

NOTTINGHAM

LESBIAN COMMUNITY CENTRE GRAND OPENING

REGULAR DISCO'S
CLOSET LIBRARY
POOL TABLE
JUKEBOX
COFFEE BAR
HELP + ADVICE

GROUPS FOR:
BLACK LESBIANS
LESBIAN MOTHERS
YOUNG LESBIANS
JEWISH LESBIANS
NEWCOMERS
DISCUSSIONS



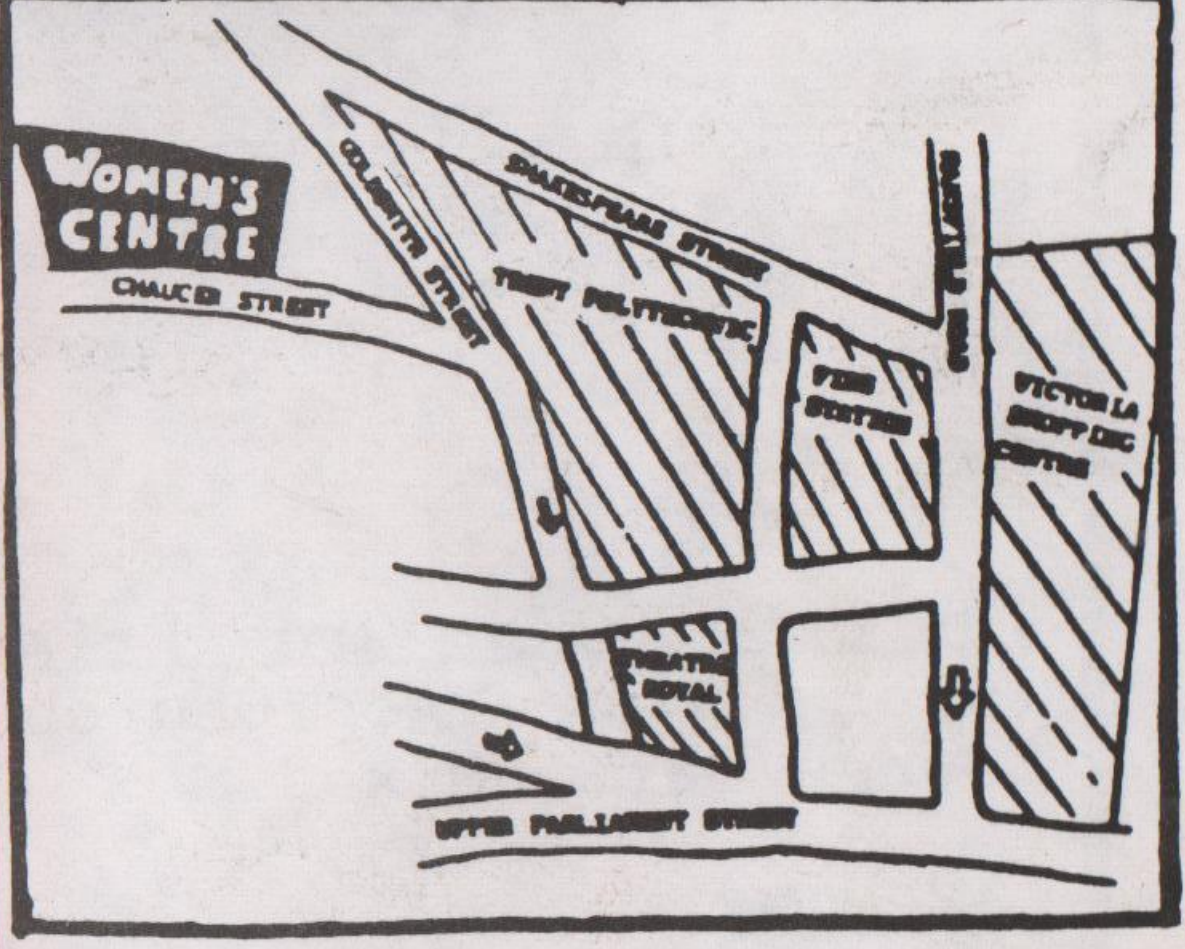
design by tyler

UPSTAIRS AT THE WOMEN'S CENTRE, 30 CHAUCEY ST, TEL: 483697

FRI 16 OCT SAT 17 OCT

8PM "DOUBLE IDENTITY"
A PERFORMANCE
9PM DISCO - TILL LATE
6-8.30PM HAVE DINNER
AT THE GOSSIP CAFE
(book in advance)

1-5PM CRECHE
EXHIBITIONS
VIDEOS
DISCUSSIONS
SNACKS

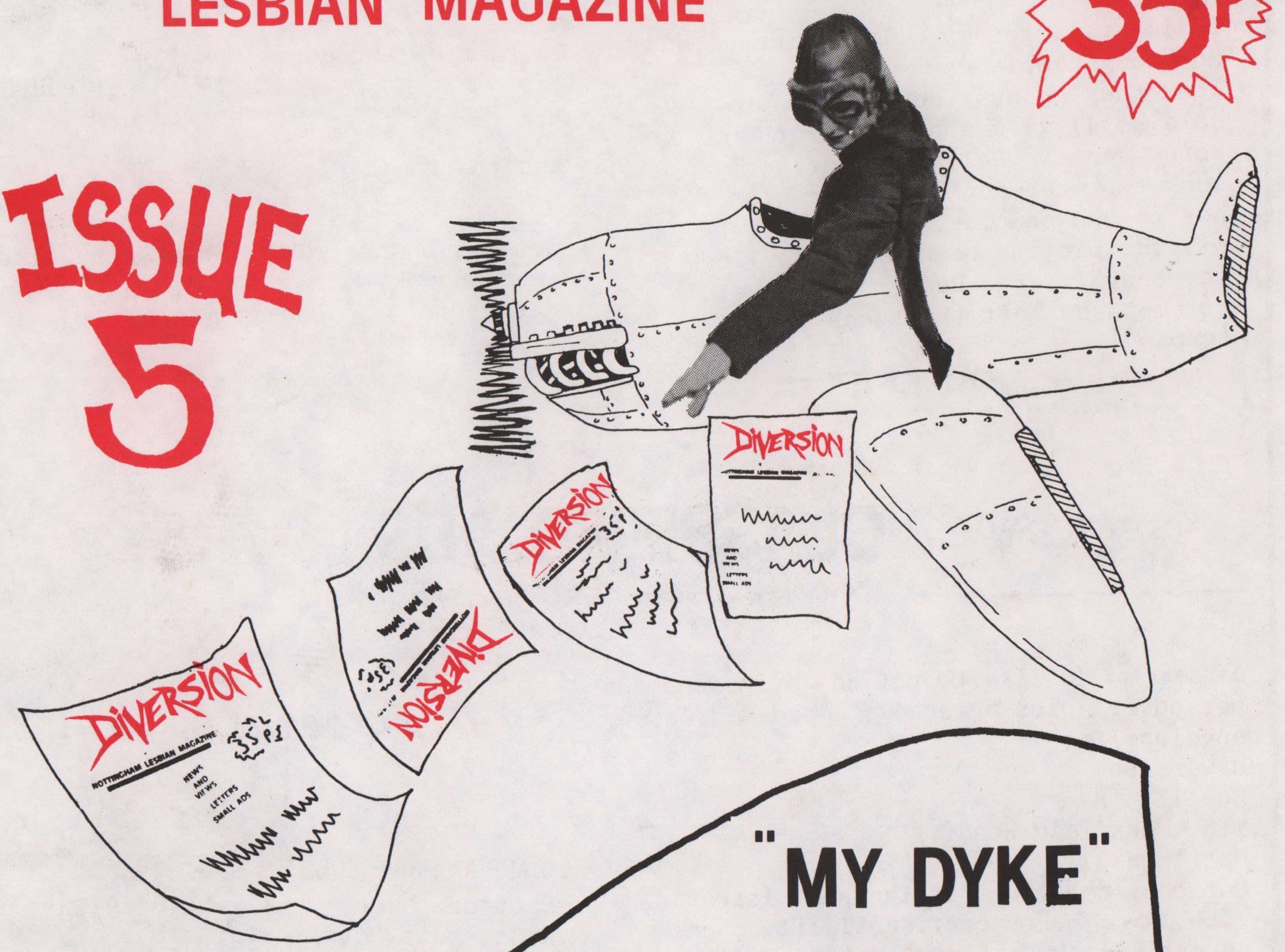


DIVERSION

NOTTINGHAM & EAST MIDLANDS
LESBIAN MAGAZINE

35p

ISSUE
5



"MY DYKE"

NEWS

AGONY DYKE

What's On

small ADS

NEWS AND VIEWS

ON
SALE
TO WOMEN

Lesbians and Fat

and MORE!!

I'm such a traitor!
Love Helen x

***** EDITORIAL *****

OK?OK?Diversiion number 5 is late - well it was Summer (well for one day at least)so the team were doing the usual Summery things like sheltering from the rain. Me,I spent a fortnight sitting in a mouldy tent eating packet soup and waiting for the torrential rain to stop.Friends at my house pleaded with me to give up and come in off the lawn - but as I said over and over "I'm on my holiday and I'm not here to enjoy myself" I did still get my milk delivered,and not many people can say that when they go away.How were your hols.We'll give a prize for the worst sent in.Delia,our resident cook took her double burner with her to the seaside.Hence the fish pie recipie,the reason it's called "crunchy" is because on the first attempt she left the bones in (groan).

Ahh well,Goose Fair is fast approaching here in sunny Nottingham and the excitment is bubbling like the mushy peas Delia has already put on the go - So girls if you're visiting for the fair why not pop in and have a pint at one of the lesbian venues listed. Hope you enjoy this issue - keep sending stuff in and thanks to those that already have.

