

BLACK LESBIAN & GAY CENTRE



newsletter

JUNE '99 ISSUE

BLGC LIFE

It's been a very eventful three months for us all. Bombs in Europe..... and in London. And wherever you may be, or whoever you may be, there is no doubt you will have heard, and may have even be closely affected by these events.

The centre, like many other organisations and individuals who work for, and belong to ethnic and minority groups, received a hate letter and needed to respond appropriately, to ensure that users and members of our community were made as safe as our limited capacity to do so, allowed.

Following a visit to the Chair of the Centre by Special Branch, certain strategies have been discussed and need to be put to the community.

It is now clear that despite the sometimes negative perception of the Centre by many, there is a clear need for it's existence. However these recent events have made us acutely aware of our vulnerability in the face of crazy facists and extremists, who may wish in their unbalanced states to harm anybody who they feel do not have the right to live a happy and fruitful life.

The centre continues to be an important part of the existence of Black Lesbian and Gays in London and further afield. Evidence which is regularly provided for, and monitored by our funders can vouch for this statement.

However, the Black Lesbian & Gay Centre is the only centre that proudly states who it is for and what it is for. We are still here and are still needed, but this last episode of fear, shock and for some of us sorrow has shown us that we cannot become complacent about our lives and our courage to live our lives.

Serious consideration has been given to the fact that it may now be necessary to change the name of the Centre.

We need your ideas and views on this. Members and groups who use the centre have expressed their ideas and views, some of which are listed in the newsletter. But we need more. Call at the Centre and leave a message or drop us a line. We would like to publish views so please make it clear if you would rather not have your suggestions or views made public.

The year 2000 is on its's way. Should the Centre start the new millenium with a new name or not? and if it should give us a name.....

BLGC MESSAGE

In many of the minority communities in Britain, being gay can be particularly difficult because of the strong emphasis on traditional family and marriage. The family may be doubly important and very tightly knit because it can protect its members from the effects of racism.

So telling your friends and family that you are gay if you are Black might feel doubly difficult. You may end up feeling excluded from your own community.

However, always remember that, even if it's really difficult for you, other people have done it before.

There are groups of Asian and black gay people you can contact and go along to meet.

The BLGC can direct you to a group or organisation that might be able to help you and fill your specific needs. The Centre also has discussion groups and social activities that you are welcome to come along to.

CALL US ON 0171 620 3885

**METRO SUMMER CAMP
@ LAMBETH COLLEGE
FROM 26 JULY TO 3 SEPT '99**

The Metro Summer Camp is looking for the following:

assistant camp director
senior group leader
group leaders ~ sports instructors ~ counsellors ~
performing arts instructors ~ camp assistants

For these posts we are looking for applicants who have a wide experience of dealing with children and young people in multi-racial, inner city environment.

We look for strong leadership qualities, as well as a genuine interest in making sure children enjoy themselves, learn new skills and grow and develop as individuals

Whilst the work is often hard you need to be friendly, enthusiastic and dedicated. it is very rewarding as you will be assisting in a provision for summer learning for inner-city children, some of whom may never have had such a learning holiday experience before.

INTERESTED

Please send you CV to Metro Sports Foundation c/o Lambeth College
(Clapham Centre) 45 Clapham Common South Side London SW4 9BL
Tel 0171 501 5647 Email globalsportsfdtn@hotmail.com

SO WHAT ABOUT THIS NEW NAME THEN?

WHAT DO YOU THINK?

WHAT NAME WOULD YOU LIKE?

SHOULD IT STAY THE SAME?

GIVE US YOUR IDEAS ~ WE NEED THEM

Suggestions so far

“VISIBLE IDENTITIES”

formally the BLGC

“BLACK SCENE”

formally the BLGC

Drop us a line or leave us a message

5/5a Westminster Bridge Road

London SE1

Tel: 0171-620-3885

blgc@btinternet.com

Monday

OFF THE HOOK at The Velvet Room

157 Charing Cross Rd, W1

Free B4 11pm, £3/£4 after. See reviews. ☎ Tottenham Court Rd.

