

Dear FaT GiRL:

On December 2nd, 1995, the Boston chapter of the Lesbian Avengers turned FaT GiRL suggestion into reality. Cambridge's Porter Square branch of Jenny Craig was the unintended host to the First Annual Lesbian Avenger Eat Out. Dykes of all sizes fed themselves and each other outside Jenny Craig while handing out our flier "Women Should not Live on Bread Alone" (which outlined how the diet industry perpetuated racism and sexism and was therefore operated by the devil's minions).

The idea came from FaT GiRL. 'Tis the season for paintballs and as we planned who to target with our "urban redecoration", thought turned toward a suggestion in FaT GiRL to deface Jenny Craig offices in a similar fashion. We realized that we had not done any activism around sizism and that attention to the epidemic of fat phobia was long overdue. The Eat Out was the end result of our brainstorming.

As actions go, it was fairly low-key. The day began with an unrelated appearance by the local Jesus Screamer driving around in his car decorated with anti-gay, anti-Semitic rantings and proselytizing to local shoppers. After a brief biblical debate and his subsequent departure, we did our own proselytizing about the diet industry. While many ignored our flyers, many others stopped to talk to us about the action and the statistics

## AVENGERS EAT OUT

we presented (provided by and credited to FaT GiRL's internet home page...very cool grrls!). One woman

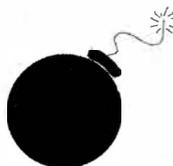
took the time to read our stats aloud to her daughter. While it was an action better suited for the warmer months and while

the location suffered from proximity to but not direct access to hoards of holiday shoppers, we managed to distribute 200 flyers, have a fantastic lunch (bagels, bread, chocolate, grapes, fruit juice, pasta salad) and make a few people in the Greater Boston area think for a moment.

Unlike many of our actions, we targeted this event towards populations beyond mainstream society. We recognize that the queer community has political and emotional distance to travel in coming to terms with sizism. Lesbians learn early on that their bodies and the beautiful things they do make them freaks in the eyes of the outside world. Confronting that prejudice without turning that venom on ourselves of each other in the queer community is a tough challenge, but one that must be taken for true "diversity", "community" and "family". Gay men, known for their obsession with appearance and the physical, could benefit greatly from size acceptance, which is not to suggest that girl queers do not continue to listen to the patriarchal voice that dictates beauty and the qualifications for physical dignity.

Keep at it, FaT GiRL. Thanks for the idea and motivation.

If there are any Boston-area dykes interested in participating in the Lesbian Avengers, call **617-983-FIRE** for meeting time and location. Leave a message if you have questions.



Read This, Sisters

I was sitting up last night pondering two things:

1) the major impact FaT GiRL has had on the lives of many dykes from all walks of life, which I know to be true based not only on the slew of letters FaT GiRL receives, but also from the number of folks who approach me personally and tell me how much FaT GiRL has affected them. And

2) the fact that there are many "feminist" and "lesbian-friendly" bookstores that refuse to carry FaT GiRL. Some say they have rules about not carrying anything with S/M content, some say they don't think it will sell (never mind that we offer it to them

on consignment, so even if it didn't sell, it would be no loss to them whatsoever.) The owner of West Berkeley Women's Books, after carrying it based on receiving numerous requests from customers, sent it back with no note or anything. I called to ask her why, and she reluctantly admitted that it annoyed her that men who came in picked it up. Geez, why wouldn't they pick it up? It's interesting! Full Circle Books in Albuquerque said they wouldn't carry it because only a tiny percentage of their customers were fat S/M dykes. Never mind that most of the content of the magazine has nothing to do with S/M whatsoever, and that many of our readers aren't into S/M at all, and many of them aren't even fat!

But that isn't even really the point. The point is that here we have a fledgling dyke magazine that is really doing something to bring dykes together to express ourselves honestly, and then we have our "sisters" who own bookstores, in a position to offer support to fat dykes in their community at no cost to them, but refusing based on their prejudicial attitudes about sexuality (or whatever it is). It's a kick in the butt, reminding me that no, not all of my sisters are very sisterly. Part of me thinks "silly me for assuming they would be," but wait a minute, why the hell should I expect any less from other dykes? After all, I do believe in community, and I do believe that dykes are family and should treat each other with respect and help each other out whenever possible. And yes, I even believe that "Sisterhood is Powerful." Come on sisters, we need each other! Let's stop being so damn afraid of each other and communicate! Just because we don't agree doesn't mean we should try to censor each other. Really. Haven't we been through this for a couple of generations now? How long will it take?

If you like Fat GiRL, please, tell your local bookstore how much you like it. Thank them for carrying it. If they don't carry it, request it. If they refuse to carry it, stop supporting them, and tell them so. FaT GiRL ought to be accessible to as many fat dykes as possible, not only to dykes in large cities or dykes "in the know."

MAX'S  
RANT

by Max Airborne