Contact us through:- Box 11
118, Mansfield Road.
Nottingham.

And thanks to CAS for typing

Cartoons on pages 4,8,21,37,39 by Cath Jackson
cartoon books on pages 3,7,19,24,42 by SMIFF
on pages 34,35 by Jo Nesbit.on page. 33 by
Tee Corine

☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆

RECOMMENDATION FOR SALE, JOBS,
CLASSIFIED ADS
PERSONAL SERVICES WANTED

☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆

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

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

Our copy deadline for the next issue is **23 Nov**, 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 Diversiion quoting the relevant number.

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

Typical reply: (10) c/o Diversiion,
Box 11, etc.



..... *personal*

☆☆☆

SAPPHO PARTNERSHIP.

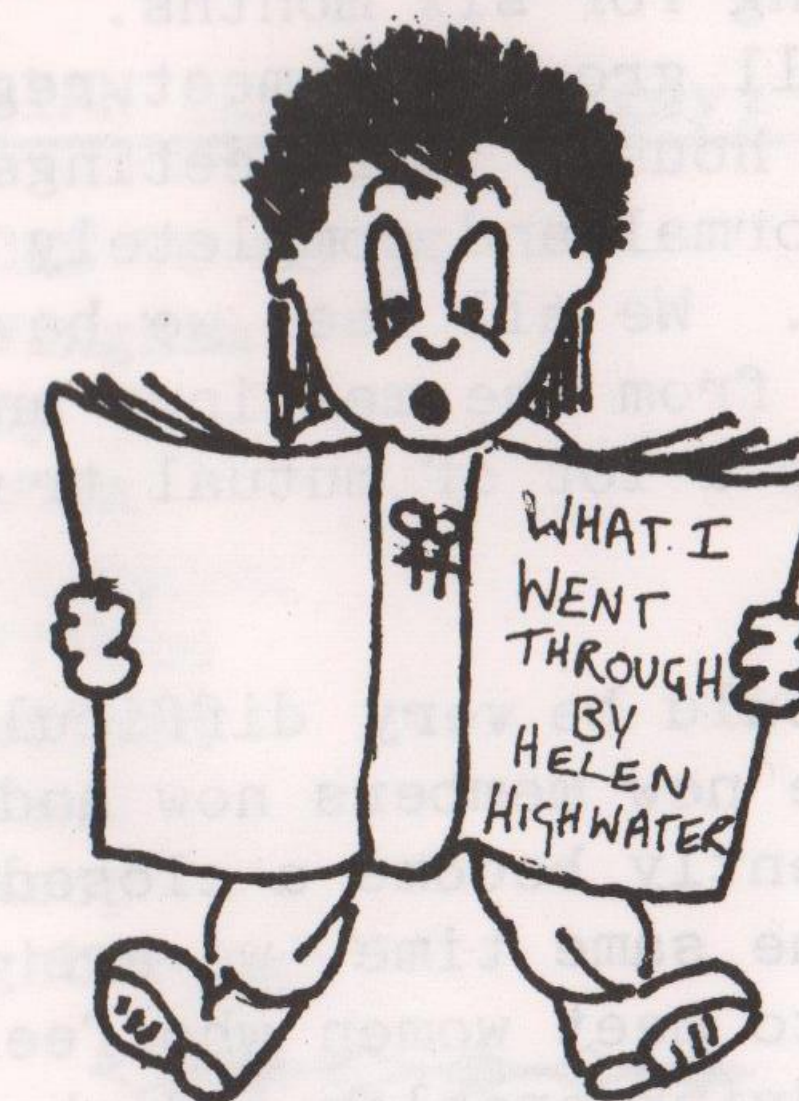
Photographs of you, your beloved,
kids, cats, dogs, etc.
Phone 706702 (North)

(DONCASTER)Is there any-one out there who likes heavy metal?for boozy nights out+ freindship,preferable near Doncaster, lonely,sober,newcomer.bike rider.
box.D8.

(STAFFORD) Partially-deaf gay girl, 23, lonely, caring, honest, fun-loving, can hold conversations Who desperately seeks other gay females (18-28) for friendships. Interests:- writing letters, reading, music, gay scene. Place Preferred Stoke/Staffs/ West Midlands. All letters welcome replies to me with photos please. No bi-sexuals & no role playing. Box N. D7.

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LESBIAN LIBRARY



THE CLOSET LIBRARY

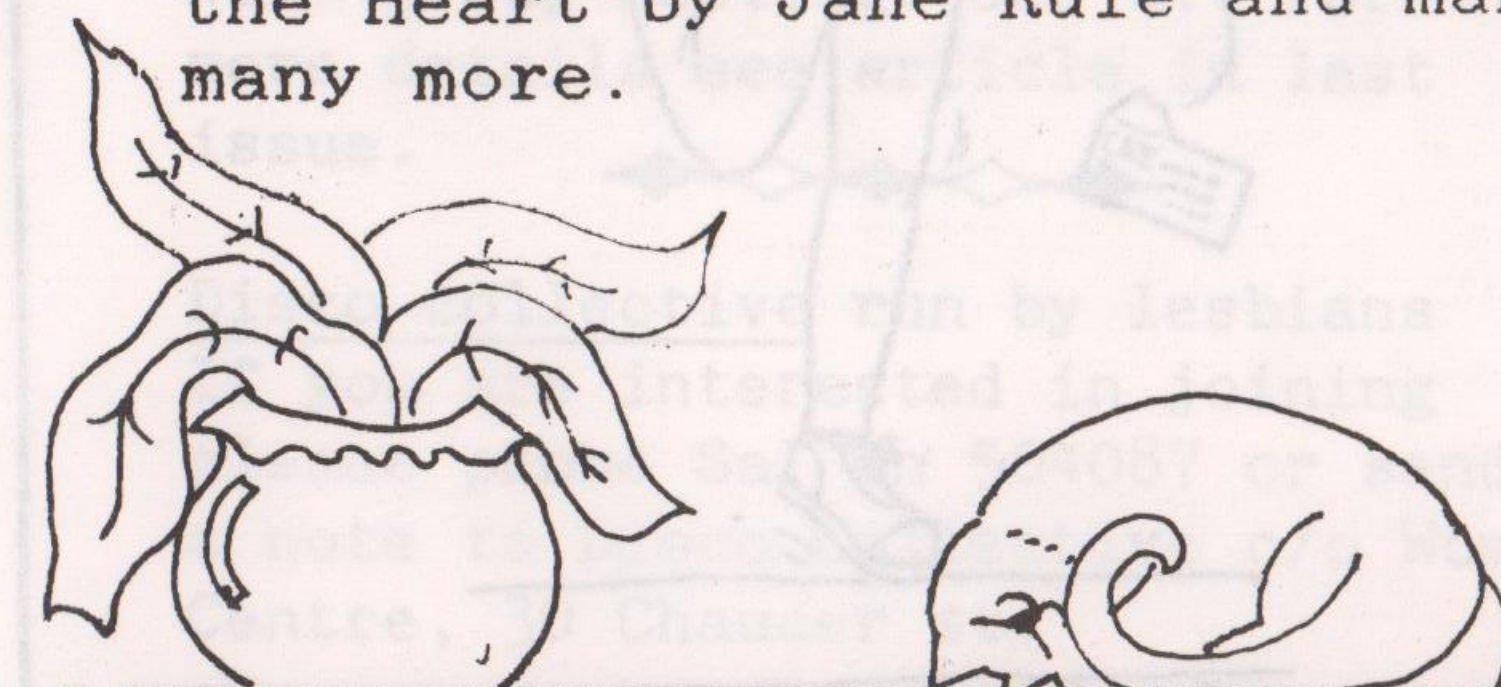
The Closet library is now open! So far we have bought, and been given, over 100 books by and about Lesbians, but we still desperately need your donations. It's in the Lesbian office (at the Lesbian Centre, 30 Chaucer St.). It should be open on Mondays from 7.30 to 9.00 pm. and Thursdays from 7.00 until 9.00 pm. We're also going to open it on the first Sunday of every month, from 2.30 until 5.30 pm, when the Newcomers group meets and whenever we can when there are other Lesbian events on in the centre. At the moment there are three of us involved in getting the library going, so if there are more women interested in working with us, we'll be able to have it open more often. Please contact us c/o The Lesbian Centre, or phone Eleanor on 412098 if you're interested.

Because our resources are very limited, we've decided we need to charge a membership fee, which will act as a deposit on the books you borrow and an insurance policy incase books get lost or stolen. The fee is £5 for waged and £3 for unwaged/very low waged. We hope you will feel this is a small price to pay for access to over 100 Lesbian books ... and obviously we will be able to buy more books with the income from your membership.

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A FEW OF THE TITLES WE HAVE AT THE LIBRARY, TO WHET YOUR APPETITES... Zami by Audre Lorde; Relatively Norma and others by Ann Livia; Long time passing: lives of older Lesbians by Mary Adelman; Outlaws in the classroom, lesbians and gays in the school system; Rocking Cradle: Lesbian mothers, a challenge in family living; She came too late by May Wing; The Fires of Bride by Ellen Galford; The Daughters of Egalia by Gerd Brantenberg; Gossip number 1 to 4; They will know me by my teeth by Elana Dykewoman; The work of a common woman by Judy Grahn; I am a woman and others by Ann Bannon; the Reach and other stories; Desert of the Heart by Jane Rule and many many more.



The Closet Library Official Opening day is on Oct 17th on the Lesbian Community Centre Open Day. A free glass of wine for every member.



Black Lesbian Group

There is a room for Black Lesbians in the Womens' Centre. We want to start a group --- Anyone interested phone The Womens' Centre for more details. Tel; 411475, Mon -Fri 10-4, Sat 10-1. Or write to the Black Lesbian Group, c/o The Womens' Centre, Chaucer St, Nottingham.



