

FED-UP

With doing the
same things?



LOOKING FOR SOMETHING NEW

BORED
going to the
same places?



NOTTINGHAM LESBIAN COMMUNITY CENTRE opens november 1986

What will it be like ?

A large, light room - with a coffee bar, easy chairs and magazines, a library of lesbian books, a television & video. Information on gay clubs & pubs - where to go in the Midlands & other parts of Britain. A noticeboard for sports and other events. Weekly welfare rights and legal advice sessions.

Another room will have a bar and a weekly disco. Open every day and evening. A place to meet and talk, meet friends and make new ones.

Plus rooms for offices and meetings: - Lesbian Line, Lesbian Mother's group etc.

How will it be run ?

It's our centre - for Nottingham Lesbians - everyone who wants to can get involved. At the moment there's a group of us who have started to meet every fortnight. Come and join us - bring your ideas and help make the centre what you want it to be.

Lesbian Community Centre meetings :-
THURSDAY AUGUST 21st
(and then fortnightly)
7.30 p.m. International Community Centre
61b Mansfield Road, (beside Auto Mart)

come and help get it underway

DIVERSION

NOTTINGHAM LESBIAN MAGAZINE



THIS IS A BIT QUEER
I THOUGHT I'D
ORDERED 'WOMANS OWN'

ISSUE TWO
SUMMER
1986

20p

EDITORIAL

Well girls, welcome to the Second Edition of Diversion. We've had an overwhelming response to the first issue, (we are still sorting through the mailbag for the letter). ALTHOUGH Diversion is getting bigger and better all the time, we would be very grateful for contributions etc, or perhaps you would like to join the wonderful team.

Contact us through:- Box 11
118, Mansfield Road.
Nottingham.
OR PHONE Lesbian Line
Mon. & Weds.
7.30 - 9.00
410652.
OR:- Jo Fraser.
Equal Opportunities
The Guildhall
Nottingham
418571 Extn. 4520

OR COME ALONG TO OUR MEETINGS:-

EVERY FORTNIGHT 6.30 -7.30 on THURSDAYS
at the International Community Centre.
Mansfield Road Nottingham.

FIRST MEETING AUGUST 21st



NEWS FROM LOUGHBOROUGH

Have you ever fancied escaping the grand metropolis of Nottingham to discover what lesbians living out in the sticks actually getup to ? Then consider Loughborough...

Every Thursday night, local women tread the well-trod track to the back room of the Windmill pub on Sparrow Hill, (find the Parish Church and you'll eventually find the Windmill). Our local women's bar has a cosy, friendly atmosphere - yes, you could walk in alone and not be ignored. Music is D.I.Y. - bring your own tapes. Access is difficult for wheelchairs as there are one or two steps through the outside door and another step down into the snug. The loos are outside, so forget wearing your dungarees.

CLASSIFIED ADS

If you would like to put an ad in send 30p per advert plus a large stamped addressed envelope to:-

Diversion,
Box 11,
118, Mansfield Road,
Nottingham.

Our copy deadline for the next issue is August 15th. For confidentiality each advert will have a number for replies so you don't have to put an address or phone number. We will then return any replies to you in your stamped addressed envelope.

For replies write C/o Diversions quoting the relevant number.

Typical ad:- Dashing young woman seeks similar. ⑩.

Typical reply: ⑩ c/o Diversion,
Box 11, etc.



CARTOONS: from "How to cope with the law if you're not 100% conventionally heterosexual" by Steve Cohen, Stephanie Green, Merry Finch, Gay Jones, Janet Slade & Maggie Walker. Pub. 1978 Grass Roots Books available from Mushroom Bookshop Heathcote Street Nottingham
Commonlives - Lesbian Lives No 17 An American lesbian Quarterly available from Gays the Word Bookshop Marchmont St. London and Sister-write Upper St. Islington London

"Wonder Wimbin" by Cath Jackson available from Mushroom Bookshop



"Look, I know we're both legally 'passive', but this is ridiculous."

JOBS CODA WORK

CODA is a voluntary sector project offering computer resources and training to community groups and the unemployed in the Nottingham area.

A new in-depth training initiative aimed at the disadvantaged and unemployed (funded by the ESF, Nottingham City Council & MSC) is due to start on 1st October 1986. Applications are invited for the following posts all of which are tenable for 2 years:

PROJECT CO-ORDINATOR £10900.

SPECIALIST TUTOR (£9600).

OUTREACH WORKER (£10300).

(working especially in ethnic communities).

DEVELOPMENT OFFICER (£9600).

ADMIN. OFFICER (£7000).

