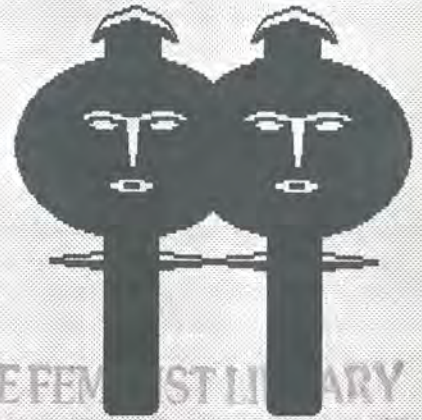


Black Lesbian & Gay Centre Project

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Newsletter: February/March 1991



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INTERNATIONAL NEWS

CYPRIOI GOVERNMENT - GUILTY

The European Commission on Human Rights (Council of Europe) ruled on December 6th that the law in Cyprus prohibiting homosexual activities between consenting male adults in private constitutes an unjustifiable interference with an individual's right to respect for his private life and violates Article 8 of the European Convention on Human Rights. The Cypriot Government argued that, while it recognised that its anti-gay laws were both in violation of human rights and unconstitutional, it was necessary to maintain some measures against homosexuality in some circumstances.

The challenge to the Cypriot law was brought by Nicosia architect Alecos Modinos, founder of the Gay Liberation Movement of Cyprus, under Article 25 of the Convention which allows for individual recourse to the council.

Articles 171-174 of the Cyprus Criminal Code provides a penalty of 5 to 14 years in prison for gay male sex. They were included in the code in 1929, replacing a British law from 1885. By the time the law was reformed in Britain in 1967, Cyprus was an independent country. Since then only one concession has been made, to delete provisions for whipping or flogging as penalties. As with pre-Section 28 anti-gay laws in Britain, there is no mention of lesbianism.

Repeal of the laws was discussed in 1988 by the House of Representatives in Cyprus. The discussions were followed by verbal undertakings by members of the Government to abolish the laws as soon as possible. Instead, a sustained barrage of anti-gay propaganda has issued from both Church and State in the last few months, causing many gay Cypriots to retreat underground.

Modinos took Cyprus to court after these undertakings were broken. The

Cypriot Attorney General, Michalakis Triantafyllides, who represented the government at the hearing in Strasbourg, reportedly asked the House of Representatives to amend the law quickly, before the case came to the European Court. Akis Papasavvas of the Attorney General's Office also notified the House that the laws were unconstitutional, but nothing was done.

In his case in Strasbourg, Triantafyllides stated that Cyprus recognised that the laws violated Article 15 of the Cypriot Constitution and Article 8 of the Human Rights Convention and that therefore, no prosecutions were being instituted and the law was effectively no longer in force. He asked, however, for a "friendly settlement" of the situation because a limited implementation of laws against homosexual activity in public was necessary for the "protection of health and morals".

Although the offending Articles will now probably be removed from the Criminal Code, anti-gay prejudice in Cyprus will take longer to disappear. Young men rejected from the army on the basis of homosexuality are labelled "psychologically troubled- homosexual", making it difficult for them to secure jobs in civilian life. "The equality of all citizens in the eyes of the law is but a minimum demand," Modinos told the Cyprus Weekly, "What must be achieved is true equality and understanding in everyday life."

"It is a shame that a citizen of Cyprus should be obliged to apply to international organisations for respect of his human rights, at a time when his own country is appealing for help abroad for the restoration of human rights violated by the Turkish occupation forces."

Info from Capital Gay

Gays and Lesbians of Zimbabwe (GALZ) is the name of the new group in Harare, the capital of Zimbabwe. The group was inspired to form by the South African group Gay and Lesbian Organisation of Witwatersrand led by anti-apartheid activist Tseko Simon Nkoli. GALZ has discussion groups, a cabaret performers group and a rugby team. *The group can be contacted at Box UA 425, Union Avenue, Harare, Zimbabwe.*

BRAZILIAN DEATH TOLL

Since 1980, 547 homosexuals have been murdered in Brazil. In 1990 alone, there were 60 killings, twice as many as in 1989. In spite of guarantees of equal rights for all Brazilians, verbal and physical assaults are common, according to Grupo Gay da Bahia.

A PRESS IS BORN

Feminista Ayuquelen in Santiago, Chile has received \$2,500 from the European Fund for Human Rights to set up a national Chilean lesbian and gay newsletter.

STAYING OUT

Reports from Singapore indicate that the efforts of the Prime Minister Lee Kuan Yew and the police to ban gays from night clubs have failed miserably. Since 1988, the police have attempted to close all the gay discos and ordered straight clubs to refuse to serve gay customers or else lose their licences. Night club owners have refused to cooperate with this measure. Two gay clubs and two pubs are still open. The police have apparently stopped rounding people up in cruising areas as well.

"HOPELESS AND GODLESS" - NO, ANGRY AND UNITED - YES

In early 1988, the Native American Women's Health Education Resource Centre was founded by Charon Asetoyer, with the support of a diverse group of women's health activists. The Centre is run by Native American women who live, work and raise their families on the Yankton Sioux reservation in South Dakota. The Centre uses the self-help concepts of the civil rights and women's health movements to empower women, children and families to better their health, education and lives. Working in an area of massive unemployment, environmental pollution and serious chronic health problems, the Centre has begun to make a difference in the lives of the members of the Yankton Sioux tribe. In the past two years the Centre has offered programmes such as: nutrition and exercise for adults with diabetes, after-school enrichment classes for school age children, fetal alcohol syndrome education and Aids prevention outreach.

Last September, the Centre moved to expand their programmes. They arranged to open a battered women's shelter, which required permission from the authorities at the town of Lake Andes. At a public hearing to discuss the Centre's request, Deputy States Attorney Mike Whalen, responsible for prosecutions in the Lake Andes area, opposed the Centre's request on the grounds that the "Native American culture is one of godlessness, hopelessness, lawlessness, and joblessness."

The Centre immediately demanded that Whalen step down and make a public apology and called for an economic boycott of businesses in Lake Andes until their demands were met. The Yankton Sioux tribe backed the Centre with a public rally in September.

Since the rally, the Centre has suffered various forms of harassment. There have been attempts to break into the building; the Centre's mini-bus, used to transport children, was found to have the wheel nuts missing. This could have led to serious injury. An independent video maker, who taped Mike Whalen's statements, was almost run over by a passing car. The day after the rally, three mothers who work at the Centre had child neglect charges filed against them, based on allegations that their children had broken windows in a state-owned building over a month earlier.

This harassment is dangerous, and if not stopped soon, could escalate seriously.

