

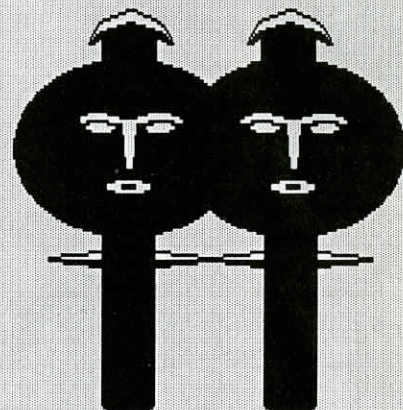
Black Lesbian & Gay Centre

Arch 196, Bellenden Road

SE15 4RF

071-732-3977

Newsletter: February/March 1994



AGM!!AGM!!

BLGC's Annual General Meeting will be held on:
Tuesday March 15th at 7pm,
at the
Black Lesbian and Gay Centre,
Arch 196, Bellenden Road,
Peckham, London SE15.

Come along to find out what happens at BLGC and get more involved.

Refreshments provided

The AGM is open to all Black lesbians and gay men

Not drowning but *waving* !!



discussion at BLGC - photo Suzanne Roden

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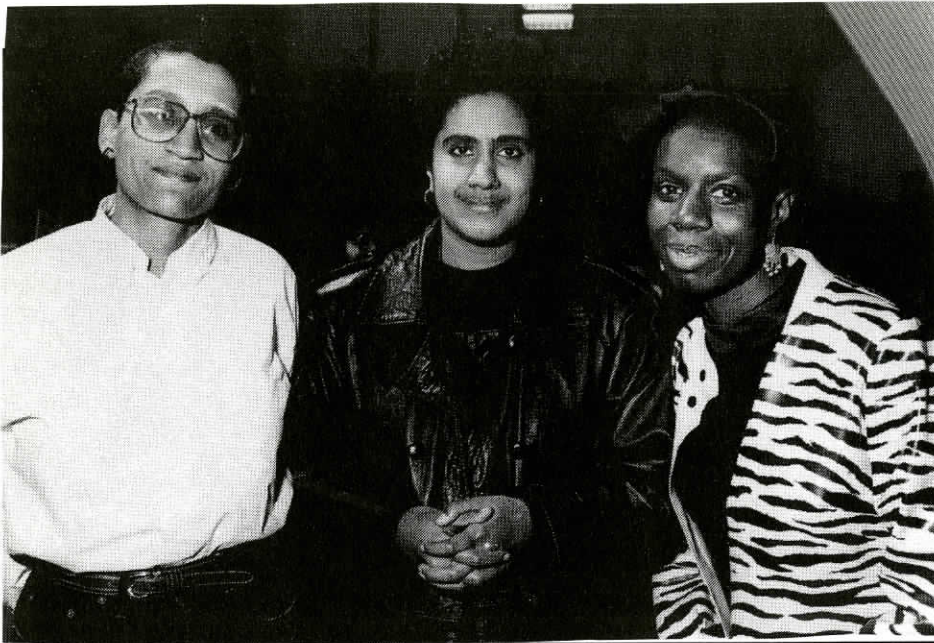
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On Tuesday 18th January Valerie Mason-John, co-editor of the new book, "Making Black Waves" along with two contributors, came to BLGC to talk about the book, and the issues it raised. Valerie and contributors Linda Bellos and Anne Hayfield and, of course, our very own Savi Hensman (who also contributed to the book) chatted and answered questions.

The discussion was wide ranging and all three speakers dealt admirably with the questions that were fired at

them, though only one participant was resourceful enough to have all (and I mean **all**) of his questions written out on prompt cards! How did the book start? In Amsterdam, apparently. How did they choose the contributors? How was the book edited? How did they decide what to keep and what bits 'hit the cutting room floor'? Is this book the first of many about the lives of Black lesbians in Britain? A resounding 'yes' to this question!

The discussion then moved on to reminiscing about the 'good old days', when Black lesbians were more politically active. People expressed



(left to right) Linda Bellos, Anne Hayfield, Valerie Mason-John at BLGC -photo Suzanne Roden

regret that nowadays when there are many more Black women around on the scene we don't seem to be getting together so much to fight for our rights. There were fond memories of the time a Women's Liberation Conference was zapped by Black lesbians which sounded like a brilliant idea to me.

All this fighting talk seemed to inspire people; there was a call for a national Black lesbian and gay conference to be organised and a suggestion that Black gay men should put together a

similar book on their history in this country. Another issue that came up was how conflicts between Black lesbians can be resolved. But sadly there was no easy answer to that one. Some people said that they found it difficult to get hold of the book. So it was suggested that people request "Making Black Waves" in bookshops and libraries to make sure it is available and visible.

I found the evening interesting and

appreciated the chance to talk about the issues and hear what other people had to say. Lynette Goddard, who was at the discussion, was very pleased she came and commented:

"I heard that a book about Black lesbians was coming out, ages ago. So it was great to meet the contributors and the co-editor of such a long awaited book, and of course to see the final product!"

The question on everyone's lips now, is 'when is the next book on Black lesbian history going to be out?' Luckily Valerie had the answer for us! It will be an anthology called "Talking Black" and will be edited by Valerie Mason-John. It will be published by Cassel, in September. "Making Black Waves" is published by Scarlet Press and is available in all good bookshops (and don't forget to order it, if it isn't!!).

Happy Reading!

Clare Ramsaran

National News

Vital Statistics ???

A poll by the National Survey of Sexual Attitudes and Lifestyles suggests that one man in ninety has had gay sex in the last year and that less than 3 women in 1 000 has had exclusively or mostly lesbian sex.

The researchers stand by their findings but lesbian and gay groups have been adamant that the lower-than-expected figures for homosexuality did not affect the right to equal rights, although one Tory MP has seen the figures as meaning that the age of

consent for gay sex should not be lowered, and remain at twenty-one.

"Just because we got a lower figure than expected doesn't mean that lesbians and gays should be denied basic human rights. The research was not a question of identity - it asked about behaviour - this is an important distinction," says Kaye Wellings, the medical sociologist on the research team.

Lesbian and gay groups believe that there should still be equality and that the numbers game should not be

played. The survey found that the 1967 Sexual Offences Act, which partially decriminalised gay sex and set the age of consent for gay sex at 21, had no effect on people's sexual behaviour.

But Project SIGMA, the gay men's sex research institution, questioned the data in the survey. "The social stigmatisation of homosexuality means that people are less likely to admit to being gay," it said.