(experience & qualifications not as vital as enthusiasm)
For further information write immediately to:

CODA

45A MANSFIELD ROAD, NOTTINGHAM NG1 3FH (TEL.0602 470906)

Closing dates mid August.

CODA is an Equal Opportunities employer

EVENTS

REGULAR THURSDAY NIGHT MEETINGS

At the International Community Centre. 61b Mansfield Rd. Nott (beside Auto Mart).

LESBIAN GROUP

July 31st. 7.30pm
August 28th. 7.30pm.
September 11th. 7.30pm.
September 25th. 7.30pm.

LESBIAN CENTRE GROUP.

August 21st 7.30pm.
September 18th. 7.30pm.

DIVERSIONS

August 21st 6.30 - 7.30pm
September 18th. 6.30-7.30pm.

Nottingham City Council
Lesbian Sub-Committee.
The Council Houses.
Market Square. .

Lesbians wishing to attend as observers please meet at the lions outside council houses at 7.20pm.
September 4th. 7.30pm.

*****please note
the lesbian group is on
holiday the 7th and 14th
August.

OTHER EVENTS/MEETINGS

LESBIAN AND DRINK GROUP

For Details:-

Tel Lesbian Line 410652.

Mon+Weds.7.30-9.00pm.

NATIONAL LESBIAN BLOOD
DONOR WEEK - AUGUST 4-9th.

Thursday July 31st. 7.30pm.
Meeting to plan local action -
letter writing / going to
local Blood Transfusion Centre
etc. Everyone welcome.
At the I.C.C. 61b Mansfield Rd.

NATIONAL LESBIAN MOTHERS CUSTODY CONFERENCE.

is happening on August 29th-31st
in Leeds.

DISCUSSIONS ON:-

- 1) Custody/Access (living with the problems).
 - 2) Legalities + legal advice about custody & access.
 - 3) Custody Campaign.
 - 4) Lesbians living with men/married.
 - 5) Adoption/fostering.
 - 6) Black/women of colour lesbian mothers groups.
- PLUS lots more.

Creche, babysitting, food and accommodation included.
Children free. Costs for the weekend:-

Unwaged/SS/Lowaged etc	£5.00
Medium waged	£10.00
High waged	£15.00

FOR MORE DETAILS AND REGISTRATION write to:-NCC PLANNING GROUP.
c/o PO Box HP4, Hyde Park.
Leeds. LS6 2EP.

VENUES

FORESTER'S ST. ANN ST (Behind Vic Centre)
Back bar Disco to 10.30 Thu Pool Team
ASTORIA GREYFRIAR'S GATE (Broadmarsh)
Disco 1st Mon in month

THE MANOR ALBERT RD WEST BRIDGFORD
Sat Disco 8 -12 Doors close 10 pm
ZHIVAGO'S OUTSIDE VIC> CENTRE
DISCO 2nd WED in month
ICC - International Community Centre
61b Mansfield Road (Beside AutoMart)
MIDLAND GROUP 24/32 CARLTON ST HOCKLEY
CASABLANCA CLUB GREYHOUND ST/KING ST
Mon-Sat 9.30-2am Sun 9.30-11.30 pm

LESBIAN HOUSING CO-OP

WHAT IS A CO-OP?

A co-op is a structure which enables the people who live in the co-op, i.e. the tenants, to have control over their housing. The tenants are also their own management group and therefore have responsibility for setting rents, maintenance, repairs, decoration, selection of new tenants, development etc. Various jobs, like accounting and administration are shared by the co-op members. All decisions are made exclusively by the members.

ADVANTAGES

Some co-ops stipulate that new members have to put some money into it when they join, i.e. buy a share, so an element of co-ownership is involved. Our type of co-op does not require anyone to put money into it at all. However this also means that when you leave the co-op you are not entitled to any share in the increased value of the property in which you live either.

Everybody pays their rent to the co-op and this is used to cover mortgage repayments, insurance, decorating, maintenance, rates and basic items of furniture.

STRUCTURE

The Structure of the co-op enables women, regardless of income, to participate equally in the process of decision making. It gives you security and control over your own housing and is non-profit making. It is an alternative to both private rented accommodation and home ownership, which many women can't afford.



'We're collecting for the gay sisters.....'



How about coming back to my place for a statistically abnormal evening?

WHY A LESBIAN HOUSING CO-OP?

As lesbians we encounter much hostility, aggresssion and harrassment in our daily lives. It therefore seems particularly important that our living situation can be as secure and supportive as possible. Being with other lesbians can contribute towards providing a source of strength and community, which would not be found in many other housing organisations.

