

LESBIAN AVENGER ACTIONS

1992 - Present

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- 9/9/92 At 80th. Street and Metropolitan Avenue in Queens. Against Community School Board 24 in Queens which had turned down the Rainbow Curriculum. We had wheatpasted the neighborhood several times in the weeks before. We marched down Metropolitan Avenue, led by a 4 woman brass band, with the Lesbian Avenger Banner, a banner that said "teach about lesbian lives" and 200 lavender balloons that said "ask about lesbian lives." We handed out fact sheets, went to the school, handed out fact sheets and balloons at the entrance to the school yard and then marched back to the place where we started. 7a.m. - 9 a.m. about 60 Lesbians participated.
- 10/6/92 At the Board of Ed. on Livingston Street in Brooklyn as a counter-protest when the chair of community board 24 (Mary Cummins) had bussed in parents to do a protest about the curriculum. We marched down the street in front of the Board of Ed, with the brass band in front, followed by a replica of our bomb carried by four women, surrounded by flags. The bomb and the flags said "Lighten Up. Teach about Lesbians." When we passed the front we then went into the street area the cops had set up and started a picket which eventually had about 500 people. 9:30 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.
- 10/29/92 We held a press conference at City Hall about the Oregon murders and No on 9.
- 10/30/92 As part of the Take Back the Night March, we set up a shrine to Hattie Mae Cohens and Brian Mock, and when the march reached that point, we made a statement and then 8 women did a ritual where they lit torches off of each other's tongues to signify that we would take the fire that burned them and put it into ourselves to avenge their murders. This was our first fire-eating.
- 10/30- After the march passed and until election day we kept the shrine
11/3 up (at the corner of Bleecker and 6th Avenue) and had an encampment, staffing it 24 hours a day to bring attention to No on 9 and to their murders.
- 11/19/92 5th. Avenue Torch March from the Plaza to Rockefeller Center to publicize the media's lack of coverage of the Oregon Murders, of other anti-gay right wing attacks, of the passage of the Colorado Amendment and of the Tampa repeal. We marched on 5th. Avenue (with no permit) carrying torches (against the law) to the shrine which was at Rockefeller Center and where we burned replicas of the Colorado Amendment, etc.
- 11/22 Lesbians Speak Out Against Violence -- at the Community Center
- 12/7- Zaps and demo against Mayor Webb of Denver who was in New York
12/8 to promote tourism and economic development in Denver. Between 5 and 8 of us confronted him all day at everyplace he went -- all media places, calling first and demanded to be interviewed as well (which happened sometimes) and then being there when he came with signs and chanting. We began at 8a.m. when he was having a power breakfast with the Wall Street Journal at the Regency. Eight of us walked in and started picketing around the room chanting "We're here we're queer, we're not going skiing." and others like Boycott Colorado-The Hate State." We gave out leaflets and then marched out. As the day progressed the Mayor added more and more police protection, even though we had as few as three people at one stop. At the time-

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Life building around noon, he even pretended to be in his limo which pulled around the block while he was really in a cop car which was in front -- but we knew what was going on and got him anyway. That day ended with a large picket at NBC where he was going on a radio call in show. Not only did we picket with lots of other people (about 100) but we also called in and got to be the first questioner. We asked about Amendment 2 and he replied "I came to New York to do economic development and all anyone wants to talk about is Amendment 2." The next morning 8 of us got him at the Plaza where he was having breakfast with Donna Minkowitz and a Tourist Board meeting. We got into the hotel and right up to the suite where all was happening and started chanting again. Later that day, the Mayor cancelled the rest of his trip (to 6 other cities) saying that the Amendment was a national issue and that he couldn't continue this trip.

