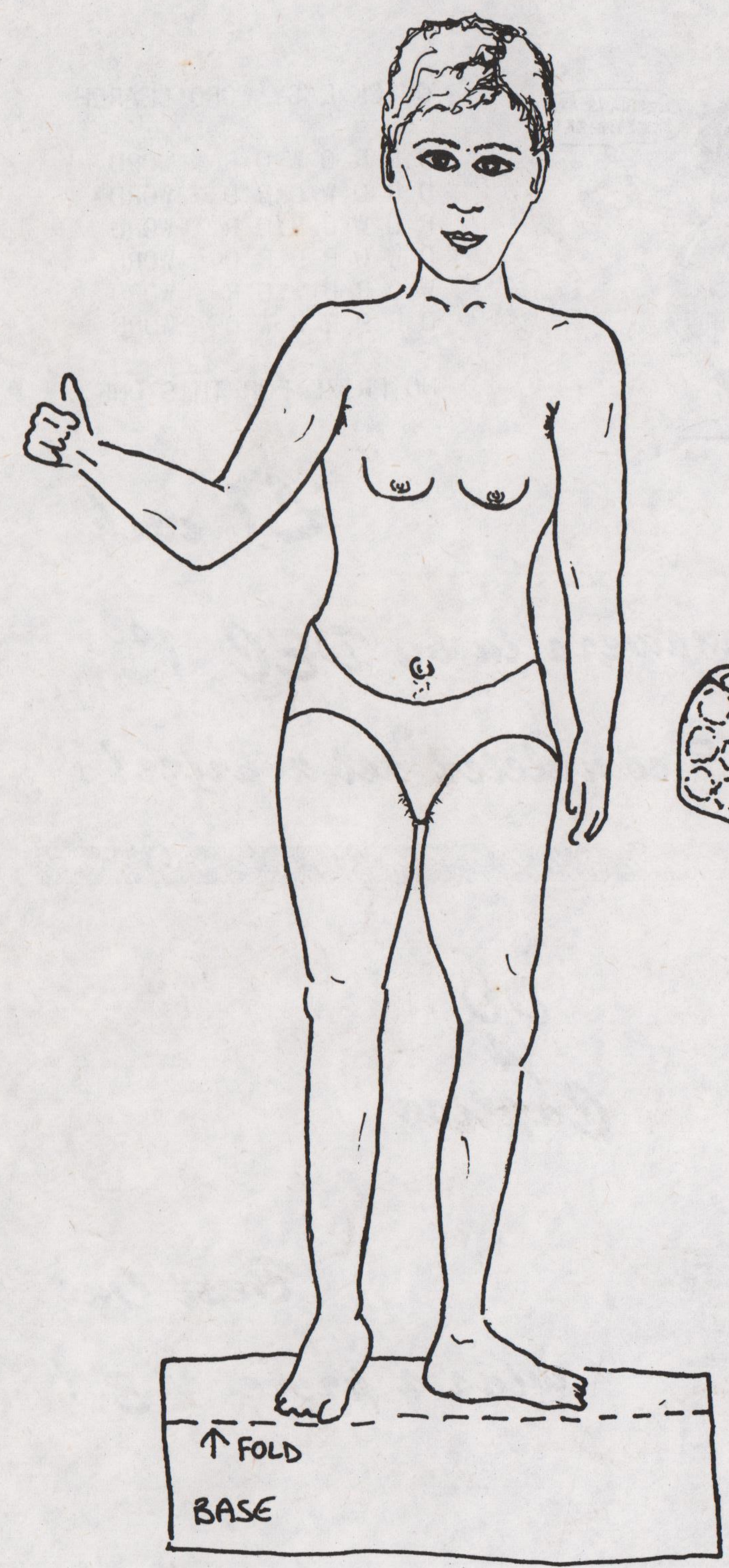


DIVERSION

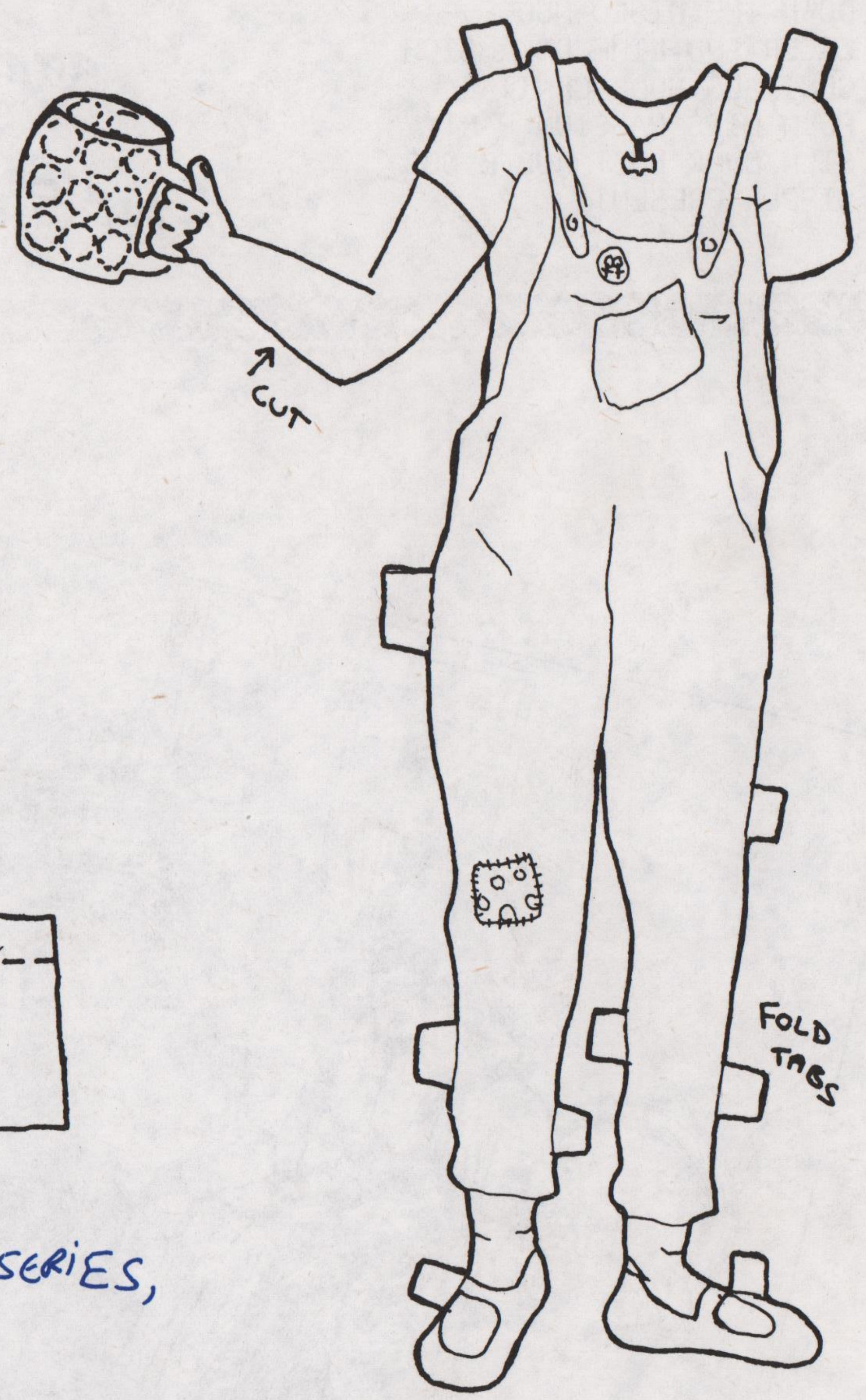
NOTTINGHAM LESBIAN MAGAZINE

AUTUMN

1986



HERE IS THE
FIRST CUT-OUT
DYKE



SHE IS THE FIRST OF THE SERIES,
COLLECT THE WHOLE SET!

CUT HER OUT, STICK HER ONTO
CARD, AND COLOUR,
HOURS OF FUN!!

I just can't
wait to get home
with my
DIVERSION!

Cor! give us a
quick flash
now

NEWS
AND
VIEWS

LETTERS
SMALL ADS



25p

EDITORIAL

Hello and welcome to the third edition of Diversion. A special hello to all Dykes in other parts of the country and abroad (Yes, Diversion has become International).

As no-one sent in a completed word - search and collected their prize this issue is slightly late because we had to keep the prize, which was a weekend in Paris for four., pity you missed it, as it was very good - ooh la la - We are repeating the offer of a prize for the best caption, which is £2 or a weekend in one of our back gardens - the choice is yours.

We hope you enjoy the cut out lesbian, we've tested and approved her, we are open to suggestions and you can let us know what outfits you'd like to see!!! (as well).

We've received a grant to help towards the cost of producing this magazine from Nottingham City Council - our thanks to the City Councillors.

If there's any particular things you would like to become a regular feature let us know.

We still need articles and stories - and your comments on the magazine. Come along to the meetings or write....

Contact us through:- Box 11
118, Mansfield Road.
Nottingham.
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:-
Next meeting October 30th
EVERY FORTNIGHT 7pm. -7.30 on THURSDAYS
at the International Community Centre.
Mansfield Road Nottingham.

Hmm..... 'Gay'.....
.... indicating mirth,
light-hearted,
sportive.... airy,
off-hand.... cheeky,
impertinent.....
dissolute.... immoral..
showy.... brilliant.....



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 January 14th, 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.



DOES YOUR GARDEN need looking after?
Experienced woman gardener seeks work.

Contact Bee, tel 411814.



I CAN'T ASK YOU TO BE MY BEST
FRIEND IN ANYTHING BUT A
PLATONIC SENSE, I'M SIXTEEN.....

YOUNG LESBIAN GROUP

Anybody interested in helping organise or fund raise - contact Diversion.

CARTOONS FROM:-

- 1). Lesbian Mothers Legal Handbook. by Rights of Women Lesbian Custody Gp. Pub. The Womens Press. £3.95.
- 2). Commonlives - Lesbian Lives. An American Lesbian Quarterly. Available from Gays the Word Bookshop. Marchmont St. London. and Sisterwrite Upper St. Islington, London.
- 3). Wonder Wimbin by Cath Jackson. Available from Mushroom Bookshop. Heathcote St. Nottingham.

LESBIAN MOTHERS

LESBIAN MOTHER'S LEGAL HANDBOOK

Any woman faced with the possibility of legal proceedings concerning her children because she is a lesbian, will find this book invaluable. It gives practical advice from how to find a solicitor to how to best present your case. It also takes a look at all the prejudices you will have to deal with.

There is no actual law that says lesbians are unfit mothers, and so the authors looked at reported cases and listened to women's own experiences of the court, to find out how the court makes its judgement.

The court prefers a heterosexual household. This is shown to be true, despite the fact that 90% of child sexual abuse is against girls, in 22% of cases by men in the girl's immediate household and that 97% of all such assaults are by heterosexual men!



The principle governing all decisions about children is "what is in the best interest of the child". This means the courts do not always listen to what the children want. It is assumed that children do not know what is in their own best interest. Their mother's lesbianism becomes the focus for the court, not her mothering ability.