OUR PRESENT ORGANISATION

The co-op currently owns two large houses with 4 - 5 women living in each and has been in existance now for about 6 years. Over the next 2 years we will be buying some small houses in the city area and will also have a large house converted into flats which will have some shared facilities. Sometimes a space becomes available in the large shared houses and we have a short waiting list for the new properties.

If you are interested in finding out more about us, please contact us via Diversion, Box 11, 118 Mansfield Road or by 'phoning Jo Fraser on 418571 during office hours.

SPORTS

WOODTHORPE WOMEN'S CRICKET CLUB

JULY

Sat	5th	Timperley	Away
Sun	6th	Birmingham	Away
Sat	12th	Edgbaston	Away
Sun	13th	Wakefield	Home

AUGUST

Sat	9th	Leicester	Home
Sun	10th	Winthorpe	Away
Sun	17th	Notts Women	Away

at Highfields, Nottingham

For more information about the Woodthorpe Women's Cricket Club
Contact Janet Rogers ; 235342

EAST MIDLANDS WOMEN'S CRICKET ASSOCIATION - AREA FIXTURES

Senior

Sun	20th	July V Yorkshire (H)	Loughborough 11.30
Sat	26th	July V Sussex (H)	Loughborough 11.30
Sun	31st	August V Kent (A)	Woolwich 11.30

Home ground - Charnwood Borough Council Ground, Nanpantan Road Loughborough

For more details about E.M. W.C.A. contact Allison Simmons 701380

Book Review

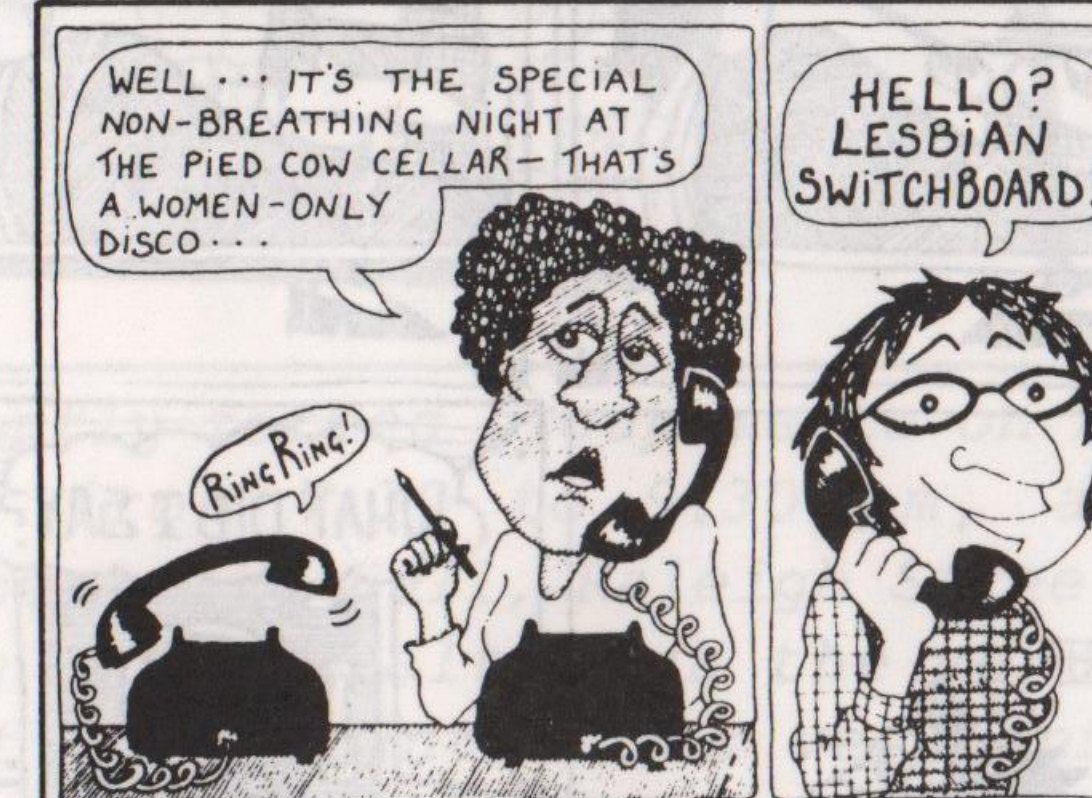
JOANNA RUSS THE ADVENTURES OF ALYX



The Women's Press
science fiction

The Adventures of Alyx
Joanna Russ, The Women's Press
£1.95

This collection of longish short stories set in the far past/distant future should appeal to anyone who enjoys science fiction & fantasy. The heroine is a woman called Alyx and her adventures are many and varied, from the time when she runs away from her brutal husband to join the pirates, to her almost unwilling alliance with the strange high-tech wizard, and perhaps above all the intense and ambiguous relationship that develops between Alyx and the young woman who pays to be kidnapped in order to avoid an arranged marriage. Nothing too startling or thought provoking in this book, but it makes a nice, light bedtime read.



