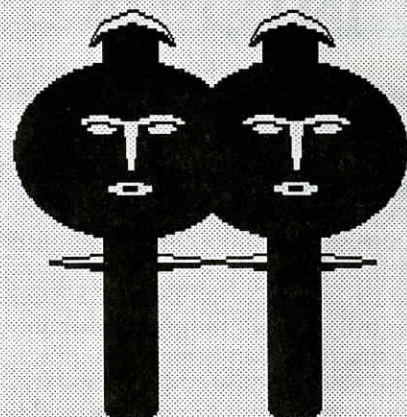


# Black Lesbian & Gay Centre Project

BM Box 4390  
London WC1N 3XX  
081-885 3543 (office)  
071-837 5364 (helpline)

Newsletter: April/May 1992



## INTERNATIONAL NEWS

### ALERT FOR ACTION

The Arab Women Solidarity Association (AWSA), banned by the Egyptian Government on June 15 1991, is still fighting for its rights. Numerous lawyers volunteered to represent AWSA in court, and their conclusions have been presented to the Tribunal. The Tribunal heard the government's defence on 20 February and is expected to give its final judgement shortly.

The closure was the culmination of a series of threats and continuous harassment by the Ministry of Interior and the Ministry of Social Affairs ever since the AWSA was established in January 1983. The aim is not only to close down the local branch, but also the International Arab Women's Association, which was granted consultative status by the UN in April 1985. The reason for this harassment is the courageous and outspoken stand of AWSA on, among other things, women's issues, sectarian strife and the Gulf Crisis. Also AWSA has come under fire as a result of the work of the Association's President, the well-known writer and activist Nawal El Saadawi, including most recently her stance on the Gulf War, which directly opposed the stance of the Egyptian government.

AWSA received tremendous support from all over the world, from women's organisations, human rights organisations and others.

AWSA needs renewed support right now. The Egyptian Government should know that delaying the hearings and the conclusions of the trial did not distract our attention.

Protests can be sent to: President of the Republic of Egypt, Kobbah Palace, Cairo, Egypt; President of the People's Assembly, People's Assembly Street, Cairo, Egypt; and the Ambassador of Egypt to Britain, Egyptian Embassy, 26 South Street, London W1.

Info from Spare Rib

### 8 YEAR SENTENCE FOR GAY MAN

China's judiciary has sentenced a male doctor to eight years for being gay. Li was a medical graduate who had slept with 19 other men, whom he had met through his job.

A daily newspaper published in Canton commented on the case: "Li's behaviour indeed falls into an abnormal personality characterised by abnormal sexual love."

The paper added that "this kind of abnormal homosexual behaviour disrupts public order...which causes harm to society." The paper considered that there were four ways to deal with homosexuality: "First allow it to exist, second carry out psychological therapy and behavioral correction, third detain them in order to carry out therapy and correction and fourth punish them by sentencing them and then carry out therapy and correction."

Although homosexuality is not illegal in China - there are no specific laws - but Li's 19 affairs were considered to be indecent behaviour and therefore punishable.

However a recent poll by China's sexual research institute estimated that there are 18 million people in the country who would admit to having homosexual relations.

### THAI HYPOCRISY

Ninety seven boys aged between 15 and 20 were arrested after police raids on a number of bars in Silom and Patpong areas of Bangkok, Thailand.

The raids carried out by the Crime Suppression Division, were initiated by Thailand's Prime Minister after he had been publicly embarrassed by an article on Thai child prostitution appeared in a leading Malaysian magazine, whilst he was visiting Singapore.

As Prime Minister Anand Panyarachun saves face, the boys will be imprisoned for prostitution if over 18 or committed to remand homes if under 18.

### TWO'S COMPANY

The first Black Gay and Lesbian Community Centre organised by and for African-Americans has opened its doors in Baltimore, USA.

The BGLCC has a lengthy agenda for the African-American lesbian and gay community. Provision of services for youth, women and people with HIV-related concerns is at the top of the Centre's list. Housing for homeless youth, a directory of local Black lesbian and gay businesses, a hot line, newspaper, drop-in groups and social events are all in the planning stages, as are HIV-related assistance projects.