Native American women's and civil rights activists are rallying to support the Centre and its programmes. Join the supporters of the Centre in letting South Dakota officials know that you are monitoring the situation.

Write immediately and show your anger and concern to:
George Mickelson, Governor, State Capitol Pierre, South Dakota 57501, United States or Mayor Russell Stedronsky, PO BOX 544, Lake Andes, South Dakota 57356, United States.

For more information contact:
Charon Asetoyer, Native American Women's Health Education Resource Centre, PO BOX 572, Lake Andes, South Dakota 57356, United States.

Info from Off Our Backs

ANC - ANTI-OPPRESSION BILL OF RIGHTS

The African National Congress (ANC) has announced that discrimination against lesbians and gay men will be outlawed under its proposals for a new democratic, post-apartheid constitution.

Under Clause 7 (2) of the ANC's newly published draft Bill of Rights: "Discrimination on the ground of gender, single parenthood, legitimacy of birth or sexual orientation shall be unlawful".

Other clauses give a legal guarantee of "positive action" to overcome "disabilities and disadvantages", provide remedies for sexual harassment, abuse and violence and "discourage sexual and other types of stereotyping [in] educational institutions, the media, advertising and other social institutions".

There are additional proposals to outlaw "hate propaganda".

In an open admission of the growing contacts and co-operation between the ANC and the lesbian and gay movement in South Africa, the draft Bill of Rights document states; "We have also benefited from a wide range of organisations associated with the United Democratic Front (UDF), including those concerned with such issues as ecology, social welfare, gay and lesbian rights and rights of the disabled."

Lesbian and gay activists in South Africa are jubilant at the ANC's inclusion of a commitment of homosexual equality within the draft. Once finalised, these constitutional proposals will be the basis for negotiations with the white government of President FW De Klerk.

"We are very excited about this," says Derrick Fine, a leading campaigner with the Cape Town - based Organisation of Lesbian and Gay Activists (OLGA). "We consider it a major victory for the lesbian and gay movement."

However Fine also adds a note of caution: "We are mindful of the fact that there is still a long struggle ahead to change people's attitudes and win over other parties who will be involved in the negotiating process for a new South African constitution."

Info from Capital Gay

OLA ATOBA

Atoba, the Homosexual Emancipation Movement in Brazil, was formed in September last year after the murder of one of the organiser's friends. It became a registered non-profit group in 1989, and works to prevent discrimination of all kinds against lesbians and gays.

Atoba is situated in the western zone of Rio de Janeiro, in the poorest section of the city: "Today we are a famous group in Brazil because we distribute condoms for free. In May we created an Aids hotline and a lesbian and gay helpline. To better our work we would like to receive more information about other lesbian and gay organisations."

Send information to: Atoba, Rua Prof. Carvalino de Melo, 471, Magalhaes Bastos, Rio de Janeiro/RJ, CEP 21730, Brazil.



OUT IN ESSENCE??

Afro-American magazine Essence was hit with a lawsuit in November for refusing to run a half-page advertisement bought and paid for by the Black Gay and Lesbian Leadership Forum. The ad (pictured) was to announce the National Black Gay and Lesbian Conference to be held in Los Angeles in February, and was pulled, they say, by Essence Chief Executive Officer Edward Lewis who feared that conservative advertisers might not approve.

The \$6,514 ad went to Essence after examination of all the mainstream black publications for effectiveness in reaching black lesbians and gays across the country. Ironically, Emerge, Ebony and other black publications that had been under consideration have done a number of pro-gay stories in recent months.

According to the Forum, their cheque was returned by the Essence sales representative who bluntly said the magazine would not run the ad. Phone calls, letters and faxes by Forum co-chairs Ruth Waters and Phil Wilson were not answered or acknowledged, the group says. Sandra Lowe, attorney with the Lambda Legal Defence and Education Fund in New York, then filed the complaint with the New York City Human Rights Commission, charging Essence with violations of the city's anti-discrimination ordinance.

Essence magazine is based in New York City, which has had an anti-discrimination law protecting lesbians and gays since 1986. While the Forum did not ask for damages in the suit, legal expenses and the cost of preparing the advertising are well over \$1,000. What cannot be compensated for, says the Forum, is the lost time in recruiting black lesbians and gays across the US in time for them to plan to attend the February 9-18th Conference.

"Fear of conservative opinion is not an excuse for discrimination," noted Lowe. "The gay and lesbian civil rights movement, like the feminist movement, is an outgrowth of the civil rights movement. As such, these battles for human liberation are all inextricable entwined. Essence, an opponent to racism, must recognise its participation in perpetuating homophobic and heterosexist attitudes. We can no more tolerate a homophobic reason for denying access to the media than a racist one. We must fight Essence's homophobic discrimination in order to liberate us all."

Responding to a call to the magazine's offices regarding the matter, Barbara Britton, Essence's National Advertising Director, said, "You're really talking to the wrong person." But later that evening Executive Officer Lewis told BLK (a US black lesbian and gay paper), "Yes. We will run the ad. It will run in the February issue, but the February issue comes out in January." Asked why the ad had been initially rejected, he said, "It's an error. I would just prefer [to say] it was an error and let it go at that. Let's get it behind us and let's move on." The next day Essence offered to run the ad in its February issue at a substantial discount.

"Now it's too late for us to place the ad elsewhere even if we had the money to re-design it. Fewer black people will get word about the world's largest annual black conference for lesbians and gays," said Deborah Johnson, the Forum's spokeswoman who announced the lawsuit to the press in New York. "This Conference will address issues vital to the black community such as Aids, women's health strategies and leadership development. "The organisation has already been damaged," reported attorney Sandra Lowe. "The fact that they will put the ad in the magazine three weeks before the event is not okay. It seems very cynical to me. In many ways, this is hateful. Not only was it a mistake what they did, it was a mistake who they did it to. They thought we would be silent about it." She indicated that the suit would not be dropped after Essence's offer.

Essence Public Relations Director Carol Lynn Patterson, in announcing that they would run the ad in February, stated "Essence is not discriminatory on sexual issues. We published articles about lesbians and gays in the past, and lesbian and gay writers have appeared on our pages often." She did not comment on any terms of an apology or settlement.

The Forum's co-chair Phil Wilson stated, "This is a very important issue and we need to spend more time on this. What we want are more visible ads with black lesbians and gay men in the magazine and assurance that this will not happen again."

