

# COMMUNIQUE No 5

FROM THE FRONTLINE



## WE WON'T SIT STILL

**We won't settle down. WE WON'T SHUT UP OR GIVE UP. We're up in arms and we are not backing down!**

November 1994, New York

**T**he past year has been hot and happening for the Avengers: "Don't Be A Turkey!" demanded Lesbian Avengers in November '93 as we hand delivered a Thanksgiving turkey dressed in a Lesbian Avenger T-Shirt to **Board of Education Chancellor Ramon Cortinez**. We just won't quit when it comes to including lesbian lives in school curriculum... or when it comes to **stopping abusive lesbo-phobic misogynist cops**. When a lesbian was assaulted by a cop in Queens, Avengers joined in protests to let the precinct know: "Homophobic cops beware!"

**T**aking advantage of the December '93 shopping crowds, Lesbian Avengers gathered in midtown Manhattan for some seasonal subversive frolicking. Standing on street corners Avengers sang **subverted /perverted Christmas carols and Hannukah songs** such as: "Lesbo Lesbo Lesbo she woke up one day to find she was a homo and all her friends were gay." After being thrown out of Trump Towers we continued our carolling down to Rockefeller Center where we impressed the crowds with our **Haunting of lesbian holiday cheer**. And as the dykes of **Sister Spirit in Ovett Mississippi** were threatened and harassed by local homophobes, New York Avengers joined other chapters in sending financial support. One NYC Avenger

trekked down to help our southern sisters in the struggle for lesbian survival.

**DYKE LOVE! DYKE POWER!** Avenger Super Dykes ushered in 1994 by storming **Mayor Rudolph Giuliani's inauguration**, floating a banner above the crowd demanding: "Save Gotham: **DYKES TAKE ACTION**." Continuing in full force, the Lesbian Avengers declared **Ninfa Segarra**, Giuliani's newly appointed lesbo-phobic deputy mayor of education and community relations, their next target. Avengers invaded Ninfa's beauty sleep by **serenading her outside her Queens home** on Midnite, Valentine's Eve. The next day, lipssmacking lustful lezzies threw kisses at passersby, waltzed with their sweeties, and handed out Hershey kisses that said: "You've just been kissed by a lesbian," for rush-hour **Valentine's visibility in Grand Central Station**. Avengers succeeding in hanging from the windows of Grand Central huge letters exclaiming: "DYKE LOVE."

**W**e won't give up, back down or run away. **We'll be there every year, every time.** Again, on St. Patrick's Day, Avengers were arrested with the **Irish Lesbian and Gay Organization (ILGO)** to protest the Ancient Order of Hibernians exclusion of their queer Irish sisters and brothers from the largest **St. Patrick's Day** parade in the country. When a dyke was fired from her job for being an out proud lesbian, Avengers took action. We burst into the upstairs offices,

leafletting and carried signs outside the store during lunch hour, letting them know that **"B bigotry is Bad**

**Business"** and we won't be complacent in the face of discrimination. At the New York Easter Parade Lesbian Avengers wearing festive Easter bonnets gave out **Easter Eggs bearing the Avenger logo**, and cards reading **"You've just been laid by a Lesbian."**

**U**ntil there is no rape, we won't stop fighting for justice. Just after an African-American lesbian was raped in Prospect Park near Park Slope a.k.a. "Dyke Slope," Lesbian Avengers joined with the New York Anti-Violence Project in a **powerful march to protest violence against lesbians**. When the Daily News ran a smear campaign, with articles claiming that the rape had been made up as a ploy to get more lesbian press, **the Avengers descended upon the Daily News offices. We won't let women-hating, dyke-hating journalists tell our stories, distort our truths.**

**S**traight feminists who ignore lesbians are shooting themselves in the head. Lesbian Avengers, refusing to be left behind, silenced, sacrificed or oppressed by the global feminist movement infiltrated and took over the April 30th United Nations Development Fund For Women (UNIFEM) benefit. In a **dramatic display of lesbian power** Avengers took control of the microphone and

**lambasted Unifem** for their disregard of lesbian lives. (Oh no, so sad. The Lesbian Avengers have been permanently banned from UN property. Boo Hoo.)

**W**e won't sit back, we're fighting back-back against the right. The New York Lesbian Avengers commitment to fighting for lesbian civil rights and survival nation-wide continued as **the Lesbian Avengers Civil Rights Organizing Project (LaCROP)** planned its next moves. Four New York Avengers hit **Tucson** for a week of working with local queer activists to strategize ways to fight the right - who were trying to put an anti-lesbian and gay initiative on the Arizona ballot. The New York Avengers spoke at a community forum on grassroots organizing, in addition to helping the new Tucson Avenger chapter by sharing New York Avenger history, brainstorming actions and passing on the Avenger fire-eating tradition.

**W**e are Fed Up. We Are Up In Arms. We are Creating A New World Order. Beginning with the Queens Pride March, Avengers hit the streets in June, calling on dykes to take back our rights, take back our streets and join lesbians from across the world for the **International Dyke March**. As NYC Avengers polished their big black boots and dusted off their bull-horns, lesbians from across the world made their way to New York City for the **largest international gathering of lesbians ever**. With typical New York lesbian hospitality, the NYC chapter "adopted" Avengers from across the nation (including all those



cute dykes coming from the North and South Lesbian Avenger Pride Rides) and celebrated their arrival with a Marshall/Fire-Eating Training and Potluck.