Congratulations!

Info from BLK

### SPATE OF BIGOTRY NOT ABATED

Racist violence in Europe continues at an alarming level in 1992. In many cases the authorities are unable to cope, or deny how serious the problem is. Some, through their own words and actions, are fuelling the belief that Black people (sometimes Jewish people too) are not entitled to the same rights as others.

In Switzerland, where this year there have already been dozens of arson and bomb attacks on asylum-seekers and other non-Swiss nationals, the authorities still play down the problem of racist violence.

In Stockholm in January, a racist with a 9mm pistol shot and injured Chilean, Zimbabwean, Somali, Turkish and Palestinian victims. The Swedish police set up a task force to track him down, but the national chief of police stated that he believed the gunman was isolated and that violent racists in Sweden were ordinary criminals rather than political terrorists. In the same month an Iranian immigrant was beaten, robbed and tied up by three men in woollen hoods, who then set his shop on fire. He was saved by a neighbour.



[BIGOTRY CONT. FROM PAGE 1]

A march through Newham in late March commemorated a Tamil refugee from Sri Lanka who was died at the beginning of the year, one of a number of victims of racist murders in Britain in recent months, and called for justice for the Deanes, a Black family two of whom were badly hurt after an incident with the police.

The growing respectability of extreme racism is also alarming. A new bill in Germany allows for refugees to be held in 'collection camps' - former military barracks - and other measures against asylum-seekers. Last autumn, an applicant for German nationality was turned down on the grounds that the German ethnicity of his father was in question, since he was Jewish and had been doing forced labour from 1941-45!

As bigotry becomes more open and acceptable in Europe, Black lesbians and gays are especially at risk, since many on the extreme right are deeply homophobic as well as racist.

## VICTORY - YES, PRECEDENT - NO

**An Argentinean gay man has been granted refugee status by Canada's Immigration and Refugee Board because he faced persecution in his own country due to his sexuality.**

Jorge Alberto Inaudi, flew to Toronto in March 1990 as a tourist. After a couple of months he contacted a Toronto immigration office explaining that he wanted to file for refugee status on the basis that he feared persecution in the form of beatings, rape and torture from Argentine police.

This is the first time such a case has been successfully argued. In 1988, a similar claim resulted in a ruling that the police harassment another Argentinean homosexual had suffered was only "superficial prejudice" (sic!) not persecution.

Jorge Inaudi submitted documents detailing his experiences as a homosexual in Argentina. He was jailed for eight days in the early 1980's for engaging in homosexual activity while in military service. Arrested again in 1989 and 1990, while in custody he was repeatedly beaten, raped and tortured. At the point where he was so completely terrorised he would only leave his apartment to go grocery shopping, he decided he had to leave Argentina.

Michael Schelew, Inaudi's lawyer, claimed the decision "is a step in the right direction", but he remains critical of Canada's current refugee policy. He believes the decision will have limited ramifications, for to gain refugee status in Canada still means the claimant has to prove they are a victim of "real persecution, not just harassment" and the individual must be considered to have a high level of credibility.

Despite the fact that Argentina's persecution of lesbians and gays has received international attention in recent months due to the government's attempts to deny legal status to national lesbian and gay group Comunidad Homosexual Argentina (CHA) (See April/May '91 Issue), Javier Sariz, Argentine consul at the country's Ottawa embassy's response was confused "I don't know I'm not a homosexual" he said, but continued "there is no discrimination at all for sexual orientation."

CHA however was refused legal status by the courts on the grounds that it promoted public acceptance of a sexual conduct that "harms nature and human dignity".

Maybe Javier needs some lessons on definitions of discrimination!

Kim Mulji, BLGC's administrator for the past two years, is leaving the project in April. He will be off to Spain later in the month.

Kim's work has included housing casework and organising the helpline as well as answering calls, sending out information and ordering supplies. He has done wonders with the computer, transforming the appearance of the newsletter, which he coordinates, and making publicity materials more eye-catching.