Reprinted from BLK

**"COME OUT!
COME HOME!"**

1991 National Black
Gay & Lesbian
Conference

Hyatt Regency Los Angeles
February 9-18, 1991
1(800)666-5495

TAKE PRIDE

*With pride in yourself,
you can appreciate the
differences in others.*

BLACK GAY AND LESBIAN LEADERSHIP FORUM
3924 W. Sunset Blvd., #5, Los Angeles, CA 90029
Ad partially funded by Christopher Street West, Los Angeles

BGLLF's "offending" ad



ASIAN HERSTORY

Over 50 lesbians attended the first Asian Lesbian Conference in Bangkok, Thailand in December. Organised by the Thai group, Anjaree, the Conference began with an opening party attended by some 200 lesbians, which became a double celebration as two Asian lesbians from London and San Francisco were joined in a traditional Thai wedding.

The three day Conference included slide and video shows, cultural performances and presentations on individual countries, as well as workshops on a variety of issues such as the politics of lesbianism, lesbian relationships and future priorities for the Asian Lesbian Network.

Women at the Conference represented the diversity of the region; there were, amongst others, Thai, Korean, Chinese, Indian, Indonesian, Philipino and Singaporean lesbians. One of the positive outcomes of this diversity was the decision to form a group of Asian Lesbians Outside Asia (ALOA) which can be contacted c/o The Pink Paper, 13 Hercules Street, London N7.

The next Conference, scheduled for May 1992, is due to be hosted by women in Japan.

For more information write to the Asian Lesbian Network (ALN), c/o Anjaree, PO BOX 322, Rajdamnoen, Bangkok 10200, Thailand.

BLOODY MURDER

Sixty transvestites have been murdered in the past ten months in Peru, according to a new report from the Movimiento Homosexual de Lima (MHOL).

"These assassinations are the most brutal example of the violence encountered by lesbians and gays," said MHOL executive director Rebecca Sevilla. "The homosexualisation of Aids has added to the homophobia that already existed in the most extremist sectors of Peruvian society." Sevilla says that much of the anti-gay violence is perpetrated by two groups - the Tupac Amaru Revolutionary Movement and the Shining Path guerrillas.

"In the beginning of May MRTA members entered Tarapota, in the jungle province of San Martin, and advised residents that they would soon begin a process of 'moralisation'...aimed at ridding the city of all homosexuals, prostitutes, thieves and drug users.

The group followed up on its threat at the end of May, reentering the city and massacring seven gay men."

A similar campaign was carried out in Pucallpa, Ucayali in July.

Human rights organisations have been of little help, MHOL members say, because "for them, aggressions against homosexuals are not considered violations of human rights."

The increasing violence comes against the backdrop of a rapidly deteriorating economy. A recent government price-adjustment plan caused the cost of food and fuel to jump 3,000 per cent and annual inflation exceeded 10,000 per cent.

MHOL operates on a monthly budget of £5,000, with which it pays its 30 employees and tries to "fill in the gaps left by the government's ineffective Ministry of Health." Calls to MHOL's Aids hotline, Sidayuda, dropped dramatically recently following a 6,000 per cent increase in telephone rates.

MHOL secretary Enrique Bossio says that because of the economic crisis, "people have lost perspective on their health and, in general, their lives. When people don't have anything to eat, worrying about the possibility of getting the Aids virus loses meaning," he said.

Donations to MHOL may be sent to Apartado 110289, Lima 11, Peru. Tel: 011 51 14 22 40 07.

CUTS DEEPEN

More community organisations have been forced to close, and local authorities have been reducing their services, as the financial crisis in London and other areas has grown worse.

Staff have been made redundant, and those remaining are struggling to meet increasing demands with fewer resources. In many places, morale is low.

Haringey Council faces a possible £9.5m deficit, and will currently only spend money on what it considers essential. Equalities units, which were to have been merged, may now be abolished. Camden Council, which also has a Lesbian and Gay Unit, seems set to form a general equalities unit with drastically reduced staffing levels.

As money for public services gets even tighter, communities which already face discrimination may be forced to bear the brunt of cost-cutting.

The London Boroughs Grants Committee, which funds London-wide organisations and on which each borough has one vote, has not agreed a budget. Nor has it decided whether to provide interim funding to projects not decided on by the end of March and wind-down grants to those rejected. It is highly likely that quite a few groups will lose their funding. BLGC may well be one of these: when cash is short, black lesbians and gays are not always a high priority!

PROJECT UPDATE

Over the past two months, BLGC's quest for a centre has continued. Workers have been ploughing through estate agents' lists, scouring streets in passing, making inquiring phone calls and visiting premises in Hoxton and Brixton which seemed promising. Disappointingly, as before, almost all have proved unsuitable or have not been available - though one possibility is being further explored.

During December and January, our two small offices have been quiet compared to October and November, when they were crammed with ILGPOCC planning committee members using them as a centre and were buzzing with calls about the conference. However the project's day-to-day work has continued.

Black lesbians and gays - many of them isolated or coping with other problems - have carried on ringing up, writing in or dropping by. Management Committee members and workers are currently negotiating with another organisation about reopening the weekly evening helpline.

As usual, BLGC has been liaising with local and special-interest black lesbian and gay groups, which continue to provide a vital service to the community, and has been assisting two in particular.

The project has carried on building its links with other organisations, seeking to share information, work together for common ends and raise awareness of black lesbian and gay issues. This has included mass media work. Several training sessions were recently held for a women's organisation to enable it to challenge racism more effectively.

Meanwhile other work has gone on, despite the climate of uncertainty about funding. One of the project's tasks for the future is to consider how it can become more self-reliant - if it survives!

STOP PRESS

There is a strong likelihood that BLGC will lose its funding at the March meeting of LBGC. Please, please, please write to us telling us what you think of our work, how you've used the project in the past and why you want us to continue. Without your support this could be the last newsletter BLGC produces.

THREE PRONGED ATTACK

1991 sees an escalation of attacks by the state on lesbian and gay rights. A three-pronged attack is taking place, two of them concern sexual relationships between men and the third the right of lesbians and gays to care for children. The three attacks are set out in more detail below.

CLAUSE 25

Under Clause 25(1) of the Criminal Justice Bill now going through Parliament, the government has included three categories of consenting homosexual behaviour, included in previous legislation, which will now be regarded as serious sexual offences. These are:

1. Solicitation by a man:
Section 32 of the 1956 Sexual Offences Act
This could include cruising, flirting, winking, smiling, chatting up, exchanging phone numbers etc.
698 people were convicted/cautioned in 1988.
2. Procuring of homosexual acts:
Section 4 & 13 of the 1967 & 1956 Sexual Offences Acts
This could include helping in any way, two gay men to have sex, even if they are over 21. Such as introducing or lending them a spare room.
368 people were convicted/cautioned in 1988.
3. Indecency between men:
Section 13 of the 1956 Sexual Offences Act
This could include and gay affection outside the home, such as kissing, hugging, holding hands, sex in lover lanes, etc.
1,469 people were convicted/cautioned in 1988.

