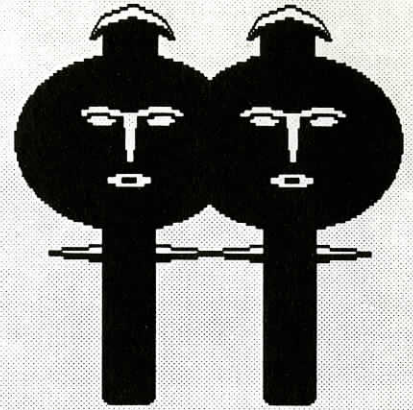


Black Lesbian & Gay Centre

Arch 196 Bellenden Road, London SE15 4RF

071.732.3885 (office)

Newsletter: October-November 1993



national news

Fascist elected in Tower Hamlets

The conservative-controlled Bexley council remains complacent towards the British National Party (BNP) headquarters in Welling. The demonstrations to close down the building needs a huge support. March on Saturday 16 October and show your anger.

On the other side of London, the election of an avowedly racist and homophobic BNP candidate in Tower Hamlets has shocked those both in London and nationwide. Derek Beacon was elected as a councillor for Milwall on the Isle of Dogs, part of the borough of Tower Hamlets. Several council staff walked out in protest after his election. Although Beacon's campaign did not focus any political attacks on lesbian and gay men, the BNP has a clear anti-gay position.

This shows that we must not become complacent. This election is indicative of the rise in fascist activity in England, and we need to quell it before it takes foot. We must not think that the BNP is not strong enough to threaten us. Fascist activity threatens many members of our communities daily but we will show them that we are not prepared to accept this.

Close down the British National Party's (BNP) headquarters. March on the Nazi Headquarters on Saturday 16 October. Assembly 1pm
Winns Common, Plumstead, London SE8.
Nearest BR: Plumstead.
Buses 96, 178, 180.

Sex crimes?

Black gay film director, Isaac Julien, (pictured far right) is among one of more than sixty writers, artistes and campaigners, who is supporting an art gallery's battle against eviction. The Angle Gallery in Birmingham is currently showing a photograph and sculpture exhibition that includes some sado-masochistic images. According to the landowners the reason for wanting to evict the gallery is that the rent has not been paid.

Sex crimes - repressions and censorship in the nineties was due to move to Edinburgh but the gallery in Scotland that was to exhibit *Sex crimes* has told the Angle gallery to show the pictures in Birmingham as long as it can. Letters of support can be sent to The Angle Gallery, The Arcadian, Ladywell Walk, Birmingham, B5 4ST.



Isaac Julien, director of *Young Soul Rebels*, *Looking for Langston* and the *Passion of Remembrance*.

national news

Lesbian and gay police

Marc Burke's book *Coming Out of the Blue*, about lesbians and gay men in the police force, was launched at the Yard bar in Soho. Approximately 70 officers from the Lesbian and Gay Police Association (LAGPA) attended the party.

Let's hope that the many racist and homophobic police take note.

Attack on Black gay man in Camden

Robert, a Black gay man, leaving the Black Cap in Camden with a group of friends, was approached by a police officer who ran up to him and began questioning him about "drugs". Robert's friends, understandably, tried to intervene but another police officer was called. Robert was then beaten by the police officers and dragged to a waiting police van, in which he was again beaten and suffered a series of racist and homophobic abuse.

He was taken to Kentish Town police station, was strip searched and placed in a cell. He was later released without charge and forced to walk home. As a result of his blows he had to attend hospital for treatment.

This, unfortunately, seems to be another indication of the racism and homophobia that exists within the police force and it is not surprising that Black lesbians and gay men are loathe to trust them.

ILGA becomes recognised by the UN

The International Lesbian and Gay Association (ILGA) has officially gained permanent representation at the United Nations, after a twenty year fight for the visibility of lesbians and gay men at the world table. ILGA was granted consultation status as a non-governmental organisation. Now ILGA is able to contribute to the United Nations' human rights policies and show evidence of anti-gay discrimination around the world. Cuba, which has a history of being anti-gay, was one of the surprise supporters of ILGA. A Cuban delegate said that it had "learned from its mistakes."

ILGA Conference

It has recently been announced that the International Lesbian and Gay Association's (ILGA) European Regional conference will take place in London from 27-31 December 1993 and will include lesbians and gay men from over 25 countries.

The conference hosted by London Lesbian and Gay Switchboard will take place at the London School of Economics. It was hoped that "despite Section 28 and Spanner, London is still one of the best places in Europe for lesbians and gay men to have fun."

Delegates are expected to discuss plans to pressurise the European community to advance lesbian and gay rights across the continent.