Or phone the Lesbian centre on 483697



**NOTTINGHAM
LESBIAN LINE
410652**



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

WOMEN AND DRINK GROUP

The women with drink problems group has been going for six months. We are a small group and meet regularly at a members house. Our meetings are very informal and completely confidential. We all feel we have gained a lot from the meetings and have built up a lot of mutual trust and support.

We feel it would be very difficult to assimilate new members now and have consequently become a closed group. At the same time, we are all willing to meet women who feel they have a drink problem and who would like to talk to women in the same boat. We would like to encourage other women to form small groups.

We are hoping to stage a drink awareness day at the Women's Centre in the future. We feel that often the greatest problems facing women with drink problems are society's casual approach to drink and the negative attitudes towards women with drink problems. Having a drink problem is a disability but it is not often accepted as such. For example, at a recent lesbian social one of the acts felt it was OK to raise laughs by ridiculing women with drink problems. It is this sort of attitude we would like to change. Drink affects many women's lives and we hope by promoting honest discussion we can foster more positive and compassionate attitudes.

The Women and Drink Group can be contacted c/o the Women's Centre, 30 Chaucer Street, Nottingham.



RAMOTH PRINTS

133a Mansfield Road
Nottingham

Telephone: (0602) 473081

**OFFSET LITHO
& SILK SCREEN PRINTERS
AND TYPESETTERS**

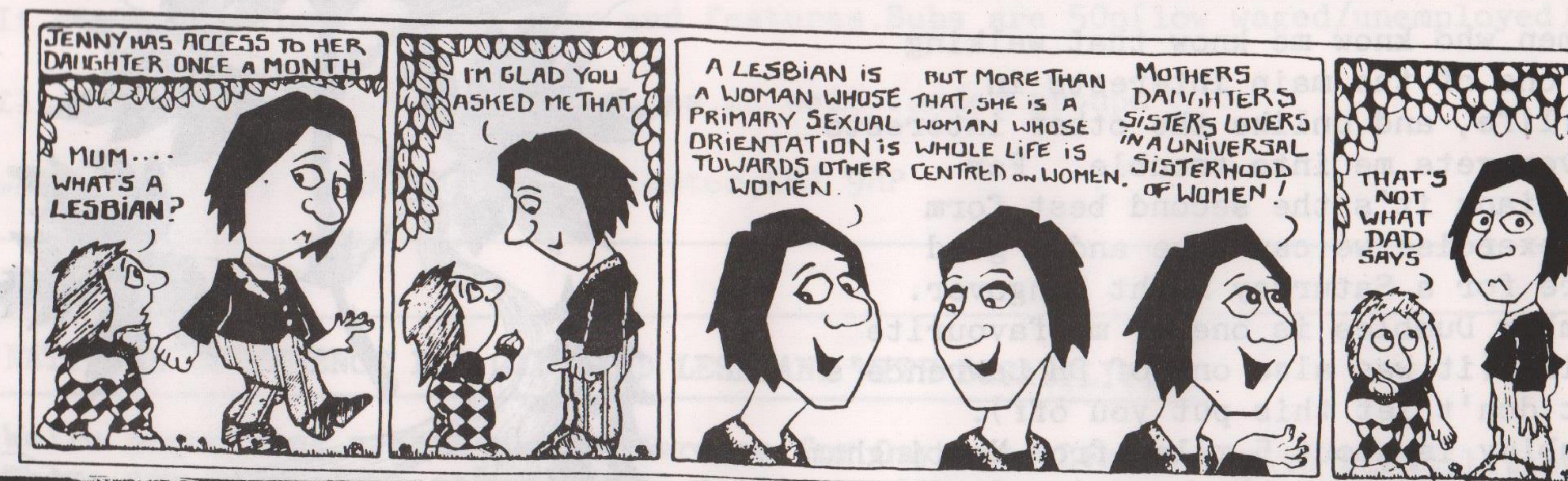
Cheap, Professional Printing for Community
and Minority Groups

Leaflets, Posters, Business Cards, Stationery etc.

Collectively run by Women

LESBIAN MOTHERS

Lesbian mothers meet once every three weeks at the Womens Centre, 30 Chaucer st Nott'm
Next meeting Tues 29th Sept, at 7.30pm. For more details Phone Josie, 473104 (day)
or 283416 (eve) or write to the Lesbian Mothers Group c/o Lesbian centre 30 Chaucer st.



**Sapphic
Counselling**
and workshops for Lesbians, for women.



JANE BRISTOW, 106, WELSTEAD AVE, ASPLEY, NOTTINGHAM. NG8 5NS
TELEPHONE NOTT'M 760550

**NOTTINGHAM AIDS
HELPLINE
585526**

Monday/Tuesday 7pm-10pm.

THE LESBIAN STRENGTH MARCH



It was great, suddenly we were everywhere. Dyke spotting at speakers corner on June 13th was just too easy. There we were, with badges, banners and (some of the wiser ones) brollies, thousands of us by the time the march set off through Hyde Park. I didn't see many of the banners as I was too busy banging my percussion along with the band (and singing "She'll be coming with a woman when she comes" etc) But there was one brilliant one... Brixton Vegan Dykes Do it With Soya Dessert.

The rain was drenching (right through to my knickers!) but The Horns of Jericho kept us dancing along, until the police felt it necessary to assert themselves. A van screeched up and picked a woman from the midst of the band and dragged her off. The Charge? Criminal Damage. What for? Tapping the bonnet of a car with her drumsticks, because it had dangerously, (and illegally, not that the police noticed) and rudely been trying to drive its way through the march.

The police were immediately surrounded by angry and concerned women, three of whom were also arrested. They were all eventually let go with a caution, the alternative being offered was to be held in all night and charged in the morning. This will give them all criminal records, without even the bother or expense of taking them to court, or having to prove anything. They were also subjected to a lot of very unpleasant and anti lesbian verbal abuse.

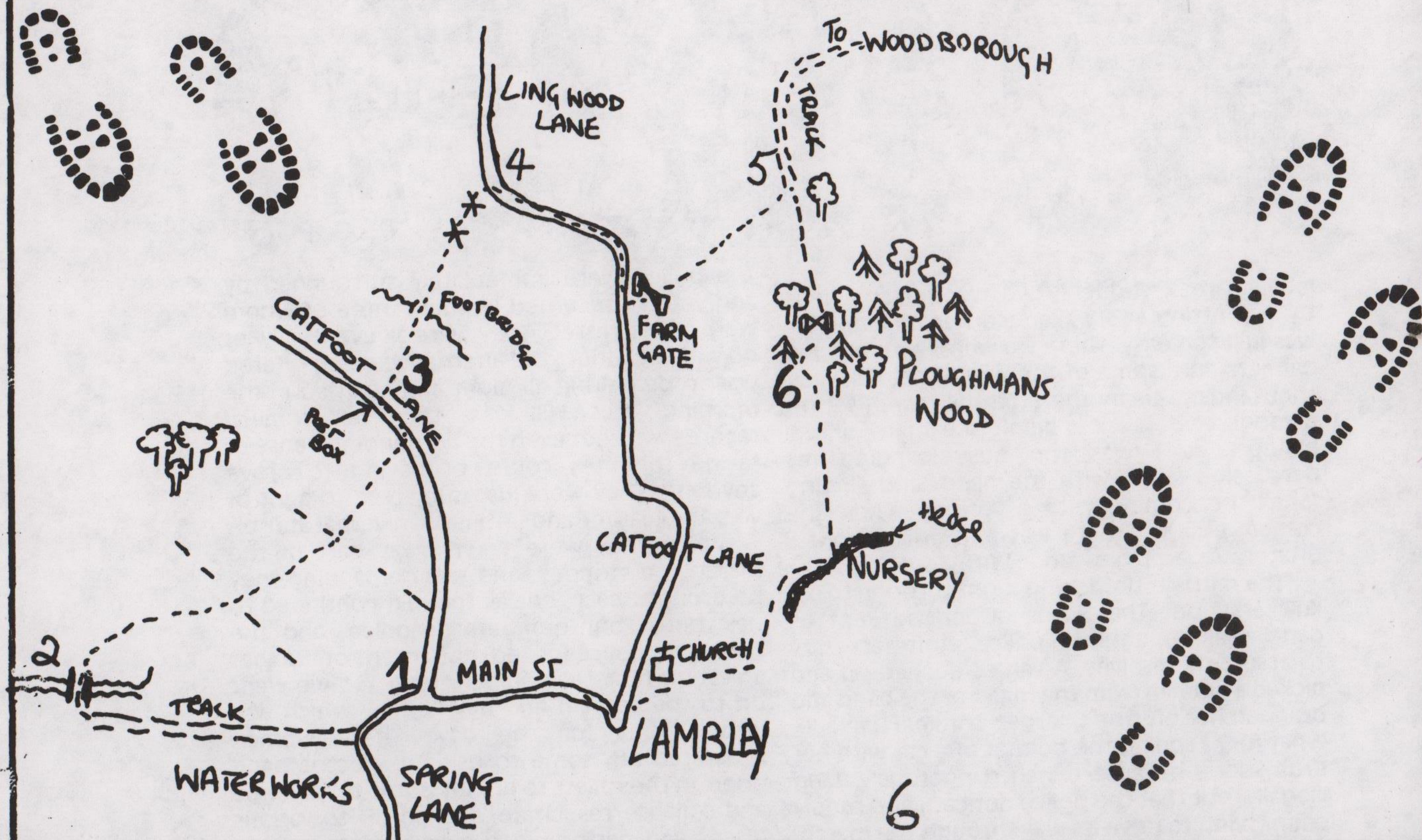
When they were taken away part of the march had stopped, and was demanding they be brought back, but as the rain continued to pelt down our numbers dwindled, and the gathering police looked a bit intent on further arrests, which seemed very futile, so we went on to the Lesbian and Gay Centre, which was lesbian only for the day. There women separated off, some to use the electric hand driers in the toilets to dry off, some to go home and collapse/resuscitate, and go off to various discos and performance evenings around the city.