FOR INFORMATION, HELP, ADVICE
OR SUPPORT - PHONE NOTTINGHAM
LESBIAN LINE
OPEN EVERY MONDAY & WEDNESDAY
7.30 pm. to 9.00 pm.
410652



BLOODY Lesbians

National Blood Transfusion Service
Regional Transfusion Centre
Longley Lane Sheffield S5 7JN Telephone 0742 424242

Consultant Medical Staff
Dr W Wagsstaff
Dr R J Sokol
Dr V James
Dr K M Forman



Our Ref: VJ/DMV
Your Ref:

6th June 1986
Dear

Thank you for your interest in the Blood Transfusion Service. I understand that when you attended a session on May 13th you told the donor panel clerks that you are a lesbian and that you help out by advising on a "lesbian line".

Although it is accepted that lesbians are probably people least at risk of developing anti HTLV III nevertheless the policy of the National Blood Transfusion Service is not to accept their blood for clinical transfusion purposes. You will appreciate that we have to work to very clear-cut black and white rules. We cannot afford the luxury of considering all our donors on an individual basis.

I therefore feel that you should not donate blood and you should give this advice to your friends who are blood donors.

Yours sincerely,

V. James

Dr. V. James,
Consultant Haematologist.

WHAT DO THEY WANT ? BLOOD ?

This letter was received by a lesbian from Nottingham who has been a regular blood donor for sometime. However after a lapse of a couple of years she recently went to re-register. In response to questions about her sexual partners she stated that she had a monogamous relationship with one woman. She was sent away pending the doctor's decision and later received the letter opposite. We feel that this response from the National Blood Transfusion Service is not only an insulting piece of discrimination against lesbians but also an incredibly stupid policy, since lesbians must be, as they themselves state, probably people least at risk of developing anti HTLV III. This is just another hysterical response to AIDS and its links with the Gay Community. We want to mount a campaign around this issue and ask lesbians in other parts of the country to take it up. There are a number of actions we would like women to take in their own areas :

- * CHECK IF YOUR LOCAL UNITS ARE ENFORCING THIS POLICY
- * GET THEIR DECISION IN WRITING & LET US KNOW THE RESULTS

All these actions will be leading up to :

