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## ACLU - We are not afraid

Ginny Maziarka

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# ACLU - We are not afraid

West Bend News today.

The Milwaukee chapter of the American Civil Liberties Union says that when the West Bend Community Memorial Library Board takes up the complaint filed over gaythemed books in the library's young adult collection, it should follow young adult policies that ensure materials are accessible, inclusive and appropriate for young readers.

Emilo De Torre, ACLU of Wisconsin youth and programs director, came to West Bend's City Hall last week to learn more about a formal complaint made by Ginny and Jim Maziarka of West Bend on what they called questionable materials within the library system. The meeting was postponed because the large crowd attending exceeded the room's capacity and would have resulted in a fire code violation.

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A friend of mine lent some info...

According to the ACLU's comments, parents are to protect their children **from** the library now, and apparently this is what the library recommends to children...

**"Kids...stay out of the library!"**

Here are some interesting WI Statutes on [Crimes Against Children](#).

948.11 **Exposing a child to harmful material or harmful descriptions or narrations** ..... (2) Criminal Penalties (a) whoever...loans to a child any harmful material....

948.055 **Causing a child to view** or listen to **sexual activity**.... **(See post below on the book "Deal With It." )** or <http://wissup.blogspot.com/2009/03/west-bend-library-is-this-for-your-kids.html>

948.05 Sexual exploitation of a child .... (1m) Whoever ....promotes...**distributes, any recording of a child engaging in sexually explicit conduct** may be penalized... (p) if the person knows the character and content of the sexually explicit conduct involving the child and if the person knows or....that the child engaging in the sexually explicit conduct has not attained the age of 18 years.

**Then, there is this for libraries:**

948.11 (4) Libraries and Educational Institutions.... (b) carry out the essential purpose of making available to all citizens a current, balanced collection of books.....that reflect the cultural diversity and pluralistic nature of American society.

**We have very specific statutes guarding children with regards to what they see, read and hear concerning sexually explicit material. The library is not above the law.**