This book will help you prepare and present your case, or if you are not personally under threat, it will help you to challenge the prejudices relied on. There are also a number of contact addresses in the book.



"I've 'ad enough; time to support me sisters in court...."

LESBIAN MOTHERS CUSTODY CONFERENCE

I went to this conference in August and enjoyed it very much. It was held in a lovely old house in its own grounds just outside Leeds. There were about 150 women and 100 kids there and the atmosphere was really good. For the adults there were discussions on lots of things:- Mothers with older sons; Black lesbian mothers; Irish Lesbians; Custody Campaign; Legal workshop; Bringing up boys/girls; Mothers not living with their children and so on. For the kids there was a creche with inflatables and lots of entertainments - some kids didn't want to go home at the end.

The whole thing was very well organised, for instance, there was solicitors available throughout the day if anyone wanted on the spot advice.

I went to the workshop of the custody campaign. This was about starting a National campaign with local groups to change the situation about lesbian custody (see the book review above). Lots of ideas were suggested. The London Lesbian Mothers & Custody Group has already drawn up a "Charter" listing what positive changes they felt were needed. This was felt to be a good basis for groups to use. The London group also took on to organise a conference in 6 months time to see how groups were going. If anyone is interested in starting a here they can contact Lesbian Line for dates and place of meetings.

If you are or may be involved in a custody case or need a solicitor for any other reason then phone Lesbian Line. We have names of sympathetic solicitors in Nottingham and will give you any other advice and support you need.

LESBIAN HOUSING CO-OP

OPEN DAY

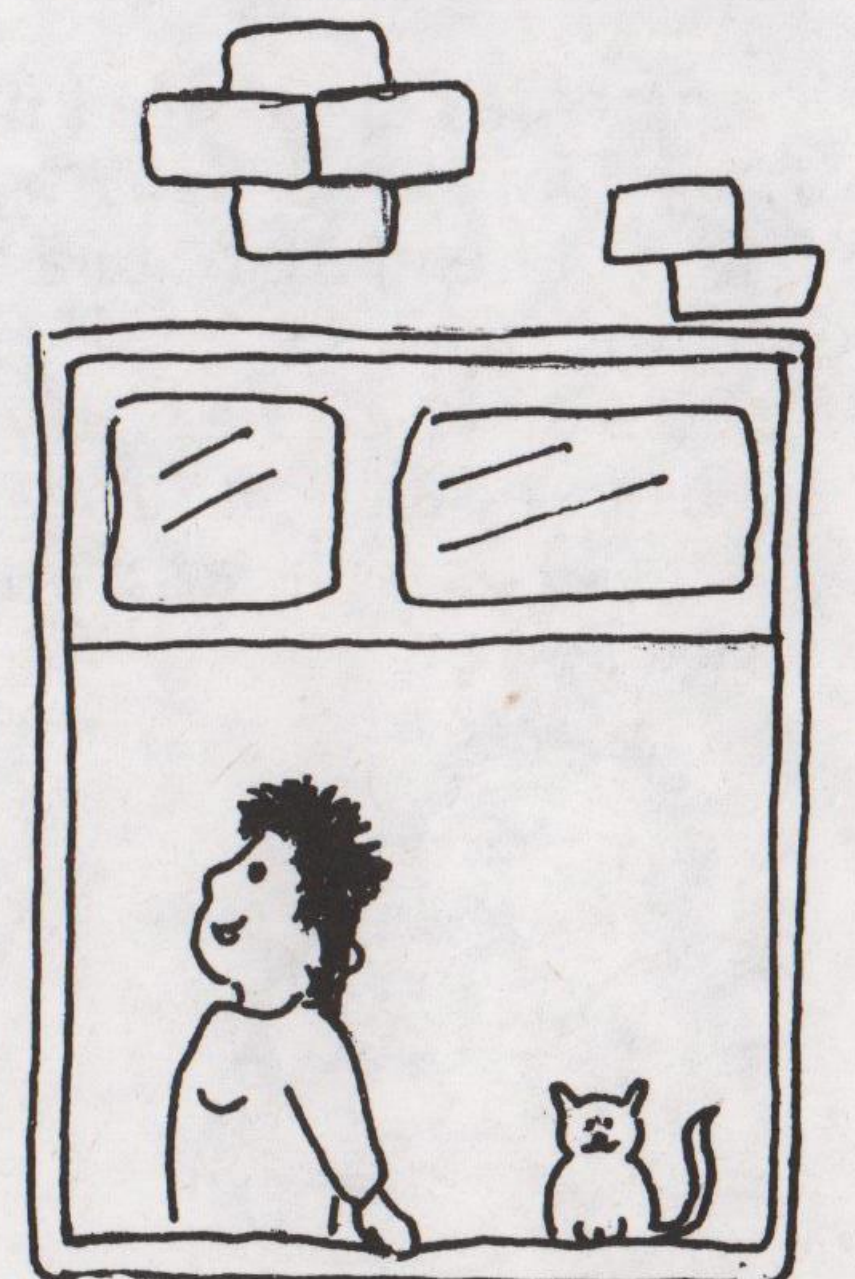
LESBIAN HOUSING CO-OP OPEN DAY

As you may know, the Morrigan Housing Co-op is in the process of expansion. We have recently acquired a large house, which is to be converted into flats. The ground floor flat is to be converted into a disabled flat.

Also, we are in the process of buying a fifth house. This is to be three bedroomed, and hopes to cater for a lesbian mother with children.

If you are interested in any of the above, or feel that you have any ideas to contribute, or are just interested in learning more about the co-op, then come to an open day on Sunday 19th October from 11.00 am to 5.00 pm.

For more information contact Gay Switchboard (411454 Mon - Thu 7 - 10pm) or Jo Fraser at Equal Ops (418571)



If you missed the openday
But are interested in
the Co-op - then phone anyway
for more info -!

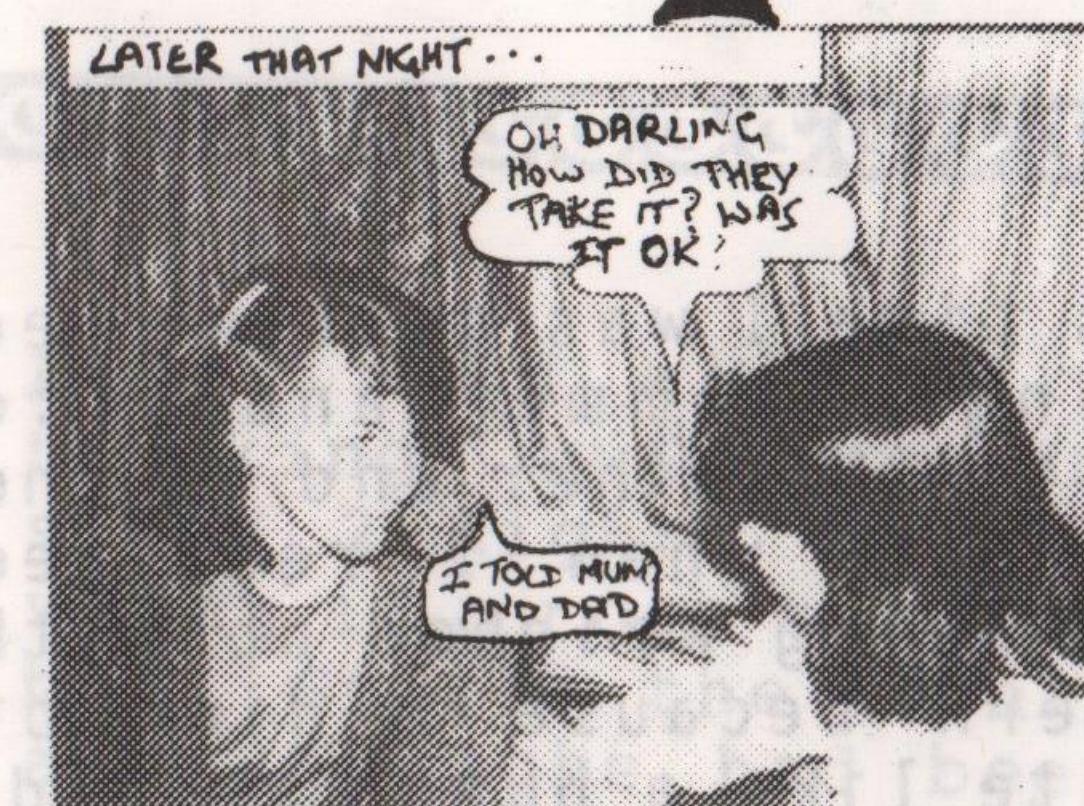


SPORTS

WOMEN/LESBIAN ONLY SPORTS SESSIONS

At the present moment, John Carroll Leisure Centre offers 2 women only sports sessions. On Tuesdays between 2.00 and 4.00 pm you can choose from a wide range of sports including; netball, badminton, table tennis, indoor hockey, volleyball, indoor cricket and weight training. This session is NOT being used and will be dropped if interest is not shown. It is run by a woman instructor who would be more than happy to see it used by lesbians. (cont Page 5)

MY DYKE



SPORT CONT'D.

The second session, which is run on a Friday between 1.30 and 3.00 pm, is a women only swim. Again, the session is run by a woman attendant. No men are allowed in to watch and all viewing windows are covered, so it is very private. The instructor, again, would be very happy to see this session used by lesbians.

Please try to attend these sessions, as women-only sports time is very rare. It would be very sad that in a centre where the management and staff are sympathetic towards minority groups, time was not allocated to women only, (or lesbian only - which is a distinct possibility), because of lack of interest.



LESBIAN LIVES

"ON THE LEVEL" - A TASTE OF THE NOTTINGHAM SCENE IN THE LATE SIXTIES & EARLY SEVENTIES. (When I was A mere Sprog !).

Someone was straightening the knot of my favourite Paisley patterned tie. At the time, I was standing half-cut in the foyer of the Flying Horse. The last Bacardi had hit me like a ton of bricks but not sufficiently for me not to notice that the doorman was stifling gales of laughter. With all the grace I could muster, I strode through the door. On another occasion I accepted an invitation to sit down, turned elegantly between the tables and tipped a gin & tonic over the girl's knee without even realizing the faux-pas. At least not until the Butch with her rose towards the bar after fixing me against the back of the seat with an extremely malevolent glare. In the meantime, the girl tried to smooth over any fears I might have about being well and truly fixed against the seat.

Each evening out seemed ridden with hazards & pitfalls for the innocent and unsuspecting, would-be adventuress. For example, one or two of my friends were very concerned about my sexual welfare and set out with great determination to find someone for me. I did not object, because I too was concerned, and frankly, things could only improve. Well you know what they say about ignorance being bliss. A statement like that did not hold water for very long, when things started moving In fact the first two butch ladies I met I managed to upset within days. I was given all sorts of warnings from one about the other; e.g.

"She's no good, she's been with everyone in town".

I rather suspected that she, herself was only about one behind.