Much of his time over the past few months has been spent in liaising with the landlord, architect, builders, management committee members and assorted others about the centre. But he has managed to stay cheerful, at least some of the time, and hopefully a few days' rest in the sun will take away the haggardness!

Kim will be missed by his co-workers and many others involved with BLGC. The good news is that he is due back in Britain this summer, and he does not intend to lose touch with the project. In the meantime, maybe we will get a report or two from our special overseas correspondent!

### 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.

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.

### OH PP-LL-EASE!!

This is going to be a regular column so if you see anything that generates this kind of "are they serious?" response - send it in.

The European Ad Hoc Group on Immigration's December '91 report recommends the finger printing of all asylum-seekers, on the grounds that the names of many of them are " too similar to allow proper identification."!!

\*\*\*\*\*  
Despite the fact that since the beginning of the year there have been an estimated 35 arson and bomb attacks against asylum-seekers and other non-Swiss nationals, Swiss authorities continue to maintain there is no racist motive, it's merely a case of a few "drunks having a go."!!  
\*\*\*\*\*

### 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.



# PROJECT UPDATE PROJECT UPDATE

For the past few weeks the BLGC office has been abuzz with talk of plans and tenders, door-widths and wiring. Building work on the new Black lesbian and gay centre in Peckham is about to begin.

At present the premises - two railway arches joined together, with a total area of 2,000 sq ft - lack such basic amenities as heating, lighting and accessible toilets. At the front there is a roller-shutter door, while the narrow back exit leads on to waste land. An architect has drawn up plans of how the building might be converted and, after a few weeks of frenetic fundraising, enough money has been raised to begin basic building work. More might be required, though, before the centre can be used for drop-ins and meetings.

Much more is being, and will have to be, sorted out before the move: paying rates, getting a telephone system set up and so forth. The centre will also need some furniture.

The switch from running a project in a couple of cramped offices tucked away in outer London to managing a community centre will be a major one. Workers have been getting in touch with other centres to pick up useful tips on what to do and what to avoid. Work is also being done on how to organise new services, such as drop-ins and the creche, so that they run fairly smoothly and that sections of the Black lesbian and gay community are not shut out from using them.

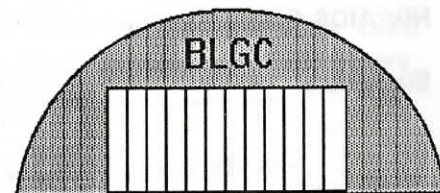
There are major changes in staffing under way, too, as one of the part-time posts formerly funded by the London Boroughs Grants Scheme disappears and volunteer coordinators are taken on.

This is by no means all that BLGC has been doing over the past couple of months. Support to Black lesbians and gays has been offered on the phone, by letter and face-to-face, training offered, links developed with other organisations, HIV prevention work done and liaison with the mass media.

The past year or so has been packed with drama for the project. A new member of staff started work, potential centre premises were found, new health education work was undertaken, without warning funding was completely cut, all the workers were laid off, emergency plans were drawn up, an appeal to restore funding was made, the premises were lost, the appeal was won, the workers were re-employed, the search for a centre continued, the helpline was launched, Pride celebrations were held, the project became a charity, centre premises were found and secured; meanwhile advice and information were being provided to numerous people and myths and stereotypes about Black lesbians and gays in the wider community were being challenged. Not surprisingly the staff and management committee are somewhat drained!

Help with raising funds to complete the building will be much appreciated: if you and your friends could organise an event (or have lots of money which you would like to give away to a worthy cause!) please get in touch. There will also be a volunteer recruitment drive in the not-too-distant future, so it may be worthwhile beginning to think about what areas of BLGC's work you might be interested in and what you have to offer. However if you contact the office and do not get a reply for a while, your patience will be valued: the workers will probably be entangled in an emergency of some kind or dashing to meet a deadline.

As the opening of the centre draws nearer, the prospects are exciting - nothing quite like this has ever been done before, and there is a tremendous need - but there are also new challenges to be faced. The next few months will be eventful ones for BLGC.





