# BLACKOUT

A quarterly magazine by Blacklesbians /Blackgays is happening. Likely to be available from mid June. It will contain articles, reviews, stories, poetry etc. If you are not already on our mailing list and would like a copy, write to us (or phone BLGC 01-885 3543). WE WOULD ALSO STILL LIKE COPIES OF ILLUSTRATIONS WHICH YOU MAY HAVE DONE AND WOULD LIKE TO BECOME PART OF THIS HISTORIC DOCUMENT. Your short stories, poetry, photographs we would love to be able to consider for publication. Send some more in! Cleary label your work please.

# BLACKOUT SUBSCRIPTIONS

Individuals £2.50 (£4.50 O'seas) Institutions £4.00 (£6.00 O'seas)

# IRIKON U.S.A

is a recently formed group in the USA. It is a South Asian support group. Planning to address the needs of gays (sic) from areas such as India, Pakistan, Bangla Desh, Sri Lanka, Nepal, Tibhet and Bhutan. TRIKON publishes a newsletter every two months. The first issue came out in January 1986. Its audience includes South Asians both in and outside of South Asia. For further information write to TRIKON, Indian Sub Continent Gay Support Group, Box 60536, Palo Atlo, California 94306, USA.

# ETHNIC MEETING AT LLGC

The London Lesbian and Gay Centre called a meeting to discuss 'Racism, the Centre, and Ethnic and Cultural Communities' on May 13th. The meeting originated from users, workers. volunteers and management of the centre who were concerned about the racism that exists there. Invited to the meeting were Black and Minority Ethnic Lesbian and Gaygroups and individuals. Circulated at the meeting was a naive 1960/70s style collection testimonials.

Vernal of the 'People's' group implies that the centre is free of racism. As he says, 'there have been no complaints of this (racism) from black members about the (12%) white members or (all white) centre staff.' Such a large collection of non-racist white people must be unique in Britain. However he argues that more multiculturalism is

needed. (Multi-culch was a popular slogan 30 years ago meaning that if white people eat curries and listen to reggae their prejudices will melt away!)

Jenes (Minority Ethnic Management representative) lists ethnic/cultural minority 'representatives' on the management committee. The idea that asolated Black and Minority Ethnic Speople elected at mixed meetings can people elected at mixed meetings can communities - while majority white people are free of any tradency to represent only their community - is very out of date. Jennie hadr of LLGC) does admit that 'one member is not representative'. However she appears unaware of the criticisms of 'awareness training' which Black people have been making over several years. Black people have been challenging the idea that the only way to combat racism is to try to change the attitudes of individual white people.

Sue points out that the centre's facilities are underused. This is quite true but totally misses the point. It does not ask why and implies that it is because the resources 'have not been promoted to their fullest extent'. Presumably, engaging Satchi and Satchi would solve this problem.

In view of the testimonials and built-up frustrations the Black and Minority Ethnic invitees demanded and held a separate forum. Out of this the following demands were made:

- 1. We welcome the attempts to encourage Black and Minority Ethnic inputto the centre but we are angry at the unjustifiable delay in doingthis and the failings in the organisation of the May 13th meeting.
- 2. We are angry at the way the majority white gentile management committee advertised this meeting, which effectively excluded manyBlack and Minority Ethnic Lesbian and Gay groups and individualsfrom attending.
- Co-options to LLGC's management committee must cease until we areable to put forward interested and suitable candidates.
- 4. We are shocked that it has taken you this long to think about Positive CONTP... PS-COLL.

building up our library
organising social events etc. WE WILL
CONTINUE TO WORK FOR YOU. (Ed: Dree +he+

We continue to work from inadequate premises and continue to search for a building for a Centre. Meanwhile we are

e survived! Since the abolition of buildir

IS THE ANTENNAE OF A NATION Not sure of who wrote that but hook or by crook we should be "visible" as Blacklesbians and Blackgay men during (Lesbian and Gay) PRIDE '86. If you have an artistic bent or are that way inclined there are several events within which you can participate. Blacklesbians and Blackgay men ("BB's") photographers, artists, playwrites, (typists?) are struggling too. Demanding their share of visibility in the programming of events! (Eds: Are they?) We have been liaising with Blacklesbians and Blackgay men -"BB's" - in the field requesting support and wanting to discover talented people who have hidden their works of art in the past. One of the co-ordinators of this network is photographer Rotimi Fani-Kayode. BB's should phone BLGC on 01-885 3543 to get in touch.