GLAD Conference

The Disabled Women's Project, based at Greater London Association of Disabled People (GLAD), is setting up a network of disabled women in London, plus meetings and is now organising a conference for disabled lesbians. This will take place on Saturday 19 March between 9.30am and 4.30pm.

There will be workshops, performance, massage and tarot readings. For a registration form, please send a large stamped addressed envelope marked "private and confidential" to Brenda Ellis, Women's Officer, LC, GLAD, 336 Brixton Road, SW9 7AA.

Tel 071 274 0107 voice/minicom. Also available in large print and on tape. (It must be returned by Friday February 25).

Waged £5. Low waged £3. Unwaged free. Organisations £20. The conference is strictly for disabled lesbians only.

Doing it with you... is unnatural?

The Broadcasting Standards Council has rejected a complaint that a programme, in which Black lesbians and gay men talked about their relationships with white partners and the difficulties they encountered, dealt with "unnatural practices" and offended against decency.

The BSC said the Channel Four programme, part of the series *Doing It With You Is... Taboo*, would not have caused widespread offence.

(source the Pink Paper)

Going Down??

At the time of this newsletter going to press we still remain ignorant of the date of the debate in the House of Commons concerning the reduction of the legal age of consent for gay men from 21 to sixteen, to be in line with the age of consent for heterosexuals. Although, according to the lesbian and gay campaigning group, Stonewall, parliament has been inundated with letters in support of the reduction, members of parliament are sending out standard letters as opposed to replying directly. Three MPs, however, have changed their minds and are now supporting the reduction, after surgery visits. Stonewall advised that this is the way forward.

Although Stonewall is confident, it

urges people to lobby, focusing on those MPs who are backing a reduction to eighteen or who remain undecided.

Meanwhile the medical weekly, *The Lancet*, has called for the age of consent for gay men to come down to sixteen. The editorial writes that this would help with health care and education of a vulnerable group of young people and also make the law equal.

"In the UK a man older than 16 who has had sex with a girl under 16 has committed a crime but the girl has not. But if a man of over 21 has sex with a man of 16-20, both have committed an offence. This does not accord with the purpose of such legislation being to protect young people," it said.

Women Unite Against Racism!

Women United Against Racism started in September 1993 in Tower Hamlets, after the election of a BNP candidate. Their first event took place on October 19th and attracted an impressive number of women from around the capital. Over 150 women gathered to hear speakers from Southall Black Sisters and local community groups. A lively debate then followed.

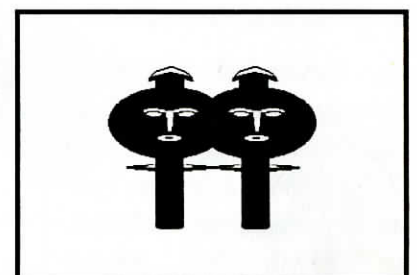
Julie Begum, one of the organisers of the meeting, said that "the group arose out of the frustrations women had about anti-racist groups. We wanted to be involved in anti-racist protests, but found they were dominated by men and boys."

The group aims to get women involved in campaigning and protesting against racism. WUAR can be contacted at : PO Box 3608, London E1 5ET.

sexYOUality

A new youth group for lesbians, gay men and bisexuals and those unsure of their sexuality was launched in Cambridge recently. The group called sexYOUality aims to provide a safe space for young people under twenty-five to meet and provide them with support around the issue of sexuality.

For details contact Kate Follard, Centre 33, 0223 314 763 or Harry Welburn, Youth Action, Cambridge,



International News

Black Gay and Lesbian Conference: USA

The seventh Annual National Black Gay and Lesbian Conference is due to take place on February 17-21 1994, New Jersey. This year's theme, 'Black Gays and Lesbians: from Silence to Celebration ... beyond the 28 days' will celebrate the past contributions Black lesbians and gays have made to the world and the need to focus on the present contributions we make on a day-to-day basis beyond the month of February (Black History Month).

One of the conference highlights is the diversity of speakers representative of the African Diaspora. Speakers address the conference participants on topics related to the conference theme.

Speakers

Speakers for this year's Conference include: Kenneth E Reeves, Mayor of Cambridge, Massachusetts; Mario Cooper, attorney and 1992 Democratic Convention Manager; Barbara Smith, a black feminist activist and writer; Michelle T. Clinton, a Los Angeles-based poet and performance artist; Evelyn C White, a well read author and scholar. Also, Robert Wasson, professor of Law at Suffolk University, Boston; Eden African-Omari, chair of the US Student Association's 'Lesbian, Gay and Bisexual Students of Color Coalition' and Kristine Gebbie, co-ordinator from the National AIDS Policy Office.

The Conference draws national and international participants from as far away as South Africa. Workshop topics include self-empowerment, culture/arts, family issues, youth issues, heterosexism, homophobia, health, public policy, economics and lesbian/gay issues.

The Conference is sponsored by the Black Gay and Lesbian Leadership Forum which was established in 1988 to strengthen, empower and provide a network for Black lesbians and gay men.

Avenging Lesbians

The Lesbian Avengers group was founded by six experienced activists in New York City in June 1992. Fifty women attended the first meeting after publicity was handed out during the city's annual lesbian and gay pride day.

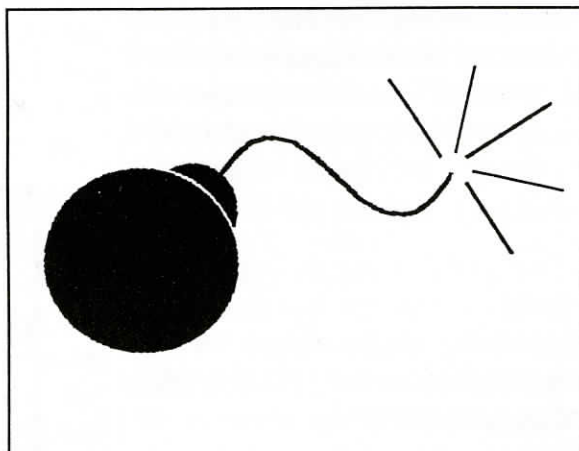
The group's first action took place in September 1992 when sixty women wearing tee-shirts that read "I was a lesbian child" marched into a school and handed out lavender balloons inscribed, "Ask me about lesbian lives." The action was to protest at the school's refusal to teach about lesbians and gay men, as required by a new multicultural curriculum.

In November, Lesbian Avengers built a memorial to Hattie Mae Cohens and Brian Mock, a lesbian and a gay man, who were burnt to death by white

supremacists skinheads.