# AIDS UPDATE

## BLACKLINERS OPEN NEW HOUSING

In a joint venture between Blackliners, the HIV and AIDS charity run by Black people for Black people affected by HIV and AIDS, and Threshold Housing Association, a housing scheme for Black men living with HIV or AIDS has been opened. This has come as a result of Blackliners recognising that many Black people require help with accommodation because of harassment, homelessness or poor housing conditions. Blackliners will provide the support and care for the men whilst Threshold manages the properties.

The properties themselves, based in south London, are totally new and purpose built and have full wheelchair access.

Blackliners hope to open their next housing project of self-contained flats for Black women and children living with HIV in July 1993.

Donations to Blackliners are always welcome.

Write to Blackliners for more information. Address under Black HIV/AIDS organisations.

## HIV FEARS IN BANGLADESH

Dr M Chowdry, chair of the National AIDS Committee of Bangladesh, has voiced deep concerns about the number of people living with HIV and AIDS in the country. He believes that the official figure of the level of infection is too low, which could have grave implications for the nation's health and social service infrastructure.

Since 1986 over nineteen and a half thousand people have been tested for HIV of which seven have been found to be antibody positive. There has only been one recorded death as a result of AIDS-related complications.

Chowdry fears widespread infection amongst the country's estimated 2 million drug users through contacts with Bangladesh's neighbours, India, Thailand and Burma, where the situation is very different

Nurul Islam, a leading Bangaladesehi physician, and Dr Chowdry have called for an effective safer sex educational campaign to be carried out by the religious leaders in the community, at mosques where people gather five times a day for prayer. They are also calling for an end to re-using disposable syringes.

The Bangaladesehi constitution does not mention homosexuality, the *maulanas* (Moslem religious leaders) discourage condom use for contraception as anti-Islamic.

## WOMEN'S DROP IN

Women at Medical Practice (WAMP) invite women who are living with HIV or AIDS in North London to a drop-in centre for advice, information, support sessions etc. provided by HIV/AIDS specialist social worker, massage therapist and community development worker from Positively Women. First session is on Wednesday 6 May 1992 and fortnightly after that. Sessions run from 2-5pm at 40 Turnpike Lane, London N8 OPS. For more information tel: 081-365 8285 between 10am-5pm, Monday to Friday.

## 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)

Support Asian, African and Afro-Caribbean people affected by HIV and AIDS.  
111 Davenport Road, London W12 8PB. 081-742 9223 (helpline)  
081-749 2828 (admin)

**South Ease Asian**  
**HIV/AIDS Support Group**

Contact BHAN at the above address.

**Blackliners**

Helpline for Black people, offering advice and information on HIV/AIDS.  
c/o PO BOX 74, London SW12 9JY. Tel: 071-738 5274

**NAZ**

A HIV/AIDS project for the Muslim and South Asian Communities.  
Palingswick House, 241 King St. W6 9LP. Tel: 081-563 0191

**SHARE**  
(Shakti HIV/AIDS Response)

Advice, information and counselling for South Asians with/concerned with HIV/AIDS. BM SHARE, London WC1N 3XX



Poetry has never been much of a fascination for me, but that probably stems from being

forced to study *The Waste Land* which said nothing to me about my life as a Black, gay, young (and beautiful) man of sixteen. As a result if someone said poetry to me I would run in search of a personal stereo and listen to Billie Holiday.

If it wasn't for Marlon Riggs' *Tongues Untied*, Essex Hemphill would have remained one of the many heard of, but not really read, poets in the Black gay anthologies that as an empowered Black gay man I was supposed to have on my bookshelf (*Tongues Untied*, *Brother to Brother*, *In The Life*). Fortunately in Riggs' film the poetry said something to me about my life, fears and concerns in the nineties. So I re-read Essex's poetry and related more to it the second, third time around. I decided to check out the performance.

Three words to say. One: some. Two: thing. Three: else!

