

[CHEERING]

**ANN NORTHROP:** This world can be a very ugly place. I call myself an activist because I am dedicated to principles of valuing the intrinsic worth of every human being. I am looking for a movement dedicated to true feminist principles. I am sickened by a world where men wage war, pillaging and destroying, raping every woman in their path, forcing clitoridectomies on girls, enslaving culturally different populations.

I am sick of hatred, and selfishness, and greed. I yearn for a world of peace, and joy, and cooperation. If the lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgendered communities are not willing to enlist in this battle and assert these values, then I'm not marching anymore. Why do we who have been so oppressed want to oppress others?

[CHEERING]

It's a recipe for disaster, and it's exactly why we have an epidemic of AIDS and an epidemic of breast cancer among lesbians because we are not committed to the value of every human being. I remain committed, and optimistic, and ready to fight, but I am not tolerating any more racism or sexism from gay white men. Thank you.

**COMMENTATOR:** Journalist Ann Northrop, New York-based lesbian activist, on the stage at Stonewall 25 here in Central Park. Back to the stage with Urvashi Vaid, former director of the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force.

**URVASHI VAID:** --of beyond this moment, beyond this beautiful moment of gay visibility and lesbian chic underneath the alluring relief of mainstream integration. Behind the gay advertising and smiles of corporate marketers lies the unyielding, unshifting, and largely undented bedrock of heterosexual supremacy, and that bedrock, my friends, in turn rests on a very narrow definition of manhood. Our assertion as queer people that we are as normal, natural, and healthy as heterosexuals threatens the uneasy manhood of this nation to its core.

[CHEERING]

That's what the military fight reveals. That's what the right wing is so freaked out about. To advance, we must find new words to face straight America's sexual anxiety. We need new courage and kind of patience that we don't have right now, and we need to be really as honest as we dare about the beauty and diversity that is our lives. The task of a political movement lies in the organizing and disciplined use of power. It takes power to bring about the changes we see, and the exercise of that power depends on every one of you who can hear my voice. You must be political if you are going to be gay. That's all there is to it.

[CHEERING]

Get involved. Keep up the resistance. We're going to win.

[CHEERING]

**COMMENTATOR:** A call to action from longtime lesbian activist and former Director of the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force, Urvashi Vaid.

- Joining the Stonewall Chorale, which you see next to me here, please welcome, everybody, a Stonewall 25 welcome to the one and only Liza Minnelli.

[CHEERING]

**MICHAEL**

[LAUGHS] I don't think we're going to be playing Liza Minnelli tonight. OK, and if that offends any of you, so be it because Liza is definitely not one of the people on my top 10 list. All right, you heard some wrap up coverage of the Gay Games and Cultural Festival and the Stonewall 25 anniversary celebrations, demonstrations, and so on and so forth, starting off with Ann Northrop and continuing with Urvashi Vaid.

Let's see. What are we going to be doing right now? I kind of wanted to play a song. It's from the new Stone Temple Pilots album, and actually, it's a new single, one of the new singles since they have two out right now. And this is from the album *Purple* and the song is "Vaseline."

[MUSIC - STONE TEMPLE PILOTS, "VASOLINE"]

[AUDIO OUT]

[MUSIC PLAYING]

OK, that was Stone Temple Pilots from the album *Purple*, and the song, of course, was "Vaseline." Right now, I'm going to be reading an excerpt from *The Lesbian Avenger Handbook*, and it's called "Dyke Manifesto." And unfortunately, I don't have a woman here to read it because that would just be preferable, but I'll do my best.

"Calling all lesbians, wake up. It's time to get out of the beds, out of the bars, and into the streets. It's time to seize the power of dyke love, dyke vision, dyke anger, dyke intelligence, dyke strategy. It's time to organize and incite. It's time to get together and fight. We're invisible sisters, and it's not safe, not in our homes, not in the streets, not on the job, not in the courts. Where are the out lesbian leaders? It's time for a fierce lesbian movement, and that's you, the role model, the vision, the desire.

We need you because we're not waiting for the rapture. We are the apocalypse. We'll be your dream and their nightmare. Lesbian Avengers believe in creative activism, loud, bold, sexy, silly, fierce, tasty, and dramatic, rest optional, think demonstrations are a good time and a great place to cruise women. Lesbian Avengers don't have patience for polite politics, are bored with the boys, think of stink bomb that's off-season accessories, don't have a position on fur, believe confrontation fosters growth and strong bones, believe in recruitment not by the army, not of straight women, don't mind handcuffs at all, do believe homophobia is a form of misogyny.