Lesbian Avenger groups have been formed in San Francisco, Minneapolis, Tuscon and other North American cities. The grassroots groups are committed to direct action on issues vital to lesbian survival and visibility.

For more details contact Lesbian Avengers, c/o the Center, 208 W 13th Street, New York, NY 10011, USA. Tel 01 01 212 967 7711 x3204.



Felipa Da Souza Award

The International Human Rights Commission seeks to honour two individuals and one organisation that, at great risk or personal cost, or otherwise, have made significant contributions towards securing the human rights and freedoms of sexual minorities anywhere in the world.

This award is named in honour of Felipa da Souza, a Brazilian woman, convicted and tortured by the Portuguese Inquisition in 1591 for having sexual relations with other women.

Details from IGLHRC, 514 Castro Street, San Francisco, CA 94114, USA or BLGC.

SOS Sexism

SOS Sexism, a French organisation which campaigns against sexism, is hoping to produce a brochure in 1995 to celebrate the United Nations conference in Beijing of the same year. This move takes place after the Women's Rights Are Human Rights Conference in Berlin from the 23-24 November of 1993. Workshops at this conference included discussions on violence against women, fundamentalism, women's rights, economic security for women, the women's movement in China and effective networking towards the Beijing conference.

SOS Sexism's brochure will concentrate on violence against women, which they see as rape, sexual mutilation, prostitution, employment discrimination and polygamy, amongst others.

The women in the organisation hope that women from the world over will send testimonies, which will be classified according to international laws that are meant to protect women and children, and to promote the equality of women to men.

Send written testimonies to SOS Sexism, 2 rue du Bel Air, 92190 Meadon Bellevue, France.

Tel and fax: +33 46 26 14 82.

Lesbian and Gay Parents Meet

The fifteenth conference of International Gay and Lesbian Parents will be held in June 1994.

Children of lesbian mothers are particularly welcome to attend.

For more information and details of the event contact Gay and Lesbian Parents Coalition International, (GLPCI), PO Box 50360, Washington DC, 20091, USA.

Calling Houston!

BLGC was recently approached by the 'MCCLibrary' in Houston, Texas for copies of our newsletter to add to its lesbian and gay section. It's good to know that our outreach is reaching out so far!

'Doi Dien' hits the streets

Vietnamese gays and lesbians have begun a new magazine by and for lesbian and gay men. Entitled *Doi Dien* (Face to Face) the first issue was seventy-six pages long and mostly written in Vietnamese, with the rest of the text in English. Although the

magazine is produced in the USA, one of its major aims is to support Vietnamese lesbians and gay men both in Vietnam and the USA. A spin-off from the magazine will be to organise and host conferences, socials and cultural activities.

Contact Doi Dien, PO Box 730305, San Jose, CA 96173, USA.

Malaysian

Dissemination

Malaysia Pink Triangle group (for lesbians and gay men) are actively disseminating information about HIV and Aids and safer sex for, by and to lesbians. Those who produce the leaflet are also contributing articles on other subjects to a new four sheet quarterly lesbian and gay newsletter *Gaya Keris*.

Contact Pink Triangle, PO Box 11859, 50760, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.

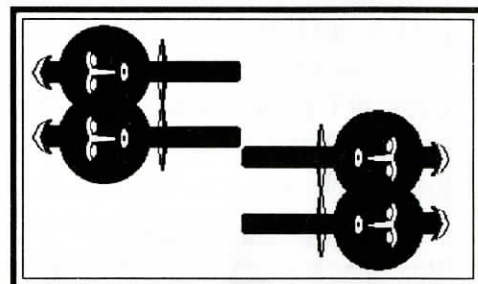
Lesbian partnerships legal

New Zealand has passed a law that makes it illegal for anyone to discriminate against lesbians and lesbian couples. The law as it now stands means that lesbian partners are able to benefit from each others pensions, as well as having all the other benefits of heterosexual couples. If a lesbian feels discriminated against in employment, housing, etc. she can complain to the Human Rights Commission. If the complaints, after investigation, are found to be based on the truth, up to 20 000 New Zealand dollars could be awarded as compensation.

GALZ

Gays and Lesbians of Zimbabwe are still going strong and would love to hear from black lesbians and gay men in Britain. Write to GALZ (please use the initials only) at their new address: PO Box 1995, Harare, ZIMBABWE.

They hold Gay Pride Week in June and also show videos, run discussions, safe sex workshops, parties and sports events. They publish a magazine and are currently compiling Zimbabwe's first lesbian and gay library. They are looking for donations of books, videos, magazines, pamphlets etc.



" in 1994 I would like to see ... "

"For 1994 I'd like to see 'The Metro', the new Greenwich Lesbian and Gay Centre, become successful, and well used by Black lesbians and gay men"

Keith Trotman, Greenwich

"In 1994 I would like to see Black gays and lesbians come together to form a unifying voice for the Black gay agenda. Much has been written and talked about a Black gay agenda but it seems to be only talk, and only at the local level. We, as black lesbians and gay men, need to unite, put aside our individual personal agendas and look at the important issues facing us as a unified international community. We need to determine just what our Black gay agenda is"

Don Thomas, editor BLK (Black gay magazine), Los Angeles, USA

"What I want in 94 is less homophobia, more money for AIDS research, acknowledging the fact that women can get it, and it's not just a one lifestyle, one sort of a person disease, less discrimination, lower age limit, more contact addresses, groups support, festivals, less gagging of opinions, feelings, demands for normal every day rights that anyone else takes for granted.

More books, plays, events and no one saying it should be banned, burned, against the law, homosexuality being accepted as as natural as breathing, that and more is what I want for '94"

E. Francis, Birmingham

"I want to see out Black lesbians and gay men playing a full role within our communities, and I want to see our communities supporting and embracing the diversity that we represent"

Linda Bellos, London

"More Black lesbians and gay men achieving their full potential, and for the BLGC to be a central force within the gay community"

Marcia, London.

"Definitely an equal age of consent, although I have not written to my MP. My tolerance and understanding within the 'straight' world - men being less macho and more 'femmy'. I can't speak as a 'gay' Black man yet, as I'm undecided at present. Hope for the jobless and the underclass of this country, like me"

Dennis Marke, London

"I would like:

- John Major to be a born again human
- to read a newspaper without getting pissed off at the world
- to be surrounded by world that doesn't assume that I'm straight! (and is happy that I'm not...)
- to never have to tell another "white lie" about where I'm going...
- and to stop having to end every sentence in these silly three dots ('no I don't have a boyfriend ...')

