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A Tale of Serial Monogamy

Over the years I've shared my many loves with the See Vue Oceanfront Inn.

On my first visit to that idyllic spot on the central Oregon coast, Barbara Jean lassoed my heart in the Far Out West Room. She had spurs that jingle-jangle-jingled and she knew how to ride. Not long after that she rode into the sunset and out of my life.

I rebounded with Jessie. She and I spent our two month anniversary in the Granny Suite. We turned Granny's picture toward the wall so she couldn't watch us doing the nasty. The hot sex couldn't last. Six months later we ended it in the Salish Room.

Shortly after that torrid affair, Jasmine and I played out lacy medieval fantasies in the Princess and the Pea Room. À la JoAnn Loulan she left me for a knight in male armor, guess we should have stayed in the Cottage.

My new love and I absolutely adore the Crow's Nest. There is a panoramic view of the ocean and bunks on which to play captain and first mate.

I'm sure this one will last forever, and if not, there's still the Santa Fe, the Mountain Shores, the Study and the Far Out East rooms before I have to start all over again.

—A very satisfied customer

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LOCAL news

LOLLIPOP PHILOSOPHY

**Queer-positive messages come in many flavors,
thanks to the Lesbian Avengers** by Inga Sorensen

Erika Overby made her way over to the group.

"Hi, I'm Erika," she said gently.

On this afternoon Overby, a 17-year-old student at Wilson High School, found herself across town, standing in front of Franklin High School in Southeast Portland.

Her blond hair cascaded down to her shoulders, a sharp contrast to the black of her full-length leather jacket.

"This is our volunteer," said one young woman from the group. "Cool. Welcome!"

With that, Overby was embraced by the Lesbian Avengers, those feisty homophobia-bashing, patriarchy-crashing, oppression-slashing queer chicks whose logo is an explosive draped with the wording "Be the bomb that you throw." And their favorite slogan? "We recruit."

It's too early to know whether Overby has joined the Avenger brigade in any long-term fashion. But here at Franklin she has come to partake in the final hour of lollipopping actions launched by the group between Feb. 20 and 26.

The Avengers had selected several area schools where they planned to distribute a total of 2,000 Tootsie Pops wrapped with queer-positive stickers that encouraged recipients to "Lick Lesbophobia!" "Lick Homophobia!" and "Lick Transphobia!" The stickers also included contact numbers for the Women's Crisis Line and queer resources.

Avengers handed the suckers to students heading in and out of school, and the principal at each site received a packet of information highlighting the plight of queer, questioning and queer-appearing students—from anti-gay harassment to the blatant lack of school resources for queer youth—as well as detailed suggestions for rectifying the problems.

Wilson was one of the institutions on the hit list.

"I didn't see [the Avengers] when they were there, but my friends told me about them," says Overby, who is out at Wilson. "My friends said I should take their lollipops."

She did, gleaned the Avenger hot line number, called it, and the rest, as they say, is herstory.

It's 3 pm on Feb. 26, an uncharacteristically sunny afternoon. The sky is a faded blue, the air crisp. Students begin to stroll out of Franklin. It seems like a pretty mellow lot.

"Hey. It's Free Lollipop Day. Have a lollipop," says Avenger Linnea Johnson, 24, as she thrusts a Tootsie Pop forward. Others in the group do the same.

"Hey. It's sunny. Have a lollipop."

"Thanks," says a student.

"I want a red one," says another.

A woman pushing a baby-stroller takes the Avengers up on their offer. She keeps moving, and a few feet later—after looking at the attached queer message—glances back at the Avengers. She's still moving. A moment later she glances back again, a quizzical look on her face. Her pace never slows.

One boy, meanwhile, shouts to a male

friend: "Hey, Christopher, are you a lesbian now?"

A girl adds, "Hey, there's nothing wrong with being a homosexual," evoking a "Right on" from Johnson.

Upon receiving her lollipop, a *Seventeen*-esque girl wearing a white "Franklin Tennis" sweatshirt, says to the Avengers, "Are you related to Outside In?"

Johnson and another Avenger, Lisa Goddard, 32, explain they are not, but that they strive to work in coalition with such organizations.

"Cool. I'm a volunteer with Cascade AIDS Project," says the teenager, who then bounces across the street.

The responses at Franklin, say the Avengers, have largely mirrored those at the other schools—places like Wilson, Cleveland and Jefferson in Portland, Tigard, Beaverton and Clackamas, and even the more rural Canby High School.

"We got lots of high-fives," Johnson says.

According to the Avengers, Jefferson High

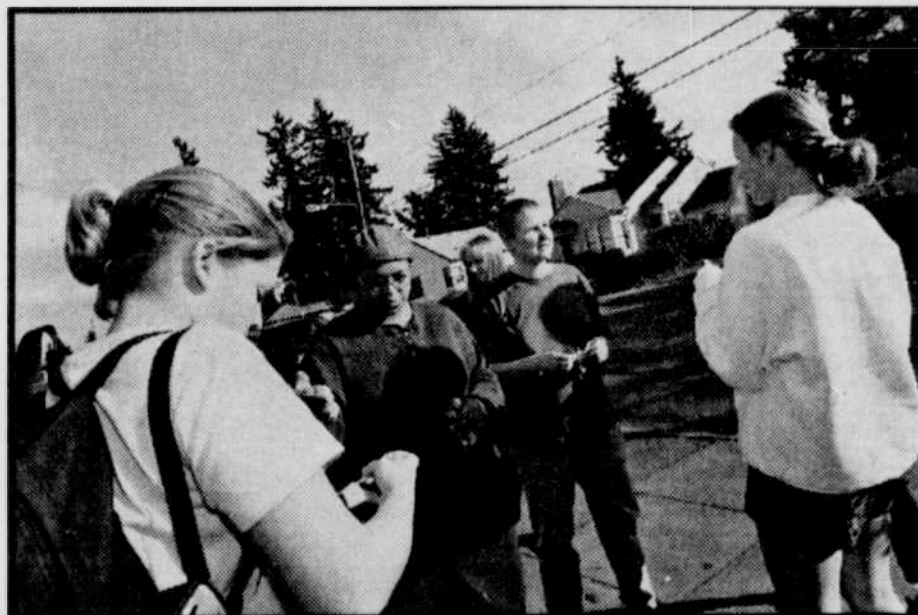


PHOTO BY LINDA KLEWER

Avengers talk with students outside Franklin High School

School in North Portland was added to the list after someone from the school read a previous story on the lollipop action in *Just Out*.

"They called and asked us to please come to Jefferson. We did because we had a request," says Johnson. "We speculate it was a staffer there."

With two red suckers in one hand and a purple in the other, Avenger Lisa Williams, 26, adds: "A lot of the teachers came out and talked with us."

So were there any negative reactions?

"At Canby some kid yelled something out of the school bus," says Johnson. "All I could make out was 'bitches.'"

"We got a lot of nervous giggles," adds Williams, "which I can totally understand because I was like that at their age, too."

It's about 3:30 pm. Most of the Franklin students are well on their way home.

"Is that it?" asks an Avenger, as what appears to be the last Tootsie Pop is handed over.

"That's it."

All 2,000 Tootsie Pops are now gone, and 2,000 queer-friendly messages are circulating among Portland-area youth.

Deeming it a job well done, the group huddles for a cheer: "One. Two. Three. Lollipop!"

"It's been good," says Goddard. "But we know so many other schools need this. We'll eventually do it again."

■ To learn more, call the PORTLAND LESBIAN AVENGERS hot line at 452-5408.