For more information write to Euro-conference, BM Switchboard, WC1N 3XX or fax 071 837 7300.

LGCARF's day of workshops

The Lesbian and Gay Campaign Against Racism and Fascism (LGCARF) held a day of workshops at Lambeth Town Hall on Sunday 12 September. Although not well attended the day was nevertheless interesting and informative and explored issues dividing the lesbian and gay community.

The idea for the workshops came after LGCARF's recent picket of the the London Apprentice pub, which LGCARF alleged held racist door policies. The group recognises that racism, sexism and fascism are present in the lesbian and gay community and feel that it is important to challenge these within our own community before we can fight them from outside.

Although there were different start times advertised in the gay press the proceedings, scheduled to start at noon, began at one o'clock and ended at approximately 5pm.

LGCARF can be contacted at PO Box 30, London SE15.

Bill T Jones in Edinburgh

The performance by the Black gay dancer and choreographer, Bill T Jones, at the Edinburgh Festival was, for many, the highlight of the shows. The dance itself contained many gay references, yet still managed to be accessible to all. His experiences of being Black and also those of living with HIV are apparent in his work, which he performs with honesty and humour, while his movements remain beautiful and fluid.

national news

New lesbian GUM clinic

Following on from the success of the Sandra Bernhard clinic at the Charing Cross Hospital, the Royal London Hospital plans to open a new lesbian sexually transmitted diseases clinic in September. Jayne Kavanagh said, "It makes it so much easier for lesbians to receive advice and treatment when they know they will not be asked any awkward questions." The clinic will be staffed by lesbians or women who are lesbian friendly. The Sandra Bernahrd clinic is open on Wednesday between 2-5pm by appointment only. Tel 081 846 1576/1577 for more details.



The Black gay dj, Frankie Knuckles, played a fierce set at Totem, the straight night at the Fridge on Friday, alongside the equi-brutal David Morales. Apparently the night was straight from hell (if you catch my drift) but the music was through the roof.

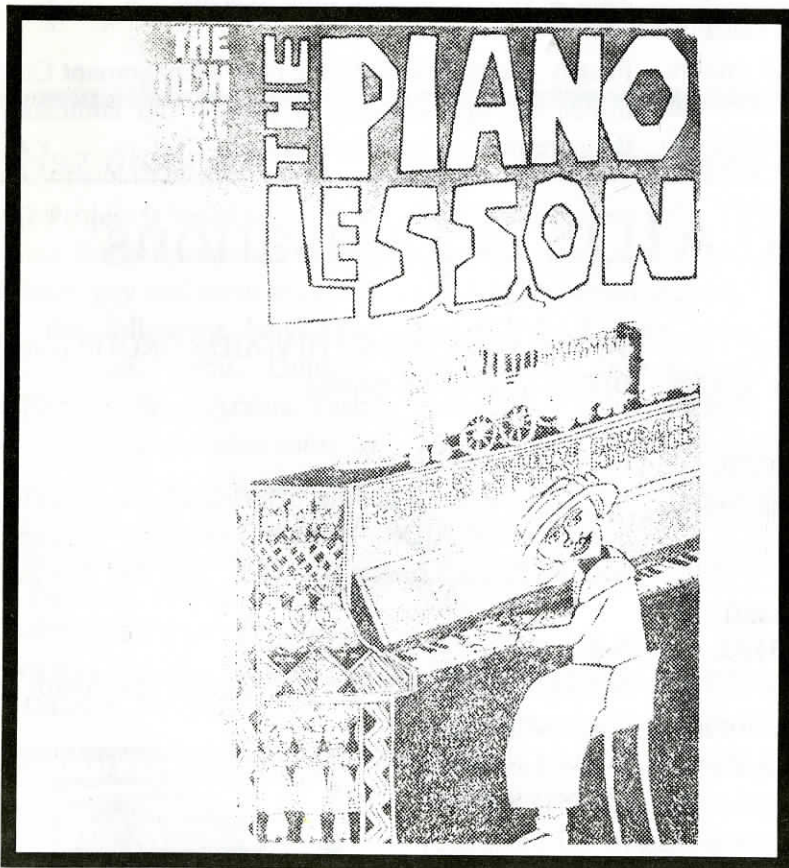
Lesbian and gay tv?

It was great that Channel Four had their fortnight of films and programmes on lesbian and gay men and related issues from Sunday 8 August. It was even better to be able to get a video recording of *Desert Hearts* and the wonderful *Torch Song Trilogy* (which, although I've seen it six times before, still brought a tear to my eye).

But where were the Black lesbians and gay men in the series?