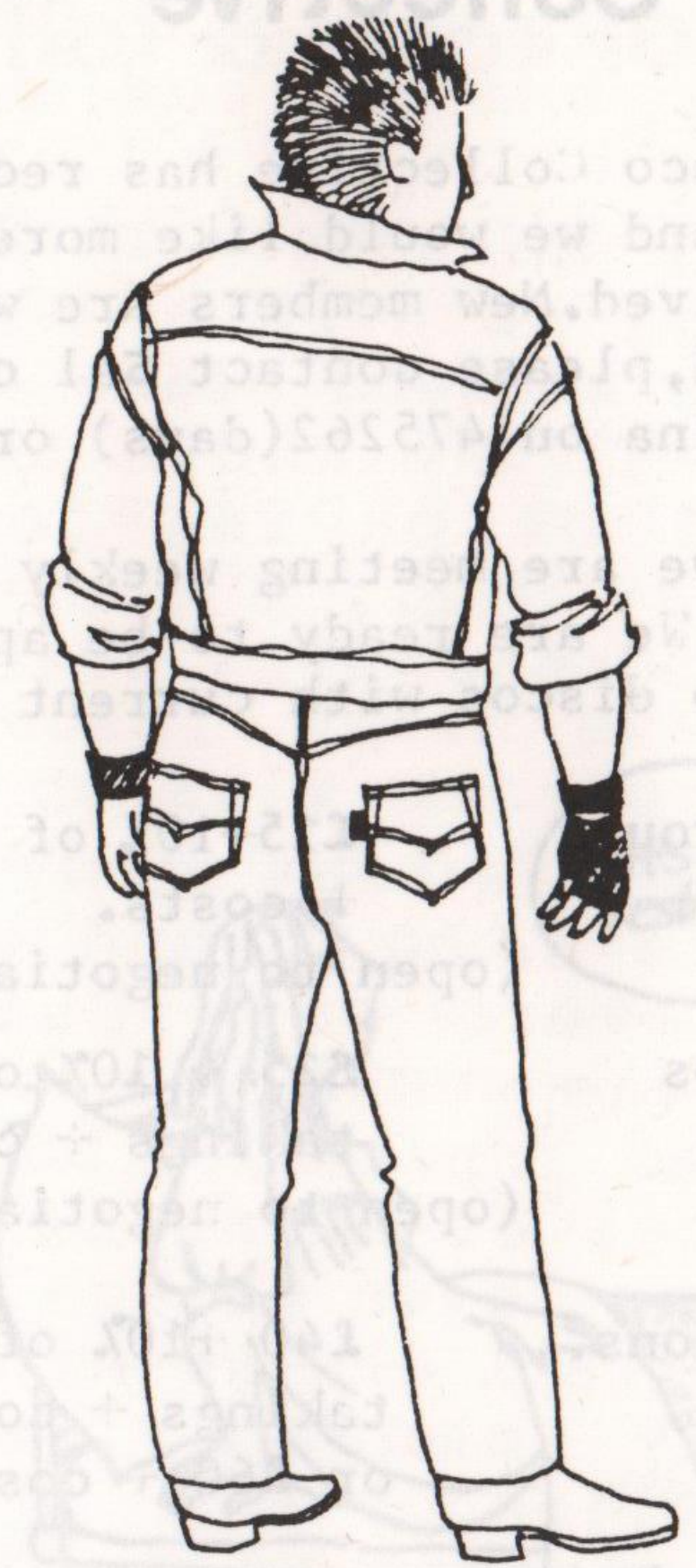


About this time I was getting fed up of things "femme" and slid violently to the other end of the scale. That's when I realized that I was being weighed up with some concern because I did not behave quite like a butch should. Pint drinking was about my only redeeming feature. The rest was mere practise, plus a few drinks. Anyway, with a little help one evening I was set up and SHE would see me outside in the yard. The only real problem was that she was significantly taller than me and had great potential as a lady wrestler. Now I have not said "No" on many occasions, but kissing someone and being hauled slowly off your feet and forwards is a tricky situation to feel romantic in. In fact it required superhuman concentration to remain upright alone. The wet yard of the Roebuck leaves much to be desired for rolling around in. (Since then I have met a number of tall ladies and have begun to wonder whether it is all a joke - patting me on the head, peering down on me and damn near stifling me to death in a slow dance!).

in the bar

However, back in the bar, I graciously let her sit down while I stood behind. My friends were beaming with delight at the apparent success of the scheme. Me? I was just about regaining my equilibrium, (on two feet), and was desperate for a beer. Especially when I looked down into her shiny black hair and found I was staring into the none too professional weave of a cheap wig. My immediate reaction was; "Christ! What else comes off?". Whatever sick jokes came to mind I was going through with this at all costs, to save face, if nothing else.

It was funny because I could not get the subject of "coming off" out of my mind all the way to her home. Just like in the movies, she appeared out of the bathroom in a frilly nightdress - minus the wig. Things were beginning to look promising at last, in the semi-darkness, but I was not to see that precious little else had come off. On getting into bed it was like clasping an armoured-plated dummy. I was beginning to get the picture that, somehow, it was all part of the game for me to remove each item, including a super-grip, ten-hour girdle. Now to the subject of "coming off" was added another dimension - "coming out" just as well - at the risk of censorship, I'll miss out what was said and done in the next hours.



Next morning I woke to the family stampeding up and down the stairs. The only route to the bathroom was through our bedroom, so, I wasn't surprised when the door opened. I didn't bother turning over to have a look, until a voice said, "Hello!" The voice's tone commanded response, so I turned over in greeting and the girl said, "I'd like you to meet my father!"

Father's response was, "Oh no! Not another one - what happened to the last one then?" Followed by, "Anyway, when you get up, how about helping me to whitewash the cellar?"

A cup of coffee and baby I was gone!

EPILOGUE

The grand finale to this exploit also took place in the Roebuck. Her straight friends insulted her as a "f-----g queer", she burst into tears, flung herself round my neck and this time, my dear friends wiped the muddy streaks of her mascara off my face - as well as straightening my tie.

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 + costs.
Benefits. (open to negotiation)
- 2) Funded groups £25 + 10% of takings + costs.
Benefits. (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.

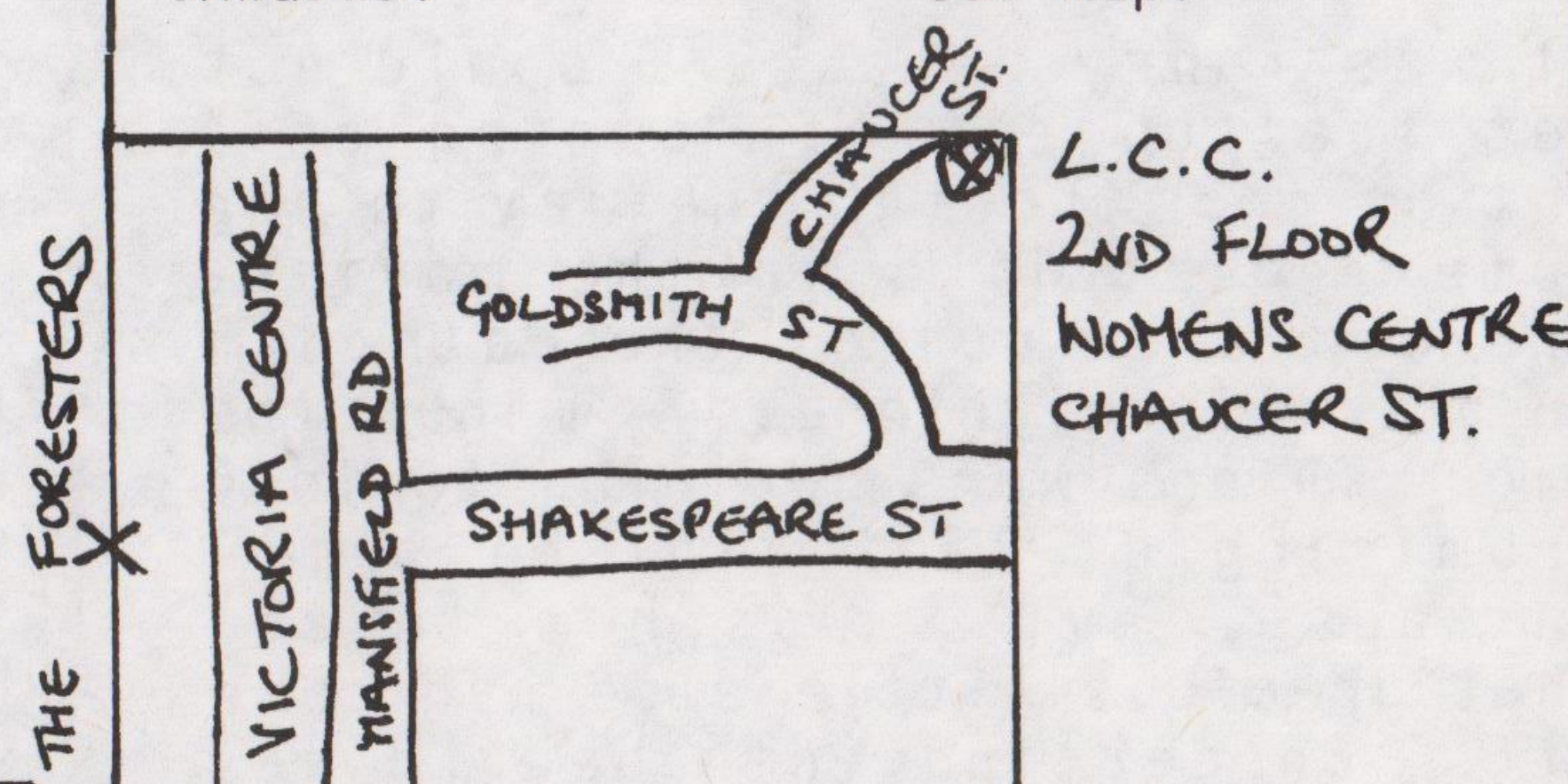
VENUES

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

DISCO DISCO DISCO DISCO DISCO DISCO

There will be a Disco at the Lesbian Community Centre, Chaucer St. EVERY FRIDAY 8-11pm from the END OF NOVEMBER onwards. see map.



WHAT LESBIANS DO IN BED

LESBIAN SEX by JOANN LOULANN.
Pub. Spinster's Ink at £8.95.

I don't know why exactly I picked this book out of a heap of lesbian books a friend brought me to read. After all, living on a Welsh hillside like I do, doesn't present many opportunities for lesbian company, never mind sex. Sheer curiosity I guess - what do other lesbians do in bed? Mingled with some insecurity - can I "improve" my lovemaking?

After reading the book, I can now answer my questions, a) nothing I didn't know already, b) yes.

"Lesbian Sex" is written by a lesbian with years experience of counselling lesbians on sex. It's not a sex manual, instead, it deals with sex and related issues, e.g. sex & aging, sex & sobriety, barriers to sexuality, the tyranny of orgasm etc.

Each chapter is short and easy to read. But, as a consequence, it didn't go into each issue in depth so I ended up with a feeling of dissatisfaction, wanting a deeper examination. For this reason, I would recommend borrowing this book, rather than buying it.