No photograph I have seen of Essex has really done him justice. His smile is to die for and his eyes are so bright. From seeing him in *Tongues United* (last

mention, I promise) I expected a tall man, at least 5'10". What does that say about me the size (read height) queen. But he wasn't tall. He'd be lucky to reach 5'8" in his Timberland

heels. What he lacked (for want of a better word) in physical height he made up for in presence. He filled the room with himself, with his positivity, his creativity, exuded energy and fun and, in the same breath, showed compassion and understanding.

Poetry had struck me as being very contrived, artificial. But Essex made it real. Stealing rhythms

from African drummers, punctuating his beat with a hard tapping of his foot, with effective use of alliteration and repetition of words, sounds and rhythms

he made poetry prose and prose accessible. One of the pieces he read from *Brother to Brother* (Rory Buchanan's *Summer Chills*) was given a sensual, erotic, emotional and humorous

edge. He gave it a sense of realness, todayness, hereness.

Maybe that says a lot about him as a performer. His voice is clear and powerful which to an extent belied his campness, making it seem incongruous. Do not misunderstand me, I am not saying that campness is a bad thing. Essex's did not parody or belittle women. It had none of the misogynist

statements about "being in tune with the feminine side of one's sexuality". Not at all. It seemed to be saying "I hate machismo", inverting what is expected of men and Black men in general, daring to be different. But that is another essay.

He is down to earth, sympathetic to the cause and struggles of oppressed groups, be it Black people, women, lesbians or gay men, without being unapproachable. You get the feeling that he would be just as comfortable dis-ing Oprah Winfrey's hair-do's as expressing his views on racism, sexism or homophobia.

I was sad that I arrived late for the performance, sad that it was his last public performance in London for a while, sad that I didn't have my copy of *Brother to Brother* for him to sign (me? a groupie?). But apparently, he will be back late this year/early next year to be publicising his latest collection of poetry, *Ceremonies*..

# Essex Hemphill

## a personal view

By CA, who was also the writer of last issue's article entitled "The Magic of HIV"



# ACCESS CODES

## A-PARKING

1-Outside entrance 2-Less than 50 yards away  
3-More than 50 yards away

## B-PUBLIC TRANSPORT

1-Tube 2-Bus 3-Rail 4-Less than 50 yards  
5-More than 50 yards 6-More than 1/4 Mile

## C-ENTRANCES

1-Level 2-Ramp without rail 3-Ramp with rail  
4-Steps without handrail 5-Steps with handrail  
6-Steep steps 7-Shallow steps 8-Curved steps

## D-DOORS

1-Width 2-Heavy 3-Light 4-Revolving 5-Opens inwards  
6-Opens outwards

## E-INSIDE BUILDING

1-Level 2-Steps without handrail 3-Steps with Handrail  
4-Steps steep 5-Steps shallow 6-Steps curved

## F-LIFT

1-Dimensions 2-Controls high 3-Controls low  
4-Controls flush 5-Controls protruding 6-Handrail  
7-Seating 8-Smooth 9-Jerky 10-Doors automatic  
11-Doors manual heavy 12-Doors Manual light  
13-Doors concertina 14-Doors straight

## G-TOILETS

1-Dimensions 2-Doors open inwards  
3-Doors open outwards 4-Rails  
5-Air driers hand operated 6-Air driers foot operated  
7-Air driers automatic 8-Taps hand operated  
9-Taps foot operated

## H-DIMENSIONS OF PREMISES

1-Large building 2-Small building 3-Corridors

## J-FLOOR SURFACES

1-Smooth 2-Carpet 3-Slippery

## K-LIGHTING

1-Bright 2-Dim 3-Flexible(eg.movable)

## L-SEATING

1-Hard 2-Soft 3-High 4-Low 5-Plentiful 6-Static  
7-Movable

## M-HEATING

1-Warm 2-Cool 3-Variable

## N-PARTICIPATION

1-Braille 2-Tape 3-Large print 4-Signers 5-Induction  
loop 6-Finger spelling 7-Lip speakers 8-Note takers

