"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).

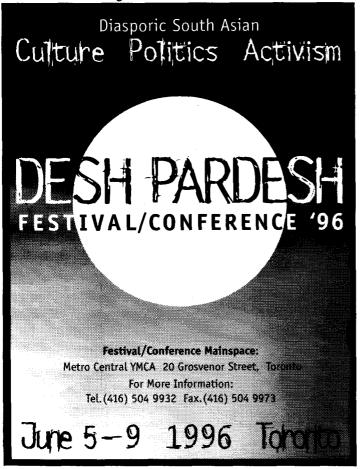
Will the Lesbian Avengers survive to protect the rights of lesbians in ten years? I, for one, certainly hope the answer is yes.

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.

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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.