The latest figures we have (for 1988) show that more than 2,500 men were convicted/cautioned for these above three consenting acts (the highest level of conviction/cautions since 1950!).

The government now clearly intends on making the situation even worse for gay men. If this Clause becomes law, the courts will be empowered to act against these people convicted much more harshly, by giving them larger fines and longer jail sentences.

Which if 1988's figures are anything to go by, will be more than 2,500 a year.

PARAGRAPH 16

The Department of Health has produced draft guidance notes which imply that, in the field of fostering, equal opportunities should be ignored. These guidelines, if not amended, will probably be used to prevent lesbians and gays from becoming foster parents, however suitable they may be.

Paragraph 16 of Foster Placement (Guidance and Regulations), which deals with how the Children's Act 1990 should be put into practice, admits, 'It would be wrong arbitrarily to exclude any groups of people from consideration'. However it continues, 'But the chosen way of life of some adults may mean that they

would not be able to provide a suitable environment for the care and nurture of a child. No one has a "right" to be a foster parent. "Equal rights" and "gay rights" policies have no place in fostering services.' In the past, many social workers assumed that white, middle class, married couples were the ideal parents, and judged others by this norm. This has largely changed, partly as a result of community lobbying. Increasingly, adults who can provide children - including those facing discrimination - with understanding, love and security have been sought as foster parents. Paragraph 16 seeks to reverse some of this.

Many involved in childcare policy have criticised this paragraph. The Stonewall Group, which campaigns for lesbian and gay rights, has suggested a change of wording. This would state that authorities should set out to find the most suitable foster parents for children seeking placement without prejudice.

OPERATION SPANNER

A judge in a court case in December 1990 set a precedent by declaring consensual sado-masochistic sex between men illegal. 15 gay men were convicted and the sentences they were given ranged from £2000 fines to 4 years imprisonment. This is the first time that consenting sexual acts in private between men over 21 have been declared illegal. The judge rejected consent as a legitimate defense. This now appears to clear the way for more prosecutions of a similar nature, taking 'us back to the Pre-Wolfenden days when homosexuality was seen as a threat and a menace which had to be repressed by law', according to Peter Tatchell.

Following Operation Spanner it is possible that lesbians, too, will be prosecuted for similar acts.

Get up! Get out!

Get even!

Lesbian and gay rights now!

Mass demonstration against

Clause 25, Paragraph 16 &

Operation Spanner

Saturday 16 February

Assemble 12 noon

Embankment tube, London

Further details from 071-490 7153

WAR FLARES IN GULF, MANY AFFECTED WORLDWIDE

On 16 January, an air raid on Baghdad began. The USA and its allies, including Britain, bombed Iraq heavily after its army continued to occupy Kuwait despite the United Nations call for it to withdraw.

Since then the allies have continued intensive bombing of Iraq and Kuwait. There has been fighting on the border of Kuwait and Saudi Arabia, and Iraq has launched missiles, a few of which have landed, on Saudi Arabia and Israel.

Both sides have placed restrictions on journalists, and carefully select the information and images which they release. Rhetoric and jargon are plentiful, but facts are harder to determine. There are no reliable figures, or even estimates, for the number of casualties.

While Western bombers appear to have aimed at military and economic targets, many civilians have been killed or injured. Many others have been displaced; refugees have been pouring into Jordan, Iran and other countries. Governments and relief agencies will have difficulty in making sure that they get adequate food, shelter and medical supplies. Palestinians in Gaza and the West Bank are also facing severe shortages.

A massive oil slick has already done environmental damage in the Gulf, and may affect the water supply of surrounding nations. There have been some fires at oil storage tanks and well-heads in Kuwait; if there are many of these, the effects could be severe.

Those currently in the Gulf region include many millions of black lesbians and gays.

In Britain, public reaction to the war has been mixed, though the majority of the population endorses Britain's involvement. However there seems to be less enthusiasm than during the Falklands/Malvinas war, and there have been peace protests.

Critics have pointed to the suffering caused and the risk that the situation will worsen further. They have suggested that the invasion could have been dealt with among the Arab nations, by continuing sanctions or through an international conference dealing with regional issues including the plight of Palestinians. Some have highlighted the inconsistency of the allies which have accepted, even taking part in, some activities which breach international law, and in previously supporting - and helping to equip - the Iraqi army.

There has also been concern at the cost of the war, at a time when famine threatens millions abroad and in Britain itself many people lack adequate shelter and health care.

Peace marchers have been gathering on most Saturdays at noon outside Embankment tube station in London and in other cities - though numbers have been quite low compared, say, to those in Bonn. Lesbians and gays have made their presence known at these demonstrations. 'Out' lesbians are also taking part in a women's vigil, to continue until the war ends, outside the Foreign Office in central London.

Many in the black community are strongly opposed to the British government's position. Some support Saddam Hussein. Others are

sharply critical of his actions, but believe that the allies' response is one aimed at displaying and boosting the West's power rather than assisting the people of Kuwait.

Numerous black people in Britain are of Middle Eastern descent. Some of these have relatives or friends in the areas which are being bombed, or are afraid that their own countries may be drawn in more deeply if the conflict grows in scale.

A number of Iraqis were deported after war broke out, on the grounds that they were a threat to national security. Other Iraqis and Palestinians, some of whom have been more consistently critical of Saddam Hussein than the British government has, are being held in custody and may be deported. A panel considers their cases, and may be persuaded to allow them to remain. However, since they are not entitled to cross-examine witnesses against them or even be told exactly what they are accused of, it is difficult for them to prove that they are innocent.

This morning I awoke refreshed
I watched Sister Sun arise
Yellow, Orange and Blood Red
Her colours streaked across the Sky
And another Day dawned
I turned on my radio to find
News of a horror for Allkind
Turned on the radio to find
News of another Mans mans War
What hope is there for Peace
When all is talk of bombs released
And murder, death, destruction reeked
News of Armageddon in the Middle East
And my Spirit could not soar
It could only cry
No Peace, No Peace, No Peace
WHY?, WHY?, WHY?

•Copyright Kris Barbara Black 17/1/91

There has been a spate of racist attacks on Arabs, Muslims and other South Asians. Such violence is likely to continue, and may grow worse.

Mosques have been damaged. Burglars who broke into the offices of black MP Bernie Grant, who has opposed the war, scrawled such slogans as 'Kill all Iraqis' and 'Death to niggers'.