FEMINIST BOOKS FORTNIGHTLY READINGS (WOMEN ONLY) at Sisterwrite Bookshop 190 Upper Street, London N1 1RQ, 01-226 9782.

7pm 11.6.86 Barbra Burford's "The Thresing Ground ..." - Reading from her new collection of short stories. Talented British Blacklesbian writer: NOT TO BE MISSED.

7pm (Phone for date /further details Suniti Namjoshi's "Aditi the one-eyed Monkey" - Canadian-based Indian lesbian. Established writer.

7pm 20.6.86 BLACKWOMANTALK - (Black women only event) Publishers of forthcoming Black women's poetry anthology. Bring your writing to share.

BLACK LESBIAN SUPPORT NETWORK 29th May 7pm Meeting for Blacklesbians interested in giving their time and commitment to offering advice/support to Black women questioning their sexuality. Where?: Brixton Black Vomen's Centre, 41a Stockwell Road, SV9.Tel: 01-274 9220.

Dear Editors

Hi- I used to be involved in the (prehistory) of the group when it was called
Gay Black Group... I was shown a copy of
your newssheet (3 - recently). I thought
it was really great and would like to
support it in any way I can. I thought I
used to be on your mailing list. Anyway, I
hope this re-establishes contact and all
the best for the development of the
project. (Enclosed please find
information which you may wish to glean
for incorporating within the newssheet).
One love, yours in solidarity,
K.N. (Mr) SE14.

#### LIFTED FROM CARIBBEAN FOCUS NEWSLETTER:

"Four Radio 4 documentaries on the Caribbean will be broadcast during the summer. They're presented by Juliet Alexander of Ebony and produced by Joan Griffiths.

They will all be broadcast on Wednesday evenings between 7.45 and 8.15pm and will provide valuable resource material as well as increasing one's knowledge of the Caribbean.

18 June "Sugar Free" - a programme about how the Caribbean is going to earn a living now that sugar is no longer the dominant crop.

25 June "Island Campus" - about the University of the West Indies.

2 July "Battle of the Flowers" - St Lucia's unique festivals of La Rose and La Marguerite.

9 July Subject still to be decided.(Ed: Blacklesbians and Blackgays?)

ENTERTAINING MR SLOANE by Joe Orton, decd. Until May 31, 7.30pm at The Latchmere, 503 Battersea Park Road, SW11. Tel: 01-228 2620. All about the how... you say "menage et tois"? love triangle between ... "...lively and intelligent production... harsh, gloriously funny, disturbing...seize the chance to see a comic classic by the late, great master of the art...", "..a compelling production..". BEING AN EXAMPLE OF INFORMATION WE GET SENT TO THE OFFICE THAT YOU MIGHT NOT OTHER WISE GET TO SEE!!

BLACKHEART 3: an (American) journal of writing and graphics by Black gay men has been seen in a London bookshop! Gay's the Word Bookshop, 66 Marchmont St, WC1N 1AB Tel: 01-278 7654, had /has a few copies left selling for £4.50. Check it out! For Back Editions (i.e. Blackheart 1: Yemonja and Blackheart 2: The Prison Issue) are still available from BLACKHEART Ltd, PO Box 1420, NEW YORK, NY 10027, USA. Write dem! Single - send USA\$6.00; 2 issues - USA\$10.00.

PECKHAM BLACK WOMEN'S GROUP Black Women and Mental Health Group Open Meeting (BLACK WOMEN ONLY) on Thursday 29th May at 6.30pm-8.30pm. Venue: St Giles Parish Hall, Benhill Road, London SE5 Tel: 01-701 2651

PECKHAM BLACK LESBIAN GROUP A social group for Black lesbians meets every Thursday evening to give support to all Black lesbians and to Black women who think they might be lesbians, in the Southwark area. Telephone if interested or go along to one of their get togethers on Thursday evenings, 6pm onwards. [Address as above.]