The book's main message is one of encouraging us to be more open and verba+1 about sex between lovers, encouraging us that a better sex life is possible and it's up to us to make that possible. A large section of the book is devoted to "homework exercises". Although they may be hard for the British reserve to take, they are a series of sensible and useful suggestions if you are finding some or all aspects of sex difficult. I think JoAnn Loulan is right - that we all can have better sex lives and that by talking more about sex and how we feel, we can break down a few barriers. After all, we're not all wonderwoman.

ye Olde dykes



LILIAN BARKER 1874 - 1955

Lily was one of 7 children in a working class family living above their father's tobacconists' in Kentish Town Road, London. She started school at 2½, sped through the curriculum and turned her active brain to more interesting activities - troublemaking. Later she was renowned for her understanding of girls and women labelled as troublemakers.

She became a much loved teacher and, at 38, principal of an experimental evening institute for young working women. She also took on working with what were then called 'fallen women' and fought to change their 'curriculum' which had consisted exclusively of domestic chores. "To place a woman of refined tendencies at the washtub day by day... soddens her in body and soul".

At the start of WW1 Lily was appointed head of the Woolwich Arsenal, superintending its transition to a female workforce and ultimately having responsibility for the welfare and morale of 30,000 women. "I liked the idea of all those girls and women coming to do work which only men had done before." When queried as to whether the arsenal had a police force, she said, "Good gracious, no. Although our population is as large as some towns, I would never have it. Why, the girls would think I didn't trust them". Lily was always both sensible and sympathetic - "No amount of 'welfare work' will remedy low wages or bad working conditions". "Oh give me large handkerchiefs. I'm always lending them to girls to have a good cry, but I never get them back."

For most of her adult life, she lived with Florence ('Fuff') Francis whom she'd met when they both taught Sunday school. At the time of her work at Woolwich they lived at 'Thames View' at the top of Shooters Hill.

In 1923 she took on the governorship of the first girls' Borstal after the threat to appoint a man to the job. "No man could understand those girls." She was convinced that she could revolutionize and humanise such an institution - and, for the time she was there, it was a different place, with dances, day trips and hobby activities (Lily dragged her friends in to teach and fund these). Older women, usually in for murder, were housed in part of the Borstal. Of them, Lily said, "the more I know about the lives of these women, the more I wonder what I should have done in similar circumstances".

As the first woman prison commissioner she continued a commitment to women who were 'misunderstood'. Lily nearly always had her hands in her pockets and habitually carried and offered a bag of peardrops, but more than that was meant when an old Borstal girl said to Lily, "You see... we always regard you as one of us".



LESBIAN LIBRARY

The Lesbian Community Centre Gp. has just received a grant of £150 from the City Council Arts Dept. for books and videos. SO there will be a book and video library at the LCC when it opens at the end of November.

DECORATING

There are women already started on the painting of the Lesbian Community Centre BUT more help is needed, so if you have some spare time and fancy wielding a paintbrush contact Diversion or phone Jo Fraser on 418579 for times when paint-is is going on.



RAMOTH PRINTS

133a Mansfield Road
Nottingham
Telephone: (0602) 473081

OFFSET LITHO
& SILK SCREEN PRINTERS
AND TYPESETTERS

Cheap, Professional Printing for Community
and Minority Groups

Leaflets, Posters, Business Cards, Stationery etc.

Collectively run by Women



SAY NO TO DIVIDE & RULE
 ▲ DEFEND BLACK RIGHTS
 ▲ DEFEND WOMENS RIGHTS
 ▲ DEFEND DISABLED RIGHTS
 ▲ AND DEMAND...

FAIR DEAL for LESBIANS & GAYS in NOTTS
 national speakers

DEMONSTRATE OCT 25th NOTTINGHAM

▲ ASSEMBLE 12.15
 ▲ SATURDAY OCTOBER 25th
 ▲ OLD MARKET SQUARE, NOTTINGHAM

p&p LCLGR EAST MIDLANDS, 3 MARLBOROUGH ROAD, BEESTON, NOTTINGHAM

LESBIAN & GAY RIGHTS

NOTTS LABOUR MANIFESTO 85	yes	LABOUR NATIONAL CONF. 85	yes
TUC NATIONAL CONFERENCE 85	yes	NOTTS LABOUR PARTY 85	yes
NOTTS TRADE UNIONS 86	yes		
NOTTS LABOUR COUNCILLORS 86		NO!

The ruling Labour Group on Nottinghamshire County Council are breaking promises made to lesbians and gays in their election manifesto. They promised

that discrimination on grounds of sexual orientation would not be tolerated "either in the provision of services or employment opportunities"

"a strong and active partnership" through "a direct link" with the "oppressed sections of the community"

if you'd like to be with a group then lesbians are meeting at 12am at the left hand lion in the Market Square.

Groups



ANYONE INTERESTED.....
in starting a working class lesbian group?? contact Diversion.



DRINK PROBLEM ?

Are any lesbians interested in forming a self-help group about drinking ?

Contact Lesbian Line for more information
 Mondays & Wednesdays 7.30 - 9 pm. 410652



LEICESTER LESBIAN GROUP

Meets every Wednesday night 7.30pm at
 Leicester Women's Centre, Belgrave Gate,
 Leicester.

JUMBLE SALE IN AID OF LESBIAN CENTRE
 Saturday November 1st.
 At St. Peters, Hartley Road.
 For further details, offers of help,
 jumble etc.....Tel:781906.

LESBIAN AND GAY RIGHTS

Only after a big shove from the minority of socialists in their midst did the Group do anything about putting together an Equal Opportunities plan to implement their promises.

They haven't put much money or much power behind the proposed new Equal Opportunities Sub-Committee. But at least it's a start for Ethnic Minorities, for Women, and for the Disabled. Each of these groups will be represented, through special Working Groups.

But to Lesbians and Gays demanding representation on the same basis the answer is "NO!" At best they think we'll be an embarrassment. At the worst they hate the very idea of equal rights for lesbians and gays in the first place.

Until a Lesbian and Gay Working Group is set up under the new Sub-Committee, the manifesto promises will be meaningless. Discrimination against lesbians and gays at work, at school, in health care, in social services, by the police, in all the employment and services covered by the County, can continue unchecked.

Notts County Council declares itself to be an Equal Opportunities Employer. Declarations mean nothing without action.

DEMAND ACTION NOW. DEMAND EQUAL RIGHTS IN JOBS AND IN SERVICES.
 DEMAND A LESBIAN AND GAY WORKING GROUP IN NOTTS.

This demonstration is called by the Labour Campaign for Lesbian and Gay Rights (East Midlands), with the support of Nottinghamshire County Labour Party. Local affiliates to LCLGR include: Nottingham South, Nottingham East, Broxtowe, and Newark Constituency Labour Parties; ASTNS Trent Branch; Notts NALGO. Calls for the Lesbian and Gay Working Group have also been made by Nottingham Trades Council; Worksop Trades Council; Broxtowe South Labour Party Women's Section.

tell the Labour Councillors
NO DIVIDE AND RULE!

Black Lesbian Group

If anyone else would like to help start up a Black Lesbian Group in Nottingham please get in touch so that we can talk about it. You can telephone me Tuesdays or Thursdays 3 - 5 pm

Tel : Dee on Nottm 473010



NOTTINGHAM
 LESBIAN LINE
 410652



MONDAY AND WEDNESDAY
7.30pm-9pm
CONFIDENTIAL ADVICE,
INFORMATION AND SUPPORT.

HOROSCOPE

ARIES



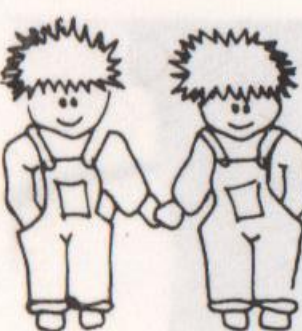
Life been a bit hectic lately? That's coz there's a couple of stars wizzing around this other star - so so if you've been spreading yourself a bit thin, socially, its time to calm down, you can't be with everyone at once - and there may be a certain person waiting for you to notice her - look behind you!

TAURUS



Last month you may have felt like a change - next month you'll feel better about actually getting your plans off the drawing board - but don't jump too fast - think a little - and work out your money, If single there are people around to help - so have fun digging them out - if you are with someone, you can still have some fun - its not all work!

GEMINI



Not a bad month ahead if you can stay calm around other peoples moods - if nothing you do or say is right - shut up, go out and let your hair down a bit, there are friends that appreciate you - good month if you are single, your friends may well give you a boost to ask 'that certain person'.

CANCER



Being stubborn is not one of your best attributes and you're the last one to admit to it - but you have been at times in the last month - tu tut. People are around who want to share in your ideas and plans, and they may have felt a little out in the cold, specially your partner or someone close-open out, and welcome offers-and things will seem a lot lighter.

LEO



Been spending too much lately? OK so you've had a wild time - but try and sort your money out more, even though it is boring! Don't make too many rash decisions in relationships - Rome wasn't built in a day! Resist the temptation to get on and ahead with things, without thinking about what other people want and might need - sit on your hands for a while, and you may be surprised by other people.

VIRGO



You may have felt that certain people have been taking you for granted lately, but shouting and raving about it won't do much good, and it won't change anything - it will just make it worse. If you hang around they will soon notice the errors of their ways - just remain sweet and you'll feel a lot better in the long run. Good time to work on your own ideas.

LIBRA



Next month, you'll be feeling more perky, mind, you aren't doing bad at the moment - there's been a lot of quick thinking and ideas bouncing around. Even though some people have been trying to put the dampers on them, keep ignoring them and don't let them stir anything up - don't let the confuse you now! You're doing real good. Spell out all details clearly when dealing with relatives or neighbours, so everybody's clear where they stand - you may feel extra loving - so enjoy!

SCORPIO



As you've been busy, perhaps working extra hard, you may feel its time for a rest. Go ahead and make plans, especially to have more time with your lover or friends - mind there may be people trying to get you to more than your fair share of work, don't give in to them, make them play fair, even if you have to tel them bluntly - relax, and you'll feel like a new woman!

SAGITTARIUS



If lovers or friends are trying to get you to do things you don't particularly want to do just now, you know you won't feel happy or relaxed so don't go along with their plans. If you don't want to upset anyone by refusing their offer, perhaps a few white lies will do the trick - its time to think about what you want to do - maybe you'll feel like playing out with them after - but for now - do what you want to do.

CAPRICORN



Maybe you're thinking of cuddling up with your loved one - or just the cat, but hold on before you do - coz there's bound to be someone banging on your door, needing something. You may feel very reluctant to see or talk with other people at the moment, but you Capricorns find it hard to refuse the Call of Duty - its up to you - plans you make this month will seem more worthwhile next month.

AQUARIUS



You've been working hard and have been extra busy just of late - and perhaps people are beginning to grate on your nerves - so you may be tempted to 'paint the town red' - if 'fun and frolics' wear thin later in the month, don't hesitate in having a quiet time your lover - you'll feel much better for it - and it will add a spring once again to your step.