- 12/? We went to a school board meeting of board 24 in Queens and protested there.
- 1/6/93 Went to a UFT meeting to protest Sandra Feldman's lukewarm support of the Rainbow Curriculum
- 1/?/93 Small group went to Self Managinze offices to protest them having a conference in Colorado. They canceled the conference
- 2/13/93 LUV Actions -- sent books as gifts to women at Rikers
- 2/12/93 Stink Bombs at Jack Hale's office (Ancient Order of Hibernian's Lawyer)
Stink Bombs at Recruitment Center at 42nd. St. re Gays in Military
Stink Bombs at St. Patrick's Cathedral
- 2/13/93 Evening-- Skate In at Rickefeller Center
- 2/14/93 Installation of Alice B. Toklas Statue at Bryant Park along with Readings and a Lesbian Waltz
- 3/17/93 St. Patrick's Parade Protest -- Avengers helped organize, served as marshalls, made banners and lots of us got arrested
- 3/?/93 School Board Forum action
- 3/ ?/93 Mary Cummins Zap at Brooklyn Conservative Party Benefit
- 4/23/93 Joined ACT UP Lesbian Caucus picket at HHS re Lesbians and AIDS
- 4/24/93 Organized Dyke March in Washinton: 20,000 dykes showed up
- 4/25/93 Marched in the Lesbian and Gay March
- 4/26/93 Stinkbombs in House of Representatives as part of the Nationa' Health Care Action
- 6/5/93 Took part in Queen Gay Pride March
- 6/12 -
- 6/16 About 34 Avengers went to Tampa to do actions about the burning of DeeDeberry's House. Did a candlelight vigil and march into the Trailer Park where her house was on the first evening, went to bars to do outreach, then did a slow drive over the bridge into tampa at minimum speed (got tickets) and then a picket around city hall and got the Mayor to come out and address the issues on tv.
- 6/26/93 Lst. Annual NY Dyke Pride March
- 6/27/93 Marched in New York Lesbian and Gay Pride March

7/8/93 Handed out open letter to the Campaign for Military Service fundraiser on board the U.S.S. Intrepid

8/8/93 Picnic at Central Park

8/12/93 Sunset Cruise and Visibility Action on the Staten Island Ferry

8/13/93 Don't Ask, Don't Tell March protesting Clinton meeting Pope in Colorado

September 1993 -- November 6, 1993 Lewiston Organizing re Anti-Lesbian and Gay Initiative. Three Lesbian Avengers lived in Lewiston and worked with local Lesbians and Gay men against the initiative. This involved literature drops, outreach and voter registration at local gay bars, door-to-door canvassing in low income Franco American neighborhoods, Forums on the Right Wing at Bates College, A forum where local lesbians and gay men talked about their experiences as gay people living in Lewiston, and a demonstration with civil disobedience on the day after the vote. Each weekend other Avengers would come up to help the three who lived there all of that time.

Freedom Ride

10/8 - 10/17

Vareid numbers of Avengers joined the Freedom Ride for different parts while about 10 were involved the entire time. The ride began in New York, arrived in Boston where on Sat Oct 9 we did a forum on the Right wing at the Outwrite Conference in Boston and also did a visibility action that afternoon with the Boston Avengers. On National Coming Out Day, Oct. 11 we did a visibility action in Northampton, MA with the Avengers there and also did a forum showing the right wing video that day. We then went to Albany where we did an action in front of the School Board offices (NY School Board Association) protesting them having Pat Robertson as a keynote speaker at their conference in Syracuse that week (did jump rope and sang rhymes and then went into the office), then on to Syracuse for a demo there and then to Burlington VT where we did a fight the right forum and then on the 15th. did a Lesbian Foliage Festival on Church Street, arrived in Lewiston Me on Fri Evening and helped do a mailing and lit drop the next day and left for NYC on Sunday Oct. 17.

10/13/93 Protest at 92nd. St. Y when Sam Nunn was speaking. Lesbian Color Guard, re-wrote pledge of allegiance. We also got bashed by security guards. We made airplanes (paper) which we flew which said Sam Nunn is incompatible with Lesbian Liberation.

10/18 and

10/? We made posters re guards bashing us and pasted them all around the Y neighborhood. Subsequently we kept pressuring them to meet with us. This included letters to all members of their board. Finally met with them in late December but we have gotten nowhere.

10/23/93 Rode the L Train on Friday evening to protest the anti-lesbian and gay violence on that line. We gave out leaflets.

10/30 Another encampment at Bleeker and 6th. starting the day before the Halloween Parade. Had map indicating where there were anti-day initiatives. Only stayed through the march but handed out 7,000 flyers.

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We also had to write up, later, an open letter to the community because someone had put us as endorsers to a leaflet from the Anti-violence project which said that people should not go to the parade

12/18/ Joined protest in Queens for the women who was treated abusively by the xops

12/19 Carolling on Fifth Avenue with Carols we had written

1/2/94 Protest at Rudy Guilliani's inauguration with banner lifted up by balloons

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LESBIAN AVENGER ACTIONS: (Continued)