Racist attacks have also taken place in other countries.

As the war continues and the number of casualties among allied servicemen and women mounts, public opinion in Britain may become more polarised. If so, the effects on black lesbians and gays may become even more severe.

EMERGENCY LINE

The Gulf war has led to an increase in racist violence in many areas. If you are attacked or threatened with deportation, you can ring Newham Monitoring Project Emergency Line on

081 555 8151

Please pass on this information to others.

BLACK PEOPLE AGAINST WAR IN THE GULF (BPAWIG)

BPAWIG is a broad based grouping of black organisations that have come together to put forward a Black perspective on the war in the Gulf, the effect it is having on the 'Third World', and the racist backlash that the Black community is facing. *If you would like further details of meetings, actions, or how to affiliate contact BPAWIG, PO BOX 273, Forest Gate, London E7. Tel: 081 552 7412.*

LESBIANS AFFECTED BY CANCER SUPPORT NETWORK

Any woman who is diagnosed with cancer can experience fear, anger, shock, disbelief, sadness and isolation. Much of a person's ability to come to terms with these feelings depends on the support of those around them, usually including their family, friends and medical professionals. When the woman with cancer is a lesbian this support is not necessarily forthcoming.

It can be difficult for a partner of a lesbian with cancer either at home or in hospital. Sometimes the family of the ill person will deny the relationship and exclude the partner from caring or from making decisions about future care or arrangements in the event of death. When a partner is in hospital the carer will find it difficult to openly demonstrate care and affection during a visit, or to be accepted as the next-of-kin by hospital staff. The acceptance by medical professionals of a same sex relationship is crucial, especially if the need arises to give care at home or in a hospice.

The physical changes which may be experienced as a result of cancer can alter a woman's sense of self, body image and sexuality. Much of the information given to women following any treatment which may affect sexual activity relates to heterosexuals and is of little relevance to a lesbian. The willingness of medical staff to explore each woman's needs would give lesbians an opportunity to ask questions specific to her lifestyle.

A general assumption that lesbians will not want children, can mean that full information about the implications of pelvic treatment may not be mentioned. Similarly, some people may feel that the effects of mastectomy on a lesbian may be of little consequence to her sense of self, body image and sexuality.

Now CancerLink, a charity supporting people affected by cancer, their families, friends and the professionals who work with them, has started a Lesbian Network. The "Lesbians in Healthcare" Conference in London last year provided the opportunity for CancerLink to assess the need for a lesbian support network. The number of enquiries and offers of support from women attending the Conference has encouraged CancerLink to launch this Lesbian Network.

The Network will be available to lesbians who have cancer and to lesbians who have a partner, friend or relative with cancer. It will offer the potential for a mutual support system where lesbians can share their experience of being affected by cancer. Initially, contact and support will be made by letter or by telephone with the future possibility of establishing support groups. This Network provides an extension specifically for lesbians of the work CancerLink has been doing for the past eight years.

CancerLink will support the new Network through its Information Service and Groups Support Service and by lesbian health professionals working in other organisations. CancerLink will be the initial contact point for the Network, but it is hoped that an independent support system for lesbians would eventually be established.

The Lesbian Network can be contacted through: CancerLink, 17 Britannia Street, London WC1X 9JN Tel:071 833 2451. Letters should be addressed to the Lesbian Network and marked "Confidential".

AIDS UPDATE

WOMEN AND CHILDREN LAST

Aids is now the leading killer among Afro-American women aged 15 to 44 years old in New York and New Jersey in the United States, according to a recent study from the Centre for Disease Control.

Nationally Aids deaths among women have quadrupled in four years. The study predicted that if current trends continue, Aids will be the fifth ranking cause of death among women of childbearing age in the US.

Info from HIV News

Up to 30 million people including ten million children, could be infected by the HIV virus by the end of the century, in what the World Health Organisation said was a tragic new stage in the epidemic.

The vast majority of these will have developed and died from the disease by the year 2000. Michael Merson, director of the organisation's Global programme on Aids said, "A rapid increase in the number of babies born infected with HIV has occurred in the last few years, particularly in Africa." "Aids would push up infant mortality rates by 50 per cent during the 1990's in some areas of Africa, reversing improvements achieved by child health care programmes", he said.

About three million women of child bearing age are believed to have been infected so far, 400,000 children have contracted the disease and a further 300,000 are thought to be HIV positive.

Info from HIV News

BLACK HIV/AIDS ORGANISATIONS

BHAF LEICESTER- Black HIV AIDS Forum, 29 New Walk, Leicester LE1 6TE.. Tel: Leicester 559995

BHAF MANCHESTER - Black HIV/AIDS Forum, c/o AIDS UNIT-Room 6003, Town Hall Extension, Manchester M60 2JB.

The Black Communities AIDS Team Leeds - Leeds City Council, Health Unit, Selectapost 14, 2nd Floor Annexe, Civic Hall, Leeds LS1 3AQ. Tel: Leeds 462431

BHAN - Black HIV AIDS Network, set up to support Asian, African and Afro-Caribbean people affected by HIV and AIDS. 106-108 King Street, London W6. Tel:081-741 9585

South East Asian HIV/AIDS Support Group - Contact BHAN at the above address or telephone Andrew Kaur 081-746 8783.

Blackliners - Helpline for Black people, offering advice and information on HIV/AIDS. c/o PO BOX 74, London SW12 9JY. Tel: 071 673 1695.

SHARE - Shakti HIV/AIDS Response, offers advice, information and counselling for South Asians with/ concerned with HIV/AIDS. BM BOX 3167, London WC1N 3XX

BOOKS

People in Trouble, Sarah Schulman, Sheba Feminist Publishers, 1990.

This novel is set in present-day New York, as AIDS spreads and gays and lesbians set up networks of support and protest. Against this background Kate, an artist, tries to find her own identity, Peter, her husband, feels threatened by the changes around him and Molly, her lover, gets increasingly active in 'Justice', a direct action group fighting for the rights of people with AIDS.

The book is patchy. Sometimes the tensions among the main characters, and their feelings about the conflicts in their city and their personal lives, are perceptively portrayed. Other passages seem pretentious, designed to impress, titillate or shock the reader.

In dealing with broader social issues, too, *People in Trouble* is not entirely successful. The author conveys something of the grief of lesbians as well as gays as their friends get AIDS, the refusal of many people with HIV to behave like victims and the anger of a community confronting the callousness of those in power. The contrast between wealth and hardship in New York is also depicted, as each of the three is confronted with the poverty and homelessness around them. However the reader may get the misleading impression that, whereas gays - and some lesbians - get HIV, heterosexuals do not, though their lives may be affected if people they care about become ill.