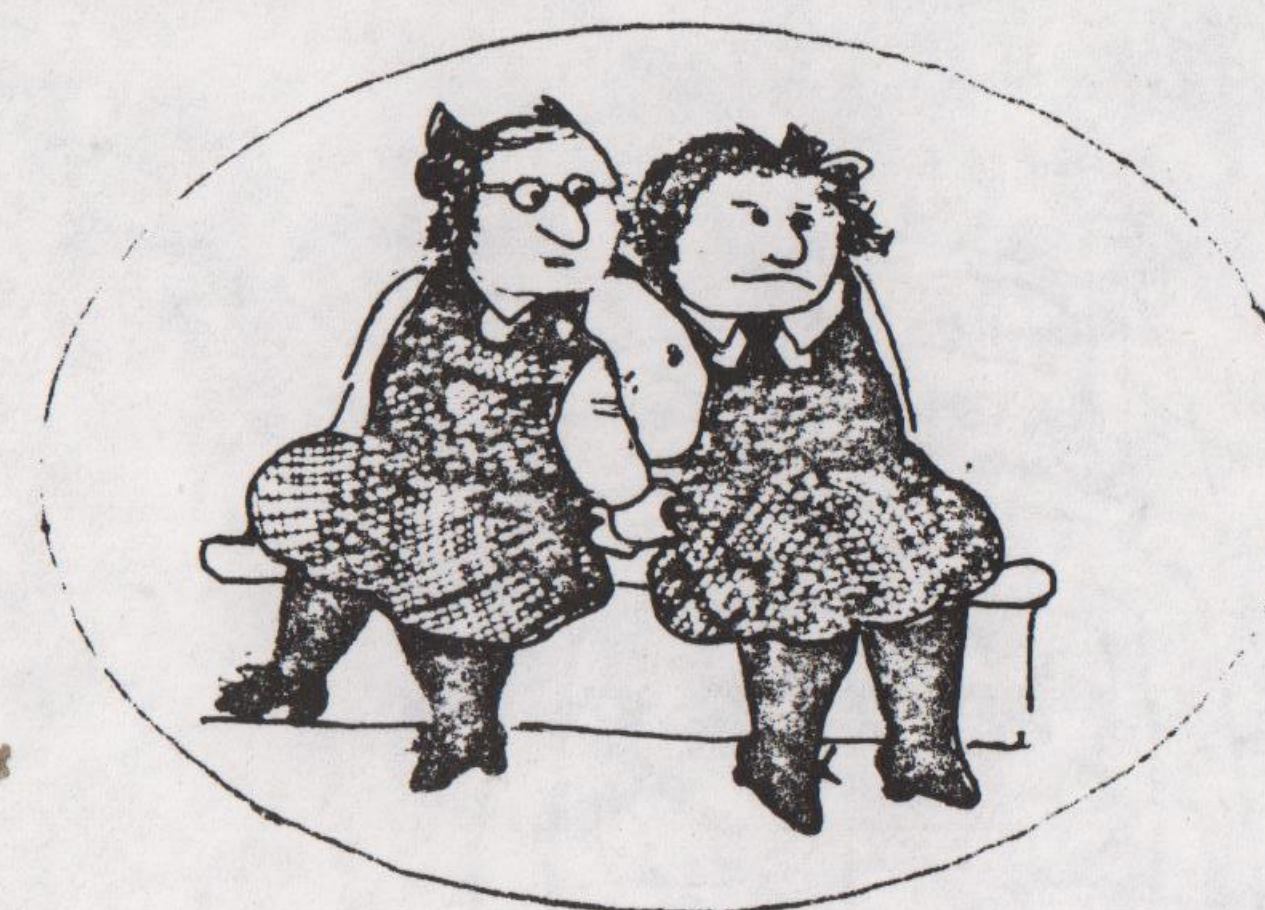
PISCES



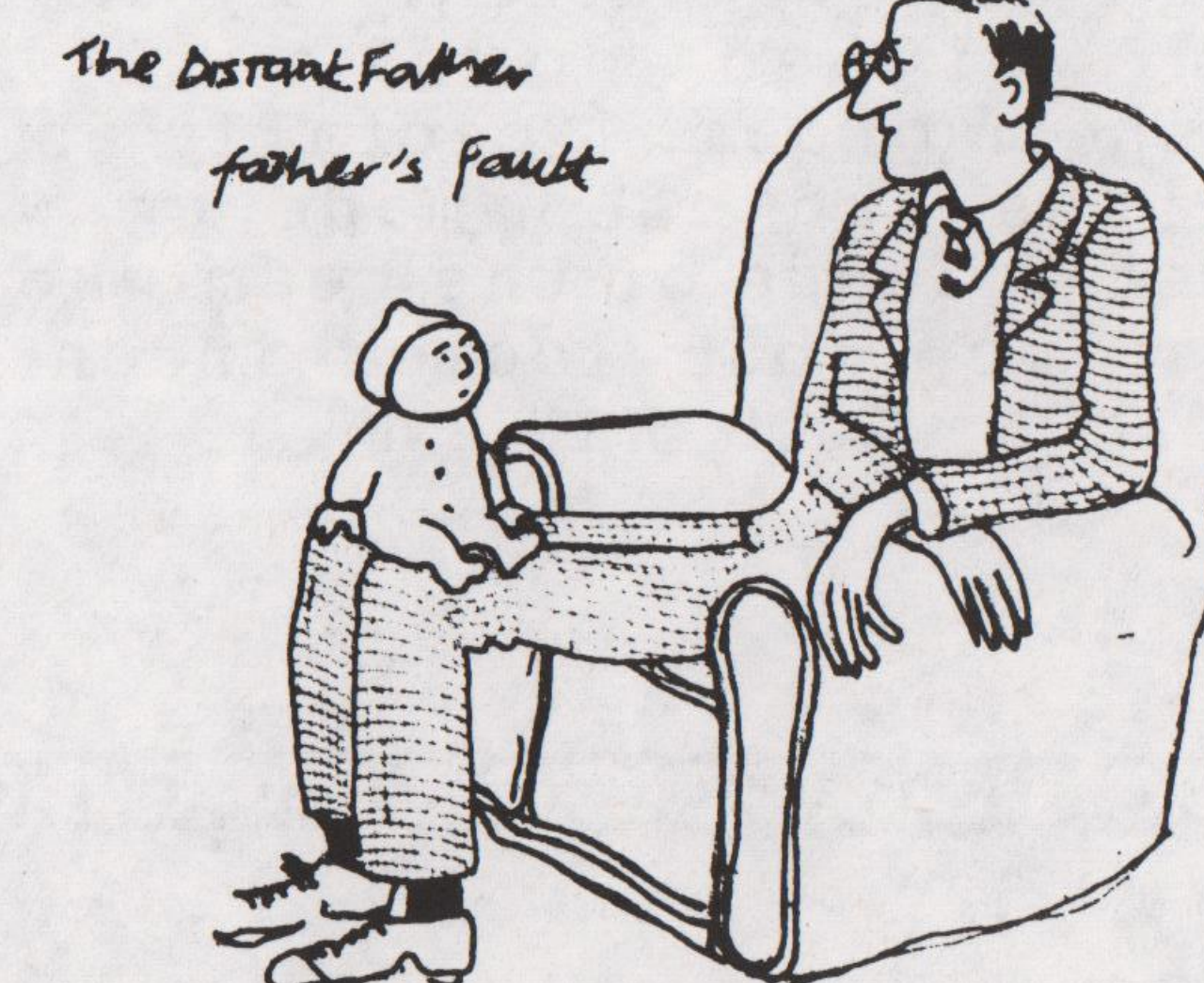
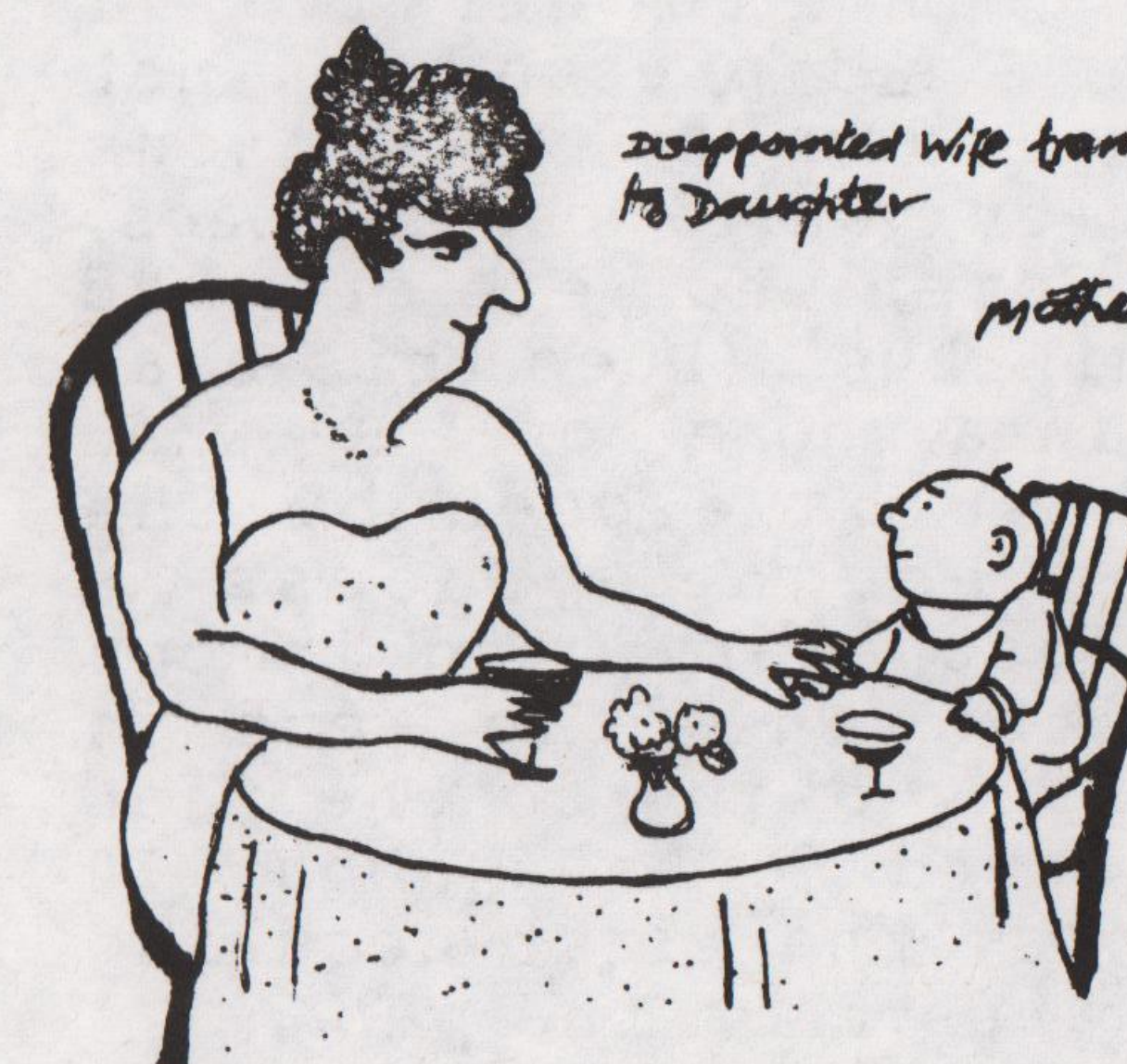
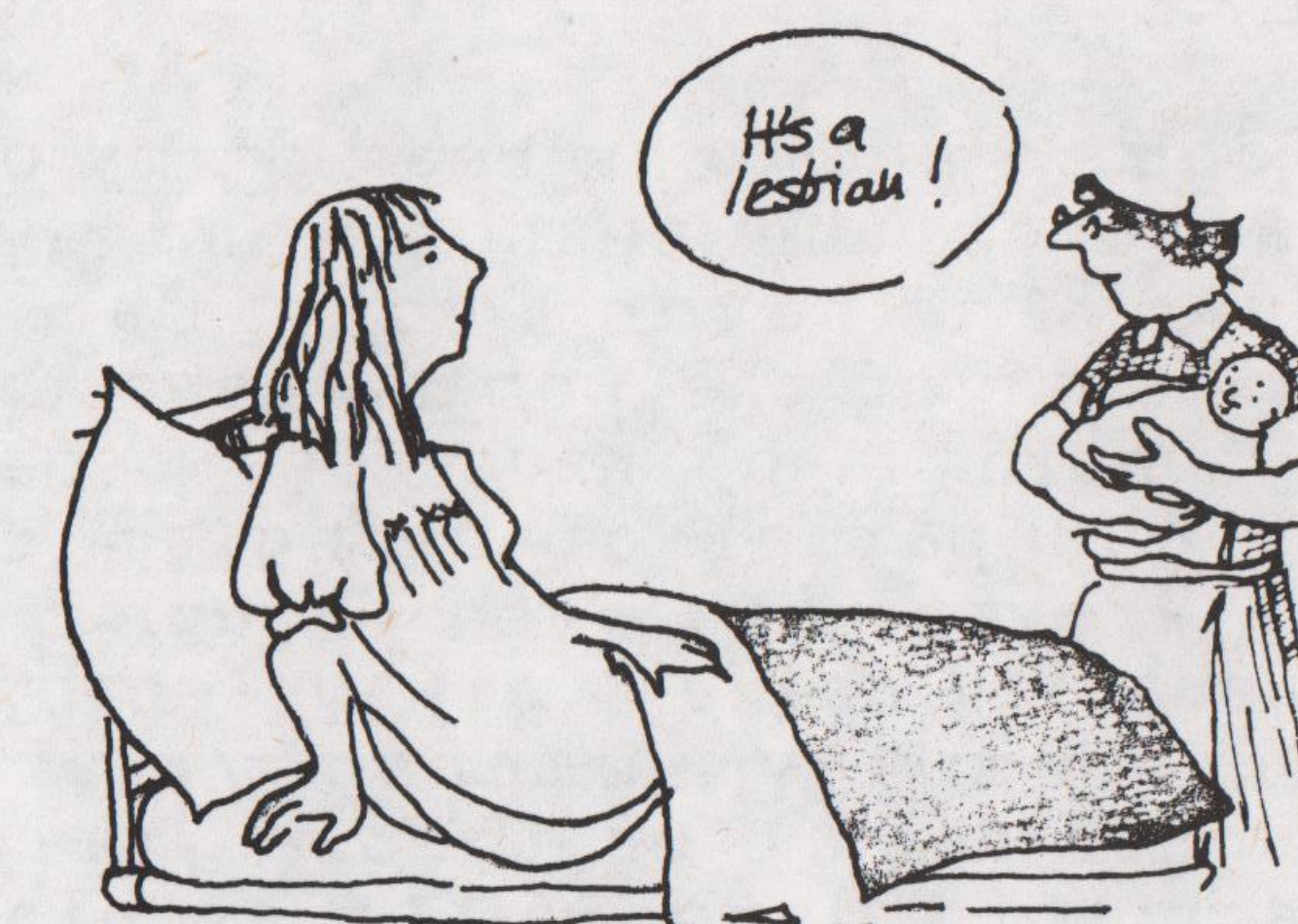
Money is of great interest this month, and you may fancy yourself as a big time 'weeler and dealer', mind theres bound to be some smarty-pants lurking on every corner, and even if their in a position to help they will probably find some petty reason for not. If you keep calm you'll win through.