Diane Srivinasta, Ascot

"I would like to have a Black lesbian conference in 94 and to see more Black lesbian and gay clubs on the scene"

Jenny, Manchester

"An end to the term 'politically correct' being used as a term of abuse. An out and proud community that ain't ashamed of opposing racism, sexism and other forms of oppression. To make the personal political and the political more personal.."

Sharon Smith, London.

"For 1994 I want a large-scale Black lesbian and gay event, to inspire us: one that is not just about style or just about analysing and dissecting politics but also about celebrating the creativity in people; in music, art, or any other area.

I want lesbians and gay men who work with young people to be able to be 'out' without worrying about the consequences.

I want to see open discussion of homophobia in the Black communities, *by* the Black communities. Lastly I would like to see a lesbian and gay centre in Bristol."

Setareh Campbell, Bristol

I have one thing to say!

If you were to hear the words 'I have one thing to say' the possibility of you thinking 'You better work' are great. Thanks to RuPaul Andre Charles.

RuPaul is a six foot seven, blonde, blue (tinted contact lenses) eyed phenomenon. He claims to be the supermodel of the world but maybe for me as a Black gay man I should be asking whether he is the super role model for Black gay men and for our community.

We have role models everywhere, whether or not we think they are positive. Justin Fashanu has done something for the Black gay community by forcing the Black community to see that not all gay men are effeminate, limp-wristed and white. We have James Baldwin, Issac Julien, Essex Hemphill, Johnny Matthis. I was going to write 'many others' but that would be untrue. But we do have others, from friends, to

acquaintances to work colleagues.

However few have achieved the international fame of RuPaul, who has appeared on Joan Rivers' show, Geraldo, the Arsenio Hall show, Black Entertainment Television, CNN, CBS, BBC1, Channel Four, in videos for the B52s and is about to appear in Spike Lee's new film, *Crooklyn*.

According to his bio RuPaul was born and raised in San Diego and at the age of five was trying on outfits in his mothers bedroom, singing along to Diana Ross on the radio. Is this where RuPaul, the six foot seven sex god(dess) was created?

"RuPaul, six foot seven sex god(dess)"

RuPaul has never once denied being a Black gay man and that in itself is to be given credit. He remains confident about both aspects of himself

and has managed to overcome any obstacles and achieve his dream, in spite of the adversity of a racist and homophobic society. I would be lying if I were to say that I do not find RuPaul funny. Here is an obviously Black person with blonde hair that he would argue to the end of the world was natural. RuPaul sings about the different hair products and hair styles for African Caribbean hair and has all these styles, in blonde of course, in his video for *Back to my Roots*. Yes, he makes me laugh. He disarms us with humour and his race and his sexuality become unimportant.

But why make himself less of a threat by creating a character that people find funny? Why could he not be accepted as a positive Black gay man with talent. Had he not sported a frock and blonde wig would he have been as accepted? Or would the moguls in the entertainment industry find his colour too much of a threat and his sexuality too much of an unspoken taboo?

For me, there is also the appearance of the character he choose to create. It would be hard to argue that RuPaul is not stunning on six inch heels and big hair but surely this notion of beauty is to be questioned. As a Black person I would like to think that we have moved on from the idea that to be considered attractive one had to look, and even be, white. But RuPaul does seem to be pandering to this false suggestion by donning a platinum blonde wig, blue tinted contact lenses and enough foundation that does more than hide five o' clock shadow but lightens his natural complexion from deep sienna to 'high yellow'.

"stunning in six inch heels and big hair"

Here again we have a Black gay man who is accepted and not seen as a threat because he is entertaining us, therefore this is all right. This poses some problems for me in that one of the most famous Black gay men in the world appears to be pandering to the stereotypical perceptions of gay men i.e. wanting to be women and therefore adopting 'women's' clothing.

Yes it is true that there are some Black gay men who are effeminate, who do wear make up, who do wear dresses, but it is a problem for me that this is the only representations I see of (Black) gay men. But maybe I sound harsh and this is not the fault of RuPaul, but of the media that manipulates us.

His adaptation of ``female'' characteristics is also dubious. As a man he is afforded certain

privileges given the sexist society in which we find ourselves. Even in drag these privileges still exist. Maybe we should be asking why, to get laughs, to entertain, does he have to do so as a 'woman', and does this not raise questions about his sexism and the sexism that exists in the entertainment industry.

Drag has always been used by gay men as an easy way to attack and put down women. There are basically two misogynist views of women; the older and, it is implied, ugly one with women's problems or the overly glamorous and painfully thin bimbo. Both of these reflect very few of the many millions of women in our society. It will be a long while before I see a drag queen as positive, because I could not but help ask why this man has made a conscious effort to go beyond wearing women's clothes but to pad himself out to create false breasts, fuller hips, etc. I feel that I need to note here that I am not referring to transsexuals or transvestites but to men who do not define themselves by these terms yet, nevertheless, parody women and their characteristics. But when all is said and done RuPaul has never referred to himself as a woman. I may be wrong, but I have always heard, or read of, him referring to himself as male.

There have been some comments made by certain voices in the Black American gay community about the lack of visibility of America's most well known Black gay man in the Black contingents of lesbian and gay marches, in spite of being asked. Maybe I should be writing Black gay and out as

there are many more well known and respected men, but their closets remain nailed shut. Anyway, there have been accusations made about RuPaul's commitment to, and even involvement in, raising the debates about racism on the lesbian and gay scene, or about racism in America. It is unknown whether that is a personal or managerial decision.

"drag has always been used ..to attack and put down women"

It may appear that I am giving RuPaul a seriously hard time bearing in mind that RuPaul, supermodel of the world, is a character. It is also unfair to expect one of the few well-known Black gay men to be the perfect role model, political, intelligent, true to my experiences etc. But in the same way that I wouldn't expect Larry Fishbourne to play a jigaboo in a movie, nor Naomi Campbell to model in a leopard skin dress with bones through her hair, I would hope that RuPaul would consider his actions. I suppose my concern is that we have so few people to look up to, and I do think it is important to have role models for a number of reasons, that even if we do not totally agree with what they say or do that we feel that there is some thought put into their actions. I feel they should use their privileged voice not to speak on behalf of a community because very few can do that successfully, but to talk about some of the issues that affect all of us, as Black people. I don't think RuPaul is doing that. But it is early days yet and for me there is always hope.

Clarence Allen

Desparately seeking volunteers!

Date

Name.....

Address.....

Tel:.....

Do you mind us contacting you by post? Yes / No.

Do you mind us contacting you by phone? Yes / No.

Please tick alongside the areas in which you can volunteer.

