

FEMINIST LIBRARY

BLGC d House  
**NEWSHEET**  
 for Black Gay men  
 100-100 W C2N 6PA  
**No 12**  
**Oct 87.**

# BLACK LESBIAN & GAY CENTRE

01-885 3543  
 UNIT 4 ~ 2 SOMERSET RD NW7 9AP

Saturday 3rd October

March from Tottenham's Broadwater Farm Estate via 10 Downing St, demanding a public enquiry into the uprising of 6th October 1985; demanding the immediate release of the innocent youths framed and convicted after the uprising; and in opposition to State Racism and Oppression. Meeting points Seven Sisters tube, 10.30am; BLGC will be there flying the flag! There will be a rally in Hyde Park 3.00pm onwards with National and International Speakers. The Broadwater Farm Youth Association were highly supportive of the SMASH THE BACKLASH demonstration which was called by Haringey Black Action and Positive Images, which had so many Blacklesbians and Blackgay men being visible on that eventful May 2nd! BE AT THIS EVENT! Saturday 3rd October and become part of history! (The laundry can wait until tomorrow!)

**BLACKBERRI - The Man**

BLACKBERRI is another milestone in the visibility of Blackgay men. This exceptionally talented musician, tampers with the Blues, Jazz, Gospel, Reggae, and C&W. He has carved for himself a niche in many ethnic and political communities. His message is humanitarian and at times humorous. BLACKBERRI is already here! He is able /available to tutor voice workshops; lyric writing workshops; guitar playing workshops. He is available for performances in London Through October /November /December. The record album "Blackberri & Friends: Finally" is available for sale priced £8.00; as pressed in the USA. (Cheques should be made payable to: BLGC.)

FIRST NATIONAL BLACK GAY MEN'S CONFERENCE 31st October 1987

A Blackgay Men's Conference has been organised to take place on 31st October 1987 at the Hampden Community Centre, 150 Ossulston St, London NW1. The steering committee acknowledges and regrets the fact that they are clashing with other Black or lesbian and gay events that particular weekend. However, we will cater to those Blackgay men who are able to attend this first Conference of its kind in this country. We will have Blackgay men speakers from organizations up and down the country. BLACKBERRI from the USA will give a special performance. The Conference is an opportunity for networking and making links with people in the backwaters who are themselves engaged in a commitment to Blacklesbian and Blackgay issues. It was decided that this should be a Blackgay men only conference as we need to get our own act together! Workshops to include: Health, Safe SEX, mental health and STD; Coming Out; Fears and Prejudices within the Black Community; Black & Lesbian and Gay History; Writers Workshop; Bisexuality; Black men and the Law. The one day conference begins at 11am. It is hoped that an evening social will be organised if we don't negotiate special rates into a nightclub. Contact BLGC for more up-to-date information: 01-885 3543.

All bookings /enquiries please contact 'Dirg', at BLGC. See BLACKBERRI perform Friday 3rd October & Thursday 22nd October 1987...



**LONDON LESBIAN AND GAY SWITCHBOARD**  
"Our need for volunteers is always pressing - and our particular concern is to become more representative of the communities we serve. LLG Switchboard 01-837 7324 is open 24hrs a day, 365 days a year - for lesbians and gay men everywhere. Staying open means we can help someone to survive a crisis, find a place to stay, get in touch with other lesbian mothers talk through the problems and pleasures of coming out or meet the challenge of HIV infection. Staying open means we need volunteers; (ED: Where did I read that before?) would you like to think of becoming one? We are committed to increasing our younger, older, disabled, lesbian black and other ethnic minority volunteers. We also welcome vols with HIV infection. We regret no wheelchair access. Meal and travel allowances for the low and unwaged". Give them a try by ringing 01-837 7324 or writing: BM Switchboard, London WC1N 3XX.

#### **HARINGEY**

Do you live, work, study or play there? Do you want a say in what happens in the borough? Local lesbians and gays can make their views known through sub-groups - Lesbian, Gay, Black and Minority Ethnic, Disabilities, Trade Union and Unwaged. Ideas go through to the Lesbian and Gay Sub-Committee. In the past, the sub-groups have not only organised highly successful socials but also decided on policies that have set the nation buzzing! But the sub-groups are now at risk. If you're lesbian or gay and concerned, come to a meeting on Wednesday 21st October at 7.30pm in the Lesbian and Gay Unit, 48 Grand Parade, Green Lanes, N4. (Wheelchair accessible.) To find out more ring 01-802 8981.

