



**BLGC COMMENT**

We envisage that there will be a huge contingent of Blacklesbians and Blackgay men marching together under the Black Lesbian and Gay Centre banner which will be ready at the rendezvous point in Hyde Park. Don't forget to bring your cameras with enough film to produce a movie! We would like to produce a slide show so if you are taking slides (movie?) or stills, please help us to document this event. Please try to be around at 1.30pm for a huge group photograph near Speakers Corner where we will all be assembling.

Who is documenting your history for posterity? **BE THERE - OR YOU'LL BE A VERY BORING PERSON** if you don't phone us with an excuse for us to challenge.

We here at BLGC don't feel that there is anything wrong with commemorating the Stonewall riots in this way. There were Blackgay men involved in the defence of that pub /bar in New York City's Greenwich Village in 1969 which was being defended with honor under a police seige, - threatening the very liberty of the patrons gathered there (of whom we are now very proud). It was this event that triggered uprisings in many European cities and gave visibility to an extant people who were once isolated by silence in bustling communities. Never again.

If you (in error) are choosing to avoid the Lesbian and Gay Pride March from Hyde Park to Jubilee Gardens (GLC); via Park Lane, Piccadilly, Haymarket, Trafalgar Square, Duncannon St, Strand, Waterloo Bridge, ...then please attempt to be



at one of those points waiting to wave to us as we all walk by. At approximately 2.30pm we should be in Trafalgar Square. (If in doubt ask a policeman.) It is a huge event and you can always say to friends who spotted you "it wasn't me" - especially if you are wearing dark glasses.

We each have difficulties with our own Black community at large who choose to believe that we have been brainwashed by white people 'into this thing'.

As we continue participating and becoming visible in Pride marches or campaigns and initiating our own Blacklesbian and Blackgay forms of protests; Be it "ROOT" magazine October 1985, BBC's Ebony programme which was eventually screened on 13th March 1987 (- after we were promised the programme would be broadcast in November 1986), Haringey Black Action - a National Demonstration against Racism, bigotry, and homophobia (2.5.87), Peckham Black Lesbian Group's lobby of Southwark Borough Council's Labour group in support of a Lesbian and Gay Unit (17.6.87), ...we must always bear in mind that our siblings need special attention. We live in a hostile society and every bit of visibility counts. You can help by being there on the Pride March this year!

**BLACK LESBIAN & GAY CENTRE PROJECT**  
**UNIT 4, TOTTENHAM W'SHOPS**  
**2 SOMERSET ROAD**  
**LONDON N17 9QP**



**\*\*\*\*ACCOMMODATION WANTED\*\*\*\***

Small flatlet /Bedsit wanted near to central London - must have separate /own kitchen - up to £45pw. Call "Morris" on 01-580 1119 (or BLGC on 01-885 3543).

**DERBY LESBIAN LINE**

This is a relatively new project offering advice and support to lesbians in the Derby area. Call 0332- 41411. They need information from other groups, please write P.O.Box 140, Derby DE1 1XS.

**Blackgay Men's Support Network** is coming together! It is planned that there will be a phonenumber operating at least one evening each week with Blackgay men manning the line. The operation will be based in Lambeth for the time being and there will be an application to the Council for setting up and running the project. The BGMS Network will publish its findings twice yearly, and ensure that the experience of isolated Blackgay men has a voice. The project will not deal with enquiries from 'agencies' as its sole purpose will be a facility for individuals. The project will attempt to contact the Black young men who write to box-number ads in the 'gay' press who may become 'lost' in a totally white scene. BGMS Network will have its own mail-box and telephone line. If you are interested in being involved and doing some volunteer work, then you should attend the first public meeting being organized in Lambeth to look at the draft constitution on Tuesday 21st July 1987. Phone BLGC for venue details or write in to Network BGMS, c/o BM BOX 4390, London WC1N 3XX.

**BLGC wants to update it's information on Blacklesbian and Blackgay groups.** Please can you contact us either by phone or in writing and tell us about your group; how often do you meet, how many of you are there, and whether it's more social than political etc etc. Ask for SAVI or ARABA or DIRG on 01-885-3543.

**SOUTHWARK LESBIAN LINE** (Tel: 01-703 3849) is now operating on Tuesdays: 2-4pm; & Thursdays: 7.30-10pm. You can write to them via: SLL, PO Box 702, SE15 5DN.