## P-HELPERS

1-Transport 2-Meeting & escorting 3-General help

## Q-CRECHE

1-Run by men 2-Run by women 3-Run by both sexes  
4-Facilities for children with disabilities 5-Under fives  
only 6-Up to 12 years only 7-Girls only 8-Mixed

## R-FOOD & DRINK

1-Drinks only 2-Vegan 3-Vegetarian 4-Non-vegetarian  
5-Self service 6-Table service 7-Licensed bar  
8-Specific alcohol free areas 9-all space alcohol free

## S-SMOKING

1-Not allowed 2-Allowed 3-Specific areas 4-Specific  
times

## T-STRUCTURE OF ACTIVITIES

1-Formal meetings 2-Informal 3-Continuous  
4-Frequent Breaks

## U-TELEPHONE

1-In an accessible area 2-Private phone 3-Call phone

## LONDON FRIEND

86 Caledonian Road, London N1  
Tel: GENERAL 071-837 3337  
WOMEN'S HELPLINE 071-837 2782

### ACCESS CODES

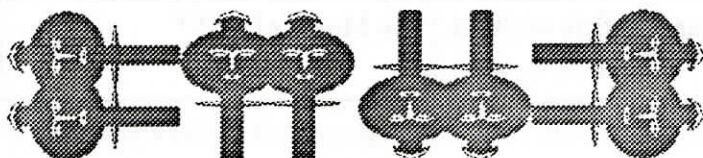
A1 B1-Kings Cross-, 5 B2-no's 17 & 221, 4 B3-Kings Cross,  
5 C4/7(1 step) D1-90cm E3/4 - one set of 2 steps, 3, 4 one  
set of 13 steps, 3, 4 Fnone, ramp for ground floor access  
only G1/4-one toilet 214cmx207cm with two handrails +  
sliding door, 8 one toilet 87cmx207cm, 2, 8 H2,3-one  
corridor 312cm J1-kitchen, toilets & entrance vinyl floor, 2-  
remaining rooms & corridor K2 L1, 5, 7 M3 Nnone P3-if  
prior notification is given Qnone-contact them as  
arrangements may be made R1+crisps S2 T2-but  
structured U2-not for general use

## CLC/BLG

(Camden Lesbian Centre/ Black Lesbian Group)  
54-56 PHOENIX ROAD  
LONDON NW1 1ES  
PHONE:071-383 5405

### ACCESS CODES

Asinige yellow line outside entrance B1 ,3, 5 Kings' Cross/St  
Pancras, Euston 2, 5 no's 14,14a,18,30,73 stop on Euston  
Road, near Shaw Theatre. C1 Dmain door-32.75", 3, 5 fire  
exit door 31.5",wide, 5 other doors-31", 3 Eground floor  
building,1 Fnone Gtwo toilets-door to 1st is 30.5",3-  
dimensions 5.75'x4.5', turning distance 3',door to 2nd is  
29.5",light,3,dimensions 3'x5.5', turning distance 2', 8 H2  
front door to meeting room 8', meeting room to office 7',  
meeting room to large WC 11.5', meeting room to other WC  
22', Meeting room to creche is 18'. Crech to fire exit door  
13.5'. J1 K1, 3 in meeting room, creche & office. L1, 2, 4, 5,  
7 M3 Nnote takers, some information on tape & large print,  
BSL stage 2 communicator. minicom. P3 Q2, age limit  
11yrs, mixed. Rnon-alcoholic drinks available. S3 T1, 2, 4  
U1, 2, minicom in office.





# REGULAR GROUPS

## LESBIANS AND GAY MEN

**SHAKTI LONDON** - South Asian Lesbian and Gay Network. The group meets every 2nd and 4th Sunday of the month from 3-6pm at LONDON FRIEND (SEE PANEL BOTTOM LEFT). A Bhangra disco for lesbians and gay men is held on the 3rd Friday of the month at the LONDON LESBIAN & GAY CENTRE, 67-69 Cowcross Street, London EC1, from 10pm. The group produces a quarterly newsletter. There are other Shakti groups forming around the country. For more information Tel: 081-993 9001.