- | | |
|--|---------------------|
| Counselling* | Helpline |
| Advice/Information work | Library |
| Archives | Publicity |
| Newsletter | Creche work* |
| Driving* | Fundraising/events* |
| Talks/training* | Performing |
| Cooking | Centre maintenance |
| Staffing the centre | |
| Interpreting/translating (please specify language(s))..... | |
| Other (please specify) | |

.....

*We may have to make checks for these areas of work. (This will be done with your knowledge).

Please tell us about yourself and why you want to volunteer for BLGC, what are your skills and interests and in what work are you interested. (This is not obligatory but it will help the volunteer coordinators when allocating task to volunteers).

Names of references (if applicable). We will not contact them without your permission.

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Thanks again for your interest in BLGC.

HIV/AIDS News

Women Carers Group

The Landmark Carers group for women is a facilitated support group for women who are caring for friends, partners, relatives or children who are living with HIV and AIDS.

It offers a safe space for support, information and a chance to talk. It runs from 7-9pm every Wednesday. For more details contact Olivia, at: the Landmark, 107 Tulse Hill, SW2 or telephone 081 678 6686.

New Bereavement Group

A new group is starting this month for women bereaved through the loss of someone close to them through HIV and AIDS. The group is being run by Body Positive Women's group at the Red Admiral project.

For details contact the Red Admiral Project Monday-Friday 10am-6pm on 071 835 1495 or write to the project at 51a Philbeach Gardens, Earls Court, SW5 9EB.

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.

BCAT LEEDS (Black Communities AIDS Team)

50 Call Lane, Leeds LS2 6DT Tel: (0532) 423100.

BHAF WESTMIDLANDS (Black HIV/AIDS Forum)

9 Anstruther Rd, Edgbaston, Birmingham, B15 3NN.

BHAN (Black HIV/AIDS Network)

Support Asian, African and Afro-Caribbean people affected by HIV and AIDS. 111 Devonport Road, London W12 8PB.

Tel: 081-742 9223 (helpline) 081-742 2828 (admin)

SOUTH EAST ASIAN HIV/AIDS GROUP contact BHAN (above) for details.

BLACKLINERS

Helpline for Black people, offering advice and information on HIV/AIDS. Brixton Enterprise Centre, 444 Brixton Road, London SW9 8J. Tel: 071-738 5274

NAZ

A HIV/AIDS project for the Muslim and South Asian Communities.

Contact NAZ c/o BM 3167, London WC1N 3XX. Tel: 081-993 9001.

SHARE (Shakti HIV/AIDS Response)

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

HIV/AIDS

THE LANDMARK

Contact: Colin Grant on 081 678 6686 - 107 Tulse Hill London SW2 2QB

and

Black Liners

An evening for people affected by HIV and AIDS from **THE BLACK COMMUNITIES**

Every Tuesday 5p.m.~9p.m.

Currently on offer:

Acupuncture, Counselling, Massage, Transport, African/Caribbean/Asian Food, Grotto Facility, Peer and Social Support.

LANDMARK LONDON **CARIBBEAN** **AFRICA** **ASIA**

HIV/AIDS

Centre Update

December and January have been busy and exiting months at the Centre; many black lesbians and gay men have been involved in the centre, as volunteers and service users.

BLGC's first birthday party was a great success- volunteers and workers decorated the Centre throughout the day, while the DJs (the fabulous Michael, Maria and Marilyn) set up, other volunteers provided the food and drinks for the party. Eighty to a hundred Black lesbians and gay men thronged the Centre that night, dancing to garage, soul & funk; others chilled out in the front of the Arch, eating, drinking and chatting. Although scheduled to finish at 2am, the party carried on till 3.30 and was enjoyed by all.

Although the Centre itself was closed over the Christmas week, the phonenumber was still operating on Tuesday and Thursday, answering calls from Black lesbians and gay men suffering from Christmas fatigue...

In the new year, the Centre held a discussion based on the new book, "Making Black Waves", with Valerie Mason-John, Linda Bellos and Ann Hayfield. This was also a special launch of the book for the Black lesbian and gay community and was well attended with lots of lively discussion. The women only drop-in and discussion on 'Surpassing Race and Nation and Building International Solidarity', facilitated by Teresa Hope, also attracted great interest.

However, increasing the number of events at the Centre hasn't been our only objective in the past two months. Volunteers have been busy working on the library and developing a lending library system (thanks to Carmen and Diane for their hard work). This system should be up and running in a few months. We have also set up a media sub-group to respond to issues that effect us, to challenge racist and homophobic assumptions made about us, and to generally raise the profile of the Centre. Clarence and Savi have also been involved in the new video 'Coming Out', promoting the Centre and our services. We will be showing this video at the Centre on Wednesday 23rd February, 5.30-7.30pm, so be there!

Black lesbians and gay men have over the past few months been making good use of our housing advice and referral system - so if you are in need of housing, call up

and make an appointment to see one of the workers.

We've also now set up our face-to-face counselling service, which will be starting on 8 February, and held every Tuesday between 1.30 and 3.15pm (you might have heard us promoting it on GLR's Black London programme on Saturday 5 Feb.).

As we near the end of the financial year, and the end of our grant from the London Boroughs Grant scheme, we have redoubled our fundraising efforts. Much of the money we have generated through the year has been through the training and consultancy undertaken by BLGC workers, mainly Savi, the Outreach and Development worker. However, we need to raise much more to keep the Centre alive and well, and keep on developing services. If you have experience of fundraising, and want to be part of this vital process, why not join our fundraising group?

BLGC is also currently looking for a group of people to organise events around Pride, so if you have ideas and energy, give us a call - remember this Centre's here for you, so get involved!

If you're interested in volunteering in any capacity either give Clarence Allen or Sakthi Suriyaprakasam a call on 071 732 3977, or fill in our Volunteer form and return it to the centre.



regular groups

Lesbians and gay men

SHAKTI LONDON - South Asian lesbian and gay network. The group meets every 2nd Sunday of the month from 3-6pm at : LONDON FRIEND, 86 Caledonian Rd, London N1 (wheelchair access, nearest tube Kings Cross). Disco with bhangra music on last Friday of month from 10pm-2am at The Dome, Tufnell Park. For more information tel: 071 837 2782

SHAKTI also runs groups in: Birmingham, Leicester, Bradford and Manchester

MANCHESTER BLACK LESBIAN AND GAYGROUP - Meetings 1st and 3rd Thursday of every month at Manchester Gay Centre.