Again, the activists in the novel are strongly united, struggling only against the outside world. Their differences in outlook and background - for instance between black and white people or those with varying political ideals - seem to cause hardly any problems. In real life, campaigners for justice for people with HIV, working under pressure and coping with various kinds of loss, sometimes disagree forcefully with one another. While the crisis has indeed brought a deeper sense of solidarity, the almost perfect harmony among AIDS activists which the book suggests does not ring true.

The direct action group in the novel has 'no ideology except stopping AIDS, and because they had made that their priority, they behaved as though it was the world's priority.' This has indeed been the approach of some campaigners. But not all would agree, especially

as so many US Americans have been involved in struggles for black rights at home and against wars against Third World people. The political choices with which people have been faced because of AIDS are not as simple as those which the characters experience. *People in Trouble* is ambitious in scope, and contains some useful insights, but does not always succeed.

A DIFFERENT KIND OF DEATH

I am editing a collection of writings from lesbians and gay men - a bold and quietly astonishing collection of creative writing of any kind, from poems or fragments of poems, stories, diary, letters, thoughts, articles, drawings and photos, for a book which we need in our community and outside it. Send me any writings...2 lines or 40, 400 or 4000, or write to me about your experience.. it could be of illness or dying, or the living that goes on in and around connection with dying.

Write about memories, or memorials, saying goodbye, about rituals, loved ones, anger, humour, despair or grieving.

The book will contain poems and writings from different cultures and traditions in the world. There will be writings from lesbians and gay men with disabilities.

I have an interested and eager publisher, so don't delay! Your name and writing will be dealt with great respect and in complete confidence. Please write to Caroline Halliday, 14 Adys Road, London SE15 4DZ or Tel: 071 732 4962.

10TH INTERNATIONAL BOOKFAIR OF RADICAL BLACK AND THIRD WORLD BOOKS

The 10th year of this major event, is upon us. Kicking off on the 1st March at Manchester Town Hall, the Bookfair will be in London from Thursday 7th March through to 9th, 11 - 5.30pm daily at Camden Centre, Bidborough Street, London NW1. The accompanying Book Fair Festival will take place from Sunday 3rd March to 10th March in various venues around London. From 14th to the 16th March the Bookfair will be at Bradford Community Arts Centre.

For full details of events, dates, and venues contact International Book Fair of Radical Black and Third World Books, 76 Stroud Green Road, London N4 3EN. Tel: 071 272 4889/281 4662.

AMORA

Latin America's first lesbian feminist novel was recently published in Mexico, according to the May/June issue of *Feminist Bookstore News* (US).

Rosamaria Roffiel has written *Amora*, a frankly autobiographical novel about the world of lesbian feminist activists, artists and intellectuals in Mexico City in the 1980's.

Already in its second printing, the book has been the subject of negative reviews from male critics, who protest that it portrays lesbians as "beautiful and happy"!! The debate has been on national television after a televised interview with Roffiel.

The publisher is one of the biggest in the Spanish-speaking world, Editorial Planeta.

The novel has already been optioned for a Spanish-Mexican film co-production and a US feminist publisher is currently considering the English translation.



COMMENT

WHOSE PRIDE IS IT ANYWAY??

For many Black lesbians and gays the various London Lesbian and Gay pride events, have, over the years, at best been tokenistic -with Black lesbians or gays involved only as artistes - or at worst condoned those associated with racist and fascist organisations. During Winter Pride 1989, the Committee refused, despite protests, to prevent Adrella, a drag performer, from taking the stage, even though he had a regular column in Action, an openly racist, fascist and anti-lesbian, gay newspaper.

Regardless of the numerous different forms of our protests, little has changed and many of us have become resigned and immune to Pride's exclusive insults.

However, with their press releases in early January, the Committee excelled in pushing past year's insults even further towards out and out injury. The cause of this outrage?

The announcement that for the next two years the Committee will be meeting to prepare its 'most ambitious plan to date - a gala celebration of European lesbian and gay unity Euro-Pride, in 1992'.

Pride has for years chosen to ignore the fact that the term "lesbian and gay community" includes Black people, unless of course we happen to be "entertaining" to white folks.

Throughout last year and indeed for the rest of this one, Black lesbians and gays will be joining other Black activists in urgent forums to discuss and educate, inform and forearm ourselves with the knowledge of 1992's implications for our communities. As will those from other non-WASP (White Anglo-Saxon Protestant) communities.

Black, Irish and Jewish communities in this country, and across Europe, have been systematically harassed particularly, but by no means solely, by the police, immigration and other "security" institutions. 1992 will herald co-ordinated operations between those organisations cross-continent. That work has already begun. In 1985, the TREVI group of European Community Home Secretaries and Justice ministers was set up to deal with terrorism, drug trafficking, illegal immigration and the abuse of asylum by "bogus

refugees". So far, its plans include tighter restrictions on non-EC nationals entering the EC; greater use of internal immigration controls including checks at workplaces, hospitals, schools, social security offices and by the police; the withdrawal of voting rights from non-EC citizens (including Black people who have been in Britain for decades); the establishment of a data bank of non-EC nationals, for use by the police and security services; and harmonisation of work permit regulations. (For further details see Communities Of Resistance. BLGC Newsletter April/May '90).

From past experience, we know these powers will be used against our communities and not to crack down on Europe's expanding extreme racist and fascist organisations, which have increasingly worked together to harass, maim and kill Black people and others whom they regard as "undesirable".

1992 may as Pride and other WASP lesbian and gays believe bring greater freedom of movement, new business opportunities and improved social conditions, but not for ALL lesbians and gays.

Planning to raise £250,000 through events, collections and merchandising to celebrate this widening of racist discrimination

is an outrageous insult. Are we, once more, albeit grudgingly, going to put our money towards this lie? And in a climate where equalities issues slip further and further off any group's political agenda and racist and fascist threats to our communities increase, can we afford to continue tolerating Pride and other lesbian and gay bodies ignorance??

AK

There are a number of seminars and conferences being organised to discuss 1992 and the implications for our communities, check your local listings.

Effects of 1992 on Black, Migrant and Refugee Women, 23rd February, London Women's Centre. Further details Umran 071 354 7133.

Women and Immigration Conference, 2nd March. Further details Andrea 071 254 6689.