Dear Editors

STATEMENT: As a new member of both the London Black Lesbian Gay Group and the People's Group, and on behalf of various interests including myself, I would like to say that the two groups are in existences to fulfil the requirements of two different sets of needs - GAY being the only common demominator.

A certain amount of friction is evident between the two, borne more out of misunderstandings than any real battle for justified existance. The one is mixed (Eds: race) the other is not. The one needs to be mixed, the other need not. The two are so different, that I personally find it stimulating to attend both, and have done so ever since I joined. For where I see the one as being supportive of me as a member of society, I find the other supportive of me as an individual. Where I find I can speak openly and calmly at one, in terms of living with others more fully, I find that at the other, I can agrue quite heatedly without fear, on issues that are specific to me.

On the one hand we have a group of individuals, on the other, we have a group of groups. They both exist, both are needed, both swap members, and should live and let live.

P.A. (Mr) SE14.

# THE PEOPLE'S GAY AND LESBIAN GOUP

"Conceived and organized by ...a black Gay, and with the help of others, The People's Lesbian and Gay Group is for all homosexuals and bi-sexual black/ethnic and white/european men and women.

The essence of the People's Group is not just to create a cultural exchange, but to bring into existance a positive clean atmosphere, where throught honest communication, the unity, trust and confidence that is within our community can be given a platform, and also, where all areas of our human creativity is explored with a view to enhancing and elevating each others lives."

The Peoples' Group meets on Thursdays, 7.30pm-10.00pm at LLGC [See address

### SCREENED OUT!!

a two-day Conference, 'Lesbians, gay men and CHANNEL 4' - What do we want? How do we get it? Organised by the Lesbian and Gay Group of the Campaign for Press and Broadcasting Freedom. When?: Sat 14th June 9.30am-5pm; & Sun 15th June 10.30am-1.30pm. Where?: South Bank Polytechnic, Borough Road, London SE1. Cost?: £4/£2. ("NB. Please pre-register!" - 9 Poland St, London W1V 3DG Tel: 01-437 2795)

#### OUTGOINGS!!

Not that many places that you can go to and feel welcomed, really welcomed; unless you turn up 'en masse' and literally bring the party with you!

(That's another time when the

'Telephone Tree' could be useful!)

Do not hold us responsible for

supplying the following information:

MONDAY NIGHTS is good for a "JUNGLE" - at Steve Swindell's Alternative disco evening at "BUSBYS" 157 Charing Cross Road, (Opposite Centre Point Building - Next to Astoria Theatre. Tube: Tottenham Ct Road) Costs?: £3.00 after midnight /£1 b4 11pm or /£2 after 11pm and b4 2400HRS.

Women's Club: "MARTINAS" Mondays 9 till 2am at Market Tavern, Market Towers, 1 Nine Elms, Vauxhall SW8 (Wandsworth Road side, 2 mins form Vauxhall Tube Tel: 01-622 5655)

#### FRIDAY NIGHTS after the

Lesbian and Gay Black Group meetings /social evenings, *lEvery Friday 7.30pm - 10.30pm*, the Community Centre, 62 Marchmont St, London WC11 some of us disperse, others flake out, - well aware that it is Friday night and the end of an over-exciting week. Usually. There are other options open to the bi-end candle burners however:

"SWEATBOX" at "Stallions", 5 - 6
Falconberg Ct., (Opposite the Centre Point
Building and beside "BUSBYS" [see above])
featuring Soul/Reggay Funk/Disco. Costs?:
£2.50 (- It is strictly a drinking club b4
10pm = £1. Not sure if they kick you out
for the change over.)

Alternating Fridays "Flash Harriet" v. "Danny the Funk" DJ at BASSLINE FUNK in the basement disco at LLGC. It can sometimes be a pleasant and relatively cheap "mixed" night out - til 2am. Usually £2. or /£1. UB40, to get in after the 0.30p or 0.15p door charge to LLGC - London Lesbian and Gay Centre, 69 Cowcross St, London, EC1M 6BP. Tel: 01-608 1471 Tube: Farringdon.

.... CONTO PROM PAGE 1.

Discrimination. We demand that Sharon, LLGC's Minority Ethnic worker and Julian control the recruitment of the two posts recently advertised. We ask that you inform us on the progress of this matter.