New posters

Coventry and Warwickshire MESMEN have produced a new set of posters headed "Positive or negative, safe sex is the only way." Cards are to accompany the advertisements. One of the three posters features a Black male couple. The posters are £2 each or £1 for voluntary organisation/individuals from the Terrence Higgins Trust, 54-56 Gray's Inn Road, London, WC1 or Coventry MESMEN, 12 Park Road, Coventry, CV1 2LD.



The Piano Lesson by August Wilson
(see diary for more details)

centre update

The last two months have been extremely busy at the Centre, as fundraising has become the most important priority. The Centre's funding from the London Boroughs Grant Scheme will be cut in March 1994, which will create a large deficit in worker hours and running costs. Members of the new Management Committee, elected after the Extraordinary General Meeting in July, and workers have been exploring funding possibilities and filling in funding applications.

The Management Committee have also, with workers, been involved in developing new services at the Centre. There will be a series of women-only discussions and workshops on a variety of themes, starting in November. The discussions will coincide with the women-only drop-ins on the first Saturday of every month. Topics planned so far include 'Racism', facilitated by Anna Tan and Roz Thomas, and there will be a workshop, titled 'Wooring Women', run by Femi Otitoju. Please see diary section for details.

BLGC have also been organising, in conjunction with Greenwich Lesbian and Gay Centre, the first national lesbian and gay centres conference. This will enable lesbian and gay centres from all over Britain to meet and exchange ideas on a range of topics, from survival in the

90's to equal opportunities in service delivery. This will take place on the weekend of 9/10 October, 1993.

BLGC is also planning to celebrate its first year in existence with a party. It has been an exiting year: after years of existence as a project, we had finally found a space that could be used exclusively for Black lesbians and gay men. Although the back of the Arch still needs to be developed, drop-ins, cultural events and employment rights advice sessions provide a much needed service. The party will be on Saturday 11 December, 8pm to 2am. All Black lesbians and gay men are welcome.

Apart from organising these events, the workers have been responding to inquiries, sending out publicity, raising our profile and delivering training, as well as holding mixed and single-sex drop-ins. We still need Black lesbians and gay men to volunteer and get involved in the Centre. Please get in touch with Clarence Allen or Sakthi Suriyaprakasam on 071 732 3885 if you have some time to spare.

Finally, many thanks to the new Management Committee for the tremendous energy and enthusiasm they are putting into the Centre!

Black HIV and 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 WEST MIDLANDS (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 and AIDS news



South East London Black Women's HIV/AIDS Support Group (see illustration on left) is a project specifically for African and Caribbean woman living with HIV/AIDS.

The project aims to promote a safe, confidential and comfortable environment in which Black women can share their experiences and offer support to each other on a weekly basis. The project is committed to providing free services: creche, transport from selected areas and African and Caribbean dishes every Tuesday from 11am-2pm.

An experienced facilitator will be on hand for information and advice.

Black-only space at the Landmark

Black only drop-in for people affected by HIV/AIDS on Tuesdays from 5-9pm at the Landmark, 107 Tulse Hill, SW2. The Landmark's evening space welcomes Black men and women of African, African Caribbean and Asian descent for massage, counselling, psychotherapy, acupuncture, peer support, and general advice. African Caribbean refreshments are available. Transport can be arranged on request.

Call Colin Grant on 081 678 6686 for more details.

Positive African women

An African women's support group takes place at Positively Women in Islington, fortnightly on Fridays between 11am-1pm, followed by lunch.

For more details call 071 490 5525.

Naz dictionary

The Naz Project is looking for positive terms for heterosexual, bisexual, lesbian, gay and homosexual in any of the following languages: Punjabi, Hindi, Urdu, Gujarati, Tamil, Bengali, Farsi, Arabic, Turkish. It is hope that you also come up with term for sexual activities. e.g. anal/vagina sex, oral sex etc and also the slang terms for these.

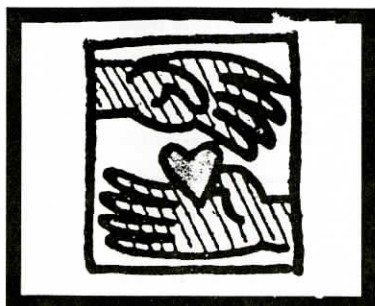
If you can help contact Kamallesh Sammader, Naz Project Dictionary, Palingswick House, 241 King's Street, London, W6 9LP.

Naz drop-ins

The Naz Project, the HIV/AIDS education, prevention and support service for south Asians, Turkish and Middle Eastern communities, has opened a drop-in centre and is set to launch a series of new support programmes. Call Shiv on 081 563 0191 of Kim on 081 563 0205 for more details or write to Naz Project, Palingswick House, 241 King Street, W6 9LP.