- 2/14/94 Valentine's Day Action: Grand Central Station, Main Room, during rush hour; gave out chocolate kisses; waltzed
- 3/17/94 Did the marshalling and support and made banners for the ILGO ST. Pat's protest march; lots of us arrested
- 4/7/94 Several actions re: Village Copier firing a dyke who worked in their 43rd. St. office; did a fax zap and then we went into their offices with saigns saying "Lesbophobia is bad business", etc., and chanted, "Don't Fire Dykes, Dykes Fight Back."
- 4/3/94 Went to Easter Parade on 5th. Avenue; gave away Easter Eggs with Avenger logo
- 4/30 AVP March in Prospect Park
- 4/30 Unifem Action: went to their dinner re UN Women's work and passed out flyers re their lack of focus on lesbians; grabbed microphone and made statement; banned from the UN forever
- 5/13-5/6 Four Avengers go to Tucson for LACROP; hold an Out Against the Right forum and an So You Want to Start an Avengers forum. A new Avengers chapter forms and so does a new direct action group called Loud and Queer, both as a result of our work. Two Avengers go, uninvited, to the NGLTF Leadership Conference in Denver; do dorkshops, etc, and make contacts for LACROP
- 6/6 March in the Queens Pride March
- 6/7-6/10 Leafletting in front of the Daily News re Mike McClary's horrifying colums about the dyke who was raped in Prospect Park
- 6/25 International Dyke March; 20,000 dykes show up and march down 5th. Avenue from 42nd. Street to Washington Square Pk. without a permit. -- 2nd. Avenger manifesto distributed: OUT AGAINST THE RIGHT
- 6/26 Dyke Ball at the Bank: Full to capacity
- 7/31 Alice Austen Action: Dressed as life guards carrying Dyke Preservers. Handed out our brochure and sange paradoies of sea shanties to the effect that she was a dyke and the board would not admit it. This was their nautical festival.
- 8/1 LACROP Goes off to Idaho-- 8full time and 10 part-time organizers work there for four months against the anti-lesbian and gay proposition. We win.
- 8/? Camp Trans action at Michigan with Portland Avengers
- 8/13 Lesbian Avengers go to get invites to Pope's appearance in New York in October; his visit cancelled but we ended up with invitations to '95 (see below; Oct. '95)

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LESBIAN AVENGER ACTIONS (continued)

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- 8/14 First Mega KQ Action; picket out front of station and 5 Avengers go in and take over the radio station for a few minutes saying "Hate is Not Funny"
Wheatpasting follows
- 8/ Did train posters as well for Mega KQ; wrote letters to head of station
- 9/1 Another picket outside of the station of MEGA KQ
- 10/15 Made postcards to mail to Molinari re her remarks about Karen Burstein -- had people sign and we mailed
- 10/16 Diner Action: Two Avengers went to a Brooklyn Heights diner for a Sunday Brunch. At one point one of them gave the other a Kiss and the manager kicked them out after they had an argument with him because he had told them to leave. We came back in force on this day. Twenty Avengers went inside in pairs and sat down for brunch. Then a whole bunch showed up outside. At a certain moment, the ones inside started kissing and the people outside started chanting -- got the guy to apologize
- 10/31 Marched in the Halloween Parade; AVP had told people not to go; we told people to show up with us to march in the parade. Dressed as witches; with cauldron and we fire ate.
- 11/8/9 Pataki actions; second one was putting a banner across the Grand Central Station ramp for cars over 42nd. St.-
5 arrests
- 11/17 Mega KQ Coalition action in the Street -- march down 57th. Street with Pinata, etc. ending with picket and rally in front of their offices.
- 12/10 Leafletting about Mega KQ in Washington Heights with Las Buenas Amigas
- 12/6 Pataki Fund Raiser at Sheraton--Dana Tell got in and handed out literature and got on state
- 12/31 New Years Party at P.S. 122

I was not around in January but this was when all of the issues started about the Mega KQ actions and about other issues --

Between January and March all kinds of issues with the CitiActions Subgroup and there were no actions

1995

- 4/16 Easter Parade Action -- gave out eggs again and marched in the Parade

5/21 Action at Ellis Island salute to Joe Bruno -- showed up with a huge medal of honor at the boat -- photo in NY Post

6/24? Snatch The Power: Third Annual NY Dyke March -- from Bryant Park to Washington Square Park

LESBIAN AVENGER ACTIONS (continued)

1995(continued)

6/25 Dyke Ball -- packed

Spent the summer processing and trying to come up with new structure.

Started meeting again on Sept. 11th.

10/6/95 Made up stickers for Pope's Visit; a group of Avengers went to mass in Central Park with invites from last year's sign up and stickered Portajohns. Stickers used the Stations of the Cross but created Paradoies: Stations of the Labrys
Participated in coalition march on this day also. Marlene Colburn spoke at Rally.

11/11/95 Action at the East Side Marriott against the Christian Coalition which was having a School Board Training. Rode up to Hotel in Yellow school bus; dressed in pleated skirts and and with I was a Lesbian Child T-shirts; a group marched in and sang a song as they marched thru the halls and out again to join others for picket for an hour. Gave out leaflets and pencils ("erase the Christian Right)