**\*\*\*\*\*LETTER BOX\*\*\*\*\***

Hi,  
I'm writing just to thank you for the great newsletters you send me from time to time. Also I'd love to help out your organization in any way I can. Though I have an odd life (time-wise that is) because I'm a dancer. I'm sure with pre-planning I can be a reliable helper. Also nothing is too boring for me to do. Sealing envelopes, posting letters, answering phones, anything! I would just really love to help out. On that note of humility I'll leave the ball in your court and hope to hear from you in the very near future.

Yours

A.S. SE4

Dear A.S. (SE4)

You couldn't have written at a more appropriate time ...! Can you draw, seal envelopes, make tea, stick labels to the envelopes, dance? ...Yes?! Then we can make good use of the service(s) you are offering. Why don't you phone us at BLGC 01-885 3543 to discuss the possibilities? ("15 love")

*Ed: How we love to receive letters like this!! Is there anyone else who would like to help out alongside this potential volunteer?? Letters or telephone call into to us at BLGC most welcome.*

**\*\*\*\*\*THE HBA DEMO THAT WAS\*\*\*\*\***

The HARINGEY BLACK ACTION NATIONAL DEMONSTRATION (Sat 2nd May) was highly successful. A very meaningful event which was probably the reason that Bernie Grant (MP) got elected by the Labour party voters. The people of Tottenham witnessed our presence and we have no doubt were won over by our peaceful demonstration. A special mention to Dolly Kiffin who gave a rousing speech at the rally emphasising the commonalities between the experience of Black people and the experiences of <sup>lesbian</sup> gay people. The Broadwater Farm Youth Association accompanied the march with dubstyle music. Some of us audiophiles turned a blind ear to some of the tunes which were suspect if not downright offensive.

There were between 3,000 to 5,000 of us with a happy contingent of Blacklesbians and Blackgay men leading the 'parade' as if we were in one of those Deep South Mardi Gras.

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There was also six or seven 'Parents Rights Group' demonstrators. I heard that one policeman told them that they had better get their act together! This they tried to do. The day before the National Elections here, there was some £100,000 worth of advertising spent by a group calling themselves The Committee for a Free Britain which placed adverts in The Star, The Sun, and the Mirror. "Hello my name is Betty Sheridan. I live in Haringey and I am scared". She goes on to indicate that she is scared because if Labour gets in they will teach her two kids gay and lesbian lessons instead of giving them proper lessons? Basically what she was revealing was her own lack of a (dare I say it) 'a basic heterosexual education'. Bearing all that in mind, what ever happened to the National Front? How come there were no 'out Front' candidates? Which party do you think is hoarding those horrors? Are those characters given a welcome in the Labour party now? Is it that they are entertained by the policies of the Liberal /SDP Alliance? The fascists don't wear the red rose. I would contend therefore that another political party is giving a haven to those offensive and racist policies on repatriation. I hope siblings, none of us made a mistake on the ballot paper by voting for a party which had no positive reference to lesbian and gay rights. We are with it for a dynamic five years. We may not be here as an organization due to funding restrictions imposed by the government during this next five years. Just be sure siblings, your vote is not wasted at the time of the local by-elections when the opportunity next arises for us to make an audible shout from our quiet collected voices. DOLLY KIFFIN FOR PRIME MINISTER!!



Thursday 9th July (01-885 3543)

OUR VERY OWN TELEPHONE HELPLINE:

This service is being re-launched with a social evening at BLGC offices on Thursday 9th July 1987. Come on down! You don't have to bring a bottle and there will be food! We will be discussing the implications of our commitment to this particular project. If you can't make it this Thursday and perhaps you would like to help out with the calls and the monitoring then get in touch. So every Thursday evening between 6pm and 9pm there will be someone here to help you with your very personal enquiries! We workers do do our hours but 'you' have complained that you don't know when we'll be in, - and not have the answerphone running. Well now you know!

We would like volunteers to submit designs for stickers for our phone line. You should submit art work to reach us by Thursday 9th July 1987 so that we may consider it.



T-Shirts: £2.50 + p/p 50p

Mugs: £2.50 + p/p 50p

Now, in the privacy of your own home you can "self identify" wearing a BLGC T-Shirt. Later - when you've got the hang of it, watch heads turn as you dazzle (and mystify) the public. No need for them to ask "is she?" or "is he?" It's so discrete and yet so obvious! BLGC T-shirts and T-shirts crafted items in limited supply guaranteed to become genuine heirlooms. Order yours today!



CLOSET WRITERS feel like it's time to come out?? Why not take the plunge and write an article, large or small, for BLACKOUT - the magazine for Blacklesbians and gay men? Coming out stories, poems, views, reviews, politics or anything you like - just send it in. (Please? Pretty please? Pretty, pretty ...?)