AKAIRAH continues

The AKAIRAH project (African, Karibbean, Asian Issues Related to AIDS and HIV), run by workers and volunteers for Blackliners meets at the Riverhouse in Hammersmith on Thursday afternoons between 12-5pm. For info call Alan, Helen or Jay during opening times on 081 741 4772/746 3751.



international news

Further bias attacks by Marky Mark

Marky Mark has been dropped from making a public service announcement condemning racist and anti-gay attacks after allegedly assaulting a gay record executive. They have also been request for him to be dropped as a model for Calvin Klein. The Gay and Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation (GLAAD) and the Committee Against Anti-Asian Violence (CAA AV) announced that they would drop Marky Mark.

In February of this year Marky Mark agreed to appear in a spot denouncing bias violence, after protests about his past. He was imprisoned for assaulting two Vietnamese men and he admits that in 1986 he took part in

an attack on a class of African-American elementary school children.

The latest incident began after Marky Mark began to make "disparaging remarks about homosexuals" and he then allegedly assaulted the gay record executive.

GLAAD(NY) and CAAAV issued a joint statement saying that it was hoped that Marky Mark "could discourage young people from engaging in bias-related violence. This latest incident made it clear that he has yet to change and would make a poor model for an anti-violence message."

Japanese lesbians and gays advise the media

A Japanese lesbian and gay group, OCCUR, has published *Reporting On Homosexuality*, a guide which has been sent to the media across Japan. The guide includes themes like the correct terminology when mentioning lesbians and gay men as well as the elimination of derogatory comments used by journalists when reporting on gay news items.

Asian lesbian conference

The Third Asian Lesbian Network Conference takes place in Taiwan in August 1994. For more details write to ALN Taiwan, PO Box 7-760 Taipei 106, Taiwan, Republic of China.

The Black Lesbian and Gay Centre needs you.

We are currently hoping to amend and develop our services in reply to the questionnaires that many of you sent back to us (thank you for taking the time). However we will be unable to do it without your help.

We have put together a volunteer package which will ensure that you receive a hasty reply (we have sometimes been lax in the past but we promise to make it up to you).

There are many things that you can volunteer for, from helping at the drop-ins, undertaking general administration, cataloguing the library, improving the filing systems, becoming trained to work on the helpline, assisting in the production of the newsletter, being on our list for cooking for future events, offering your skills and talents as a performer at one of our future events. I could go on but you know what you are able to do. Besides we are willing to train you if you feel that you need it, and continuous support will be offered. You will also receive travel expenses and a food allowance, and child care costs can be met.

If you would like to help at your centre fill in the form on page seven and send it to us at the centre and mark it for the attention of Sakthi Suriyaprakasam or Clarence Allen.

Alternatively you can call us at the office on 071 732 3885.

Hope to hear from you soon.

volunteer details

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).

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

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Thanks again for your interest in BLGC.

desperately seeking...

...lesbian volunteers to fill in HIV/AIDS questionnaires for a psychology student. No names will be used for this research.

All information is confidential.

Please send address (to whom): HIV/AIDS research, Box 32, 124 Vassall Road, London SW9 6JB.

...lesbians to be interviewed for a new book on abusive lesbian relationships, asking for women to come forward and speak.

The aim of the book is "to get the subject out in the open within the lesbian community, confront the silence and work towards providing support for the battered and abused dykes."

If you are willing to be interviewed, or want to write about your experiences, write, in confidence, to PO Box 3046, N1 0AJ, for more details.

...lesbians who'd be happy to be interviewed for a book on lesbian identity from the 1950s to the 1990s. Old,

young, scene, closets, queergirls, clubbers, designer dykes, lesbian feminists, romantic friends, sexual out-laws, politicians. What are you like? I want to talk to you. Call Rosa Ainley on 071 241 0535.

...film makers.

Four Corners film workshop is offering its third film production bursary scheme designed to help film-makers. The recipient gets £1 500 worth of equipment and facilities hire. One of last year's recipients made a film which went on to appear at the US lesbian and gay film festival. Applications/guidelines from Four Corners, 113 Roman Road, London E2 OHU.

...women who have experienced physical/mental violence within a lesbian relationship, by lesbian film-makers. "We appreciate that this is a sensitive subject and guarantee complete confidentiality."

Please contact Rita 081 429 4264 or Ain 071 635 8493.

COURSES

Women's Health Fair at West Ham Town Hall on Friday 29 October. From 1-6pm. The fair heralds the advent of a unique women's health centre in Stratford promoting self-help, skill sharing and a holistic approach to women's issues.

The afternoon includes free workshops so book in advance to avoid disappointment.