COURSES

Courses & Study Days at the Women's Therapy Centre

- * Working with Depressed Women 26th Jan 1991
- * Working with Women in Groups 8th Feb 1991
- * Introduction to Compulsive eating issues 16th Feb 1991
- * Counselling & Therapy with women who have been sexually abused as children 17th Feb 1991
- * Counselling Skills for Advice & Info Workers 23rd Feb 1991

For further information/full course programmes please phone 071-281 7879 leaving your name and address or write to The Women's Therapy Centre, 6-9 Manor Gardens, London N7 6LA.

Courses at the Women's Training Link

- * Women in Management, 2 day course: 22nd/23rd March 1991
- * Black Women working in predominantly white organisations: 25th Feb 1991

For more information contact: Women's Training Link, 4 Wild Court, London WC2B 5AU. Tel: 071-242 6050.

Courses at South Camden Women's Centre

Black and White Photography-Darkroom Techniques for Beginners, Starts 14th 1991, Thursdays 7-9pm. A series of four practical workshops for women, giving practical working knowledge of how to process and print their own black and white film. Fees £20 waged, £14 unwaged. Advance booking essential.

NATURAL CARE - Each workshop will focus upon a single condition and will outline the usual signs symptoms and course of the ailment. The aim is to give practical advice and suggest natural remedies that may help ease the symptoms and allow natural healing.

Premenstrual Tension	Sat, Feb. 16th	11-4pm
Cystitis	Sat, Feb. 23rd	11-4pm
Candida	Sat, Mar 2nd	11-4pm
Food Allergies	Sat, Mar 9th	11-4pm
Arthritis	Sat, Mar 16th	11-4pm
Irritable Bowel Syndrome	Sat, Mar. 23rd	11-4pm

Fees: Individual workshops £20 waged/£10 unwaged. Advance booking essential.

PACE, The Project for Advice, Counselling and Education

Issues Around Black People and HIV/AIDS

Incorporates basic awareness with an emphasis on the needs of Black people with HIV/AIDS and issues of racism.

Thurs 28th Feb - Fri 1st March

Costs £40 for individuals and voluntary organisations, £350 statutory organisations, £60 for commercial organisations.

To be held at IVAC, 322 Upper St, London N1. Wheelchair accessible. For more information Tel: 071 251 2689.

The Women's Health and Reproductive Rights Information Centre

due to popular demand, is once more running:

The Women's Health Course

(a ten week series of evening classes)

The course will offer basic information on a range of health topics including AIDS, abortion, pelvic inflammatory disease, hormone replacement therapy and many others. Classes are held on Wednesday evenings 7pm-9pm from Wednesday 10th April to Wednesday 12th June 1991. Number are strictly limited so book now!. Tel: 071-251 6333. Cost: unwaged £10, waged £50, organisations £65-£100. Classes held at WHRRIC, 52 Featherstone St, London EC1.

Peckham Black Women's Centre

Self defense for women at the Thomas Calton Centre, Alpha St, London SE15.

From Wednesday 6th Feb 7-9pm.

For more information Tel: 071-358 1486/1492

The City Lit

Organising Ourselves-Then and now-a study day for older women.

The study day aims to give all older women from different backgrounds and ages (50+) an opportunity to explore issues which influences their lives.

Sunday 2nd March 10-4pm

at the City Lit, 6 Bolt Court Centre, off Fleet St, London EC4A 3DY. Fees £4.80/£1.29

Further information from Ifoema Umelo

Tel: 071-583 4784

COURSES

OUT AND ABOUT!

13th Feb

Cataract - a large scale exhibition of Donald Rodney's work which explores the popular distorted image of black men in contemporary Britain. For Rodney his black body becomes a site of struggle. Camerawork, 121 Roman Road, Bethnal Green, London E2 OQN. Tel: 081 980 6256.

14th Feb

Till 1am

Pepys Plus host a Valentine's Ball at the Ship and Whale pub, Gulliver St, SE16. Valentine theme fancy dress, music by Quando Quando, cabaret 10pm. Tickets £1.

15th Feb

7.30pm

Sports as a Career/Sport in relation to our lives. Talk by Beverly Davies. Peckham Black Women's Centre, 69 Bellenden Road, Peckham, London SE15 5BH. Tel: (Wednesday or Friday 10-5.30pm) 071-358 1486/1492

22nd Feb

10pm-2am

Shakti Bhangra Disco at London Lesbian and Gay Centre, 67-69 Cowcross St, Nearest tube: Farringdon. Tickets: £3/£2.

23rd Feb

Migrant Women's Conference - how Europe 1992 is going to effect migrant and black women's rights.

1st March

7.30pm

Talk on Lesbian Custody by Ann Clarke from Rights of Women. Peckham Black Women's Centre (See above for details).

2nd March

7pm

Public Meeting to honour the 10th Anniversary of the New Cross Massacre, where 13 young black people died as a result of a racist attack that resulted in a fire trapping the youngsters at the 16th birthday party they were attending. Despite police attempts to cover this up, the coroners inquest returned an open verdict.

Meeting at Brixton Village, London SW2. Nearest tube: Brixton. For further info: Tel: 071 272 4889.

3rd March

2.30pm

Black History for Action, Harriet Tubman - fighter against Slavery and for Black Liberation. Lambeth Town Hall, Brixton Hill. London SW2. Tube: Brixton (Victoria Line)

9th March

Breaking Chains, Making Links - Women as Activists in Central America. Conference aims to understand the struggles of women in the region, focusing on El Salvador, Nicaragua, Honduras and Guatemala. At the London Women's Centre. Details from El Salvador Solidarity Campaign, 23 Bevenden St, London N1 6BH. Tel: 071 490 4070

17th March

3pm

BLGC Emergency General Meeting to talk about the funding situation and premises. In the Ian Mckellen Hall, The London Lighthouse, 111-117 Lancaster Road. London. W11 1QT. Nearest tube: Ladbroke Grove

15th March

7.30pm

Talk on Black lesbians and Housing - A speaker from Homeless Action. Peckham Black Women's Centre (See above for details).

27th March

7-10pm

Black Lesbians and Gays Against Media Homophobia action meeting at Vida Walsh Centre, 2b Saltoun Road, (Near Brixton Fashion Shop), London SW2. Nearest tube: Brixton. Fully accessible.

Dear BLGC,

I find it very difficult as a non-scene gay black man to meet other black gays, as I live some way from the centre of London. Can you publish this note, appealing to any non-scene black gay men who would like to arrange a meeting, to please write to me, at the address below.

Best wishes,

Roland Brewster Harris

185 Wentworth Road,
Southall, Middx.

LESBIAN ACTION FOR PARENTING AND REPRODUCTIVE RIGHTS (LAPRR)

LAPRR has been initiated by lesbians who were involved in the Campaign for Access to Donor Insemination.