5. Following the recruitment of the two Black or Minority Ethnicworkers, we will provide a Support Group to assist these workers.

The Black and Minority Ethnic Lesbian and Gay group plans to meet towards the end of May to discuss ways of combatting racism at the centre. For further information please contact Robert at BLGC on 885 3543.



Lesbian & Gay Switchboard 01.837.7324 24 hours a day

BRIXTON HOUSING CO-OP

Black Members Meeting to take place at "Dirg's": 146 Mayall Road, SE24 (Tel: 01-737 8237) Thursday 29th May 1986 at 8.00pm. With 36hrs to spare per annum (!) - working for BHC you could obtain your own falt. Opportunities exist in all Committees of BHC for you to participate. A recent AGM just took place (13/5/86). There is a newsletter as produced by BHC and can be mailed out free to all Lambethans (residents in Lambeth) and those who have links with the borough. To join BHC, turn up to an Introductory Meeting first Monday in the month (2nd June) 8.00pm at 171 Railton Road, London SE24.

# THE NORMAL HEART

opened at the Albery Theatre, St Martain's Lane, WC2 on May 20th. This "sensational". "wondrous", "magnificent", stage play is the semi-autobiographical work of the struggle Larry Kramer had for his part in setting up Gay Men's Health Crisis (GMHC) in New York, as the number of AIDS victims grew. This brilliant piece of theatre will run for eleven weeks only and is currently starring Tom Hulce (famed for his part as 'Amadeus'; him with the infectious giggle). Bring along tissues as this one is a tear jerker - as well. Pricey tickets; contact the BOX OFFICE 01-836 3878. (Enquire about STANDBY ticket sales concess, etc £5.90 for best seats with appropriate ID.)

STOPPRESS - A group of us want to 'gang up' and go and see THE NORMAL HEART 'en masse'. It you would like to foin the party (early July) please contact BLGC 01-885 3543 so that we can headcount to make a block booking.

The project owns a small word-processed to the project of the project owns and the project owns a small word-processed to the project owns and the project owns a small word-processed to the project owns and the project owns and the project owns are project owns. IS THIS STILL OK WITH YOU?

The project owns a small word-processor.

We hold your name and address (together with very many others) on a 'disc'. This below by simplifying some of the work of the work in a mail-out. The BLGC Management Committee believes that you should be informed of all the information we hold about you (and this appears on the address slip -with your name or enclosed with this received the received currently..."In order to remain outside the Act the preparation of text must be the only purpose of the automatic operations'. You should know that we do not give the list of addresses which we hold to any unauthorised persons. The information we hold we believe is 'with your consent'. The 'BLGCnumber' which we give you is only used to check that we have not entered your information twice in the system and does not relate "to another list". We do not 'process' the information we hold for any other purpose that to print text. It is a simple matter to delete your name /address /tel from our word-processing system and should you at any time require us to do so because your address becomes 'unsafe' or for any other reason please contact the office; and let us know if this is still ok with you!

# MEMBERSHIP

We have set membership rates and are now accepting your subscriptions as follows to be ratified at AGM. (You may now send in your subscriptions. Refunds applicable.)

Centre Users: Individual Waged  $\pounds 5$  (£7 Overseas) Unwaged £2 (£4 Overseas)

Supporting Members: Individuals £8 (£10 O'seas) Organisations £12 (£14 O'seas)

# CONVERSE PICTURES

have asked BLGC to advertise their want of "Black Lesbians and Black Gay men interested in working in Video Photography". Converse Pictures is a film collective that was part of the team that helped to produce the video "Framed Youth" - a product of the Lesbian and Gay Youth Video Project. BLGC was "a little upset" that Converse hijacked the "Black Communities Conference" logo/lettering as designed by our "Stella". Converse subsequently apologised and amended the design after we contacted them. You can contact Nicola or Jeff at Converse Pictures, Bon Marche Building, 444 Brixton Road, London SW9 8EJ.