Wednesday

THE FRUIT MACHINE at Heaven

Charing Cross Arches, Villiers St, WC2

3 floors, 1 house & garage, 2 Powder room - disco, 3 R&B & hip hop - Jeffrey Hinton & friends. 10.30pm-3.30am, £6, £1 B4 11.30pm w/flyer. Arrive early to avoid queue. ☎ Charing X

TEASE at The Candy Bar

4 Carlisle St, W1

DJ Smokin' Jo plus smouldering dancers. 5pm - midnight, £3. ☎ Tottenham Court Rd.

Thursday

FUNK FACTORY at the Tube

Falconberg Court, W1

Underground garage and R&B. DJ's Chris Mckay, DRU, Sugar Bear, SLT on rotation. 11pm-4am, £4, £2 B4 midnight. Tottenham Court Rd.

AFRIKA JUMBO at the Artful Dodger

139 Southgate Rd, N1

Gay men of colour, 9pm-2pm, £2. Angel.

Calling all Sistas who like
it short!

Your hair that is!

**Do you dislike going to a
barber shop full of men just to
have a trim? Then Don't!!**

**The BLGC have a resident
barber for women only**

**For more information
contact the BLGC on
0171 620 3885**

POLARI

Polari is looking for new management Committee members.

Polari is a new organisation working with older lesbians and gay men for change. We are in our first year of funding and have a part-time Development worker, a small management Committee and a growing network of older members.

We are looking for new management Committee members to help us to take this exciting work forward. The Management Committed is open to lesbians and gay men of all ages but we especially welcome applications from men, people over 50 and people from black and ethnic minority communities.

We currently meet monthly on Wednesday evening in Brixton, South London.

If you would like to find out more, please write for an information pack to:

Polari
6 Electric Avenue
London
SW2 8JX

‘OUT EAST’

*Social & Support Group for Gay Men and
Men who Have Sex with Men*

Meets Every Wednesday 7pm – 9pm

At: East London Out Project

388 – 392 High Road Leyton

London E10 6QE

Telephone: 0181 558 0551

The Group: Weekly social and discussion group for Gay men and men who have sex with men, who may be experiencing isolation, loneliness or are coming out. As an East London based group we hope to represent the local community, therefore encourage members from Black Asian and minority ethnic communities to come along. The meeting area is fully accessible for disabled people.

**Are you Gay or Lesbian
AND
also from one of the many different
ethnic cultural groups in Britain
today?**

What problems do you have to face?

Has your family/community accepted your sexuality?

How hard had it been to 'come out' or not?

Have you felt isolated?

What are the difficulties with inter-racial relationships?

What other pressures are unique within your cultural group?

**TV producer would like to hear your story and experiences in
STRICTEST CONFIDENCE as part of the development for a
NETWORK documentary. This could be on the phone or meeting
for a coffee at the BLGC**

Please call Tina @: MBS productions: 0171 793 4179

**Call between 10 am and 4 pm weekdays or, if the voice mail is on,
leave a contact number (if you can) and we'll get back to you.**

Club Listings. . .

LIBERTE - Club Phoenix

259-261 Seven Sisters Rd

Womens only monthly club last Saturday of the month. DJ's Asha and Nikki Lucas, guest DJ's and MC. Mix of swing, soul, reggae and vocal garage. Popular monthly club. 10pm - 6am £5, £4 B4 12. ☉ Finsbury Pk.

QUEER NATION at Substation South

Brighton Terrace, SW9

Weekly US house and garage, mostly men but women always welcome. 10.30pm-6am, £6, mems £5 after 11.30pm, £4 B4 with QN flyer (available west end bars). Brixton.

MAMBO INN - Cema Cafe Gallery

129 Stoke Newington High St, N16

Monthly womens nite, 2nd Saturday of the month. DJ Guardian Angel.

DTPM at The End

West Central St, WC1

Two rooms, one house & garage with a top line up of DJ's including

Jeffrey Hinton. The other provides some of the funkiest and rare grooves. 90% men but women welcome, for those who enjoy funky underground house garage. Arrive early to avoid the queue. 9pm-4am, £7/£10 non-members.

☉ Tottenham Court Rd.

Sunday

CANDY BAR

4 Carlisle Street, W1

chocolate

every 3rd Sunday

live percussion
occasional PA's

soul, reggae, garage, classic f & disco

7 'til 11pm

DJs: Rewind & Guests
Tottenham Court Rd.