SHAKTI MANCHESTER can be contacted at Manchester Gay Centre

Further info on both groups from: Manchester Gay Centre, PO Box 153. Manchester M60 1LP.

ORIENTATIONS - Chinese and South East Asian lesbian and gay group meet at LONDON FRIEND (see Shakti).

CYPRIT LESBIAN AND GAY GROUP meets on the 1st Sunday of the month 2.30pm-5pm at LONDON FRIEND (see Shakti). Ring for more details.

IRANIAN LESBIAN AND GAY GROUP meets at LONDON FRIEND (see Shakti). Ring for more details.

LEICESTER BLACK LESBIAN AND GAY GROUP- For details write to c/o Michael Wood Centre, 29 NewWalk, Leicester LE1 6TE.

BIRMINGHAM BLACK LESBIAN AND GAY GROUP (KOLA) - Meets 1st and 3rd Thursday of the month. Tel: Friend on: 021 622 7351 - 7.30pm - 9.30pm

SHAKTI BIRMINGHAM phone West Midlands Friend (see above) and ask for a SHAKTI contact

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

MOSAIC - a group of Mixed Race Lesbians and Gay Men holds discussions every month and runs socials. For further information contact MOSAIC c/o BLGC on 071 732 3885.

BRISTOL BLACK LESBIAN, GAY AND BISEXUAL GROUP (SAFAR) - Meets the first Tuesday of each month. For more information Tel: (0272) 639 789 (men), 427 731 (women) or Bristol Switchboard (0272) 425 927.

Lesbians

CAMDEN BLACK LESBIAN GROUP runs socials discussions and worksops for Black lesbians. For details contact CLC/BLG, 54-56 Phoenix Rd, London NW1 1ES (wheelchair access, minicom, creche available; tel: 071 383 5405).

LAS DIVINAS - Latinamerican Lesbian Group, for details contact CLC/BLG (see Camden Black Lesbian Group).

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 and ask for a contact for the group

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.

ZAMI Group for Afro-Caribbean lesbians meets last Sunday of month at Camden Black Sisters, 2C Falkland Rd., London NW5 2PT. Tel: 071 284 3336.

ZAMIMASS (group for working class Black lesbians) - For details contact CLC/BLG (see Camden Black Lesbian Group) or BLGC on 071 732 3885.

BLACK LESBIAN CULTURAL WORKERS COLLECTIVE - For black lesbians producing cultural materials, from sculpture to hats to music. For details contact Zamimass.

OLDER BLACK LESBIAN GROUP (over forty) meets 1st Sunday of every month between 3-6pm at West Hampstead Women's Centre, 55 Hempstal Rd, NW6. Tel: 071 328 7389.

ZAMI (MANCHESTER BLACK YOUNG LESBIAN GROUP). To get Black women together so that they are not alone. Advice, counselling and support. For more information tel Lesbian Link on: or 061 236 6205 Mon, Tues or Thurs 6-9.30pm.

LEEDS BLACK LESBIAN SUPPORT GROUP. c/o Harehills Housing Aid, 188 Roundhay Rd, Harehills, Leeds 8.

ZAMI BIRMINGHAM NETWORK, meets fortnightly on Wednesdays 6-8pm. For more info write to: Zami Birmingham Network, c/o 172 Edmund St, Birmingham, B3 2HB or call: 021 235 4598

Gay Men

LET'S RAP - Black gay men talking to Black gay men. Activities or social/discussion on the third Sunday of each month. Tel: 071 737 3881 or BLGC office.

NEWCASTLE-UPON-TYNE BLACK GAY MEN'S SUPPORT GROUP - is no longer running, but please contact 091 233 1333 before 6pm or 091 261 7768 after if you would like to help start the group again.

LONDON BLACK MESMAC GROUP - for young black gay and bisexual men no longer meets; but please contact: 071 831 2330 for details of any new groups

LEEDS BLACK GAY MEN'S GROUP - for African, Asian and Caribbean and other black gay men, meets fortnightly on Thursdays 7.30pm onwards. For further information contact David/Michael on 0532 444 209, David/Jon on 0274 395 815 or write in confidence to Yorkshire MESMAC, P.O. Box 172, Leeds, LS7 3BZ.

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: 071 732 3885.



noticeboard

AGLOW (Association of Greater London Older Women) is hoping to set up a group for older lesbians. It is open to lesbians over 50 living or working in Greater London, and lesbians working with/caring for older lesbians. Black and ethnic minority lesbians and lesbian with disabilities are very welcome.

For more information tel 071-281 3485

Black gay sperm donor wanted.

We are a mixed Black and white lesbian couple and we have been together for ten years.

Involvement negotiable and we are willing to travel or pay expenses.

For more info contact K/J, c/o BLGC.

Accommodation

Camberwell Circle Housing Project currently has vacancies for Black lesbians.

We provide good quality accommodation in small, shared, single-sex houses in the boroughs of Lambeth and Southwark.

If you are over 21, single, homeless or inadequately housed and would like benefit from a period in a safe and supportive environment, then contact Val for more information and an application form.

Tel 071 703 6545

Wanted

Black lesbians experiences of mental health and mental illness

Psychiatric hospitals, secure units, medication, counselling, 'illegal' drug use and more, etc for inclusion in a book by and about Black lesbians.

Information to be collected by questionnaire, interview and discussion.

Total anonymity and confidentiality is assured.

For more information contact

Quibilah Montsho

Flat 11 Marcus Garvey Court

151 Withington Road

Whalley Range

Manchester M16 8FB

Tel 061 226 0787

Lesbian and Gay Nursing Issues

A project, under the umbrella of the Royal College of Nursing is being undertaken and conducted by a small group of lesbian and gay members. The project aims to look at the nursing care of lesbians and gay men.

The project itself was set up because of concerns that prejudice and ignorance could affect the care given to lesbians and gay men by nurses. They are in the process of gathering information about this by interviewing people about their experiences whether positive or negative, whether there had been any contact with nurses in a hospital or community setting and whether or not the service was in connection with physical or mental health needs.

It is hoped that a guideline for good practice to all nurse will be issued when the project is completed.

The working group on the project is keen to identify nurses who are Black or from minority ethnic groups to join them in the development of the project and in conducting interviews. Expenses can be paid.

Contact Jill Bourne on 071 409 333 x 429

our definition is this....

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

BLGC definition of Black

Black lesbian and Black gay pride

Sister to sister and brother to brother

A Black lesbian and gay arts festival celebrating Blackness, womanhood, manhood and lesbian and gay sexuality to take place from June 1-3 at Brixton Art Gallery.