HIKES FOR DYKES

Women who know me know that walking is one of the main interests in my life, and unlike the other interests never gets me into trouble. For lesbians it's the second best form of exercise we can take and a good cure for a Saturday night hangover. Lambly Dumbles is one of my favourite walks (it was also one of DH Lawrence's but don't let this put you off). Lambley is about 5 miles from Nottingham and Bartons run a bus service from the Victoria Centre. It's a short walk of about five miles. The going is fairly easy but disabled women may have difficulty with some of the slopes and in wet weather it can be slippery underfoot.

1. the walk starts at the junction of Spring Lane and Main Street. Take the track that runs at the side of the Waterworks and follow the path which the track joins. The stream on the right is the Cocker Beck. (Diversion is offering a £1000 prize to anyone who can think of a better name.) Follow the path to the footbridge on the right.

2. Cross the wooden footbridge and head for the signpost in the righthand side of the field. Follow the footpath back towards Lambley over three fields. This area was once part of Sherwood Forest and the small copses that can be seen in the area are relics of this. When you come to a recreational field, cross this field diagonally to a stile. Keep to the same direction over other stiles until you reach Catfoot Lane, a small country lane. Cross the road and



3. Turn left at the lane and take a footpath by a signpost near a postbox. Follow the well marked path to the footbridge. Crossing the stream, keeping to a northerly direction and ignoring the paths that lead to the left and right, keep to the path over further stiles until the path joins a track and a country lane to the right. Puffing dykes will be pleased to know that there are no more uphill climbs for a while.

4. Turn right and follow the road in an easterly direction until it starts to descend at a bend. Do not descend. Cross the road. Go through a farm gate and take a footpath on the left. This descends in a north easterly direction. After crossing several fields the path joins a track.

5. At the junction where an uphill path and a track from the left joins the path, take the left hand track into Woodborough village. Woodborough was an active village at the time of the Luddite rebellion and the wide windows in some of the cottages indicate that stockingers once lived there. It is now a very snooty middle class dormer village and is just the place to be invaded by hoards of lesbians. The Six Bells pub makes for a good break in the walk and serves good coffee and bar snacks as well as home ales beer. To continue the walk return by way of the path but at the junction 5. take the uphill path heading towards the wood.

6. At this point is a good view of Woodborough and the surrounding area. This is the last climb of the walk. The wood is called Ploughmans Wood and is beautiful when the bluebells are out. Turn right keeping to the edge of the wood and turn left at the gate at the end of the wood and the corner of the field. Follow the path downhill to the nursery but turn right at the hedge, following this until it joins a well marked path going right towards Lambley. Follow this path passing through a small gate to Lambley Church and the end of the walk.

Happy hiking.

Lyn.



THERE'S TWO FUNNY WOMEN WHAT LIVES DOWN OUR STREET

There's two funny women what lives down our street; least that's what me Mum calls 'em - and everyone else's too. They all says like not to go near them, cause when they were younger they used to look up girls skirts. So now, lots of them uvver kids cross over the steet when they go past the house where they live, like even its shadow might conjour up an evil breeze whose twiddling fingers'd twitch up their skirts and show thir knickers to the big boys. Well, all I says is rot and rubbish and if they didn't wear them prissy dresses like Tiny Tearses big sister or somefink, then there aint no breeze gonna get up em. Mind you, lots of times when I was little like eight or nine, I'd do jabba ten just in case and walk right fast. But I'd never cross over cause I aint no chicken and anyhow I've met them and they're dead good, though I aint telling nobody but you. If me Mum found out she'd murder me - after she'd washed me in carbolic soap and rinsed me marf out wiv disinfectant first that is.

Anyway, I don't reckon they're half so old as what people round here reckons. It's cause they're different see, so you can't tell. Stuff like not having any boyfriends. Everyone thinks that's real weird. But I can understand that see, I s'pose, cause I don't want none neither and I hate it when busy-body grown-ups like me uncles say "You got a boyfriend then Marlene?" or "You been playing kiss chase round them bike sheds, you naughty girl?". Once I got really angry and stuck me tongue out at uncle Jim at tea. Then I nipped off real fast, but when I came back later I still got a licking off me Ma. Said I was unladylike and wasn't to wear them filthy dungarees no more in the street. Said I was getting a disgrace and if I didn't watch out I'd end up like them two old spinsters down the road. Thing is see? I'd quite like to be a boy really. They get to do lots of exciting things like climbing trees without no-one shouting at them. And I don't never want no tits neither, getting in the way so's you can't run proper or nuffink. If I grow any I'm gonna cut them off.



Thing what I don't understand is them women have tits and they don't seem to mind, but also they seem a lot like me - in fact it was me dungarees and football what got me into their house in the first place. It was like this, see. Me Mum said "It's nearly the end of the summer holidays and if I've heard you say you're bored once I've heard you say it a million times. So I've got a nice little job for you. GO AND TIDY YOUR BLOODY BEDROOM. It's getting so's only a pig could live in there." Bo-or-ing. But anyway I stomped up the stairs - so's she'd know it was a protest, "Stop your cheek" she shouted and come out the kitchen wielding a rolling pin like coppers cosh. So I legged it up the stairs and locked meself in me room. Soon she put the radio on and Jimmy Young was blaring out, so I threw me ball out me bedroom window, climbed onto the pantry roof, shinned down the drainpipe, got me ball and went tippy toe into the entry where I did a runnner just in case. I ran right down the other end of the street where them two funny ladies live. Well, I started kicking me ball around, minding me own business, when these big lads - Charlie Smiff and his mates from the local Comp - come up and lean on the lamppost. First they just watched and then they started calling. "You a girl or a boy? Show us yer dick." "Nahn, she's a Queer."

I didn't understand all this, but I knew one thing; I was real scared. But also I was real angry and wivart thinking what I was doing, I just went up to Charlie and thumped him in the belly. He didn't budge. Neither did I, being frozen to the spot. Almost shitting meself. He just looked at me. Stared and stared, seemed like hours. Then suddenly his mouth opened big as a train tunnel and out comes this enormous laugh, and then all his mates started up too. After he'd had enough of laughing he pulled me hair real hard so that my head jerked back, snatched me football and booted it so's it sailed through the air and crashed down into the funny lady's yard.

"Watch it you little snot, or you'll end up like them queers - and we bash all queers." and off they went.

Well, I cried a bit - mostly for the future, not the pain in me head. Anyway I s'pose when I went to get me ball back I must've looked a fright - a red, swollen face streaked with mud cause me hands weren't too clean when I tried to wipe them tears away.

So, off I went, just about as scared of going into their yard as I had been of Charlie Smiff and his mates. I was hoping just to go over their wall, get me ball and scarper. But when I had climbed so's me head was over the top of the wall, I couldn't see me ball anywhere for flowers. And a voice seemed to float from space and say;

"Hello. We were expecting you."

I looked towards the house and there those funny women sat, together on the back step, and soaking up the sun. Well me, I was a bit shocked coz I wasn't expecting no-one. I couldn't speak, so I just hung there on top of their wall wiv me marf 'alf open, catching flies as me Mum would say. They was both looking right at me and smiling.

"You can come over if you like" one of them said.

Well, of course I wanted to - anyone would when they saw what I seed. Their garden was jammed wiv flowers, a veritable jungle in our city. All the uvver yards I'd ever seed was junk and pigeon sheds and rusty bikes and stuff. And them two funny women was a sight for sore eyes. Couldn't work 'em out at all. They had bare faces bit like mine, only I spec not so dirty. And bright clothes too - not brinyon like me aunties and me Mum. Yeah, they was funny, but not in a scarey way. Fact is, they looked quite friendly, bit like two clowns, what wiv all them colours jiggling me eyeballs about. Well, there I was, stuck on top of their wall, when one of them says;

"Don't worry love, we aren't going to hurt you." I s'poses not and comes over real slow, so's not to crush all them flowers.

"Come on, come and sit down here. And I suppose you'd like this back." the one with fair hair pulled out my football from behind her back and handed it to me.

"Yeah ta. Though I'm sorry if it broke anyfink. It wasn't me what kicked it, honest."

"That's O.K., nothing was damaged. Anyway, it wouldn't really matter if it was."

"Wow, aren't you cross? Me Mum would have throttled me."

"Ah well, that's probably because your Mum has lots to worry about, what with a family and job and such. Me and Jill only have ourselves to think about so things are a lot easier." said the dark haired one. What did she mean? I just had to ask.

"How do you know me Mum's got a job and that?" "Well", said the dark haired one, "You're Jeanette Simmon' daughter aren't you?"

"I dunno. Am I? Me Mum's name's Jeanette, but our surname's Watkins."

"Oh, of course - They looked at each other."

"Your Dad's Billy Watkins isn't he?"

Well, of course he is, so I said yes. I was puzzled, but before I had a chance to say another word, the fair haired one said:

"Oh, by the by, I'm Jill and this is Beth. What's your name?"

"I'd rather not say coz it's so horrid."

"Oh, go on. What's in a name after all?"

"All right then", I mumbled, "it's Marlene."

"Well then Marlene, would you like a drink? I bet you're really thirsty after all that football."

"Yeah! ta." The fair haired one went into the house. I was dying to ask some questions.

"Look. How comes you know me Mum?"

