

COMMUNIQUE No 2

FROM THE FRONTLINE



FEBRUARY 1993—The year started off with a bang at the Lesbian Avengers' New Year's Eve party. As go-go girls undulated out the old year, hundreds of hot, pulsating dykes boogied in the new to raise \$5,000 for the year's avenging.

The cash we raised didn't burn a hole in our pockets. Within the week, the **Lesbian Avengers** were out in force to defend the **Rainbow Curriculum**. On January 6th, some 50 Avengers braved the cold to teach the ABCs of respect to members of the **United Federation of Teachers** (UFT) who had gathered for their general delegates meeting. Sporting placards with slogans based on the letters of the alphabet, Avengers distributed hundreds of leaflets to those entering and leaving the meeting, urging them to support the curriculum, their queer colleagues, and queer kids. The action put pressure on the UFT, particularly union president and waffling Rainbow advocate Sandra Feldman, to put full force behind the Rainbow Curriculum, grades 1-12.

In a homophobic world, a Lesbian Avenger's work is never done, and so just three weeks later those dazzling dykes were at it again. This time, our aim was **Self** destructive. The big boys at **Self Magazine** evidently thought no one was watching when they decided to go ahead with a staff ski trip to Aspen, Colorado, with full knowledge of the state's passage in November of the hateful Amendment 2, which deprives queer citizens of civil rights protection. But, proving the

time-worn adage that we are everywhere, Lesbian Avengers were there to show them that bigotry is bad for business. At 11:30 a.m., a dozen **Lesbian Avengers stormed the chic Madison Avenue offices of Conde Nast** to protest the proposed sojourn in the Hate State. Chanting "Boycott Colorado," "We're here. We're queer. And we're not going skiing," and handing out fact sheets on Amendment 2, the Avengers struck fear and awe into the hearts of onlookers, inspiring a rumor that they were packing guns. While gray-suited security guards looked on meekly and editor Alexandra Penney retreated to her office, the Avengers held their ground. When Penney made a dash for her limo soon after, she had to wade through a line of Avengers picketing on the sidewalk outside. The trip was cancelled the next day.

From boardroom to courtroom, Lesbian Avengers were on the watch. At the sentencing of convicted **lesbian basher Freddy Garcia**, Judge Madden gave an inspired speech about the victim's heroism only to let Garcia off with a slap on the hand. The courtroom erupted with enraged Avengers. Garcia had been sentenced to 200 hours of community service in the office of Marjorie Hill, the mayor's liaison to the gay and lesbian community, allegedly on Hill's recommendation. Lesbian Avengers marched into Hill's office to demand an explanation. Hill denied having made the recom-

mendation and agreed not to let

Garcia or other convicted bashers work in the office.

Not all the Avengers'

actions are in your face. Sometimes they're in your nose. The lunch-hour crowds who entered the foul-smelling elevator of the Bar Building on February 12 didn't have to wait long to find out where the stench was coming from. When the elevator doors closed, they revealed giant stickers announcing "**Homophobia Stinks**," dedicated by the Avengers to **Jack Hale**, lawyer for the Archdiocese. Stink bombings also took place at the **Forty-second Street Army Recruitment Center** and **St. Patrick's Cathedral**. These were the first wave of the **guerrilla Valentines** launched by the Lesbian Avengers in February. On Valentine's Eve, the Avengers staged a **skate-in** at the Rockefeller Center ice rink; dykes skated arm-in-arm and kissed before the amazed Saturday afternoon crowds. That night, Avengers braved the cold to serenade the bigoted enemy of the Rainbow Curriculum, **Mary Cummins** at her home in Queens. And on Valentine's Day, 250 dykes gathered to witness the unveiling of a statue of **Alice B. Toklas** in Bryant Park where she was reunited with her lover **Gertrude Stein**. Readings by prominent lesbian writers followed, culminating in joyous **lesbian waltzing** amidst the scintillating snow. The actions, which drew crowds and media attention, capped off the Lesbian Avenger's

rough and retributive itinerary for the first six weeks of the year. And now we have **four new chapters** of Avenging lesbians—in **Atlanta, Durham, Austin and Tucson**.

Time and again the Lesbian Avengers have proved that good politics can be a good time. And now, you're asking, "How can I become a part of this fabulous, funky, and fierce group of dykes?" Money's always good, so come to our mouth-watering March 20th dance (Saturday, 9pm, March 20, 119 Avenue D, 2nd floor). **LET US PUT YOU ON THE ROAD TO REVENGE.**

WE WANT YOU. If you are fed up with being ignored, with fighting for everyone's rights but your own, then come and join the Avengers. There's a lot you can do. Come to a Tuesday meeting (8pm at the Lesbian and Gay Community Services Center, 208 W 13th St).

CALL THE LESBIAN AVENGERS HOTLINE 212-967-7711 x3204

and leave a message asking for information on the Avengers next target. Better yet, join us in coordinating the first national Lesbian Avengers-sponsored action the weekend of the March on Washington, DC (April 24th). Then join us for the march itself where we will be out in force and **OUT FOR POWER**. And if you make a fashion statement, Lesbian Avengers t-shirts are just \$10. (Our video is just \$13.95.)

GET MAD! GET EVEN! JOIN THE LESBIAN AVENGERS AND JOIN THE RIOT. WE RECRUIT.