Lesbian Avengers are not content with ghettos. We want your house, your job, your frequent flier miles; will sell your jewelry to subsidize our movement. Lesbian Avengers don't believe in the feminization of poverty. We demand universal health insurance and housing. We demand food and shelter for all homeless lesbians. Lesbian Avengers are the 13th step. Lesbian Avengers think girl gangs are the wave of the future, but Lesbian Avengers believe in transcendence in all states including Colorado and Oregon; think sex a daily libation, good energy for actions; crave, enjoy, explore, suffer from new ideas about relationships, slumber parties and polygamy. Why get married only once?

Personal ads, affinity groups are old fashioned. Pine long, wine, stay in bad relationships, get married, but don't want to domesticate our partners. Lesbian Avengers like the song "More Madonna, Less Jesus." Lesbian Avengers use accent words, lick, waltz, eat, blank, kiss, play, bite, give it up. Lesbian Avengers like jingles. Subversion is our perversion. Lesbian Avengers scheme and scream; think actions must be local, regional, national, global, cosmic.

Lesbian Avengers think closeted lesbians, queer boys, and sympathetic straights should send us money; believe direct action is a kick in the face. Lesbian Avengers plan to target homophobes of every stripe and infiltrate the Christian right. Lesbian Avengers enjoy litigation. Class action suits fits us very well."

Boy, that was cool. "Lesbian Avengers, they recruit." Let's see. "The Top 10 Avenger Qualities, in descending order. Number 10, compassion. Number 9, leadership. Number 8, no big ego. Number 7, informed. Number 6, fearlessness. Number 5, righteous anger. Number 4, fighting spirit. Number 3, pro sex. Number 2, good dancer. Number 1, access to resources, in other words xerox machines."

I'm going to give out the phone number for the Lesbian Avenger chapter in New York, and hopefully, some enterprising young lesbian out there or old lesbian will pick up the phone, give them a call, and try to get a Lesbian Avenger chapter started here. "For more information, call the Lesbian Avenger hotline at area code 212-967-7711 ext. 3204.

Let's see. They also even tell you actually how to pull together a group of lesbians. It says, "if you want revenge, call a meeting. A meeting is the first step toward a life of retribution and an essential element in organizing Lesbian Avengers. Meetings are a great way to trade info and get to know other lesbians. This is a time to report on past and upcoming actions, share news, and sign up for committees.

Committees meet outside the general meeting to plan and organize actions and then report back to the whole group for a vote. A facilitator armed with a meeting agenda will keep things moving and focused at your meetings. It helps to begin gatherings by having each dyke introduce herself, another way to get to know each other, and to end them by having each one tell what she'll be working on until the next meeting.

Dances, parties, and other fundraising stunts are a great way to recruit new avengers and raise money. Flyers make for cheap and easy outreach. Wheat paste them around town, leave them in church pews and gym lockers, staple them to your dog before letting him out of the house, send them to your mailing list. If you don't have a mailing list yet, put a sign up sheet by the door of your next avenger party, and soon, you will. Ask for phone numbers, too.

Phone list and mailing lists are invaluable in avenger warfare. A phone tree can get the word out fast on upcoming actions and parties. To create a phone tree, just divide up your phone list among a few strenuously seductive and reliable avengers who will become your lieutenants. You'll call them, and they'll call their list. Elevate yourself to phone tree captain or diva and enjoy activating the lines.

Don't forget to put contact information for your group on all your flyers, posters, and other materials so potential avengers can find you. Remember to state that the Lesbian Avengers is a direct action group focused on issues vital to lesbian survival and visibility. Get the word out." OK, let's see.

[HUMS]

OK, let's see, so that's pretty much all the really important vital stuff about forming a Lesbian Avenger chapter or just getting together to discuss one. Call a meeting, plan committees, have a facilitator with a prepared agenda, raise money by having parties, and dances, and so on. Contact people through your mailing list and phone list and just take action because right now, particularly here in Houston, lesbians are under attack and are virtually invisible even in the queer community. And if there's anything to be done about lesbian invisibility, it's going to have to be done by lesbians.

OK, I'm going to play another song now because well, I can. It's going to be a song that I know Jim Carper will hate, but hey, he's not in the control room right now. It's a remix of "Gave Up" by Nine Inch Nails. It's from the album-- well, the original version is from the album *Broken*, and this one is from the album *Fixed*.