"Easy", said Beth, "We were all best friends at school, never out of each others sight. Until we were fourteen that is."

Gawd, I couldn't believe it - they both looked too young - and I said so.

"Hasn't your Mum ever mentioned us?"

"No."

"No. I don't suppose she would really. I'll let you into a secret though. Your Mum was the best footballer in our junior school. All the boys were dead jealous of her. She was tons better than Jill and me."

"No!" I can tell you I was so surprised. "Really?"

"Yes, really." she laughed. Jill came back and we each had a glass of real orange, somefink what me Mum could never afford. They talked a bit about me Mum and when they was kids and football and stuff. It was dead interesting, 'cept then I got worried about the time and being found out and that, so I left. But I said I'd visit again. Perhaps. Funny me Mum never mentioned them, what with them having been best friends and such. S'pose that's got somefink to do wiv girls skirts. They seemed nice enuff to me. But what's even stranger is me Mum and that football lark. I'd never have thought it, the way she goes on at me. I'll never let on to her that I know though - she'd be too embarrassed (probably knock me block off into the bargain). Gawd, I don't think I'll ever understand grown ups. Not never.

Karen.

DIVERSION

KWIZ

KWIZ




































KWIZ

What sort of lesbian are you? Are you the wild type with a heart thats not so much stone as slightly pebble-dashed - or are you the quiet confused type, who in the mad dash 100 metres sprint of life, not only doesn't know when the race began but forgot to bring her plimsoles - or are you the romantic dreamer who thinks the book of life was written by Mills and Boon - a woman who sees herself the tragic heroine - a slow reader who never seems to get to chapter 7 when she'll be taken away from all this. Or are you Ms "anything for a quiet life", a woman who just wants life to be a "small pleasant social gathering" but is constantly called away to answer and solve problems that turn up at her door.

1. You're down the Dyke and Duck for a quiet pint and you notice a sweetie of a woman sitting alone. Do you:
 - A Do nothing - you came in for a quiet pint and it's obvious she's waiting for someone.
 - B Watch her from a discreet distance going through opening lines in your head.
 - C Stroll over, casual like and ask whether the seat next to her is taken.
 - D Never go for a quiet drink.
 - E None of these.
- 2 You get talking to a woman at the Disco and you share a taxi home. It stops at her place first and she asks you in for a coffee. Do you:-
 - A Go in and have a cup of coffee - what else?
 - B Say you'd love a coffee now but prefer tea for breakfast.
 - C Decline coffee but arrange another night out.
 - D Sit trying to work out what she means by coffee for so long that she thinks you're in a stupor and leaves.
 - E None of these.
- 3 At the disco are you:-
 - A Propping the bar up.
 - B Having a wild time.
 - C Having intimate conversations.
 - D Sitting alone - hoping, thinking.
 - E None of these.

- 4 You go down the disco with your loved one - who spends the whole time dancing intimately with some "other woman". Do you:-
 - A Don't worry - your partner can hardly see you talking intimately with another "other woman" if she's dancing.
 - B Slink off muttering under your breath.
 - C Ignore her. She's always like it.
 - D Storm over to her - poke the "other woman" in the eye - and have a blazing row in front of everyone.
 - E None of these.
- 5 You've had a row and split with your partner. Do you:-
 - A Sit at home for days playing soppy records and crying yourself to sleep.
 - B Say it's her loss - and go out and have wild times.
 - C Set the table for two, cook crunchy fishpie, open a bottle of wine and wait - she'll be back.
 - D Leave it a week then ask her out for a Chinese and a chat.
 - E None of these.
- 6 You discover your best friends lover is having a clandestine affair. Everybody knows but her. Do you:-
 - A Avoid everybody - and hope someone else tells.
 - B Furtively ask your best friend what she would do if she discovered her lover was having an affair.
 - C Tell her.
 - D Quietly tell your best friend of this disastrous situation. She obviously needs comforting - a night with you may do the trick!
 - E None of these.
- 7 You see a quiz in a well known lesbian magazine. Do you:-
 - A Do it as honestly as you can.
 - B Do it but choose the answers you think would be right.
 - C Read through it but never get round to completing it.
 - D You never do quizzes - they're never accurate - never give you enough choice.
 - E None of these.

ANSWERS

(1)	A 	B 	C 	D 	E 
(2)	A 	B 	C 	D 	E 
(3)	A 	B 	C 	D 	E 
(4)	A 	B 	C 	D 	E 
(5)	A 	B 	C 	D 	E 
(6)	A 	B 	C 	D 	E 
(7)	A 	B 	C 	D 	E 

ADD UP THE SYMBOLS. IF YOU GET MOSTLY :-

COFFEE.



Well your a wild one ain't you? but what happens to all those women you brush off your lapel when they've served their purpose - shame on you- will women start to avoid you? Probably - but then they'll always be someone gullible enough to fall for those old chat up lines!

COCOA.



How did you get this score - not sure are you? Little bit confused? Perhaps you should do it again and choose some different answers - maybe a few assertion classes might help.

MILK.



Wake up! Life wasn't written in Hollywood - Dynasty isn't real! Then again -what's the harm in dreaming. Maybe you should put an ad in for another dreamer - you could spend the whole time in bed going over old movie scripts.

TEA



Well you do the best you can I suppose - good old faithful they'll call you eventually - fed up of always doing the 'right' thing? Well I don't think you'll change now! You've probably got millions of friends - why not stick your finger up the nose of one of them for a change - for the sheer hell of it! or just indulge yourself for once.

No Score

No answer to that!

SPECIAL EVENT



JANE RULE

author of

DESERT OF THE HEART

For over 20 years Jane Rule has been writing with delicate precision on love and friendship — their hazards and grace. This event coincides with the launch of her new book 'Memory Board'. As well as writing fiction Jane Rule is an activist in the Canadian women's, gay, and writers' communities. Do come and meet her on this rare British visit. Women and men welcome. Organised by Mushroom Book Events Group and Pandora.

Tickets £1.50 waged, 75p unwaged — in advance please — from Mushroom Bookshop, 10 Heathcote St., Nottingham tel. (0602) 582506.

7.30 MONDAY 28th SEPT.

Auditorium, County Library, Nottingham
(good wheelchair access)

MUSHROOM BOOK EVENTS

RECORD REVIEW - Out of this Dream Mathilde Santing

After listening to a previous Mathilde record at a friends house - and liking it lots and lots, I thought I'd raid me money box and go out and buy Ms Santings latest L.P. - and glad I did too! but as I'm no musical expert (who is?) I can't really talk on the technical side. What I will say is I think this album very pleasing to the ear - well mine anyway - and covers most moods and Mathilde is never swamped by the backing music - her voice comes through clear and sharp and emotively - "She needs me" made my bottom lip quiver - and I even sniffed at "Broken bicycles" but then I'm a softy anyway - mind "Twenty tamborines" made me think of the Sally Army! Great Stuff! You get the lyrics as well, which



makes it easier to 'sing a long to' if you like that sort of thing - all in all a good album. Thanks Mathilde - nice one!

Lesbians and Fat

I was brought up in a heterosexual environment and then became a lesbian. I no longer had to fit into the straight world, having to dress as friends/family/ media says - to be attractive to men. Whilst being a lesbian I realised I didn't have to behave in that restricting way - and felt relieved that I don't have to play the game of being or looking a certain way. It seems to me that being lesbian, it's more who you are that's important rather than how you look. We aren't attracting men - we've made up our own rules of how we look and what we find attractive.

But some women can't get away from the idea that size matters. Some lesbians aren't happy with their size (because of pressure to conform) and they diet, usually they say for health reasons "I want to be fitter" but you can be fit and fat - Do they mean to say if you're a size 12 you can't be unhealthy? You are the size you are. If you eat a sensible diet and take a fair amount of exercise (which isn't intended as a way of losing weight - it's to keep your ticker and all your internal bits and bobs going) and you still ain't the little 2 stone 4 inch hippered wonder that is paraded in front of you on the telly/papers, face it - you ain't gonna change.

The question of size is not openly discussed but it affects most, if not all, of us in some way.

No woman wants to be fat. Even if you're not fat then you don't want to talk about it - either because of the fear of getting fat, or because of pre-conceived ideas of why people are fat.

If you're fat it is assumed that you've got total control over your body and that you slam on those extra stones with wanton abandon. All you need to do to shed it, is stop eating, - because you did it on purpose and it's your fault. You're just lazy and you ain't got no willpower. People think that you're just moaning about being fat when you could do something about it. During all this the "ideal" woman is being constantly paraded in front of you as somebody that few of us will ever be.

The following is a collection of things written by fat women about their experiences. We want to feel positive about our size and break down the preconceived ideas and barriers that we have about fat women. Fat women are saying that they want their feelings to be heard but there's not alot written in a positive way about fat women compared to other women's issues. I would like to thank everyone who contributed, whether written or verbal. I would welcome other women's opinions, feelings on fat - maybe for future issues.