#### **HACKNEY**

Hackney Lesbian and Gay Research Project has been set up to consult local lesbians and gay men about our needs and priorities. Find out more about their public meetings planned. Contact: Dorothea by writing: Lesbian and Gay Research Project, 2nd Floor, 161 City Road, London EC1V 1NR; or Telephone: 01-251 5729 /5731.

#### **THE JAMAICA STAR**

In an article published in the Jamaica Star Newspaper (Friday 14th August - purchased in London) under the title "GROUND-WORK LAID FOR PREVENTION DRIVE AGAINST AIDS", a Mr O. Thomas, speaking on "Contact Tracing and Field Investigation," is quoted as saying: "I did not know there were so many homosexual and bisexual men in Jamaica, until I began this aspect of the work." Well, now you know! Now you know!

#### **BLACK THEATRE SEASON**

The Black Theatre Forum invites you to attend their new performances: "Moondance Night" September 30th - October 24th; "Tewodros" October 28th - November 21st. "MOONDANCE NIGHT works on many levels; Amusing, ritualistic, domestic ... it is all of these but with seams sewn so well the fabric of the play remains strong and taut. Do those who migrate better or bitter themselves? How do those left behind view the returning native and can that native survive once exposed to the First World? MOONDANCE NIGHT addresses these questions in an imaginative and stimulating way. Talwa Theatre Company in association with the Black Theatre Forum present this production." For £15.00 per ticket you can attend their fundraising (- to eventually own their own theatre) event: Royal Gala Performance - in the presence of HRH Prince Edward, at 8.00pm on Wednesday 21st October 1987 at the Arts Theatre, Great Newport St, Leicester Square, London WC2. Tickets for this special occasion via 01-837 6026/5. Moondance stars Jean 'Binta' Breeze, Isabelle Lucas, Sylvester Williams, Roddy Cush, Jason Rose, Yasmine Judd, Lenny Edwards and Malcolm Connell.

TEWODROS by Tsegaye Gabre Medhin - one of the major contemporary African playwrights, concerns the rise to power of a visionary Kassa who became Emperor of Ethiopia in 1855. The play is a fine example of the modern search for a distinctly African Theatre. Black Theatre Co-Op in association with the Black Theatre Forum present its production of this challenging play. 'Tewodros' means: RISE!



## LESBIANS AND GAYS UNITE IN DISABILITY

The first ever national conference for lesbians and gays with disabilities is being organised for Spring 1988 in Manchester. A group of disabled lesbians and gays got together as a result of a fringe meeting at the National Legislation for Lesbian and Gay rights Conference held in May this year. Lesbians and gays with disabilities felt tired of being excluded from lesbian and gay activities because of lack of access to buildings, transport and information about the events. The conference planning group call on able-bodied lesbians and gays to actively support this initiative. They desperately need three things: Firstly, money - for things like interpreters, and transport. Secondly, they need maximum publicity in lesbian and gay magazines. Thirdly, they need help. "We can't do this by ourselves, the world in which we live is organised to suit able-bodied people, not us." The conference planning group is organising meetings for heterosexual disabled people and able bodied lesbians and gays who want to support them in this initiative. For further details please contact: Kirsten Hern 01-802 8981; Fiona Clark 732-0432 or write c/o Lesbian and Gay Unit, 48 Grand Parade, Green Lanes, London N4 1AG. Cheques should be made payable to Lesbian and Gay Rights Campaign (STAFF).

## FRIDAY 20th November

Aids and Racism Conference, 9-5pm, Commonwealth Institute, Kensington Hi St, W8. Speakers include Dr. Francis Welsing from the USA; Prof. Tswana from Zimbabwe and Lionel Morrison, President of the National Union of Journalists. There will be workshops on AIDS; the Black Community's Response; Black Women and AIDS; AIDS and Social Control; Institutional Racism and Service Provision. The fee is likely to be £5.00 including lunch. To find out more, write to Tamuka Chitemere, Race Equality Policy Group, LSPU, Middlesex House, 20 Vauxhall Bridge Road, London SW1V 2SB or ring her on 01-630 7299.

## BLACK LESBIAN MOTHERS

If you want to join a group, ring Bernie on 01-251 6576.

## REGISTERED\_YET? REGISTER NOW!

If you are entitled to become a British citizen but are not, you may lose this right on 31st December 1987. To find out more, call in at your local Law Centre or Citizens' Advice Bureau, or ring the joint Council for the Welfare of Immigrants, 01-251 8706.

