.

He said he was "absolutely" satisfied with the library board's decision to appoint the committee, and hoped to sit in on some of the committee's meetings.

The committee will consist of three citizens appointed by Georgiana Tamel, president of the board; two staff members appointed by Patricia A. Laughlin, director of library services; and the Hales Corners village attorney.

The board did not discuss the merit of Baas' complaint, although members thanked him for bringing the matter to their attention.

Laughlin said the committee would get information about material that is "standard" for consideration for library collections. She had also provided board members with reprints of a magazine article about library services to Gay and Lesbian patrons.