

## **Straight Into Gay America: My Unicycle Journey for Equal Rights By Lars Clausen**

Soulscapers; \$16.95; Original Trade Paperback; July 2006;  
ISBN: 0-9719415-1-3; 352 Pages; 6"x9"; Illustrations and BW Photos;  
Distributed by QP Distribution LLC, [www.straightintogayamerica.com](http://www.straightintogayamerica.com)

“Nothing less than a sacred journey... Lars Clausen reveals the painful and the awesome throughout his stories...We are on the brink of LGBT equality in this country, and we need more people like Lars to help make equality a reality for everyone... *Straight Into Gay America* is a light for the journey ahead and a bridge across the divide between straight and gay.

PFLAG Executive Director, Jody Huckaby

Author Lars Clausen will celebrate the publication of *Straight Into Gay America* with a unicycle ride to protest the anti-gay rhetoric of Focus On The Family. On July 18<sup>th</sup>, exactly one year after finishing his 1,000 mile unicycle tour for equal rights, Clausen will join Soulforce's 1,000 Watt March from Denver to Colorado Springs.

Last summer, Clausen unicycled from Vermont to Virginia to discover everyday LGBT life and share the stories he encountered. From anti-gay preacher Jerry Falwell to the gay-rights directors of HRC, PFLAG, and Soulforce, Clausen's personal journey as a Lutheran pastor forced difficult choices between the exclusionary status quo of his church and the inclusive commitment of Jesus.

In *Straight Into Gay America* people shared their lives with the Guinness World Record-holding pastor who unicycled 1,000 miles for equal rights. Through roadside encounters and overnight stays, Clausen has crafted a story of everyday people living through the most polarizing political and religious battles of our times.

Clausen's purpose in creating *Straight Into Gay America* is nothing less than creating a wave of equality conversations in advance of the November elections. To help achieve this goal, Clausen is giving his book away free, one page a day, delivered by email. Anyone who visits [www.straightintogayamerica.com](http://www.straightintogayamerica.com) can receive pages and add to this conversation.

### **Publication Events:** July 18, 2006

12:00 pm: Soulforce 1,000 Watt March

Leg 6. Unicycling 4.3 miles on S. Parker Road beginning just south of E. Lincoln Ave. Denver, Colorado.

...MORE...

4:00 pm: Conversation and Questions:  
Hilton Garden Inn on Briargate Parkway. Colorado Springs, Colorado.

**About the Author:**

Writing expresses Lars Clausen's hope to foster community and discover a deeper personal honesty. His first book, *One Wheel – Many Spokes: USA by Unicycle* is a “stepping out” story, and achieved space from his normal routines by unicycling through all 50 states while exploring Native land and history. On the ride Clausen set two Guinness World Records. *Straight Into Gay America: My Unicycle Journey for Equal Rights*, is a coming-out story, combining personal exploration with active advocacy for the kind of world that Clausen hopes we can become.

Clausen hold degrees in Mechanical Engineering from U.C. Berkeley and from Northwestern in Evanston, Illinois. He is an ordained minister in the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. His Master of Divinity degree comes from Pacific Lutheran Theological Seminary in Berkeley, California.

Clausen lives with his family in Chelan, Washington, on the east side of the Cascade Mountains. He is married to Anne and together they are raising their children KariAnna (12) and Kai (10).

-30-

**Book Specifications:**

Title: Straight Into Gay America: My Unicycle Journey for Equal Rights  
Author: Lars Clausen  
Publisher: Soulscapers  
Price: \$16.95 Original Trade Paperback  
Copyright: 2006  
Page Count: 352  
ISBN: 0-9719415-1-3  
Categories: Gay/Lesbian, Politics, Religion, Travel  
Website: [www.straightintogayamerica.com](http://www.straightintogayamerica.com)

Additional information, including press quality images,  
is available at [www.straightintogayamerica.com](http://www.straightintogayamerica.com).

All Soulscaper titles are distributed by QP Distribution LLC. 888-281-5170