O

FRIDGE BAR

Town Hall Parade, Brixton H SW2

Tribal rhythms mixed with 90 grooves, happening deep penetrating vibes. A female

The Candy Bar

4 Carlisle Street, W1 (off Dean Street)

Women's Bar in the heart of Soho: Boyz can come as guests. Good place to meet for a drink with friends. Also has club nights. Those recommended are listed under club listings. Well worth a visit.

Mon - Thurs	5pm - 12am
Fri & Sat	5pm - 2am
Sun	5pm - 11pm

Tottenham Court Road

The Glass Bar (West Lodge)

190 Euston Road, NW1

Women only bar with named evenings. Try the singles night on Thursday or Jazz night on Friday

Door Charge normally a couple of quid on named nights

Her/She bar - Jacamo's

88-89 Cowcross Street EC13

Stylish womens bar, boyz as guests, open seven nights, norma pub hours. Mon - Thurs boyz as guests, weekends girlz only.

📍 Farringdon

Fridge Bar

Town Hall Parade, Brixton Hill, SW2

Want to go back to your roots, then Fridge Bar on a Sunday is the place to be. Tribal rhythms mixed with 90's grooves. Happening deep penetrating vibes, female DJ spins the tunes while guests from all over the world, mainly Africa, add beats & the drums. 9pm-1am, free B4 11pm, £5 after.

📍 Brixton

Off The Hook - The Velvet Room

157 Charing Cross Rd, WC1

Start the week on a high note on Mondays at The Velvet room. Uplifting vibe enjoyed by all who attend, no attitudes, no egos. DJ Chris Mckay, (also at Fruit Machine - Heaven), giving you R&B, house & garage, ragga, hip hop and soul accompanied by an MC.

Free B4 11pm, £3/£4 after.

📍 Tottenham Court Rd

PACE provides counselling, groupwork and mental health advocacy for lesbians and gay men.

The PACE Mental Health Advocacy Project is a free confidential and independent service for lesbians and gay men who are experiencing emotional distress. Our trained volunteers will support you in finding out what services are available to you, support you in saying what you want and can refer/accompany you to appropriate agencies or meetings.

We are based near Caledonian road in Islington. Our office hours are 10am – 5pm Monday – Friday.

The telephone numbers for each service are:

<i>Counselling</i>	<i>0171 697 0014</i>
<i>Advocacy</i>	<i>0171 697 0017</i>
<i>Groupwork</i>	<i>0171 697 0016</i>

We also offer workshops and groups for gay men and lesbians, please phone the above number to put your name on the mailing list.

We run a mental health support group for lesbians which meets at PACE every Wednesday afternoon from 2 – 4.30pm. Please telephone for further details.

ARE YOU GAY/LESBIAN/BI & WANT TO TALK ABOUT DRUGS?

LSD LINE 0171 439 0717

Weds 6 - 9pm

A confidential service provided by Project LSD

BLGC CHATBACK

Dear Tanti,

My partner of 6 months has ust told me that they are no longer gay telling me that it was just a phase, I am really upset. How can I come to terms with this?

Tanti says.....

It must be really upsetting for you, but when feelings and emotions come into play you are always gonna leave yourself open to hurt and upset. Cheer up. time heals. give yourself whatever time you need and check out our listings!!!

Dear Tanti,

I'm 21 and been out only for a year now. I am in my first relationship who is a woman I have known as my best friend for years. Pride is coming up. I don't want to lose our friendship or hurt her. How can I best end this in time for Pride?

Tanti says.....

As you are still young, and have accepted that you probably entered this relationshipsip for loneliness, she should understand this. After all she is your best friend. Pride is only a few days away..... Go and have some fun!! And if she does understand it will open up a conversation.

Give a few a hours....

The Black Lesbian and Gay Centre needs a volunteer to

- Desktop publish the quarterly newsletter

The Black Lesbian & Gay Centre is a space where people can gather, broaden their awareness, celebrate and give and receive support.

We urgently need a media interested person to assist with the DTP'ing of this newsletter. Can be done at home or at the office. If you're on the highway, even better!!

Expenses paid. Newsletter is published quarterly so not too many hours to give. Please get in touch.

For more information phone

0171 620 3885

Central location Training Given Expenses paid

Registered Charity No: 1003955