[MUSIC - NINE INCH NAILS, "GAVE UP (REMIX)"]

[AUDIO OUT]

[MUSIC - HOUSE OF PAIN, "WHO'S THE MAN"]

OK, that was "Who's the Man" from House of Pain from the new album *Same as It Ever Was*. Before that-- what was before that? God, I don't remember. Oh, well. OK, one thing I wanted to mention, well, I want it to be sure to remember to mention is *Go Fish*, cool lesbian romantic comedy, which is a very good film. It's now playing at the River Oaks Theater, the smaller one, the one with three theaters, and you can call for showtime, and information, and all that kind of crap at 524-2175.

I highly recommend it, and ladies, if there is that cute young babe you've been wanting to ask out, this would be the perfect opportunity. It's very funny, very sexy, very cool, and everybody should go out and support it because god knows we need more films with lesbians in them.

[MUSIC PLAYING]

[AUDIO OUT]

[MUSIC PLAYING]

OK, that was, of course, the Pet Shop Boys from the album *Very* with a different point of view, and you're listening to KPFT Houston *After Hours*. Ah, let's see. Every Saturday night from midnight to 3:00. Yeah, almost 3:00 right now, and I'm going to play for you now the new single from Opus III. It's called "When You Made the Mountain."

[MUSIC - OPUS III, "WHEN YOU MADE THE MOUNTAIN"]

[AUDIO OUT]

[MUSIC PLAYING]

OK, you've been listening to another edition of *After Hours* KPFT Houston. This has been Michael Crawford and Jim Carper.

**WOMAN:** (SINGING) The century.

**JIM CARPER:** Yes, it has been, hasn't it?

**MICHAEL** [LAUGHS]

**CRAWFORD:**

**JIM CARPER:** Oh, I didn't know I was saying goodbye.

**MICHAEL** OK, well, we are saying goodbye, and--

**CRAWFORD:**

**JIM CARPER:** Coming up is *The Carbon Dating Game* with Eric.

**MICHAEL** And Eric's right there.

**CRAWFORD:**

**JIM CARPER:** Eric is in the house.

**MICHAEL** Yeah, yeah, yeah, yeah, OK, if you like have anything good to say or bad to say about our show, you can write us

**CRAWFORD:** that After Hours care of KPFT Houston, 419 Lovett Boulevard 7--

**JIM CARPER:** 7006.

**MICHAEL** Yeah, something like that. So until next week, this has been Michael Crawford and--

**CRAWFORD:**

**JIM CARPER:** --Jimmy Carper--

**MICHAEL** --from *After Hours* signing off.

**CRAWFORD:**

[MUSIC PLAYING]

[AUDIO OUT]

[MUSIC PLAYING]

**WOMAN:** (SINGING) When you made the--

[MUSIC PLAYING]

**NARRATOR:** Submitted for your approval. You're on your way back to the old home place. You're driving down that lonesome road. There's a sign up ahead. You're entering into the bluegrass zone. Every Sunday, noon to 3:00 on World Radio, 90.1 FM KPFT in Houston.

[MUSIC PLAYING]

**ANNOUNCER:** It's time once again to ask Dr. Science, so let's ask Dr. Science.

**DR. SCIENCE:** That's me.

**ANNOUNCER:** Remember, he knows more than you do.

**DR. SCIENCE:** That's right.

**ANNOUNCER:** Rob Ian from Saint Paul Minnesota writes, "Dear Dr. Science, I've often noticed that when I make toast and then set it on a plate, a strange liquid forms in the plate that lies under the toast. Why is this?

**DR. SCIENCE:** Your toast is weeping for its lost youth as bread but most of all, for you. After all, you're the one who's going to assume the karmic debt for eating a helpless piece of yeast-infected grain amalgam after putting it through the tribulation of near purgatory in the toaster. Next time you wash the plate, taste that liquid the toast left behind. Is it salty? If so, grab the rest of the bread loaf and start apologizing. What goes around comes around.

**ANNOUNCER:** Thank you, Dr. Science.

[MUSIC PLAYING]

Send your science questions to Ask Dr. Science. Remember, he's not a real doctor.

**DR. SCIENCE:** I have a master's degree.

**ANNOUNCER:** In science.

[MUSIC PLAYING]

[COMMOTION]