

COMMUNIQUE No 3

FROM THE FRONTLINE

JUNE 1993—Almost a year after our collective explosion into the world of direct action, the Lesbian Avengers are still raising hell, lighting fuses and breaking hearts. Our March 20th benefit got those tender dyke hearts pounding. Once again hundreds of lesbian revelers thrilled to the sights and sounds of **go-go girl boogie fever**, raising thousands of dollars for our Washington, DC exploits. As Avenger chapters spring up around the country, most recently in **Minneapolis, Boston, and Houston**, New York dykes are still giving lesbophobes the most bang for your buck.

On **St. Patrick's day**, scores of soaked but feisty Avengers joined the Irish Lesbian and Gay Organization to protest their exclusion from the parade, which **Mayor Dinkins** had made city policy with 2 (count 'em, 2) injunctions against ILGO. As Avengers were cuffed and piled into vans, supporters countered with rousing Irish ditties. And to jail we went, with the tune of **"As Irish Dykes are Smiling"** ringing in our ears.

Arrests don't slow Avengers down. We renewed our vigilance at dyke hating school board meetings and spoke up for **kiddie queers and lesbian moms**. We crashed a forum on New York public schools and showed bigoted educators what true Avenger fury was all about. Together with other powerful queer advocates we invaded the **Brooklyn Conservative Party** to show our outrage over their award to notorious anti-multicultural curriculum hate-monger Mary Cummins. **From schoolhouse to jailhouse**, Avengers fought for dykes everywhere. After witnessing the death penalty railroading of **accused**

'lesbian serial killer' Aileen Wuornos, a group of Avengers contacted Wuornos in support of her case. The Avengers received a letter from Wuornos, who is currently on Florida's death row, and are working to publicize her case and the homophobia and misogyny of the **Florida court system**.

Our finest hour came in our weekend of actions in **Washington, D.C.**, April 23 to 26. On our first day in D.C., the Avengers joined ACT-UP/NY's lesbian caucus outside the **Health and Human Services** building to demand research on lesbians with AIDS. While 350 riled and raucous dykes rallied outside and lesbians with AIDS spoke out about their lives, 19 ACT-UP and Avenger women, 16 of them lesbians with AIDS, met with HHS secretary **Donna Shalala**. Shalala was so impressed with these forceful and eloquent women that she extended the planned meeting time from 5 minutes to half an hour, listening to lesbians talk about **research, treatment, housing and homophobia**.

"But wait!" you exclaim. **Don't those irrepressible Lesbian Avengers have any fun?** If you'd been to our D.C. Dyke March on April 24 you'd know the answer. In coalition with dykes from around the country, the Lesbian Avengers threw **the largest lesbian march in history**. We had handed out 8,000 palm cards before the march, but even we were overwhelmed by the response. Almost 20,000 fierce dykes took over D.C. that Saturday night, stretching from Dupont Circle to the White House. As crowds of



lesbians filled the streets, **incandescent Avengers ate fire in front of the White House**, spoke out on the Ellipse, and

for one night turned the nation's capital into a shimmering lesbian universe. We handed out thousands of our "Dyke Manifesto," an incendiary broadsheet urging lesbians to wake up and take action. The day of the March on Washington, Lesbian Avengers dressed for the occasion in super-dyke action capes and Avenger t-shirts. **Dykes from Montana to Maine joined us on the road to recruitment and rabble rousing.** And no trip to D.C. would be complete without an invasion of the halls of power. On the next day 7 or 8 Avengers crept into the **House of Representatives** and stood in the gallery. They set off stink bombs and plastered the walls with **"Homophobia Stinks"** stickers as 2 busloads of Avengers, ACT-UP members and other assorted activists were arrested outside demanding equitable health care.

But with every breakthrough comes a backlash. Back in New York we learned that Dee DeBerry, a visible dyke with HIV who had been threatened with the **fire-bombing** of her trailer if she went to Washington, returned to **Tampa, FL**, to find that indeed her home had been destroyed. Her courage has inspired us, and once again we're out for vengeance, for her and all dykes. The Avengers are descending on Tampa to support Dee and all **lesbians living with the threat of violence**. On Sunday, June 13 we'll hold a candlelight vigil at the site of Dee's home, and on Monday, June 14, we'll

stage an action in downtown Tampa to let the homophobes know that we won't let their actions go unnoticed. The Lesbian Avengers won't rest until all dykes have retribution.

And we won't rest until we've shown the world that **"Lesbians Lust for Power!"** We're kicking off Lesbian & Gay Pride weekend with a march to celebrate dyke desire. Come out on June 26 and **practice the art of mass seduction** as we lick, squirm, fondle, moan and kiss our way down Broadway from Bryant Park to the Pride rally at Union Square.

Word is getting around. From Newsweek to New York Magazine, Deneuve to Mademoiselle, Radical Chick to CNN, the country is waking up to Avenger time. **Revenge is sweet** and so are rough, activist lesbians. If invisibility and lesbophobia are getting you down, join us! Come to our meetings—Tuesdays at 8pm, at the Lesbian and Gay Community Services Center, 208 W.13th Street).

CALL THE LESBIAN AVENGERS HOTLINE 212-967-7711 x3204

and leave a message asking for information on the Avengers' next target or about Avenger chapters in your area. Wear a Lesbian Avenger t-shirt (still only \$10) with pride and fury.

The Lesbian Avengers is a direct action group focused on issues vital to lesbian survival and visibility.

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