2-3pm Assertiveness: Get your point across. 3.45-4.25pm Improve your posture and well being: the Alexander technique. 4.30-5.30pm Relax with Yoga. To book a place or for more details write to City Challenge Office, Unit 2, Stratford Office Village, Broadway, E15 4EA

Co-counselling

A basic course for lesbians, gays and bisexuals. Introductory evening Friday 16 October 7-9pm, 27-28 November and 11-12 December 10am-6pm, follow-up day 9 January 1994 10am-6pm. In Islington. For details contact Michael on 081 549 6235 or Gabrielle on 081 981 6437.

Drug use and HIV prevention within the South Asian, Turkish, Irani and Arab communities

29 October 9.30am-5pm at Hammersmith School, The Curve, London W12. £15 including lunch and refreshments. For details and to book place contact the Naz Project, Palingswick Hse, 241 King St, London W6 9LP or 081 563 0191.

Health for you

Four-week course for Black disabled women and Black women who are experiencing/have experienced mental health disabilities. 4, 11, 18 and 25 November 11am-1pm, at Thomas Calton Centre, Alpha St, London SE15. Transport, creche, interpreters, signer. Free. For details and to book contact Julie Lomax, Southwark Inform, 177 Abbey St, London SE1 2AN; 071 252 3010.

Assertiveness training for Black women

1-3 December 9.15am-4.45pm at Camden Black Sisters, 2C Falkland Rd, London NW5 2PT. For women of African, Caribbean and Asian heritage. £60-£200 + VAT. For details contact Nkechi Wambu on 071 701 7157.

arts



an image from the exhibition Transition of Riches

Transition of Riches, an exhibition that celebrates the diversity and quality of South Asian and Indian art, explores and explodes the myths, traditions and expressions of resistance in the many cultures of the region. *Transition of Riches* highlights the role of some female artists, often portrayed as passive and retiring but are shown here as innovative, skilled, creative and resistant to both male and western oppressions.

The exhibition runs until 14 November at Birmingham Museum and Art Gallery, Chamberlain Square, Birmingham. (021 235 4514)

poetry

Victim of the system

Can't walk the streets in peace
Without the fear of attack by police
I'm a victim
A victim of the system

Can't walk out at night
Dem gang up themselves and they want to fight
I'm a victim
A victim of the system

Dem no like me face
Dem no like me hair
Dem no like my race
They rip up the clothes I wear

Search for drugs in the cell
I've landed in this downtrodden hell
I'm a victim
A victim of the system

When I'm in the court
Judge charges me with assault
I'm a victim
A victim of the system

Stop this police brutality
On race and sexuality

Robert

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.

for your diary



Julie Dash, director of *Daughters of the Dust*

Daughters of the Dust, a film by Black director Julie Dash, is set on the sea islands of the South Carolina coast, in a Gullah community at the turn of the century. The film hits on the moment when an extended family is about to move to the mainland risking the loss of their identity and their African communal values. The farewell picnic, a ritual "last supper", brings together the conflicting elements among the family's women, and the ensuing drama bears moving witness to the joys and the pains that are the heritage of African-American womanhood.

From November, Black lesbians will be getting together at the Centre every first Saturday at 3.30pm to talk about a range of matters, solemn and not-so-solemn, with guest facilitators each month. You are welcome to arrive beforehand for the drop-in from 2pm, where you will be able to drink tea, munch biscuits, look at the library or just chat. Come along and bring a friend or two! All Black lesbians welcome.

.NOW UNTIL OCTOBER 31

The Piano Lesson by August Wilson. The Tricycle Theatre, 269 Kilburn High Road, NW6. 7.45pm Tues-Sat, 4pm Sat matinee, 5pm Sun matinee.

The Charles family's prized possession is an ornately carved upright piano. It stands, gathering dust, in a corner of Berniece Charles' Pittsburgh home. Her brother, Boy Willie, demands that she sells the piano for cash to buy the land their family once worked as slaves. Berniece refuses to sell...

WED 13 OCT

5.30-7.30pm Black lesbian and gay drop-in, BLGC. Light refreshments.

THU 14 OCT

10am-5pm The Children Act and young homeless people: a Black perspective. Friends Meeting House, Euston Rd, London NW1. For further details and bookings ring Helen Kay on 071 833 2071 or write to Conference Organiser, CHAR, 5-15 Cromer St, London WC1H 8LS.

SAT 16 OCT

Noon March for justice: no to racism. Assemble Temple tube, rally Trafalgar Square. Organised by Anti-Racist Alliance.

1pm March to close down the British National Party headquarters. Assemble Winns Common, Plumstead, London SE18. Note National News.

SUN 17 OCT

Let's Rap outing for Black gay men. For more details ring 071 732 3885.

WED 20 OCT

5.30-7.30pm Black lesbian and gay drop-in, BLGC. Light refreshments.