The Causes of Lesbianism

a simple guide in pictures
by Jo Nesbitt



biologically determined?



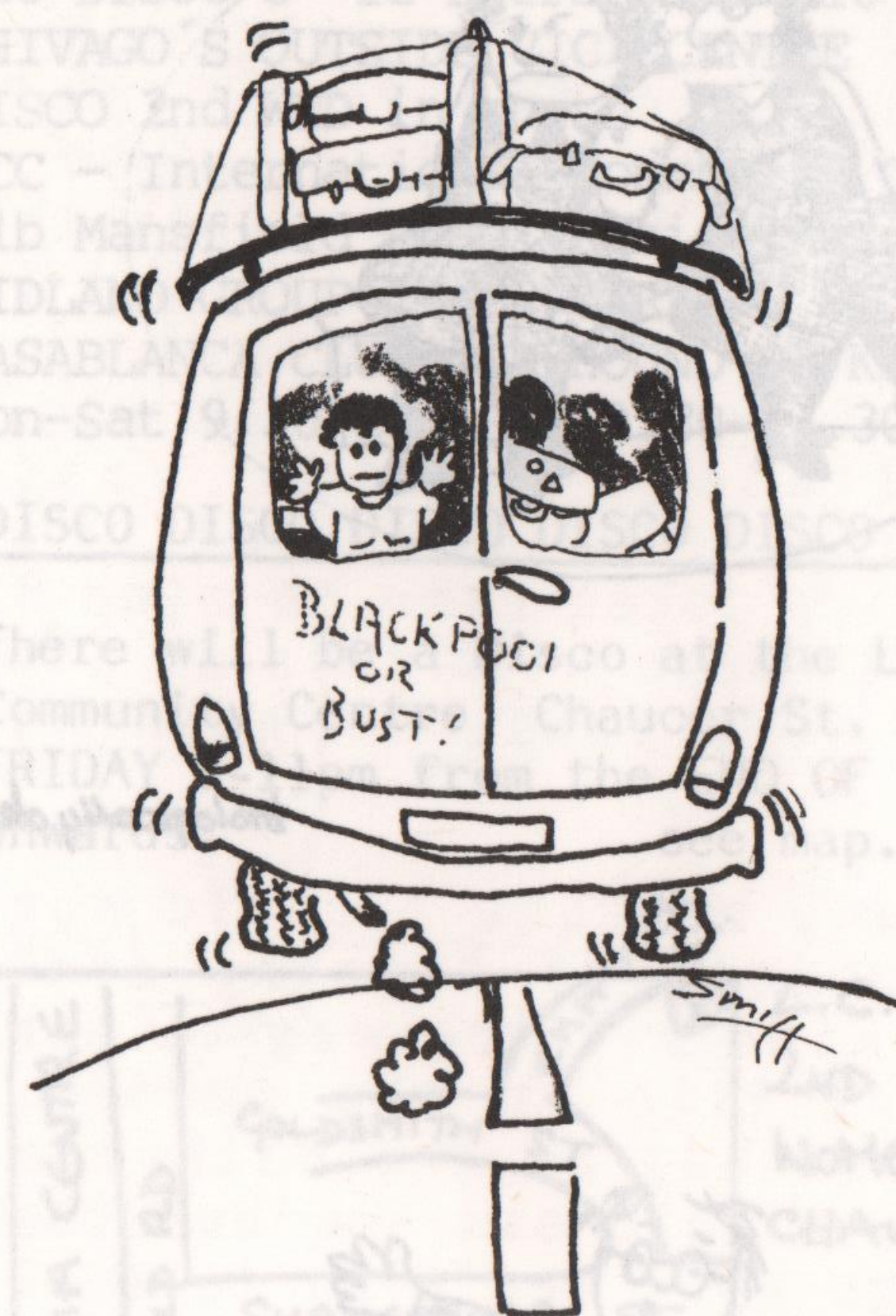
blackpool rock & roll ...on monday!

Being a regular darts team member, I had dutifully paid in my subs, for the annual weekend beano away to Blackpool. If I'd known then, that I would be paying for a weekend of near Hell, I wouldn't have been so forthcoming with my money.

I'd got to know the team at my old local over the season, and even though I'd never 'Come Out' I think most of the women suspected, and teasing and innuendoes became part and parcel of being in the team - even now, even though I no longer play darts I always enjoyed their company immensely, even though I didn't enjoy the 'trip'. I have fond memories of evenings spent down the pub with 'the Girls' - so why did I go? well, everyone I'd known had been on at least one trip, so nothing ventured....

Weeks before the trip, I was nervous, having heard from the other women what they planned to do and have (mainly centring around the male population of Blackpool) and organising their wardrobe accordingly - ah, just talk, I thought (hoped).

By the Friday me carrier bag was neatly packed, and I was off to meet the girls. I arrived by opening time to be greeted by only a quarter of the team - the rest had dropped out - the ones who would have been my saving grace, had arranged to either be ill, or have some distant relative to stay - good grief what did they know that I didn't? Suddenly my carrier was weighed down with the impending Doom. 'Specially as the minibus had been made up with women friends of the team who I'd never met, but looked intent on having a 'GOOD WEEKEND'.