NATIONAL LESBIAN BLOOD DONOR WEEK

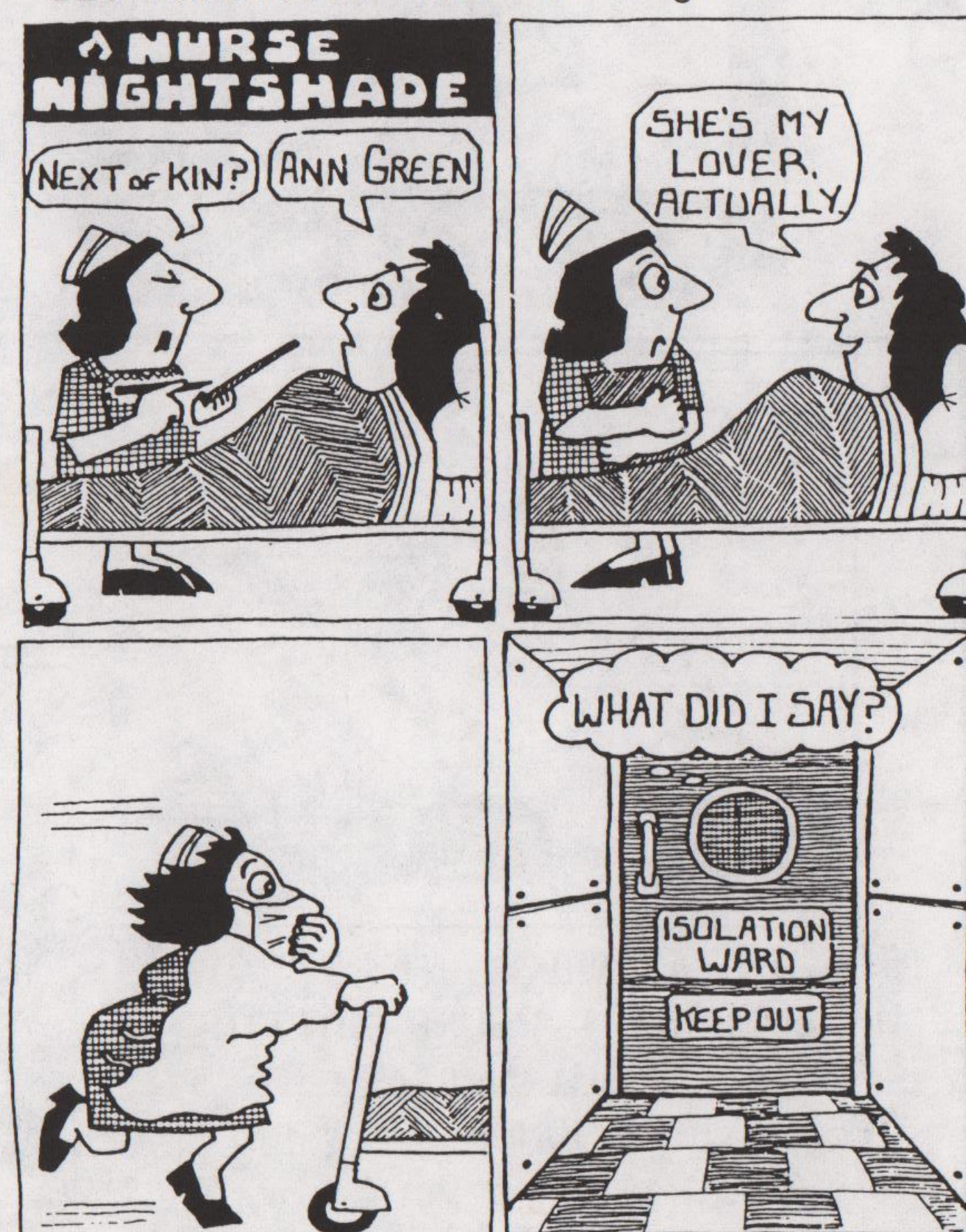
AUGUST 4th - 9th

These dates fall within the Summer Holiday period when the service traditionally launches a massive advertising campaign due to shortage of donors, (increased holiday motoring accidents and regular donors away on holiday etc.). During this week we would like as many lesbians as possible to try and give blood at their local units. If possible local groups could co-ordinate dates and times so that we can all support each other by going in as large a group as possible. Try and get the events covered by local media. Try and get a statement from your local authority. We will be organising National coverage by both the Gay and straight media and will be issuing press statements etc. in the week before August 4th.