# APPENDIX TO NEWSSHEET 4 - BLGC

is an action-platform initiated by Black Homosexual men to encourage and promote direct community involvement in political processes and raising issues of particular importance to the young. We are, however, a self-supporting organisation open to all men of African descent with a commitment to community development and ethnic group cooperative self-help. For more details send SAE to:

BMT, BM BOX 4390, London WC1N 3XX,

Ma Je's Massive Disco Event and Social Evening Tuesday 3rd June 8pm - 12pm £1.50/£1 at London Lesbian and Gay Centre (LLGC-69 Cowcross St, EC1, Tube; Farringdon,) All welcome, Building fully accessible, Creche available, BLGC/LGBG lending support, COME ON DOWN!! Please pre-confirm CRECHE requirements O1-885 3543

Dear Editors

Thanks for sending the excellent Newsheet 3. Isn't "Giovanni's Room" Baldwin's finest and most autobiographical gay novel?
Best Wishes
B.V. (Ms) SE14.

TELEPHONE TREE Reading the Men of All Colors (sic) Together/NY Newsletter - Vol V1, No. 10 19/2/86 (once Black and White Men Together), they speak of having a "PHONE/TREE in their community so that large numbers of the community can be quickly mobilized to spread the word about collective actions. These would include phone-ins, letter-writings and demonstrations in response to intolerable homophobic defamation by news media." IS THIS AN IDEA THAT YOU WOULD LIKE BLGC TO ADOPT?

WEDNESDAY NIGHTS IN NEW CROSS Centre for Caribbean Studies continues its series Discussion Forum '86: Wed 21st May, The Role of the State in the Creation of a Racist Britain - with facilitator Clive Harris; Wed 28th May, The Bristol Bus Boycott of 1963 - Madge Dresser; Wed 4th June, Towards a Black Film Culture -Reece Augiste; Wed 11th June, Black People and the Urban Question in Britain Winston James; Wed 18th June, The Question of 'Black Leadership' - panel discussion. When?: Vednesdays, 7pm-9pm; Where? 20 Laurie Grove, New Cross. (Nearest Stations: New Cross and New Cross Gate) Further information (and to double check // confirm) contact Centre for Caribbean Studies at Goldsmiths' College, Lewisham Way, New Cross, London SE14 6NW. Or telephone 01-692 7171 x2296.

SCREENED OUT!! a two-day Conference, 'Lesbians, gay men and CHANNEL 4' - What do we want? How do we get it? Organised by the Lesbian and Gay Group of the 'Campaign for Press and Broadcasting Freedom'. When?: Sat 14th June 9,30am-5pm; & Sun 15th June 10,30am-1,30pm. Where?: South Bank Polytechnic, Borough Road, London SE1, Cost?: £4/£2, ("NB, Please preregister!" - 9 Poland St, London W1V 3D6 Te1: 01-437 2795)

WOMEN ALIVE

A SUMMER EVENT FOR WOMEN - Sponsored by Marxism Today July 5th & 6th at the South Bank Polytechnic, London. This two-day event looks very exciting from the programme. The Collective writes ... "We felt deeply that there is a need for a women's forum that would draw together women and push forward feminist debate and thought on a wide range of issues. Our ideal has been to provide that space for many different women and organisations to contribute to and gain from; and where women's experiences are not ghettoised but genuinely brought together and involved". You can obtain copies of the programme (also produced on cassette tape for the blind) by contacting the Women Alive Collective. The weekend costs; £12.00 waged, £6.00 unwaged. WA Collective, 16 St John St, London ECIN 4AY (Tel: 01-251 4406).

CRWTERPRISE HACKTRY A discussion /w'shop series takinig place at Centerprise bookshop, 136-138 Kingsland High St, London E8.

Friday June 6. 7pm MIXED. Women in AURAT SHAKTI, - a photographic exhibition on Asian women in Britain, will talk about their work.

Saturday June 7th. 7pm = 10.30pm, WOMEN ONLY - Women and Writing: a celebration of differences.

Saturday June 14th. 7pm - 10pm, WOMEN ONLY - Four Black women poets read from their work. Double check details with Centerprise on 01-254 9632.



WORKING WITH LESBIAN WOMEN

Two Study Day events:

On Saturday June 28th 1986, and ngerford

GROUPS on Sunday 29th June 1986 taking 2N place at 6 Manor Gardens, London 17 6LA. 01-930-0715 Tel: 01-263 6200.