so it began

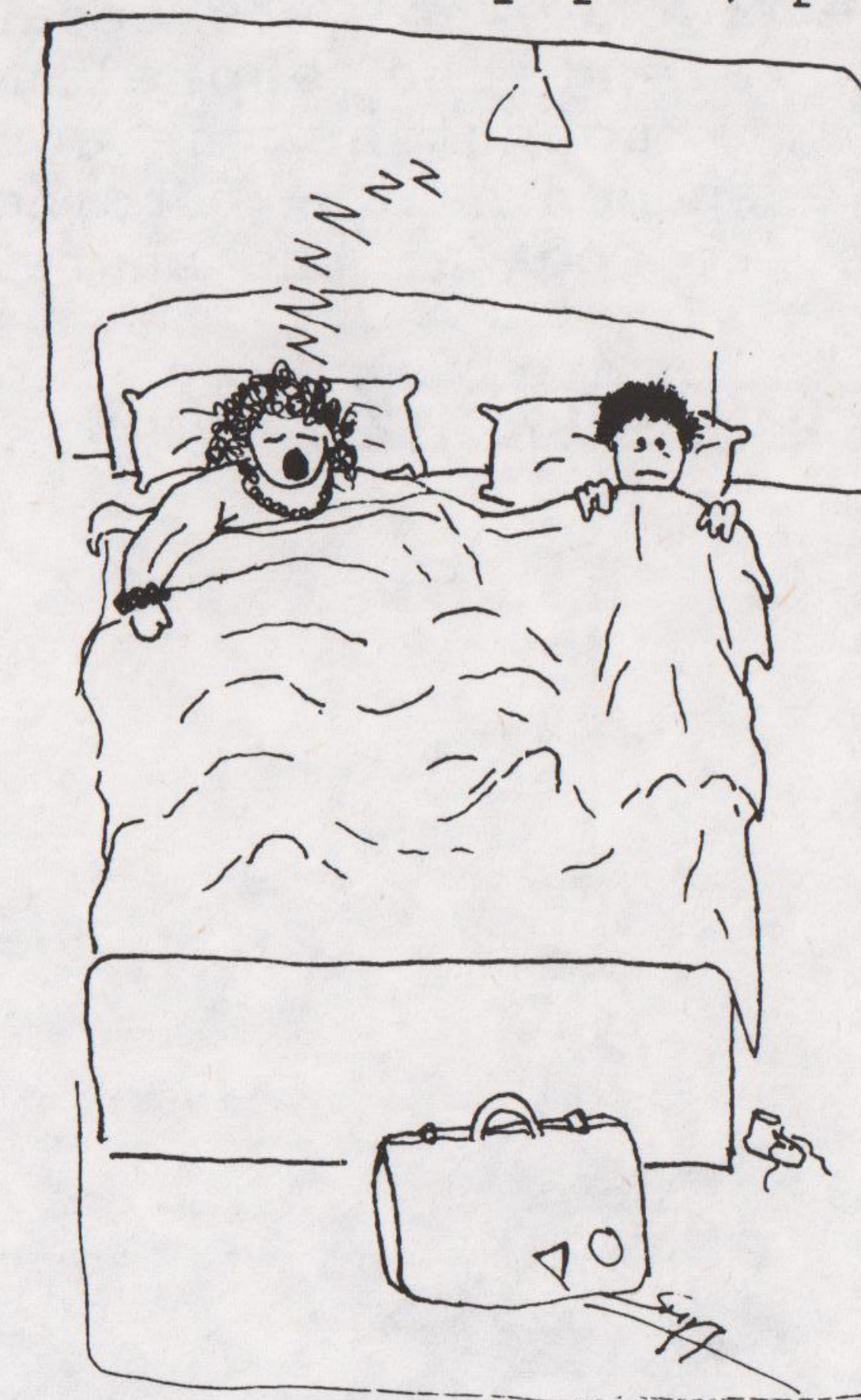
So it began - everyone tucked into the pre-journey drink and as I got surrounded by Sketchly bags and suitcases and chattery women, I felt slightly more at ease and managed to down a few pints meself - Oh, I thought, they're just getting into a merry spirit for the long and usually tedious bus journey to Blackpool, but no - once on the bus the drink kept flowing in the form of half pint glasses of brandy and lemonade - "I'm not going to survive" I thought, as I sat pressed against the bus window by a various assortment of vanity cases, bags, shoes and women who were crammed into the minibus, (Does this beat 15 people in a phone box?) By what I think must have been by the positive thought process - i.e. 'we'll get everything in coz we've got to'. The trip went on and on and on, owing to the fact that we needed to have about 70 toilet stops, the first occurring only 750 yards from the pub....

arrival

We reached the B&B in a riotous state, being directed by several men, who narrowly missed being dragged on board - 'to show us where it was....'. We were shown to tiny rooms which were built in the attic and used I suspect for these very occasions - who was to share with who had already been arranged (fought over) - most had been opposed to sharing with me, some had suggested I stayed on the minibus - the roof - innuendoes abounded at this point - I had already suspected that I would be a great source of amusement even though I'd spent cash amending my wardrobe to include posh leisure/day wear, and nights out, which was noted...But 'ya still look a mess' - 'ya can't go out in that raincoat'.

After we'd allotted rooms, me thinking 'My God how am I going to spend 2 nights with a straight woman in a room the size of a shoe box?' Still - the evening wore on, and the pubs had been open for hours - so they said (more like 5 minutes). Everyone dumped their stuff - had a quick cup of tea and stale biscuit - and after retouching the makeup, we were off out to greet the night. It was decided we'd start with a pub crawl, I thought crawl was something done at near sedate pace - at least time enough to drink a half - but no - the pubs 'we' chose where crowded to the point of the queue for the bar started 40 feet from the pavement - 'we' wont get in here' I kept on saying - pleading hopefully. After the first crush it was 'keep your hands on the parts you hold dear' or it will be grappled and fondled all the way to the bar - and after - I went from halves to a squeeze of a lemon, so I could keep up with the pace - and at one time when we found space to stand sipping our drinks without the

barrage of hands and obscene suggestions, the pub was declared to be boring and we were off before I'd had time to remove the salad from me coke. Mind I was grateful for the men, on one point - the women didn't pick on me much. In one particularly quiet pub, 'only 10 minutes to get served', they practically hoisted me onto the the bar, to show off my socks, which everyone found particularly amusing - I was as amused as the bar staff who were trying to serve amid this hysterical (on my part) point.

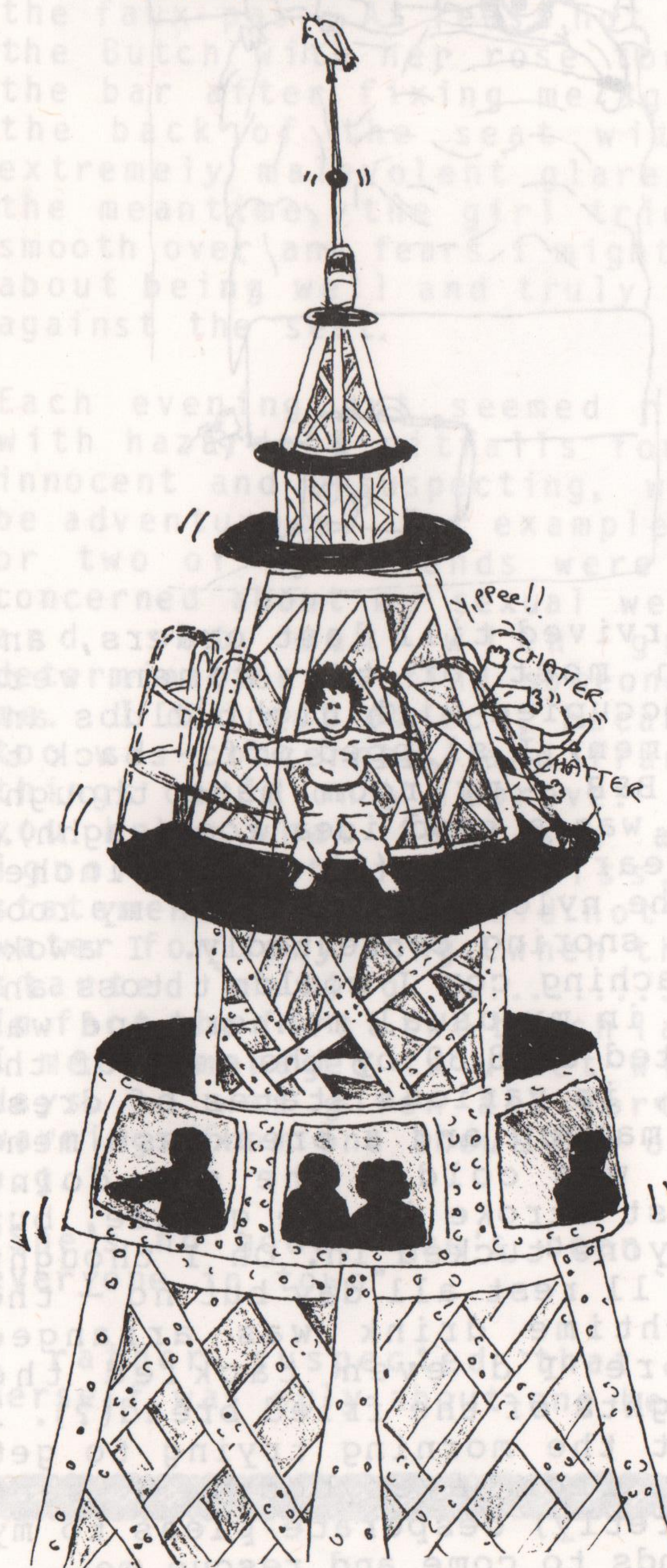


I survived till last orders, and when most of the women were preoccupied with night clubs and the men, I slipped off - back to the B&B - my room mate thought that was a good idea too (aagh). I swear I slept(?) on two inches of the nylon sheeted bed - my room mate snoring contentedly. I awoke (?) aching coz I couldn't toss and turn in my usual manner, and was greeted at 8.30 by the rest of the gang, in various states of dress and makeup and a breakfast menu that was cold - the egg doing breast stroke in the grease, but everyone tucked in. Oh I thought they'll rest all day but no - the lunchtime drink was arranged before I'd even tackled the delights of the fried bread(?). I spent the morning trying to get away from everybody, I sent (secretly) desperate pleas to my friends to come and rescue me.

CCCCCCCC

I listened intently to conversations to decide what they DIDN'T like doing - the pier some said, so I went to the pier - "Oh well brave it" they said, ("shit"), the sea they said - so I went to the sea - "Oh we must have a paddle" - ("Double shit"). I was sure they didn't like donkeys - so I went on a donkey - but alas, so did they! and of course a dog chased mine into the sea, out again towards an ice cream wagon at full gallop, which amused everyone who were sedately trotting along the shoreline - "Why me" I thought as the donkey drew to a sudden halt - forcing my breakfast to look at the shoreline too!!

CCCCCCCC



CCCCCCCC the tower CCCCCC

THE TOWER, I thought in desperation, even I don't wanna go up there, but no, they came after me - the wild chatterly women on tow - of course most of them got the jelly legs in the lift - promising I thought they might not get out, but go down again, but no, as I gingerly (I'm, phobic about heights) got out, I heard the girls follow - even the odd bump in the lift and me saying "It always does that before the lift rope snaps", hadn't put them off - by this time I was desperate for escape and I left the sanctuary of the "inside" and with the breakfast and heart in mouth I slowly climbed the steps to the second level, with the tower swaying, the wind whipping and solid ground being miles away, my phobia saying get the *+!!~** out of here, I slowly edged my way around the tower -(it having a one way system, and you must go all the way round before going down). I clung mollusc like to the side - and thought peace at last! - but no - they just had to follow me!! - I'd have jumped but Blackpool Council had put paid to that by making it suicide proof - I'm sure in these circumstances they could have provided a gate

Back to the B&B - after the lunchtime drinking session to freshen up, and eat, and off again - the round of pubs - but this time I didn't get out of going to a club

Continued next issue.