**SHAKTI BRADFORD** - Tel: 0274-723802 /722206.

**SHAKTI BIRMINGHAM** - Tel: 021-622 7351. Ask for a Shakti contact.

**SHAKTI MANCHESTER** - Tel: 061-274 3814.

**MANCHESTER BLACK LESBIAN AND GAY GROUP** - 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 PANEL BOTTOM LEFT).

**CYPRIT LESBIAN AND GAY GROUP** meets on the 1st Sunday of the month 2.30pm-5pm at LONDON FRIEND (SEE PANEL BOTTOM LEFT). Ring for more details.

**LONDON LESBIAN AND GAY BLACK GROUP** - Tel:081-673 3920 for more information.

**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: 0533-559995.

**BIRMINGHAM BLACK LESBIAN AND GAY GROUP (KOLA)** - Meets 1st and 3rd Thursday of the month. Tel: Clint on 021-506 0222 or Friend 021-622 7351.

**BLACK LESBIANS AND GAYS AGAINST MEDIA HOMOPHOBIA (BLAGAMH)** - For more information write to BLAGAMH, FREEPOST, London SE8 5BR. (No stamp needed.)

**BLACK LESBIAN, GAY AND BISEXUAL GROUP** - Meets every Monday at The Venus Project, The Old Laundry, Hornsey Road, London N7 7QT. Information, advice, resources, counselling for 16-25 year old people. Tel: 071-281 2121 or 071-272 8467.

## LESBIANS

**CAMDEN BLACK LESBIAN GROUP** runs socials, discussions and workshops for Black lesbians. For details contact CLC/BLG (SEE PANEL BOTTOM LEFT).

**LAS DIVINAS** - Latinamerican Lesbian Group, We meet the last Friday of every month, 7pm at CLC/BLG(SEE PANEL BOTTOM LEFT).

**ONYX** - group for Black lesbians meets on the 2nd and 4th Sunday of the month at 6.30pm at CLC/BLG (SEE PANEL BOTTOM LEFT).

**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.

**NOTTINGHAM BLACK LESBIAN GROUP** - Meets first Friday evening of the month in Black Lesbian Room, Nottingham Women's Centre, 30 Chaucer Street, Nottingham, NG5 1LP. Tel: 0602-411475.

**BLACK YOUNG LESBIAN GROUP (Under 25)** - Meets every Tues 6-8.30pm at Camden Under 25 Advice Centre, First Floor, 6 Camden High Street, NW1 OJU. Tel: Sara or George on 071 607 8346 (or 071-388 4343 during group times).

**BLACK LESBIAN IN SOLIDARITY** - Fortnightly meetings every other Sunday, from 19 May at 2pm. At Southwark Women's Centre, 6 Peckham High Street SE15. Or write to PO Box 11, 124 Vassall Road, SW9 6JB.

**ZAMIMASS** (group for working class black lesbians) - Meetings are held on the second and fourth Wednesday of every month at 7pm at CLC/BLG (SEE PANEL BOTTOM LEFT).

**OLDER BLACK LESBIAN GROUP** (over forty) meets 1st Sunday of every month between 3-6pm at West Hampstead Women's Centre, 55 Hempstal Rd, NW16. Tel: 071-328 7389.

**ZAMI (MANCHESTER BLACK YOUNG LESBIAN GROUP)**. First meeting Thursday 9 April 7-9pm. To get Black women together so that they are not alone. Advice, counselling and support. For more information tel: 061 834 7256 or 061 236 6205 Mon-Thurs 6-9pm.

## GAY MEN

**LET'S RAP** - Black gay men talking to Black gay men. London group, meets every fortnight on Sundays from 3-6pm. At St Margaret's House, 21 Old Ford Road, E2. Tube: Bethnal Green. Buses: 15, 106, 253. Tel: 071-737 3881 or BLGC office.

**NEWCASTLE-UPON-TYNE BLACK GAY MEN'S SUPPORT GROUP** - contact 091-233 1333 before 6pm or 091-261 7768 after.

**LONDON BLACK MESMAC GROUP** - For African and African-Caribbean gay or bisexual men under 25. Meets Thursday evenings. Tel: 071-831 2330 for venue.