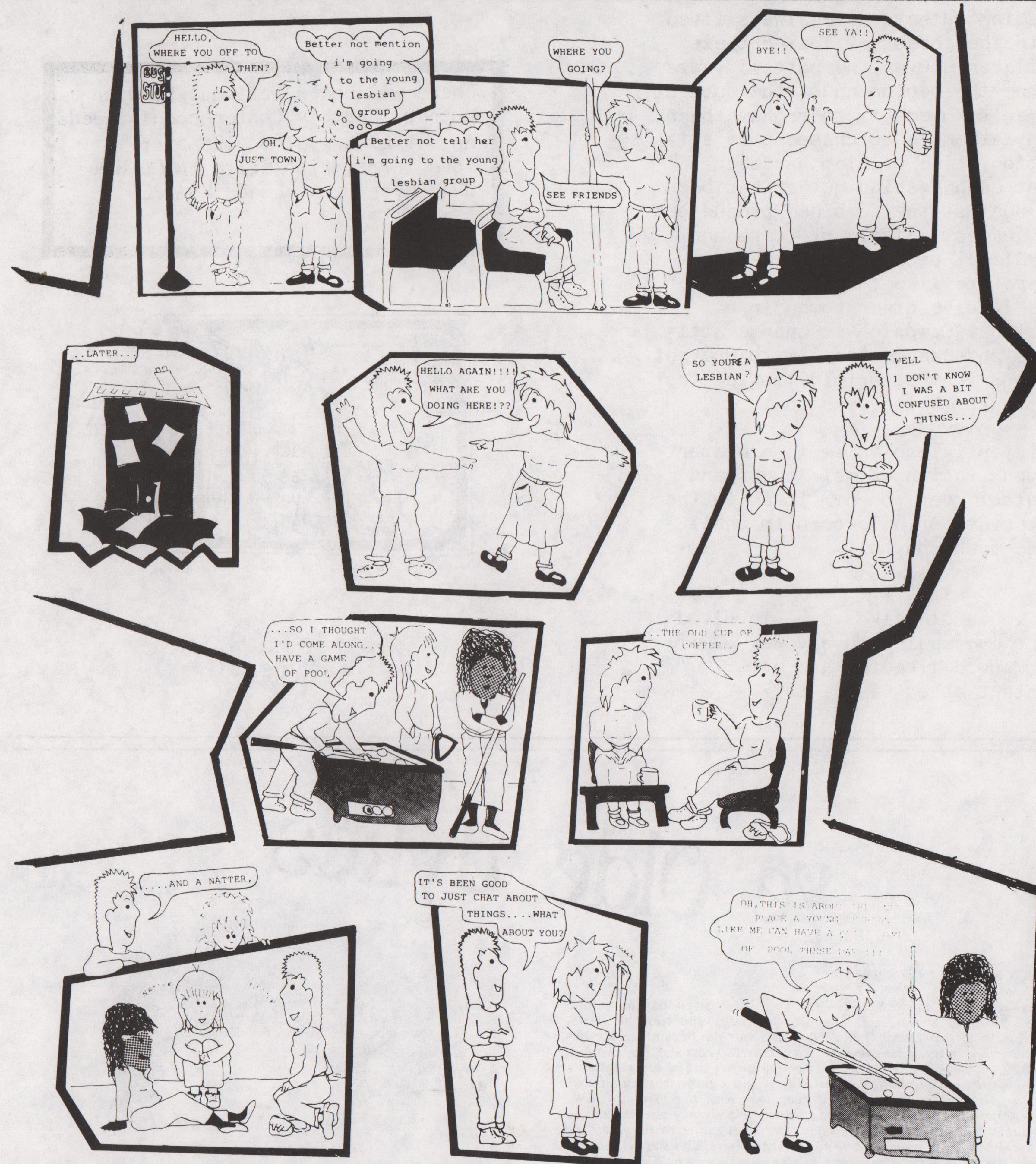
PLEASE SUPPORT THIS ACTION

WHEN YOU GO TO GIVE BLOOD PLEASE DON'T TRY TO STOP OTHER DONORS WHO ARE NOT INVOLVED IN THE PROTEST

Contact : Nottingham Lesbian Line
c/o DIVERSION
BOX 11
118 Mansfield Road Nottingham



YOUNG LESBIAN GROUP



This recently formed group meets on Monday evenings from 7.30 to 9.30 pm, at All Saints Community Hall, Raleigh Street, off Waverley Street, although the venue may change at some point. It's very informal with a pool table, coffee, somebody's cassette etc. and gives young lesbians a chance to get together socially, or if you feel a bit confused you can come along and know that you'll be able to talk to someone who understands you.

As it's such early days it's difficult to say what the group's aims are, but basically its run by and for young lesbians, but it's also open to any young women who aren't quite sure about their sexuality. The next meeting will be on Mon. August 4th. For details of further dates contact Jo Fraser on 418571 or Lesbian Line Mondays & Wednesdays 7.30 - 9.00 on 410562.

LESBIAN MOTHERS

Lesbian mothers have always lived with the threat of losing their children. Over the past 15 years since the beginning of the current women's movement, there have been many attempts to change this situation. The problem has been that each lesbian mother has been up against the combined prejudices of judges, welfare officers and the legal profession. We would therefore like to join together and involve other women in a National Campaign to change attitudes and change the law to prevent courts from discriminating against women for being lesbians.

This anti-lesbianism is a blatant demonstration of male power and control over women. It is in the interests of all women to challenge such control.

If you would like to be involved in the campaign in any way or if you would like to know more; contact us on 01-251-6577

There will be a National Lesbian Mothers Custody Conference in Leeds August 29th - 31st. 1986 for more information write to PO Box HP4, Hyde Park, Leeds LS6 2ED



ye Olde dykes

NANCY SPAIN 1917 - 1964

Nancy was born in Newcastle-upon-Tyne and attended the public school, Roedean. She became a sports journalist and took bit parts, involving local dialects, in radio dramas. Later she became an accomplished film and book reviewer for *The Daily Express* and *The Evening Standard*. She wrote 2 best selling detective stories and several children's books, featuring a charming vegetarian tiger and a globe-trotting aunt of fiercely independent turn of mind. Together with her lover, Joan W. Laurie ('Jonnie') she started the magazine, *SHE*. Nancy also worked as a frequent participant in the myriad TV panel games of the late 50's and early 60's. In a series of very funny autobiographies she detailed all these activities as well as her truck driving experiences in WWII, making wry comments all the way.

Publicising her own lesbianism with written statements such as "... it is impossible for me to take a step without consulting Jonnie, it is inevitable that she will shape my behaviour, read everything I write ... and I cannot write lightly of her, for she saved my life. She brought me back from the angry little garret where I sat, writing angry little books, lonely and bitter..." was one part of the campaign Nancy waged throughout her life to render lesbianism publically acceptable and desirable.