Jo Fraser ~ Nottingham City Council ~ Equal Opportunities Officer Lesbian Issues



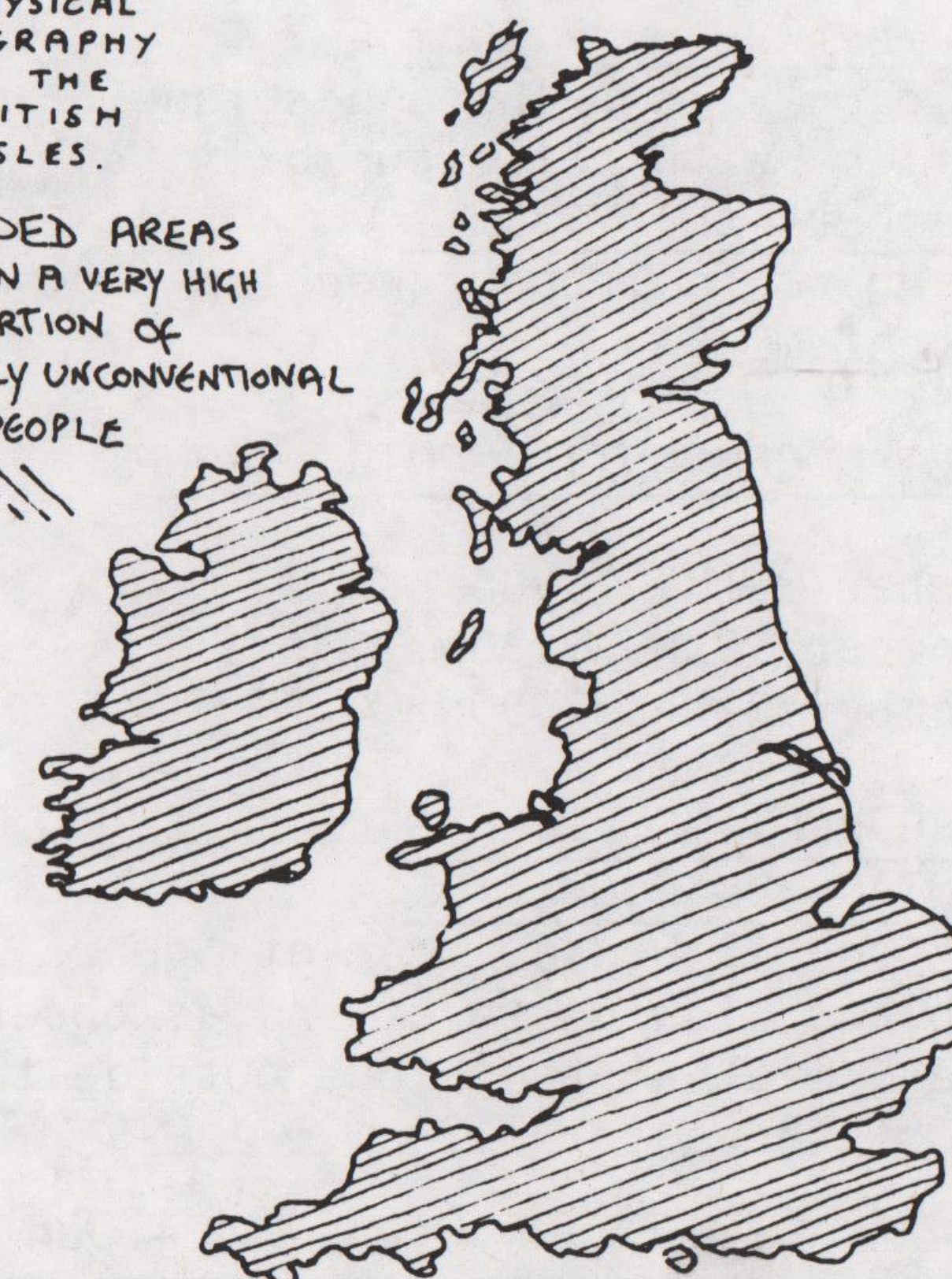
Yes, I still get bcxing jokes after all these years and here I am fighting my way through the mud of Nottingham City Council from the inside. I expect many of you know that I exist and wonder what it is exactly that I do as nothing has visibly changed for lesbians in Nottingham, or has it ?!!

I'm not going to sit here and bore you with all the details of my work because I would need a lot more space than this to get it all in. So, I'll explain some of it and keep you informed in further editions of "Diversion" but first I'll explain who I am.

In 1980 I moved to Nottingham to start a course at Trent Polytechnic and the course was for 4 years. The first two years were hell. I had nothing in common with the other bods on the course and I was really confused and lonely because of my fears about being a lesbian. I even tried ringing Lesbian Line but soon disappeared into my closet again

PHYSICAL
GEOGRAPHY
OF THE
BRITISH
ISLES.

SHADED AREAS
CONTAIN A VERY HIGH
PROPORTION OF
SEXUALLY UNCONVENTIONAL
PEOPLE



As part of my course I had to work for a year so I got a job with the Gas Board in London. I hated the job, but sat it out because I was having fun being in love. The love affair was a disaster in the end but it had introduced me to a very healthy dyke scene in the heart of London. There was no way I could turn back.

Politics came fairly soon afterwards and I started to go to all sorts of meetings on all sorts of topics, (I went to stop myself thinking about a broken heart and then I got hooked). Soon it was time to return to Nottingham and I managed to get some contact numbers for lesbians in Nottingham so that I wouldn't be isolated. It worked and I got involved with lesbian politics.

That was when we first started having meetings about lesbian and gay centres and formally meeting with the City Council. The rest is history and here I am.

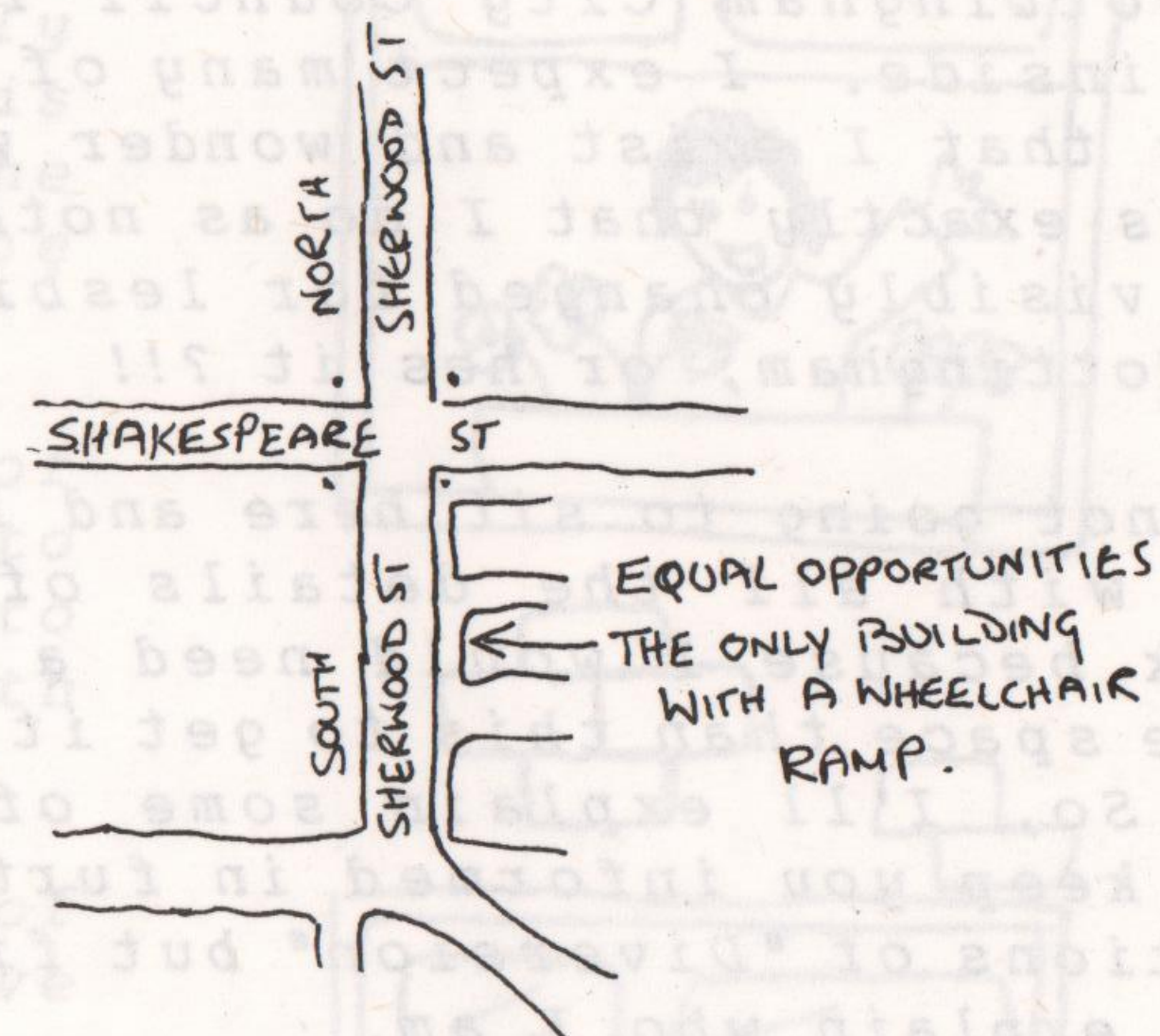
Briefly, my main task is to look after the lesbian sub-committee i.e. write reports for it, find out information for it etc. I also collect as much information about lesbians as I can by keeping in contact with groups and individuals around the country. I do general equal opportunities work e.g. sit on a working party that's looking at the conditions of service that Nottingham City Council employees have, (childcare facilities, special leave etc.). A lot of time is spent arguing the position that lesbians have been forced into in this country and why this should be changed. Individuals sometimes need help, i.e. a complaint about harassment on the buses, problems with housing etc. and so it goes on.

In the next few months I shall keep you informed about my work and I shall also be sharing with you some of the information I have collected from groups around the

country and what their aims are etc. In the next edition I shall also provide a list of lesbian magazines and books that we have in the unit.

Finally, where am I? Below is a small map. Come for a cup of tea and a chat. Because my work time is limited to two & a half days a week I can't get out & meet as many of you as I'd like.

See you all soon Jo.



EVENTS

REGULAR THURSDAY NIGHT MEETINGS

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

LESBIAN GROUP

October 23rd. 7.30pm. -

Lesbians and Drink.

November 20th. 7.30pm -

Religion - Is being a Lesbian in conflict with religious beliefs?

December 4th. 7.30pm.

How do we feel about Lesbian sado-masochism?

LESBIAN COMMUNITY CENTRE GROUP

October 30th. 7.30pm

November 13th. 7.30pm.

November 27th. 7.30pm.

OTHER MEETINGS/EVENTS

LESBIAN SUB-COMMITTEE

The Council House, Market Square
Lesbians wishing to attend as observers please meet at the Lions outside the council house at 7.20pm.

Next sub-committees - Nov 6th + Jan 8th.



Word Search

D R E L G G U N S P I L
O W U U E V I T C A D A
W O M B N E S S D R A G
N M H G I S P L I T T E
T E B A T T O A E Y O R
H N L E A T T T T K H A
E O O G L K E I A L Y N
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SNUGGLE GUM WOMB TENT
ACTIVE HOT PET-CAT
SPOT TRIANGLE WOMEN
SPLIT BELLY VEST DRAG
DOWN-THE-DISCO NUDGE
LAGER-AND-LIME DYKE SIGH
GENITALS NUDE GENITAL
POEM LIPS PASSION PARTY
SILK DUNK LUST RUB BLOBS
NIPPLE PRESENT



QUICK EASY WORD SEARCH

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£1 each

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first 3 completed get a prize!

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A
Caption.**

Best One

wins a prize £3!

captions in by
DEC 1st