## BLACK LESBIAN & GAY HELPLINE

Thursdays  
7pm-10pm

071-837 5364

Information, advice & what's on



# EVENTS

7-25 April

## BACK BY POPULAR DEMAND

This is Now Theatre Company,  
in association with House of Boache Production,  
present *Boy With Beer* by Paul Boake.

The Man in the Moon

392 King's Road

London

SW2 5UZ.

Performance begins at 7pm.

Box office 071-351 2876/5701

£5/4.50 cons.

Review in last newsletter

9-11 April

Waltham Forest Women's Unit present

## A Celebration of Women's Achievements,

Stalls, food for sale, exhibitions, self-defence  
sessions, crafts.

Selbourne Walk Shopping Centre

(next to Walthamstow bus station)

10am to 5pm each day.

Free event.

28 April & fortnightly after

## Lesbian Only Creative Tuesday Evenings

Have a go at pottery, clay sculpture, painting,  
drawing, and screen printing! (Bring old clothes or  
something to protect the ones worn.) No  
experience necessary.

Essex Road Adult Education Centre,

Essex Road

Leyton E10

7.30-9.30pm for 6 sessions

Cost: Waltham Forest residents £10/£3.

Non-residents £20 (no concessions).

There will be an additional charge for materials.

For more information ring 081-558 0842

or minicom 081-503 6746.

## ANTHOLOGY OF CONTEMPORARY BLACK WOMEN'S JOURNALS

A collection that hopes to offer personal reflections about self; family, love, friendship and work relationships: social, political and world events. Writings are invited from women of all ages, backgrounds and world views. Of particular interest are submissions from Black girls or entries written during, or about, childhood. Interested journalists should submit 10-30 pages by **July 1 1992**, with a stamped, self-addressed envelope. Submissions need not be typed if they are legible; photocopies are acceptable. Send material to:

Patricia Bell-Scott,  
Dept. Child and Family Development,  
Dawson Hall,  
University of Georgia,  
Athens,  
GA 30602,  
USA.

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## ANTHOLOGY ON MIXED RACE WOMEN SUBMISSIONS NEEDED

How has being of mixed race affected who you are? What race/ethnicity/culture do you identify with? Have you felt welcomed? Isolated? Reaffirmed? Ostracized?

Send stories, poetry, interviews, photographs, essays, graphics, journalism, oral stories, letters to...

Mixed Race Anthology  
Attention: Carol Camper,  
Sister Vision Press,  
PO Box 217, Statio E,  
Toronto, Ontario,  
Canada,  
M6H 4E2

Deadline October 31 1992

Please ensure that your piece specifies your bi- or multi-racial heritage. Writings should be typed, double spaced. Do not send originals as returns cannot be guaranteed.

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## *Langston* and *Khush* for sale

Pratibha Parmar's *Khush*, a short film exploring the experiences of South Asian lesbians and gay men both in Britain and India, and Issac Julien's award-winning *Looking for Langston*, a lyrical meditation on the Black gay poet, Langston Hughes, are available for home video collections as part of the first (of hopefully many) releases of films under the main title of *The Gay Connoisseur*, the new British Film Institute's series of lesbian and gay videos. So if like me you set your video cassette recorder for the wrong channel and got a programme on organic gardening you can treat yourself to a brand new copy.

Available from Waterstones bookshops or by mail order from the BFI.

## AS LESBIANS AND GAY MEN, WE ARE NO LONGER CONSIDERED DISEASED. OFFICIAL.\*

The World Health Organisation's (WHO) International Codex of Diseases has listed homosexuality as an illness that needed to/could be cured since 1948. This definition has been used to justify various forms of discrimination, including denying people the right to immigrate to the United States. The new version of the Codex of Diseases, which became effective on 1 January of this year, will read:

*"Sexual orientation by itself is not to be regarded as a disorder."*

\* Official as far as the WHO is concerned.