Beauty

Beauty
is a fat black woman
walking the fields
pressing a breezed
hibiscus
to her cheek
while the sun lights up
her feet

Beauty
is a fat black woman
riding the waves
drifting in happy oblivion
while the sea turns back
to hug her shape

GRACE NICHOLS

Some things about the politics of size

1.
Big women git ignored
or stared at
or people look away and try not to see
big women get more than their share of
disdain, ridicule
the bigger you are the
less you're seen
they cant take their eyes off the rolls
of flesh
the lumps, hanging belly
the fat compells tears out their eyes
but you remain invisible
fat and ugly become synonymous
you can be ugly without being fat but
you cant be fat without being ugly
and in the land of the beautiful
to be ugly is to be unseen
like being differently formed, no one
can take their eyes off
the missing or different limb, in this
case the, to their mind, excess flesh
admission of greasy lip nites, secret
masturbatory glory
swathed in chocolate, grits, fried
things and cream puffs that
turn to ripples on your thighs, hard
lumps on you hips, mountains of
flesh out of control out of control
seeping over
elastic waistbands, spilling from
underneath bras
forming hills that sit on thighs sweet
sweet looking for
something to eat round defiance,
corpulent rebellion
in the land of Farah Fawcett and Jackie
O so slim so rich so wite
in the land of the free and the slave
in the land of the never too thin never
too rich
to be big is to be invisible
the wider the you the narrower the view

2.
When you are big cute cloze dont fit
you wear big blouses from India
little boys will call you fatso
a total stranger walked past me and said
smoothly
chilling, "You're getting fatter." The
reason blunted
the assault sharp.
You can be exercising your human right
to eat a donut
when and where you choose, such as
walking down the street
and at the same time choose not to
respond to some
teenagers, "Hey Baby," as you eat and be
told, "That's why you fat!"
No thot, compunction-you are the butt of
insult you are a joke
fat joke fat joke fat joke laff laff
till you cry vomit laff laff at your big
ass your funny rotund gigantic ass
everyone knows you eat too much weight
weight better get that weight off if you
wanna dance act sing sing? What
singing got to do with fat?

Ask Florence Ballard and Dinah
Washington. Drop drop the pounds the
pills till you mouth dry up and your
brain burns a marathon in circles dry
you up wasted your mind nerves gain back
more than you ever lost fast fast at
last 14 day fast enema colonic fast
plastic pants sweat sweat the fat is
still there, it is the last to go, sweat
sweat water, heart tissue, muscle
tissue, brain tissue go first, too weak
now to wear the pretty dress or running
shorts too tired to show off the
cellulite free legs
Ahh some green and orange dexadrine left
at the bottom of the tiny amber vial now
we feel good like a cigarette should
puff puff ANYTHING rather than ear
leave your money at home dont bring it
you might eat something oh god oh god
i'm gonna kill myself i cant stand it
ugh! i hate looking in mirror if i wasnt
so fat i'd be-i'd do-I could-if i wasn't
so fat i would-as soon as i lose weight
i'm gonna...

by Sapphire



PHYLLIS IS THIS WONDERFULLY
PASSIONATE AND INTELLIGENT
WOMAN. SHE MAKES ME LAUGH.
SHE LETS ME FEEL GOOD. I'M
THE FUCKING SNOB WHO SAID
I'D NEVER WANT TO SLEEP
WITH A WOMAN WHO WASN'T
SLIM AND ATHLETIC...

...MARRY ME, PHYLLIS.

"I thought if I ever came on to
anyone it would seem especially
disgusting because I'm fat. If
I was fat I had no right to
expect that anyone would want
me, so how absurd and pathetic
and disgusting to be flirting."

DIARY OF A FAT PERSON AGE (D CONSIDERABLY)

MONDAY

Go to town to buy myself some 60" hip tights. Cannot find decent colour but at least they are only £1.50. Spot something really delicious in Sainsburys and start to chat to her (the old standby, you remind me of someone I know etc.) doing not to badly with a line like that but suddenly catch sight of my reflection and feel foolish, make my excuses and leave cursing myself for not keeping to diet.

TUESDAY

Go to menswear shop and ask for really big pair of mens long johns, when pressed have to admit that they are for me. On hearing this the assistant (male of course, you can't have ladies in a menswear shop, whatever next) calls in all the other assistants and proceeds to tell them in a very loud voice that this young lady (well, thank you but I'm no longer young and I was never a lady) that this young lady wants a pair of long johns for herself. He asks me why I cannot go on a diet and tells me that he has another young lady in who is nearly as big as me and she is only twenty three and its such a shame. I manage to convince him that he cannot measure me and no, I do not want to try them on. He proceeds to stretch them the length of the counter to make sure that they will 'really fit' and as he is doing this he tells me over and over that he must tell his wife when he gets home and that I am not to worry because he loves cuddly women and so do lots of other men. As I think I have made it clear and I am nearly out of the shop he asks me if I want to be a man (he jests).

WEDNESDAY

Resolve to diet

We watch Martina Navratilova on the news and my mother calls her 'that horrible thing'. She says 'people like that' give her the creeps. Although I have given her many hints and clues that I may be 'people like that' she has never understood them. Hearing what she has to say about Martina I am relieved but more than ever determined that I shall keep it from her. Anything for a fairly quiet life. Later I feel I need support from someone I think I can rely on and ask my Father if he thinks I am attractive (yes I know as a feminist I shouldn't ask such things). He tells me to ask him again in a few months. He means ask him again when I've lost weight. Resolve to keep to my diet.

THURSDAY

Go to a meeting. Asked if I wanted to join a group on a mini bus as there is one seat going. Say I am not really sure if I will fit into the small seats on the mini bus and I am told by one of the group to 'stop putting yourself down'. Am silently angry and mean to tell her that I am not putting myself down but just dealing with a fact of my life.

Mean to tell her that she is showing her negative attitude to fatness if she thinks that any mention of it is 'putting myself down'. I do not say anything for fear of drawing attention to myself but resolve to lose weight.

FRIDAY

Am asked if I want to attend a meeting on Eating and I am being asked to pay ten pounds for the privilege of doing what I do for hours every day for free. Notice also that the meeting is being led (by the nose) by three women who are all THIN (that dirty word). Get passed a leaflet by a man in the street when I am way past him notice that it is for some wonder slimming product. I stop to look back at him and he shouts 'Sorry love, ring me anytime'. Resolve to diet.

SATURDAY

I am walking past a pub and a man comes out (no this is not a joke) he looks at me and says 'Jesus'. I always knew I was destined for higher things but I thought I might make pope, anyway Jesus will do. But Jesus was thin so resolve to lose weight.

SUNDAY

Spend all day in bed with windows tight shut so that I cannot hear people outside playing football, tennis, bicycling and generally enjoying

themselves. Endure longest day in history, cry a little bit, resolve to diet. Eat from boredom.

FAT PREJUDICE IS

Thinking that because our bodies are big that our brains are the size of a pea.

Talking very loudly in our presence and saying 'its a shame'

Feeling its O.K. to stop us in the street and tell us about a wonderful diet you've read about or have been on.

Feeling its O.K. to stare and giggle as we walk by.

Being nice to us because you feel sorry for us but never accepting us as equal human beings.

Going out with us because it makes you look thinner/prettier/sexier etc.

Denying us any sexual feelings.

Not giving us any decent clothes to wear and then saying 'but we do' and then expecting me to be able or to want to pay £100 or over for something that goes up and down.

Believing that my life is 'on hold' until I am thin.

Believing that I ever will be thin or that I ever want to be thin.

Thinking all fat people are jolly.

Thinking all fat people are loyal and caring because once they manage to find someone they cling on for fear of never finding someone else.

Not allowing me to eat in public in peace.

Not allowing me to show my anger and unhappiness with your views of me.

Never giving me any peace.

Jane

BIANS FA



Thoughts on fitting in....



I try to remember that the truth is that the world is too small. It is the world which is too full of narrow aisles, narrow chairs, narrow people who never talk loud, whose hands rest quietly in their laps as they speak in demure voices. I am perfectly alright, the right volume, the right fullness, the right spirit. I am simply just enough.

I try to remember that being "too big" is only a state of mind, and that my mind has expanded to the point where small, demure, soft-spoken people are barely visible. My mind is filled with people who are too loud, too crude, too big, too soft, and to me, they are all just right.

Am I not "too" anything. After almost 30 years of thinking I am too fat, too loud, too Jewish, too smart, too radical, too judgemental, too... well, too too, I am not "too" anything. When I am at my best, I am just enough, just barely enough to go around.

The trick, of course, is hanging on to these feelings in a world built to squish all of us down in to thin, WASPy, middle class, restrained, refined human beings. Usually I succeed in remembering that "they" who run the world are really too small, too narrow, too dry. But sometimes, for a moment here or there which seems like an eternity, I forget. The telescope flips over and I am the one who is too everything again. My attempts to shrink to size are never successful, even though my attempts to tone up my language and tone down my viewpoints sometimes are. All these efforts, successful or not, leave me disoriented, diminished, less-than I was before.

I hate it that the Army now sings "be all that you can be" because their recruiting jingle stole my ethics - to be the most that I can be, most of the time, the best, fullest, strongest dyke I know how to be. And I know that's not what the Army has in mind! I cherish my

size, my volume, the strength of my passions, the weight of my opinions, and I want them to increase, to become more, better, bigger, fuller as I age.

Sometimes I forget, just for a moment, that I have never fit in, and that I never will. My beliefs, my size, my lust for women insure that I remain an outlaw. Sometimes the sameness of my life and that of my neighbours fools me, lulls me, and as I call my cat, or carry up my groceries, I think, "oh, I am just a regular grown-up, doing regular grown-up things..." Sometimes I may think this way for minutes, or even hours. But before too long, a hostile remark, a second glance, a measured stare make it clear that even if I forget, they remember. I don't fit in and I never will.

What makes it confusing though are situations where I appear to fit, or almost do, because I have to fit at least a little, just to get by. What do they see at work, of this fat Jewish man-hating dyke? And with my family, where the Jewishness blooms, what do they see?

I treasure my not fitting in. I hold it close to me. It is my fuel, my energy source. When I remember that I don't fit in because they are too small, too narrow, too restrained, too appropriate, then I can go and live my fat Jewish dyke life to the utmost.

By Judith Stein

"I used to hope for a catastrophic accident which would leave me in traction and I would emerge six months later - thin!"