SAT 23 OCT

Justice for Women presents a Women only Benefit in aid of the Free Sara Thornton and Emma Humphreys. A cabaret featuring Jean Binta Breeze, Sidi Boo Said, Seni, Patience Agbabi, Rochelle, Julie McNamara and a special cabaret performance from Southall Black Sisters. Kiranjit Ahluwalia will speak. Raffle, bar and food. Disco by Ritu. Conway Hall, Red Lion Square, WC1

Doors open 7.30pm, performances- 8pm. Disco to 12pm. Tickets £4 unwaged/£7 waged; £15 supporting ticket. Tickets available from Silver Moon Bookshop, Charing Cross Rd.

SUN 24 OCT

4-6pm Black gay men's drop-in, BLGC. Light refreshments.

TUE 26 - WED 27 OCT

National Conference for the Black Voluntary Sector, Birmingham. Early registration essential. For further details ring 021 235 2575 or write to Race Relations Unit, Birmingham City Council, 3 Congreve Passage, Birmingham B3 3DA.

TUE 26 OCT

4.30-6pm Black lesbian employment advice, BLGC. To book appointment ring 071 732 3885. Free and confidential.

WED 27 OCT

5.30-7.30pm Black lesbian and gay drop-in, BLGC. Light refreshments.

FRI 29 - SUN 31 OCT

National gathering for gay, lesbian and bisexual youth, Manchester. Workshops including one for black lesbians and gays, social events. Creche; venue not fully wheelchair-accessible. Book before 19 October by writing to National Gathering, PO Box 153, Manchester M60 1LP or ringing 061 274 3814.

TUE 2 NOV

4.30-6pm Black gay men's employment advice, BLGC. To book appointment ring 071 732 3885. Free and confidential.

WED 3 NOV

5.30-7.30pm Black lesbian and gay drop-in, BLGC. Light refreshments.

SAT 6 NOV

2pm Black lesbian drop-in, BLGC. Light refreshments. With:
3.30-5pm Racism
How does it affect us? How do we respond? Anna Tan and Roz Thomas will facilitate a discussion on this important issue. All Black lesbians welcome.

WED 10 NOV

5.30-7.30pm Black lesbian and gay drop-in, BLGC. Light refreshments.

WED 17 NOV

5.30-7.30pm Black lesbian and gay drop-in, BLGC. Light refreshments.

THU 18 NOV

7pm Lesbians and gay men's advisory forum, Lambeth Town Hall. For creche, signer or induction loop contact Equalities Unit on 071 926 2203/6 or at Room 203, Town Hall.

FRI 19 NOV

7pm Black people's advisory forum, Lambeth Town Hall. For creche, signer or induction loop contact Equalities Unit on 071 926 2203/6 or at Room 203, Town Hall.

SUN 21 NOV 2-6pm Let's Rap, BLGC. 'Miss Thing or Miss-Ogyny.'

WED 24 NOV

5.30-7.30pm Black lesbian and gay drop-in, BLGC. Light refreshments.

SAT 27-SUN 28 NOV

The second Gay Lifestyles exhibition takes place at Olympia, London, with everything from cars to bikes, antiques and gifts, leather and toys, fashion and shoes, travel and holidays, professional services, interior design and bars. For more information call 081 960 9600.

SUN 28 NOV

4-6pm Black gay men's drop-in, BLGC. Light refreshments.

TUE 30 NOV

4.30-6pm Black lesbian employment advice. To book appointment ring 071 732 3885. Free and confidential.

WED 1 DEC

5.30-7.30pm Black lesbian and gay drop-in, BLGC. Light refreshments.

SAT 4 DEC

2pm Black lesbian drop-in, BLGC. Light refreshments. With:

3.30-5pm Wooing women

How do I know if women I like are lesbians too? Where do all the black lesbians go to socialise? How do I tell a woman I like her? Where can I just find a mate to go to the pictures with?

The workshop will be facilitated by Femi Otitoju, who works in the field of equal opportunities and is looking forward to working with other Zamis on this less ideologically sound, but equally essential, topic.