**FUNDRAISING PARTIES** we want you to hold a social event in homes, your homes. Small intimate affairs from which we could raise funds. Here's how: You should invite no more than three friends over to dinner, charging them each £5.00 (explaining it is a donation towards the BLGC) spend the evening being positive about Blacklesbian and Blackgay issues. Come up with some recommendations at the end of the evening; jot them down and after your guests have done the washing up, prepare an envelope with the £15.00 (or less) and the recommendations and address it to BLGC. Eazy eh? Your community is not only short of funds but we think that we need to improve the channels of communication and what a nice way to spend an evening. We've got to get these menage et quads off the ground. (Sorry, can't do Mondays.)

*You may not be aware but:*  
**PECKHAM BLACK WOMEN'S CENTRE** is at 69 Bellenden Road, London SE15. Phone 01-358 1486 for details of their Black Lesbian Social Group that meets there regularly. There is a Tuesday drop-in session for "OLDER BLACK WOMEN".

### FOR YOUR EYES ONLY?

Ideally we would like our mailing list to be even better organised. (Ed: is this possible?) We do now believe that we will need to register with the Data Protection Act which helps to ensure that we hold no information on our (tiny) computer about you, that you know nothing about. Currently if you subscribe to BLGC you will receive a mailout with a printed label. The information on the label, together with your telephone number(s) is all that we hold. We have no coded input for your particular sexual penchant. There are people on our mailing list who are white and heterosexual (?) - because

CONT'D NEXT COLUMN...

LONDON BOROUGH OF HARINGEY'S Lesbian and Gay Unit is making contact with PEOPLE WITH AIDS and PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES. On the second Monday of each month meetings are held for lesbians from 7.30-8.30pm; gay men with disabilities are welcome to the mixed meetings which follow from 8.30pm-10pm. These meetings take place at the Lesbian and Gay Unit, 48 Grand Parade, Green Lanes, London N4. Write or telephone in to confirm on 01-802 8981. Access code available on request.

(EYES) CONT'D FROM PREVIOUS COLUMN

there are people that side who support the work we do. Now, we would like to separate the list more definitely so that we can make selected mailings. We are proposing that alongside your name and address we list your subscription to BLACKOUT, your paid up /and membership status (be you a Blacklesbian or Blackgay individual or a white group or individual?), your library subscription (titles /number of books on loan perhaps). We might also like to introduce a skills register. We would like some feedback on this. Your gut reaction and queries are welcome, as what we effectively do is inform the powers that be that these lists then exist.

It is now illegal to hold such lists on computer without registering the fact that you hold such lists. The idea behind it is to protect the consumer. It is not our current policy to put someone on the mailing list without their consent. We take it that all our 500 names and addresses are held with the addressees consent. It is a simple matter to have your name and address deleted from the mailing list if your situation at home becomes 'complicated' by relatives visiting. We have the ability to suspend your mail-out for any particular month upon request.

IS OUR PERSPECTIVE -  
YOUR PERSPECTIVE?

If ever you feel that the workers at BLGC should be doing something that we aren't already doing, or you want to know what we do, then just give our answerphone a call!!



# BLACK LESBIAN AND GAY CENTRE (PROJECT)

## **-URGENT!-**

Viraj Mendis is a Sri Lankan refugee who the Home Office wants to deport. He faces the likelihood of imprisonment, torture or even death if he is forced to return. Coach tickets to Manchester for the Viraj Mendis Defence Campaign (VMDC) march /demonstration on 11th July 1987 costs £2.00 unwaged, £4.00 waged, £5.00 high-waged. Telephone BLGC as soon as possible if you would like to go. Viraj Mendis has been active in anti-racist and anti-fascist struggles and is a staunch supporter of lesbian and gay rights.

"Haringey Black Action (HBA) calls on all Blacklesbians and Blackgay men to come on this year's Strength and Pride march to show our solidarity. Love from Alex."

About two dozen Blacklesbians and Blackgays joined the Black and Other Minority Ethnic Caucus at the Conference on Legislation for Lesbian and Gay Rights. The Caucus will meet Sunday 12th July, 2-4pm; for details of venue ring office.

### Asian Women's Network.

Are the latest in the line of Black /Gay /Lesbian community organisations to have been turned down funding by the London Boroughs Grant Scheme (ex-GLC). Some of the other groups that have lost their funding are as follows: Hall Carpenter Archives; Black Cultural Archives. Asian Women's Network have a petition that you can sign. Letters of support are needed. Voice your concern at this project's proposed demise by writing to Mr Gerald Oppenheim, Director LBGU, 8th Floor, Regal House, London Road, Twickenham, TW1 3QS, pointing out that AVN provides a unique and valuable service, and asking him and the appeals committee to restore funding. The group would also recommend that if you are an Asian Woman you apply urgently for membership.