**T**housands of Angry Dykes Can't Be Wrong and Won't Give In. Ever. On Saturday, June 25th, lesbians from around the world shook New York in a record-breaking show of dyke strength and solidarity at the Lesbian Avengers International Dyke March. Twenty thousand dykes marched with lesbian vengeance, as we seized the streets in the largest march on 5th Ave. without a permit in 25 years. In Washington Square, dozens of dykes grabbed torches and consumed the flames to the chant: "The fire will not consume us. We take it and Make it Our Own." The next evening, hundreds of dykes danced up a storm at the hottest dance party in town—the Lesbian Avenger Dyke Ball.

**A**t the Stonewall 25 March the Lesbian Avengers said: "Fuck Lesbian Chic and Fuck Straight-Acting Gay People Begging For Acceptance." Launching a massive outreach campaign, Avengers distributed thousands of the Lesbian Avenger Civil Rights Organizing Project (LaCROP) "Out Against the Right" Manifestos, as well as the Lesbian Avenger "Dyke Manifestos". With right-wing attacks on queers in all 50 states, the Lesbian Avengers say: "There's nowhere left to hide. Now's the time to fight back and fight forward."

**W**e're telling our truths, demanding the truths be told. In August, Avengers didn't sit by as the Alice Austin House Museum refused to acknowledge that Austin, turn-of-the-century lesbian photographer, was, in fact, a lesbian, or her 55-year

relationship with Gertrude Tate. Dressed as lifeguards and carrying inner tubes reading: "DYKE PRESERVER" Lesbian Avengers crashed a museum reception, where we spoke to board members and guests and sang: "open up the closet door, don't lie about her any more."

**A**lso in August, the Lesbian Avengers Civil Rights Organizing Project sent eight activists full-time for four months and a dozen part-time to Moscow, Idaho to assist local activists fight the anti-lesbian and gay referenda slated for the November elections. While many anti-initiative campaigns ask lesbians to be closeted the Avengers say: "We cannot fight from the closet and we will not sit in silence. We are committed to building a grassroots movement of visible out lesbians and gay men from every income, race, region working for real social change."

**A**vengers are everywhere. There are now Avenger chapters in Moscow and Coeur d'Alene, ID. All the Avenger chapters in northern Idaho have worked together with LaCROP to bring some fabulous actions to their region this fall. LaCROP and the Palouse Avengers put on a "Lesbian and Gay Freedom Picnic" at the Latah county Fair where there has been a history of lesbian and gay bashing for the past 12 years. Handed out were chocolate kisses with a note asking, "How 'bout a kiss instead?" on one side and a demand to "Stop the violence. Stop the hate" on the other side. Avengers also held a "dance-in" at a local nightclub known for being outrageously homophobic, helped

the GLBA at the Univ. Idaho hand out pink triangles for National Coming Out Day, started a local Lesbian Avengers radio show, helped show and distribute the locally produced "Out in the Middle of Nowhere" video and held a "Happy Homosexual" action in Hayden Lake (just minutes from the Aryan Nation compound) in response to a local minister's homophobic statement to the press.

**A**nd the fun (in Idaho) didn't stop there. Making connections in some non-conventional ways, Avengers did everything from attending Labor organizing seminars and local church services to posting messages on America on-line, flying towns and campuses and even wandering through coffee shops and food co-ops in small towns looking for local lesbian communities. The results were very rewarding. The three counties in northern Idaho where local lesbians and gay men, supported by LaCROP, ran an OUT, visible, grassroots campaign defeated Proposition One by much higher percentages than the average Idaho vote. But the results go beyond the defeat of the ICA's initiative. Lesbians and gay men came together from all over the region. To celebrate the victory, dykes in Lewiston, Idaho erected a gigantic 130 foot pink triangle over the "L" on the Lewiston Hill (which towers over the town), while the Palouse Lesbian Avengers ate fire in downtown Moscow amongst a joyous demonstration of 40 queers.

**L**aCROP's last major event in Idaho will be a Northern Idaho Lesbian and Gay Conference, where contacts that were made can get together to share

stories and strategies as well as planning for the start of new local organizations like an anti-violence project and a rural organizing project.

**N**ovember 17, 1994 - An historic coalition of Lesbian Avengers, Las Buenas Amigas and African Ancestral Lesbians United for Societal Change will stage a massive demonstration against the racist and lesbophobic spanish radio station, Mega KD 97.3 FM. This bold and fearless protest will take over 5th Avenue and march to the radio station where they will decapitate a three-headed monster of hate and denounce the station's practices which incite violence against Latina lesbians and others.

**T**his is not the first time the Avengers have struck back at the offending Mega: "Hate is Not Funny! Basta Ya! Con El Odio No Se Juega," chartered seven Lesbian Avengers as they invaded the radio station in August. Grabbing the microphones in two studios the fearless dykes demanded that the station put an end to their campaign of hate and racism. The quick strike lasted less than seven minutes and all Avengers escaped unscathed. Other Avengers held a walking picket outside. Two weeks later Avengers returned for another picket to press the point home. Las Vengadoras Lesbianas

exigimos que acaten con el odio -o si no, que se atengan a las consecuencias

**The Lesbian Avengers will not rest until all lesbians everywhere are free. Get up! Get out! Get Outraged! Join the Lesbian Avengers and Join the Struggle!**

**WE RECRUIT.**

**CALL THE LESBIAN AVENGERS  
HOTLINE 212-967-7711 Ext.3204**