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 protrud ing 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 fivés 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

Access codes

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

54-56 Phoenix Road London
NW1 1ES

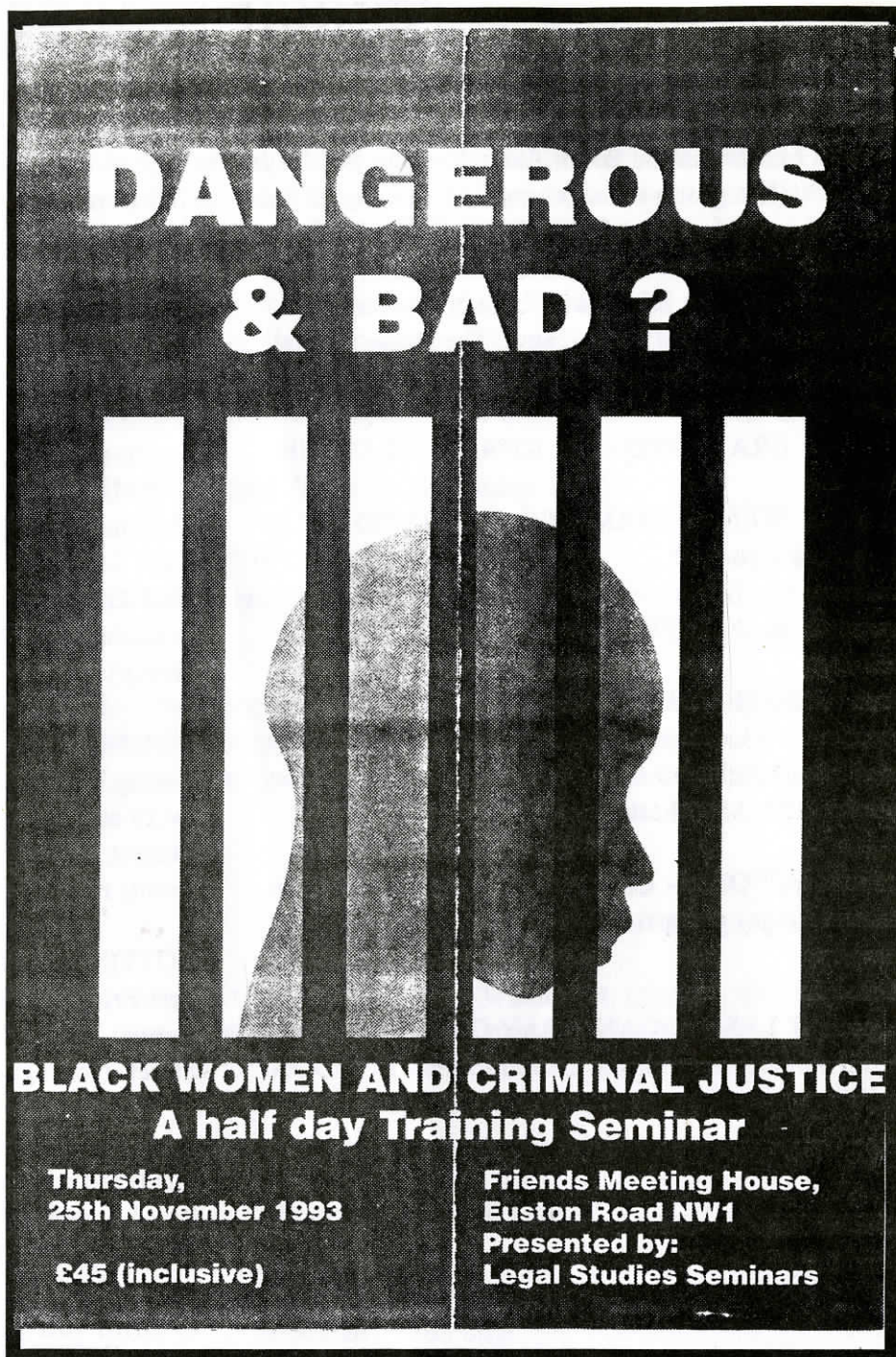
A single yellow line outside entrance B1, 3, 5 nos 14, 14a, 18, 30, 73 stop on Euston Rd, near Shaw Theatre. C1. D main door 32.75", 3, 5, fire exit door 31.5", other doors 31.3". E ground floor building, 1. F none. G two toilets - door to 1st 30.5", 3 dimensions 5.75'x4.5', turning distance 3', door to 2nd 29.5" 3 dimensions 3x5.5', turning distance 2' H2 front door to 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 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.

BLGC

Arch 196 Bellenden Road, London
SE15 4RF

Access codes

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. F none. 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



**DANGEROUS
& BAD ?**

**BLACK WOMEN AND CRIMINAL JUSTICE
A half day Training Seminar**

**Thursday,
25th November 1993**

£45 (inclusive)

**Friends Meeting House,
Euston Road NW1
Presented by:
Legal Studies Seminars**

Black women in the criminal justice system have in recent years become more visible.

Over 25% of the female prison population is Black.

In some women's prisons, such as Holloway, 50% of the inmates are Black.

Black women are the highest proportion of any group in British prisons.

Why? This seminar hopes to examine the reasons.

For further information contact

Paulette Haughton

on 071 277 8395

PO Box 78, London, SW2 9QD.

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 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 Shakti).