T LESBIAN

The Fat Black Woman Goes Shopping



Shopping in London winter is a real drag for the fat black woman going from store to store in search of accommodating clothes and de weather so cold

Look at the frozen thin mannequins fixing her with grin and de pretty face salesgals exchanging slimming glances thinking she don't notice

Lord is aggravating

Nothing soft and bright and billowing to flow like breezy sunlight when she walking

The fat black woman curses in Swahili/Yoruba and nation language under her breathing all this journeying and journeying

The fat black woman could only conclude that when it come to fashion the choice is lean

Nothing much beyond size 14



Valley fat dykes are a large group of six wimmin from Western Massachusetts - USA and exerpts have been taken from their books 'fat manners etiquette' and Fat wononfesto' printed in common lives lesbian lives

Concerning Fat Dykes: A Fat "Womonifesto"

by Valley Fat Dykes

Do not assume I want to be thin, or that I have issues with my weight.

Do not assume I am dieting or want to be dieting.

Do not assume fat is linked to eating.

Do not assume fat is a health risk. The stress of fat oppression and the hazards of dieting are health risks.

Do not assume that dieting results in weight loss. Dieting results in depletion of body resources, physical and emotional stress, heart and other muscle damage, and the gain of more weight than was lost.

Do not assume I am not healthy and physically fit.

Do not assume any or all of my medical problems are related to my size.

Do not assume I am asexual/oversexual/hiding my sexuality.

Do not assume I want to take care of you—I am not an earth mother or an overstuffed teddy bear.

Do not assume I am not entitled to the space I take up.

Do not assume I never get angry.

Do not assume it is a coincidence or "normal" if you have never been attracted to a fat woman. Why are you accepting patriarchal standards of beauty?

Do not assume I want to hear about your food issues/body image/latest diet/exercise plan.

Do not assume your body won't change.

Do not assume that fat wimmin do not have their own full lives.

Do not assume I want to be a part of your learning process about fat.

Do not assume you are the "right" weight or that there is such a thing as "over"weight. Over whose weight.

Do not assume I want or need your approval.

Do not assume my life problems/issues are attributable to my fat.

Do not assume I should be wearing dark clothes/prefer polyester/should not wear shorts or bathing suits.

Do not assume this is only a personal issue. Fat is a political issue.

Don't tell me/act like/think I'm making up or exaggerating incidents of fat oppression.

FAT LESBIAN

Miss Fat Manners Rules of Etiquette

by Valley Fat Dykes

On the streets/on the dance floor/at the beach

Do not stare/sneer/make oppressive remarks or gestures/think I should have stayed home.

Be aware that bus seats, turnstiles, restaurant and theater seats, and bathroom stalls do not accommodate people who are different than the patriarchal "norm."

The space I take up is the space I deserve.

Between the sheets

Do not assume I am more interested in meeting your sexual needs than in having mine met.

Do not fear I will crush you if I roll over.

Do not say you love me/are attracted to me despite my size.

Do not think you can make my dieting a condition of your love.

In the stores

Don't use the words "flattering," "slenderizing," "minimizing." We don't want to be invisible. Some of us like horizontal stripes/fuchsia/exposed cleavage.

Have consciousness that it's harder for fat womyn to find clothes and almost impossible to find stylish clothes or bargains.

Don't comment on how huge clothes are that are too small for me.

Fat comes in different sizes. Do not assume that XL will fit all fat womyn.

At the table

Do not count french fries or calories—yours or anyone else's.

Do not utter any of the following phrases:

I shouldn't be eating this.

I'm really pigging out.

I'll start my diet tomorrow.

I'm getting fat.

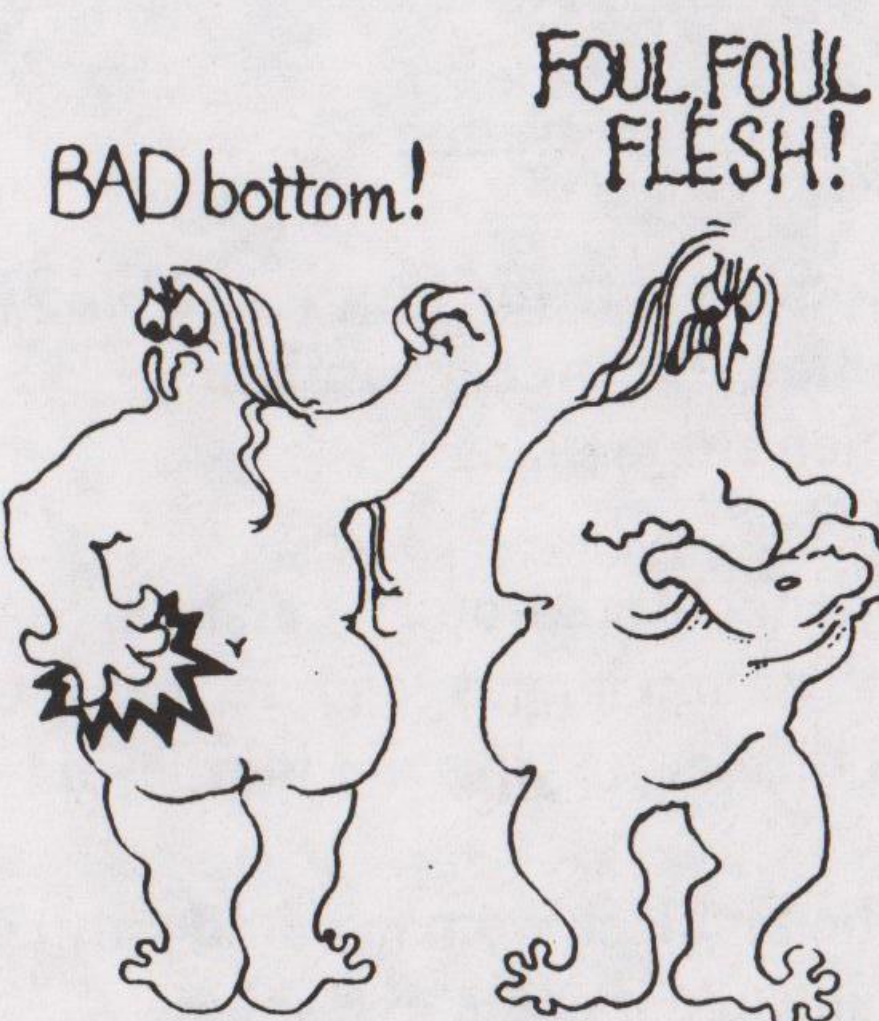
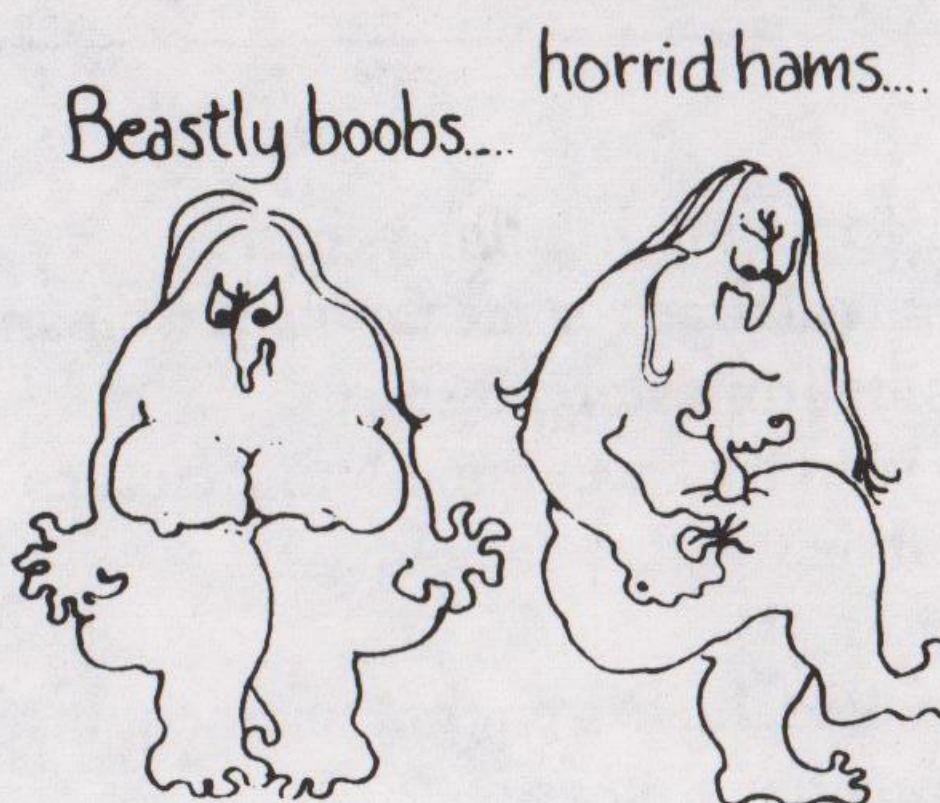
Do not order diet foods or drinks. Do not support the oppressive diet industry. (We're not talking here about "the need some womyn have to keep careful watch over their blood sugar levels in order to stay alive,"** e.g., diabetic womyn.)

If you see me eating carrots, celery, or cottage cheese, don't commend me or assume I'm dieting.

Miss Fat Manners Etiquette in a nutshell

When in doubt, shut up and educate yourself.

For more information, read *Shadow on a Tightrope*; Fat Liberator publications.