When Nancy emerged into the limelight of TV game shows, she became at once, a household name and a creature of dubious reputation. She tells of sitting in a restaurant listening to one literary figure describe her to another as, "always trying to get into nightclubs in those trousers and getting thrown out". In another incident she overheard a woman in a shoe shop turning to her daughter (who perhaps was holding out for the wrong kind of shoes) with the words, "Now you don't want to grow up to be a Nancy Spain, do you?"



Word Search

L A A O E I S T O O F P E R I O D
O E I W O U W T V L N L O B O N S
V E S T E P I Y E A A A I P E E P
E F P B D T M K R T G S E S P A I
R I B P I D M O Y E E T C X I Y N
L P O A R A I O T X V I A N W Z T
L A T E P I N N U N B C L B A L O
E Y T N N E C A O O L M O O D R F
L L O A C A L E R E E A A C G R B
P R M K P Y W E V C B C T E K O I
U E F I A O A U T A A C U S N O T
O T N S T S U G I R L S H E E T T
C S K S C N K N U D F S T E N B E
G I R O X H E O T H I P S H O B R
P S X V E G E T A R I A N C **END**

first 3 completed get a prize

BRA	PEEP	NOOKY	WIMMIN
HIP	DUNK	PERIOD	TONGUE
END	BEST	LABEL	COUPLE
TWO	LACE	BOTTOM	LESBIAN
RIB	NECK	SHEET	BISEXUAL
OUT	KISS	POPPY	AEROBICS
LIP	PAIN	OVERY	PLASTIC MAC
PMT	RACE	LATEX	CHEESE COB
HUG	MOOD	GIRLS	PINT OF BITTER
WET	SNOT	LOVER	SISTERLY
NUN	RICE	PETAL	FOOTSIE
ROOT	VEST	PRIDE	SOYA
BEAN	TENT	SNOB	GIRO
SNIP	VEGETARIAN		

CROSSWORD SOLUTION:

ACROSS 1 Abound 5 Polarise 9 Students 10 Buffer 11 Reel of thread 13 Aria 14 Tame Lady 17 Masseuse 18 Task 20 a Load of Tripe 23 Scorer 24 Impudent 25 Intrudes 26 Trying DOWN 2 Bats 3 Underpass 4 Dented 5 Pass on the Stairs 6 Lobotomy 7 Refer 8 Stewardess 12 I Really Can 15 Latterday 16 Humoured 19 Limpet 21 Airer 22 Anon



Oink is a fairly newish comic which has appeared in your local friendly newsagents recently. It was launched with various free gifts - which prompted me to buy - I'm a sucker for silly floppy discs and badge-making kits. This comic is very piggy which isn't obvious from the title, and very silly, which appeals to my sense of humour, however, at 30p a bash it don't appeal to my purse, and could make rather a large dent in a kids piggy bank. So I generally search for it in poeple's loos, its usually under the Beansos. If you still read and buy Beansos it may be too late to change - But I think Oink has definately got the edge on wit and subtle digs. But as oink is printed on glossy paper, I don't think its toilet reading, (whereas the beano makes excellent emergency bog roll.) Oink comes out fortnightly - try it you may have a surprise.



Lesbians and Drinking

Problems Group

Lesbians, like all women, are subjected to many pressures and contradictory demands. Many lesbians feel guilty for having "failed" to conform to the role expectations placed upon them by families and society. Many have to live a double life to avoid the hassles that being openly lesbian brings. When relationships break up, few people outside the lesbian world offer sympathy and support. There are few places where lesbians can meet apart from pubs and clubs and these can be unfriendly and intimidating for women going in alone.

It is not surprising that many lesbians, myself included, develop drinking problems. Once you recognise that you have a problem getting help is difficult. Groups such as AA are mixed and members may be hostile to lesbians, friends who are social drinkers may offer sympathy but may be at a loss for what to do to help.

For this reason I felt that a support group for lesbians with drink problems would be useful. So, if, like me, you have problems with alcohol and want to sort out your life, and are interested in starting a group.

Please ring Lesbian Line, Mondays & Wednesdays, 7.30 - 9.00pm. on Nott'm 410652.

TOGETHER WE CAN KICK THE BOOZE

Lynn

Disco Collective

The Lesbian Disco Collective has recently been reformed and we would like more women to become involved. New members are welcome - if interested, please contact Sal on 504087(eves), Tina on 475262(days) or Del on 505001.