WORKING WITH LESBIAN WOMEN A Study Day event on Saturday Jume 28th 1986 at 6 Manor Gardens, London N7 6LA, Tel: 01-263 6200, "...will be led by two lesbian psychotherapists and is for workers in the Caring professions who see lesbian clients, We will look at how lesbianism is viewed in psychological literature and compare this to the ways in which lesbians experierce themselves. We will also discuss lesbian relationships, the ways lesbians are usually treated Ain conventional therapy and give case presentations, The day will also include some esperimental work on feelings women have for one another", Fig. 27,00; Deposit £10 byJune 6thto Jose Nicolson, Your place will be confirmed by June 16th, No creche; On-site parking wheelchair accessible; Lunch, - please bring food to share!

WORKING WITH WOMEN IN GROUPS A Study Day event on SUNDAY June 29th 1986 at 6 Manor Gardens, London N7 6LA, Tel: 01-263 6200 - for women who are interested in understanding more about how group processes and dynamics work in the special setting of a group of women, "We will look at group analytic theory and try to link it with our understanding of the particular nature of women's groups, There will be time for experiential work, theory, and how to apply this knowledge to your own work setting,

The day could be resevant wom ... .. who run therapy and other groups for women and for those who work in women's groups /collectives, Fee 27,00; Deposit £10 by June 6thto No creche; On-site parking wheelchair accessible; Lunch, - please bring food to share!

WE WILL SUPPLY THIS NEWSSHEET ON CAS-SETTE TAPE FOR THE "VISUALLY CHALLEN-GED".

ADVANCED TECHNOLOGY BEING SO DAYS WE CAN EVEN PRODUCED EN-THESE LARGED COPIES OF THIS NEWSSHEET.

\*\*\*\*\* If you know of Blacklesbians or Blackgay men who may need these services you are welcome to contact BLGC on their behalf. We are available on 01-885 3543.

LESBIAN LINE SPONSORED CYCLE "Is there anyone who is interested in doing a sponsored cycle ride from John Greats (in Scotland) to London?" If so could they please contact Blacklesbian WORKING WITH WOMENIA INDANGANGINE via the Lesbian Line Collective MAD AM Box 1514, London WC1N 3XX. Gil wrote to us "...would really appreciate all the support form the black community that I can get. Either from lesbians who want to cycle or anyone who can sponser us". Good luck, Gil. Don't forget to wear as much day-glow as possible (and I don't mean eyeshadow). We'll be looking out for yourself and the others. LESBIAN LINE 01-251 6911 Monday and Friday 2pm-10pm; Tues, Weds and Thus 7pm-10pm.

> MULTI-CROSS-CULTURAL RACIAL LESBIAN ART SHOW

The Brixton Art Gallery and other London based venues are available for a 3-week period (June/July) conciding with Gay Pride Week and the Lesbian Strength March, Any Lesbian Artists wanting to exhibit or participate in any way, now's your chance! Contributions from all fields of visual arts and crafts wedcomed, Contact: Yvette c/o Brixton Art Gallery, 21 Atlantic Road, London SW9 8HX or Tel; 01-733 7757 for more details.

MONDAY NIGHTS IN GREENWICH "Pride and Prejudice" continues. Greenwich Lesbian and Gay Centre has been holding a series of open (information-packed) discussion /workshops studies course since April. T., studies course continues into its seventh week with LESBIANS, GAY MEN AND CHILDCARE on Monday May 19th; Monday May 26 the discussion is HEALTH; Week nine, June 2nd THE MEDIA; Week ten, June 9th Week eleven, June 16th EMPLOYMENT: BEREAVEMENT & SEPARATION; Week 12, June 23rd this session to be decided by the whole group. On Mondays from 7.30 at West Greenwich House, Greenwich High (Transport: Buses Road, SE10. 177; 180; 53. British Rail - Greenwich). (Double check details with GLGC - 17 Bowater Road, 3rd floor, Charlton, London SE18. Tel: 01-316 5954).

WORKING WITH PEOPLE This is a course for women, interested in youth and community work or social work. This three-day-a-week course starts in June 1986 and will run for two terms. For more information, contact the coordinator, Zhana, School of Adult and Community Studies, Goldsmiths' College, New Cross, LONDON, SE14 6NW (or 692 7171 x2328).

@ BLGC 5/86 N94