In honour of Audre Lourde, Black lesbian activist, poet and writer, and Joseph Beam, Black gay activist, writer and editor.

The exhibition will be a mixed media show by about ten artists (five men, five women). We are hoping for a variety of work ranging from photographic to textiles. There is also space for workshops and poetry readings. If you would like to get involved contact Zamimass via BLGC on 071 732 3885.

Submissions should come from Black lesbians and gay men of African, Asian and Middle Eastern descent and those native to the Americas, Caribbean and Australasia

This will bear witness to the creativity and survival of a people whose true identities are often obscured by narrow-mindedness and bigotry.

Imagery of an s/m nature will not be accepted.

This event is supported by Zamimass, BLGC, Black History for Action, MESMAC, Camden Lesbian Centre/Black Lesbian Group.

Stonewall 25

The International March on the United Nations to affirm the human rights of lesbians and gay men is seeking submissions from the international lesbian and gay community for live performances and video segments for the rally to be held in Central Park in New York City.

They are looking for artistic performers (singers, dancers, instrumentalists, performance).

They are also seeking video segments of:

- videograms from lesbians and gay men who cannot attend but who would like to send greetings. Please shoot these before recognisable landmarks.
- video telegrams of public figures supporting the lesbian and gay community and in particular this event
- video footage of past pride events
- interviews with figures in the lesbian and gay community

Please label the cassette with the format used (VHS, Beta cam etc.) and with the applicable broadcast standard (NTSC, PAL, SECAM)

For more info contact Stephan Oxendine,
242 West 27th Street, 7th floor, NY 10001 -5926 USA.



SAD Access Code

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

SAD Access Codes continued:

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

Access Codes for centres:

BLGC

A1. B2,5 no's 12, 37, 63, 78, 312, P2, P12. B2,6 no's 36, 36b, 171, P13. C4 steep. D1 entrance and two internal doors 35" D3, 5, toilet 29" D3, 5, back door 29" D2,6. E1. Fnone. G1 42"x 61.5", G2. H1. J2 in front, bare concrete floor in back. K1. L1, 2, 3, 4, 7. M3. N2, 3 BLGC publications, 4 advance notice needed, 5. Q-none, child care costs provided. R-light refreshments. T1, 2. U1, 2

CLC/BLG (Camden Lesbian Centre/Black Lesbian Group)

54-56 Phoenix Road London NW1 1ES

A single yellow line outside entrance B1, 3, 5 nos 14, 14a,18,30,73 stop on Euston Rd, near Shaw Theatre. C1. D main door 32.75", 3, 5, fire exit door 31.5", other doors 31.3". E ground floor building, 1. F none.

G two toilets - door to 1st 30.5", 3 dimensions 5.75'x4.5', turning distance 3', door to 2nd 29.5" 3 dimensions 3x5.5', turning distance 2' H2 front door to meting room 8', meeting room to office 7', meeting room to large WC 11.5', meeting room to other WC 22', meeting room to creche 18' creche to fire exit 13.5. J1.

K1, 3 in meeting room, creche & office. L1, 2, 4, 5, 7. M3. N8 some info on large print & tape, BSL stage 2 communicator, minicom. P3. Q2, age limit 11, 8. R non alcoholic drinks available. S3. T1, 2, 4. U1,2, minicom in office.

Deeper Love

22 January 1994 saw the 'Deeper Love' women-only fundraising dance organised by Zamimass (Radical Black Lesbian organisation). The event was for an upcoming Black lesbian exhibition opening 18 February at 7.30pm at Camden Black Sisters.

Held in East London, the dance has a real party atmosphere and attracted a diverse and funky, sweet-vibe crowd.

Nuff respect to DJ Ritu (resident dj at Shakti) who attracted nuff Asian sisters and who spun an international set of good good tunes. Respect also

going out to DJ Vee (who resides at the Vox) who held the crowd with the latest in swing and ragga. Never forgetting DJ Asher mellowing our souls with sweet tunes and mixing like an old-timer!

Zamimass put on a mini-bus for the south London homegirlz, but unfortunately we had no driver for the way back.

If you are a Black lesbian and would like to volunteer your driving skills, please ring BLGC and leave a contact number. Thanks to Sylvia and Angie who attempted to drive the van back.

Thanks of course to D who collected and drove the van there. Nuff respect due to the sisters who shared their transport. In the end everyone who came up on the minibus got a ride home.

The fundraiser was successful and all our costs for the exhibition can now be met without charging an entry fee.

Lorraine was helpfully on hand to see us through some technical hitches. Thanks a million.

The dance was only possible with all the help that sisters offered, as many hands make light work. Thanks to each and every one.

So now we've had the fundraiser, come forward to participate in and enjoy the exhibition and cultural festival!

If you would like to volunteer for an area of work come to Camden Black Sisters, 2c Falkland Road, Kentish Town, NW5 on Saturday 12 from 12-6pm or ring 071 284 3336. We need sisters to caretake the exhibition, welcome visitors, prepare food and serve food.

Zamimass

Fundraising for the Zami house Black Lesbian exhibition (to be held Feb 18 - March 5 at Camden Black Sisters)

zamimass presents

"Deeper Love"

WOMEN ONLY DANCE

SAT. 22ND JANUARY 1994. 11PM - LATE

\$4.50 & \$3
solidarity price \$6

DJ RITU & guest Dj's
keeping you sweet

concessions with ID

vegetarian food

To get you homegirlz down there Zamimass has organized safe community transport. Leaving Brixton Town Hall (clock Tower) at 11pm sharp & Elephant & Castle leisure centre at 11.30 sharp. Cover charge £2.50.

you may bring your own drink. Small bar available.



Turners Road, Mile End
London, E3.
mile end tube. off Burdett Rd
just past railway bridge

Buses: 277, D6, D5 and D7

Pamela Sneed recently appeared at the ICA in London for three days only, to perform 'Imagine Being More Afraid of Freedom than Slavery'. For those of you who missed her she will be back in London in the summer.

two big girls

PAMELA SNEED

**Imagine Being
More Afraid
of Freedom
than
Slavery**

7.30 PM



PEGGY SHAW

FROM SPLIT BRITCHES

**You're
Just Like
My Father**

9.00 PM

PRESENTED BY



CHARITY NO 295273

**THREE NIGHTS ONLY
27 · 28 · 29 JANUARY
REDUCED PRICE FOR BOTH SHOWS**



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CHARITY NO 236848

ARRESTING DOUBLE BILL OF NEW YORK PERFORMAN

Diary

Every...

Wednesday 5.30-7.30pm:

Black lesbian and gay drop-in at BLGC.