At the moment we are meeting weekly on an informal basis. We are ready to be approached by groups to do discos with current charges of;

- | | |
|----------------------|-----------------------|
| 1) Non-funded groups | £15+10% of takings |
| Benefits. | + costs. |
| | (open to negotiation) |
| 2) Funded groups | £25 + 10% of |
| Benefits. | takings + costs. |
| | (open to negotiation) |
| 3) Other Functions. | £40 +10% of |
| | takings + costs. |
| | or £60 + costs. |

All proceeds will go to the new Lesbian Community Centre opening in November on Chaucer Street.

Lesbian Poets Alert!

I am putting together an anthology of lesbian poetry for Virago covering the following topics; girl child/dyke child, the family where we're from, becoming ourselves, loving women, love, sex and friendship, the world out there, work and politics, humour and fantasy, unions and reunions! All submissions welcome but please mark envelope clearly Lesbian Poetry Anthology. selections of work will be made in July/August. An anthology of lesbian non fiction writing will follow later.

In sisterhood

Chris McEwan
(Anthology Editor)
Virago Press,
41 William IV Street,
London WC2 4DB.

HOROSCOPE

ARIES



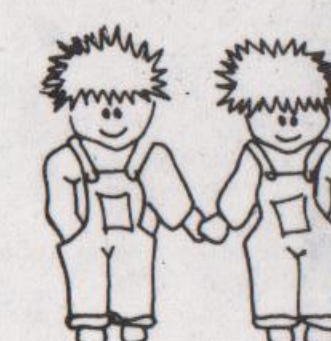
You are putting a lot of energy into realising some long standing plans at the moment and getting a lot of satisfaction out of it. Don't let yourself be distracted by people who just want to annoy you or are jealous of your achievements.

TAURUS



Just because your symbol is the bull doesn't mean you have to let yourself be led round by a ring through your nose, especially up the garden path! It's difficult for you to spot the devious, so be careful - not everyone is what they seem.

GEMINI



Busy, busy, busy. You are doing far too much just lately. Try and cut down on some of your commitments because you need some time for yourself too. If lightning is going to strike it'll hit you whether you're standing still or running round like a wet hen anyway.

CANCER



Gosh! I wish I were Cancer this Summer. Everything is going your way for the next few months, mentally, physically & emotionally you go from strength to strength. A wonderful contented time with an end to all the petty irritations that have been bothering you.

LEO



You've had vague plans about changing some major things in your life for some time, jobs/towns/lovers etc. Now is a good time for fresh starts so perhaps you should start putting your ideas into action. Have a think about it anyway.

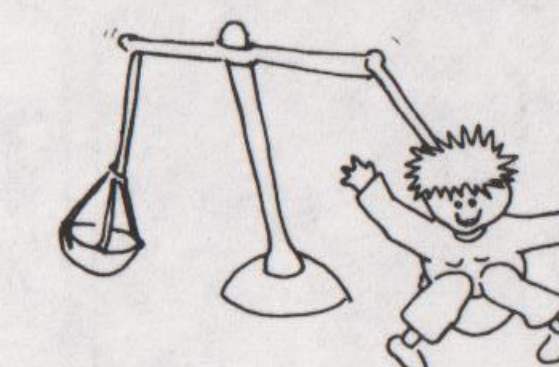
VIRGO



Your shyness seems to be holding you back from doing something you want to do. A venture involving working with others on music or dramas will bring you lots of enjoyment. Don't be shy, join in and go for it.



LIBRA



Your manner doesn't always do your personality justice and a bit of soft-pedalling in the social stakes wouldn't go amiss at the moment. You're heading for a period of great energy and creativity - so mend a few fences and share it with your friends.

SCORPIO



You have some difficult decisions ahead of you. Think carefully about what you want for a change. Just ignore the pressures that are being put on you. It's your life so it's up to you to decide what direction to go in. Good luck!

SAGITTARIUS



There are going to be major changes in your life over the next few months. Although you are having very mixed feelings about it at the moment and you don't seem to have much control over the situation you'll be feeling happier very soon.

CAPRICORN



This could prove to be a much better Summer for you than you can imagine at the moment. Think positively about the things in your life that you don't like and work on the ones that you can change and you'll soon feel better about yourself.

AQUARIUS



Another fairly placid period for Aquarians. You could use this time to sort yourself out and store up some energy for the exciting times that will be coming your way in the late Autumn. This is a good time for taking up some sort of study too.

PISCES



You seem to be getting on top of things and bringing some order out of chaos. It can be hard for you to keep up a consistent effort but you should start feeling the benefits soon and that will help you stick to your plans.