AWN, Wesley House, 4 Wild Ct.  
WC2B, SAU.

# D I A R Y

Friday Nights at the Lesbian Gay and Black Group continue to be as scintillating as ever. We gather from 7.30pm every Friday at 62 Marchmont St, London WC1. Currently we are going through the process of electing new officers to an executive committee. The old "Gay Black Group" banner will be on the march to acknowledge the fact that we have history. We need someone to produce a new banner (eventually) saying: "LESBIAN AND GAY BLACK GROUP". For Saturday's march we will be marching *en bloc* under the banner of the "Black Lesbian and Gay Centre".

LBGO (London) Friday 26th June: Edited samples of video: Before Stonewall and discuss fundraising. Sat - Pride march. Friday 3rd July: Preliminary discussion for two conferences in September: a) a Blackgay men's conference; b) a Blacklesbian conference (Proposed that they be separate events over different weekends.)

There is a party organised for the benefit of the Black Lesbian and Gay Centre Project on the night of Lesbian and Gay Pride (Sat 27 June). This party is guaranteed to tease and please so don't miss it. For your personal invitations however, you will have to call BLGC on 01-885 3543 on the day/night of the Lesbian and Gay Pride March - Sat 27 June, or pick up personal invitations from BLGC reps on the March. We want the crowd filtered and only the cream de la Blacklesbian and Blackgay community (of which you are a part) will be authorised to bring in outside guests. Best dresses. Sunday best - on Saturday! KEEP YOUR EARS TO THE GROUND for this North London happening.



SUPPORT ↓



London Women's Centre  
4, Wild Court, London WC2B 5AU  
Telephone No: 01-831 6838

**LEICESTER - LESBIAN AND GAY BLACK GROUP**  
Congratulations we salute you and good luck with your 30 members application. We look forward to seeing you on Saturday and we have laid on these activities for after the Pride march: Pride rave up!! - as distributed on the march, enclosed in mailout, and available by telephoning the BLGC answerphone on 01-885 3543 to get the message on Sat for Saturday night's twelve hours of madness!!

**LONDON LESBIAN LINE** (Tel: 01-251 6911) Operates Mon & Fri 2-10pm; Tue, Wed, Thurs 7-10pm. Write to BM Box 1514, LONDON WC1N 3XX.

Friday 10th July: Social to be held at Friday meeting place (62 Marchmont St) inviting as many other lesbian and gay groups as possible.  
Friday 17th July: Speaker on STD. Does anybody out there know of anyone who is currently qualified in this field to give at talk to this group (who is a Blacklesbian /Blackgay man)?

**AIDS**

*Safe sex*  
WHETHER YOU ARE HETEROSEXUAL, HOMOSEXUAL OR BISEXUAL SAFER SEX WILL PROTECT YOU.  
WHAT IS SAFER SEX?  
SAFER SEX DOES NOT MEAN NO MORE SEX. BUT IT DOES MEAN CHANGING THE WAY YOU HAVE SEX.  
AVOID ANY CONTACT WITH YOUR PARTNER'S SEMEN OR THEIR BLOOD.  
IF YOU DO WANT TO COME INSIDE YOUR PARTNER, HAVE SEX WHERE YOU DON'T COME INSIDE YOUR PARTNER.  
IF YOU WANT A MAN TO COME INSIDE YOU, MAKE SURE HE WEARS A CONDOM.  
GETTING PREGNANT IS RISKY FOR YOU AND YOUR UNBORN CHILD.  
SAFER SEX IS THE ONLY PROTECTION FROM THESE DANGERS.

**AIDS**

**FIRST CONFERENCE OF LATIN AMERICAN AND CARIBBEAN LESBIANS, MEXICO CITY**  
OCTOBER 1987

We are holding information from our sisters in Mexico that the conference will take place on the 14, 15 and 16th October 1987, is going ahead as planned. The BLGC will be fundraising to send women to this important event ... SO WATCH THIS SPACE !!

The conference organisers are also in need of financial assistance, please send donations (in US dollars) from your group or organisation to G.L.L.U. (GAY AND LESBIAN LATINOS UNIDOS), as they do not yet have their own account, specifying that it is for the Latin American Lesbian conference. The address is Lesbian c/o G.L.L.U., 1213 Highland L.A.L., Hollywood, CA 90038, U.S.A.