LAPRR opposes all proposals and policies that state that the only or the best, family form for children is the 'Persil' stereotype - white, heterosexual/married, middle-class and able-bodied. Such policies discriminate against women whose reproductive rights are already restricted - Black women, women with disabilities, working class women, single heterosexual women and lesbians. LAPRR aims to:

- * work with the National Abortion Campaign for lesbian reproductive rights and for access to donor insemination for all women.

- * develop and strengthen links with all women whose reproductive rights are restricted or threatened.

- * oppose discrimination against lesbians in their ability to conceive, care for, raise, foster or adopt and keep their children.

- * mobilise active opposition to Government, or any other, attacks on non-traditional families.

- * campaign against the discrimination in the Embryology legislation and to monitor the legislation's implementation.

LAPRR welcomes all lesbians to its meetings on the 2nd and 4th Tues of every month, 7pm at London Women's Centre, 4 Wild Court, Kingsway, London WC2. Nearest tube: Holborn. The building is wheelchair accessible including toilets.

TRAINING BY BLGC

BLGC provides training to organisations seeking to challenge heterosexism and racism in their practice.

For further information, ring 081-885 3543.

STOP PRESS

BLGC has located a possible Centre space in Brixton. Negotiations with the owner are currently underway.

See details of Emergency General Meeting in Out and About!

REGULAR GROUPS

LESBIANS AND GAY MEN

SHAKTI LONDON - South Asian Lesbian and Gay Network. The London group meet every 2nd and 4th Sunday of the month from 3-6pm at London Friend, 86 Caledonian Road, London N1, (Nearest tube: Kings Cross). Full Disabled access. A Bhangra disco for lesbians and gay men is held on the 3rd Friday of the month at LLGC, 67-69 Cowcross Street, London EC1, from 10pm. Produce bi-monthly newsletter. There are other Shakti groups forming around the country (see below). For more information Tel: 081-993 9001

SHAKTI BRADFORD - Tel: 0274-723802

SHAKTI LEICESTER - c/o LLGL, 45 King Street, Leicester LE1 6RN. Tel: 0533-550667

MANCHESTER BLACK LESBIAN AND GAY GROUP - are back! Meetings 1st and 3rd Thursday of every month at Manchester Gay Centre. Further info from: PO BOX 153, Manchester M60 1LP.

ORIENTATIONS - Chinese and South East Asian lesbian and gay group meet at London Friend, see ONYX for location and phone number.

CYPRIT LESBIAN AND GAY GROUP meets on the 1st Sunday of the month 2.30pm-5pm at LONDON FRIEND (see Shakti-London above, for address). Ring 071-837 2782 (day) for more details.

LONDON LESBIAN AND GAY BLACK GROUP meet Fridays at 8pm at Brixton Village, Brixton Hill, London SW2. Nearest Tube: Brixton

LEICESTER BLACK LESBIAN AND GAY GROUP Support/Socials/Meetings, for details write to C/O Michael Wood Centre, 29 New Walk, Leicester LE1 6TE. Tel: 0533-559985

BIRMINGHAM BLACK LESBIAN AND GAY GROUP - Meets 1st and 3rd Thurs. Tel: Friend 021-622 7351

LESBIANS

CAMDEN BLACK LESBIAN GROUP runs socials, discussions and workshops for Black lesbians. Camden Lesbian Centre/Black Lesbian Group, 54-56 Pheonix Road, London NW1. Tel: 071-383 5405

LAS DIVINAS - Latinamerican Lesbian Group. We meet the fourth Friday of every month at Camden Lesbian Centre/Black Lesbian Group, 54-56 Pheonix Road, London NW1. 7pm. Or contact us c/o Latinamerican Women's Rights Service, Tel: 081-694 8176.

AFRICAN/CARIBBEAN BLACK LESBIAN GROUP meets Tuesdays 7.30-9.30pm at the Hackney Women's Centre, 20 Dalston Lane, London E8. Partial disabled access. Details on 071-254 2980

ONYX - group for Black lesbians meets on the 2nd and 4th Sunday of the month at 6.30pm at London Friend, 86 Caledonian Road, London N1, (Nearest tube: Kings Cross). Tel: 071-837 2783. Full Disabled access.

PECKHAM BLACK LESBIAN GROUP meets fortnightly at Peckham Black Women's Centre, 69 Bellenden Rd, London SE15. Tel.071-358 1486

YOUNG BLACK LESBIAN GROUP at Lewisham Young Women's Project meets the last Wednesday of every month 7-10pm at Lewisham Young Women's Project, 308 Brownhill Rd, Lewisham. For further details ring 081-698 6675

BIRMINGHAM BLACK LESBIAN GROUP c/o Birmingham Women's Advice and Information Centre, Devonshire House, High Street, Digbeth, Birmingham, B12 0LP. Tel: 021-773 6952

NOTTINGHAM BLACK LESBIAN GROUP - Meets at Nottingham Lesbian Centre, 30 Chaucer Street, Nottingham, NG5 1LP. Tel: 0602-411475

GAY MEN

LET'S RAP - London Group for Black gay men, meets fortnightly. Tel: 071-737 3881

BLGC DEFINITION OF BLACK

All lesbians and gay men descended (through one or both parents) from Africa, Asia (ie. the Middle East to China, including the Pacific nations) and Latin America, and lesbians and gay men descended from the original inhabitants of Australasia, North America and the islands of the Atlantic and Indian Ocean.

EDITORIAL POLICY

The BLGC Newsletter is published bi-monthly and aims to provide information on international news, as well as events and campaigns nationally, of interest to Black lesbians and gay men. News items, articles, letters (all written in simple language) or photographs and cartoons are always welcome. Deadline for April/May issue is 22nd March.

In line with BLGC policy, we will not publish material that is racist, sexist, ableist or assumes readers are without childcare responsibilities, or of a certain social class, cultural/religious/British-born background. Individual articles do not necessarily reflect the opinions of the BLGC. Volunteers for the production of the newsletter are always welcome.

Tel: 081-885 3543.

Accommodation

Camberwell Circle Club

Offer shared accommodation in Houses, for black lesbians and gay men, 21-55yrs.

Furnished double room available for black lesbian(s) or gay men in Kennington. Available immediately.

Middlemarch Lesbian Housing Co-op SE8 has 15 vacancies in permanent/shortlife accomodation. Our current priority is to house black women, women with disabilities, women with children, working class women, older women, Irish and Jewish women.

At least 50% of these spaces will go to black women.

For application see below.

Ring BLGC 081-885 3543 if you interested in either offer.