Thursday 2-7pm

Black lesbian drop-in at CLC/Black Lesbian Group.

February

Thursday 10th - Saturday 12th

Yuan Tan begins (Chinese New Year). Give your friends a card in a red envelope and give other people oranges for good luck.

Saturday 12th

First day of the Islamic Ramadan, the first day of the month of fasting.

Tuesday 15th

Naz Project presents a workshop on "HIV/AIDS - an Issue for Everyone".

£40 statutory sector workers/ £20 voluntary sector workers/ £10 individual/ unfunded projects/ free for Naz volunteers. Call 081 563 0205 for more details or write to The Naz Project, Palingswick House, 241 King St, W6 9LP

Wednesday 16th

Rap Up-North. A discussion group for Black gay men in Yorkshire. For more information call (0523) 444 209 or (0274) 395 815 or (0924) 814 400 x 3021

Friday 17th

Zami House Exhibition and Cultural Festival in honour of Black lesbian poet, writer and activist, Audre Lourde. A festival of celebration and re-affirmation of Black lesbian arts, culture and lifestyles.

At Camden Black Sisters, 2c Falkland Road, NW5. Ring 071 284 3336 for more information.

Until Saturday 5th March.

Saturday 19th

Post Valentine's day event

Women-only party at BLGC. 11pm-6am

Smooch with your new Valentine love with music from Sista Culcha and Mini Micro.

Sunday 20th

Hindu festival of Maha Shivrati

Wednesday 23th

Black lesbian and gay drop-in. This week **screening of *Coming Out - a supportive guide***. Come and talk to two of the video's stars!! absolutely free

Thursday 24th

Chinese Teng Chieh

Thursday 24th

The Naz project presents a one-day workshop on "HIV/AIDS and Our Communities - a Health Promotion Perspective". £40 statutory workers/ £20 voluntary sector workers.

Thursday 24th

Come Together group. A support group for Black gay men in Yorkshire. For more information call (0523) 444 209 or (0274) 395 815 or (0924) 814 400 x 3021

Saturday 26th

Zami group for lesbians of African descent meets at Camden Black Sisters, 2c Falkland Road, Kentish Town, NW5. From 4-7pm.

Sunday 27th

Black gay men's drop-in at BLGC 4pm-6pm. Come see Patti Labelle in the hysterical *Out All Night* Thank god for cable!!

March

Tuesday 1st

Lesbian and Gay Employment Rights (LAGER) Annual General Meeting takes place at Friends House, 173/177 Euston Road, NW1

7pm-9pm. Refreshments. There will be discussions on important employment issues affecting you.

For more info call LAGER on 081 983 0694 (lesbians) 081 983 0696 (gay men and minicom).

Saturday 5th

Black lesbian only drop-in at BLGC from 2-4pm.

Saturday 5th

MOSAIC meeting for mixed race lesbians and gay men, details from BLGC

(diary continued page 20)

Tuesday 8th

International Women's Day

Saturday 12thInternational Women's Week Event
A day of workshops

10am-12 noon "We are family". A workshop focusing on non-traditional families with special attention made to Black lesbians.

1-3pm "Healthy Lifestyles". Safer sex, drug use and mental health issues.

To be held at Birmingham Women's Workshop, Unit 9 Whitworth Industrial Park, Tilton Road, Small Heath, Birmingham. Child care available.

Sunday 13th Islamic Eid-ul-Fitr.**Tuesday 15th****BLGC Annual General Meeting** at BLGC.

Come to discuss the future of BLGC and ask questions about our services.

Wednesday 16th

Rap Up-North. A discussion group for Black gay men in Yorkshire. For more information call (0523) 444 209 or (0274) 395 815 or (0924) 814 400 x 3021

Thursday 17th

Naz workshop "HIV/AIDS and Our Communities" (see 24 February)

Saturday 19thUnite Against Racism! demonstration
Assembly Point is Spitalfields Market at 11am.
Tube: Liverpool Street**Saturday 19th**

Conference for Disabled lesbians organised by Greater London Association of Disabled People. Workshops, massage, performance, tarot reading, Black women's space, chill out room, refreshments, lunch. Please reply before 25 February. For more info call Brenda Ellis on 071-274 0107.

Saturday 19th

Camden Black Lesbian group meets from 4-7pm to discuss what you want from CLC/BLG. All Black Lesbians welcome.

Sunday 20th

Screening of 'Colours of Love 1'; Zami Power - London Lesbian and Gay Film Festival

Monday 21st

'Colours of Love 2' (see Sun 20th)

Thursday 24th and Saturday 26th

'Colours of Love 3' (see Sun 20th)

Friday 25th

Hindu Chaitra.

Sunday 27th

Hindu Holi.

Pesach. (First day of Jewish Passover)

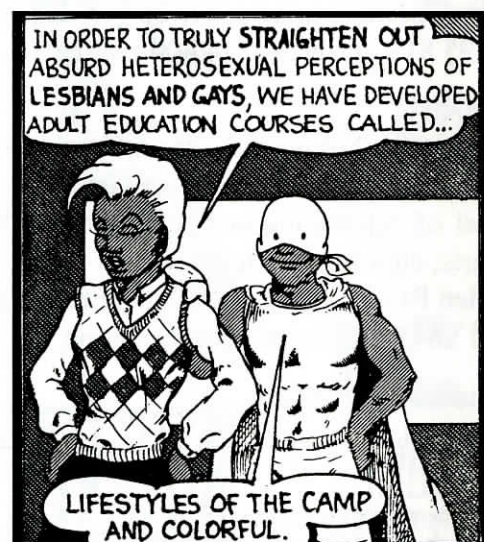
Black Gay men's drop-in at BLGC 4pm-6pm
Discussion : Pornography or art - Mapplethorpe et alia.**Thursday 31st**

Come Together Group. A support group for Black gay men in Yorkshire. For more information call (0523) 444 209 or (0274) 395 815 or (0924) 814 400 x 3021

April

Saturday 2nd

Black lesbian only drop-in 2-4pm at BLGC.

Saturday 16thIntroductory workshop on Assertiveness. For Black lesbians and gay men 10am-4pm Run by Naomi Hemens Mensah Cost £12 waged/£6 unwaged
Special rates for BLGC members £2 waged/£1 unwaged
Limited space. Please book in advance to avoid disappointments. Call BLGC on 071 732 3885.**Wednesday 20th**

Rap Up-North. A discussion group for Black gay men in Yorkshire. For more information call (0523) 444 209 or (0274) 395 815 or (0924) 814 400 x 3021