

"BIGOT" across them. Meanwhile, Chicago Avengers visited "Hooters," a topless bar while sporting shirts reading "Hooteerz—we always knew it was a dyke bar!" and creating queer space within the "heterosexist, anti-woman establishment" (Chicago press release, February 12, 1996).

Will the Lesbian Avengers survive to protect the rights of lesbians in ten years? I, for one, certainly hope the answer is yes.

This article does not represent the Lesbian Avengers as a group; the author takes full responsibility for the opinions espoused within it. To order a copy of The Lesbian Avenger Handbook, send U.S. \$5 to the Avengers, c/o the Center, 208 W. 13th St., New York City, NY 10011, U.S.A. For information call (212) 967-7711, ext. 3204.

Valerie Kameya has been a fire-eating, facilitating member of the New York Lesbian Avenger chapter for three years. She works full time in the English Department at Columbia University and is finishing an M.A. in English literature.

References

- Maxine Wolfe. Telephone interview. 26 June 1995.
 Schulman, Sarah, et al. *The Lesbian Avenger Handbook*. New York: New York Avengers, 1993.
 Schulman, Sarah. *My American History*. New York: Routledge, 1994.

Diasporic South Asian
 Culture Politics Activism

DESH PARDESH
 FESTIVAL/CONFERENCE '96

Festival/Conference Mainspace:
 Metro Central YMCA, 20 Grosvenor Street, Toronto
 For More Information:
 Tel. (416) 504 9932 Fax. (416) 504 9973

June 5-9 1996 Toronto

CATHERINE LAKE

Cathari*

Neighbourhood maidens play Barbies
 up on the front porch.

I trip up the steps
 through the maze of accessories.
 Late last August, I propped
 the small-hand-sized gas barbecue
 near one of the pillars
 for the girls to retrieve.
 It stayed there all winter.

In the middle of March,
 today was a spring day near summer.

They played without jackets—
 Barbie suntanned 'til supper.
 I found a fractured yellow and orange
 pinwheel stuck
 in one flowerpot of dirt
 and sat staring,
 waiting to see the wise virgin
 spinning valiant:

my hips the centre of that wheel
 ribs heaving, limbs tied, face
 contorted with nausea, making
 awkward quarter turns.

I never could do
 a proper cart-wheel.

* A Greek convent of priestess-nuns at Sinai in the 8th century A.D. called themselves Kathari, "pure ones." Medieval Gnostics who also called themselves Cathari revered St. Catherine almost as a female counterpart of God. The term "cart-wheel" is derived from the "Catherine wheel."

Catherine Lake is a Canadian lesbian of mixed European descent. She currently lives and works in Toronto with her African-American lover of seven years, their three dogs and their soon-to-be-born biracial child. She studied at York University in Toronto and obtained a Master of Arts Degree from San Francisco State University in English and Creative Writing.