## THE MIXXXXX

SATURDAY 3rd October sees the other mega event of the day at the Rio Cinema, 107 Kingsland Hi Street, London E8. This MIX all nighter funky rave has three floors of fun, fun, fun! £3.50 cons. -£4.00 waged. Films, Disco and Performance areas. STOP PRESS: STOP PRESS: BLACKBERRI has just been booked to appear in a small slot!! Wow! The wickedist DJ's, live percussion not to mention Thunderbirds are go!! British Rail: Dalston Kingsland. Bus: N83, 76, 149, 236, 20, 30, 38, 48.

## THURSDAY 22nd October 1987

Time: 7.30pm come and hear BLACKBERRI perform at Tolmers Square Community Centre, 58 Hampstead Rd, London NW1. Tube: Euston. ALL WELCOME. This performance will include work-- by Blackwomen writers.

## 21st November, 3pm

Being Accepted and Rejected - Discussion. Black lesbians and gays of any religion are welcome. For details of venue write to Black Lesbian and Gay People of Faith (BLAGPOF), c/o BLGC or ring Hong on 01-435 7507, or Savi or Sharon on 01-254 1036.

## SATURDAY 10th October

Demonstration to free Moses Mayekiso, a trade unionist and community activist in Azania (/South Africa) facing the death penalty. Assemble 12 noon Clerkenwell Green, EC1 and march to South African Embassy Trafalgar Square. For details ring 01-837 6050.



### STRANGE GOINGS-ON

Stonewall Housing Association houses young lesbians and gays. On 4th September 1987, a Blackgay worker there was called to a meeting with four members of the management committee and suspended without pay. On 24th September, he went to a disciplinary hearing. He and a union official were given just one hour to read through and prepare responses to a pile of papers containing accusations. He was then sacked. Before the dismissal, the ACTSS 1/1111 branch had passed a resolution which read in part: "This branch notes that a black shop steward, Alex Owolade, a worker at Stonewall Housing Association, was suspended without pay and without any prior verbal or written warning on 4th September. This branch is concerned that basic trade union rights, which are the backbone of the trade union movement, have been blatantly ignored by a supposedly progressive organisation." For further information contact: Defend Voluntary Sector Union Rights Campaign, c/o Reading Matters, 10 Lymington Ave, London N22.

### USED CLOTHES!!

Many Tamil refugees in Sri Lanka have lost all their belongings. If you have any used clothes in good condition please ring Savi on 01-254 1036 so that these can be collected and sent on.

### OLGA

Organisation for Lesbian and Gay Action was set up after five hundred people turned up to a conference on lesbian and gay rights. If you are lesbian or gay and want to campaign, you can be a member for £5.00, (£1.00 unwaged or low-waged), while lesbian and gay groups can affiliate for £5.00. Supporting membership is open to anyone who supports the aims. If you are interested in joining, ring 01-833 3860; or write to OLGA, room 221, 38 Mount Pleasant, London WC1X 0AP. OLGA has several causes, including a Black and Other Minority Ethnic Caucus. For details of its next meeting, contact BLGC office.

### LIBRARY

If you are a member of BLGC, you can use the library, with its unique collection of books and magazines. Leaf through newsletters of lesbian and gay groups throughout the world. Relax with tales of love between Blackwomen or Blackmen. Find out how to deal with hassle from your boss, or cope with jealousy of your lover. Be stirred by accounts of Black struggles through the ages. Enjoy poetry and prose from many countries: JOIN NOW.

### RACE TODAY

Britain's Leading Black Journal: Race Today (- second only to BLGC's newsheets) June /July 1987 carried an interesting article on the 'Afro-American Bard' Langston Hughes, reviewing two of his books; a) Selected Poems and b) The Big Sea - An Autobiography. His sexuality isn't discussed in the article but we hold other information about this great writer. Langston Hughes was 'In The Life'. In another article describing the 2,000 demonstration organised by Black Community Action Group on March 7th, it relates that one popular slogan was "Police bigger killer than AIDS". Race Today Collective can be contacted at 165 Railton Road, London SE24 0LU; Tel: 01-737 2268.

### FRIDAY NIGHT IN LEICESTER!!

Friday Night - 2nd October - Black Outrite: a party organised by Leicester Black Lesbian and Gay Group [-FOR ALL BLACK LESBIAN AND GAY PEOPLE-] at Moat Community College, Maidstone Road, Leicester. £2.00 Waged; £1.00 Unwaged. There is a strong possibility that a minibus will travel up to Leicester on Friday returning on Saturday morning 3rd October in time to participate on the march from Broadwater Farm, - after the all-night Blues, in Leicester. £5.00 should cover the journey and entrance to Moat Community College. Make enquiries via BLGC on 01-885 3543 or a contact with Lesbian and Gay Black Group is: 01-463 9113. First paid first paid!