CYPRLOT 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 New Walk, Leicester LE1 6TE.

BIRMINGHAM BLACK LESBIAN AND GAY GROUP (KOLA) - Meets 1st and 3rd Thursday of the month. Tel: 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.)

MOSAIC - a group of Mixed Race Lesbians and Gay Men holds discussions every month and runs socials. For further information contact 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 workshops 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.

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.

job vacancies

National Children's Bureau Child Protection Staff Development Project is looking for:

a **Senior Development Worker**. (£21 195 - £24 117. Ref: 93/13.)

Setting up running the Child Protection Staff Development Project, the post holder will be identifying ways in which social workers new to child protection work can develop their skills and competence in child protection work so that local authorities can develop staff in a systematic and safe environment.

Management experience is essential in child care including management of practice in child protection work is essential as is experience of local authority field social service, a social work qualification and the ability to research, negotiate and devise project proposals. As important is a personal commitment to equal opportunities and children's rights, an understanding of training and staff development strategies and a high level of written and verbal communication skills.

Closing date 21 October Assessment and interview dates 9 and 11 November 1993.

a **Part-time Administrator** (£6 235 - £7 101. Ref: 93/140)

Responsible for developing the project's systems and procedures and providing effective secretarial and administrative support to the Senior Development Worker.

Candidates should have at least two years office experience involving developing and maintaining manual and computerised databases, together with audio and copy wordprocessing skills. Sound interpersonal and communication skills, experience of servicing meetings, a personal commitment to equal opportunities and a sensitivity to child protection are also essential.

Closing date 21 October
assessment and interview 17 November 1993

For further details write to Personnel Manager, National Children's Bureau, 8 Wakley St. London, EC1V 7QE or call 24 hour recruitment line on 071 837 6281 quoting job title and reference number (no CVs).

Black people are particularly welcome to apply. They are underrepresented at senior level at the Bureau.

regular groups (continued)

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: 061 834 7256 or 061 236 6205 Mon-Thurs 6-9pm.

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

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 - 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.

LEEDS BLACK GAY MEN'S GROUP - for African, Asian, Caribbean and other black gay men, meets fortnightly on Thursdays 7.30pm onwards. For further information contact David/Michael on 0532 444209.

the last laugh...

a cartoon we thought interesting, funny and true

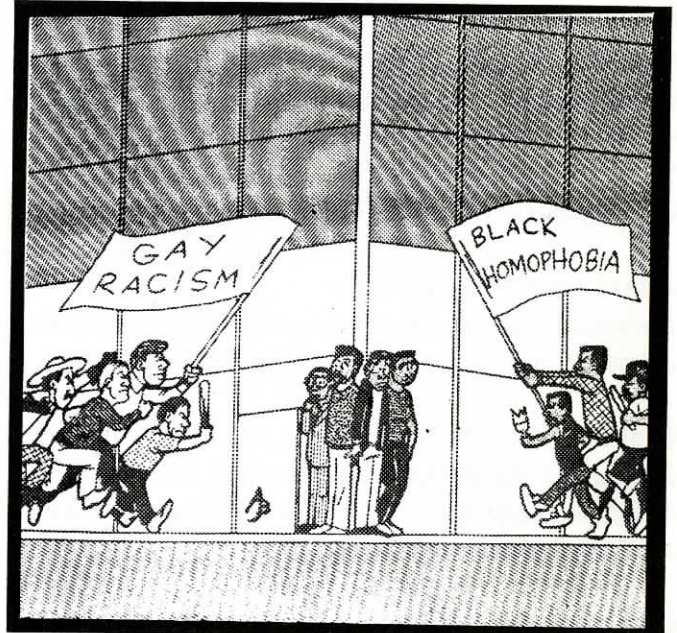
TO MY NEIGHBOUR

Stark the letters on the wall
And fists that itch for black and red
And the swelling river sharply writhes
And still you turn away your head.

Where children's hearts are branded
And the air is torn by cries
You complain you are disturbed
And settle back, and close your eyes.

Sleep now, sleep your fill
For soon you'll sleep no more,
For the river's burst its banks
And the flood is at your door.

Savitri Hensman
from *Flood at the Door*, Centerprise, 1979



from BLK magazine

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 Oceans.

Arts and entertainment stop press

Look out for *The Wedding Banquet*, a film about a gay Taiwanese-American and a marriage with a difference!

Keep an eye out for Pamela Sneed's *Imagine Being More Afraid of Freedom Than of Slavery*. Sneed is an African American performance artist whose poetry uses gospel and blues to illustrate her personal story of a Black woman's journey through recovery. Her piece was a huge success when performed in Manchester of this year and it is hoped that she will play more dates around the country.