LESBIANS FAT LE

Invitation

1

If my fat
was too much for me
I would have told you
I would have lost a stone
or two

I would have gone jogging
even when it was fogging
I would have weighed in
sitting the bathroom scale
with my tail tucked in

I would have dieted
more care than a diabetic

But as it is
I'm feeling fine
feel no need
to change my lines
when I move I'm target light

Come up and see me sometime

2

Come up and see me sometime
Come up and see me sometime

My breasts are huge exciting
ammons of watermelon

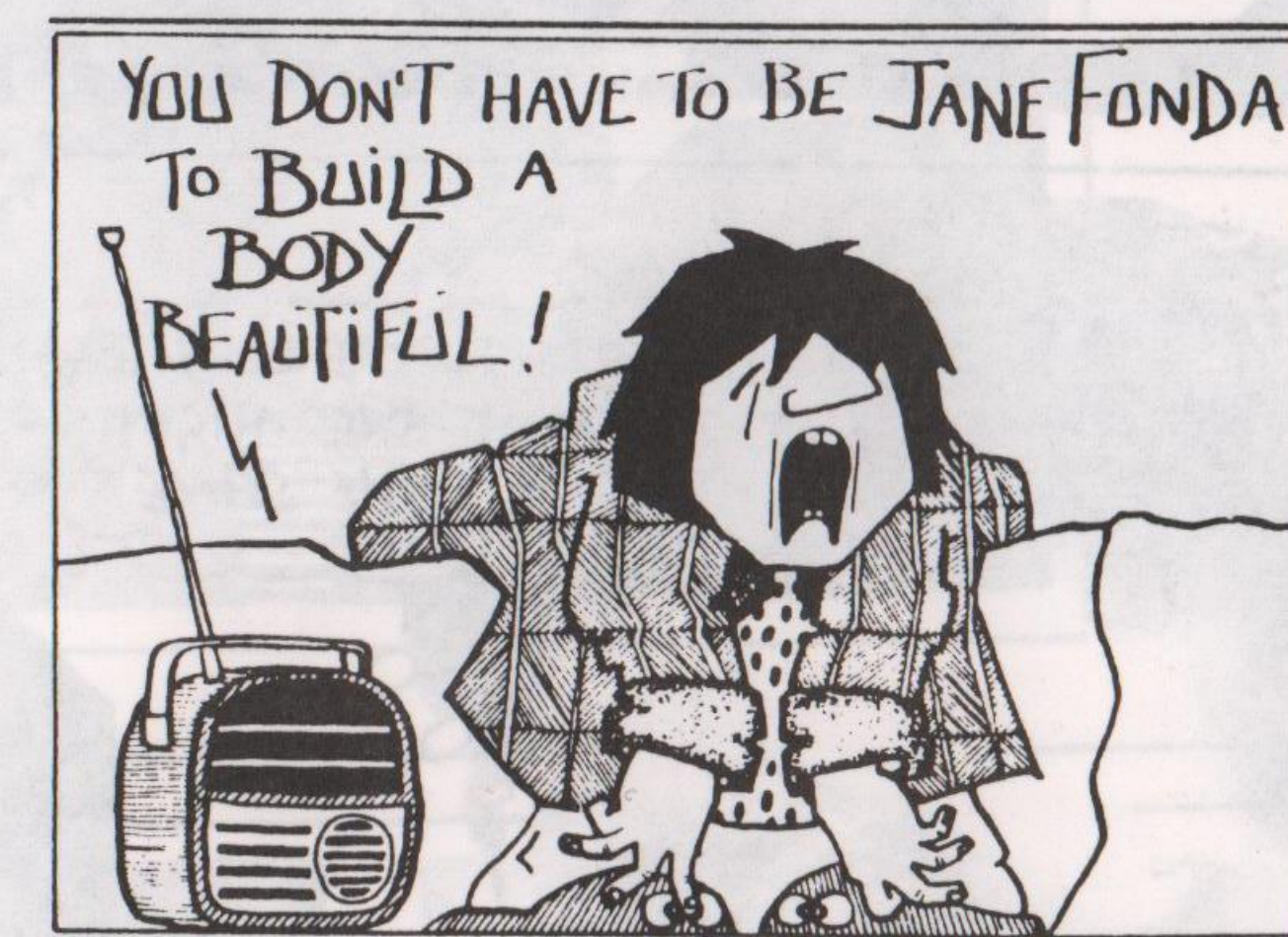
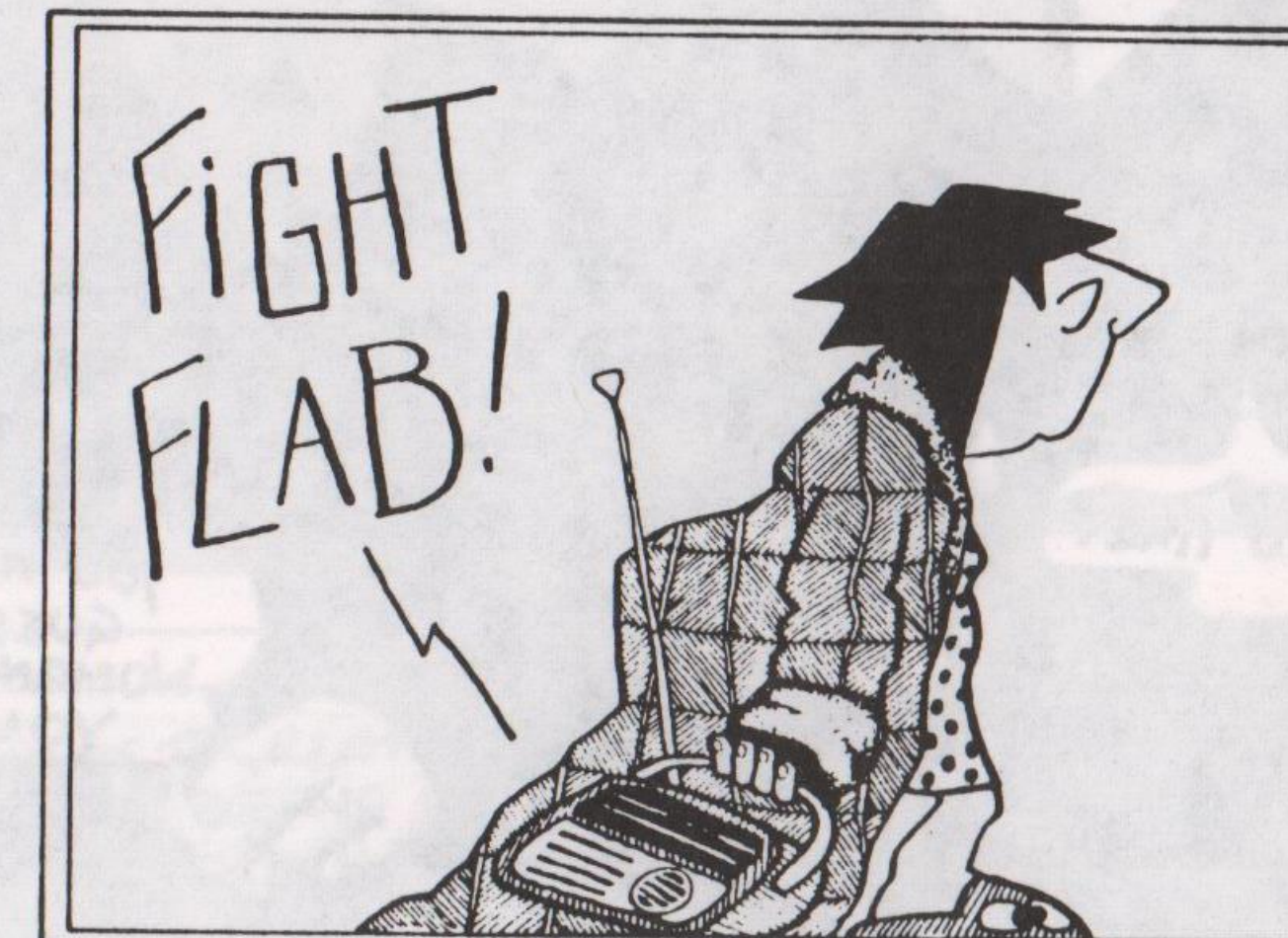
your hands can't cup
my thighs are twin seals

fat slick pups
there's a purple cherry
below the blues

of my black seabelly
there's a mole that gets a ride
each time I shift the heritage
of my behind

Come up and see me sometime

GRACE NICHOOLS



MY DYKE Continues with...

Teen Dream

SO WHO IS THIS WOMAN YOU LIKE?

YOU MUST HAVE GUESSED THE WOMAN I FANCY IS YOU KAZ?

BUT I THOUGHT WE WERE JUST GOOD FREINDS!?

YES...BUT...

I HAD TO TELL HER I THOUGHT SHE MIGHT HAVE FELT THE SAME SNIFF...

SHE'LL NEVER SPEAK TO ME AGAIN - I CAN'T BEAR IT - AND SHE'S WITH A BOY!

WEEK LATER

HI! SUE, AINT SEEN YOU AROUND... WE MUST GO OUT

ER, I'D LIKE TO BUT... I SAW YOU WITH SOME BLOKE...?

OH, NEIL... HE'S GAY! SEE YOU!

MY PHOTO-STORY DYKE

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HE'S GAY, AND SHE WANTS TO SEE ME YIPPEE!!

HI! KAZ, ER, FANCY A DANCE?

HI, SORRY ABOUT THE OTHER DAY... I WAS JUST SUPRISED...

ITS OK, I UNDERSTAND LETS DANCE...

HOPE I CAN MAKE IT UP TO SUE, SHE'S SO SWEET...

THEY DANCED...

THIS IS GREAT FUN, I LIKE BEING WITH YOU SUE, LETS HAVE A DRINK

Mmmhmm

POSED BY MODELS

THE NEXT DAY...

OH, IT WAS REALLY NICE LAST NIGHT

I THINK IM IN LOVE

OH? IN LOVE WITH WHO?

I'VE BEEN SMITTEN BY YOU, YOU SOFTY!

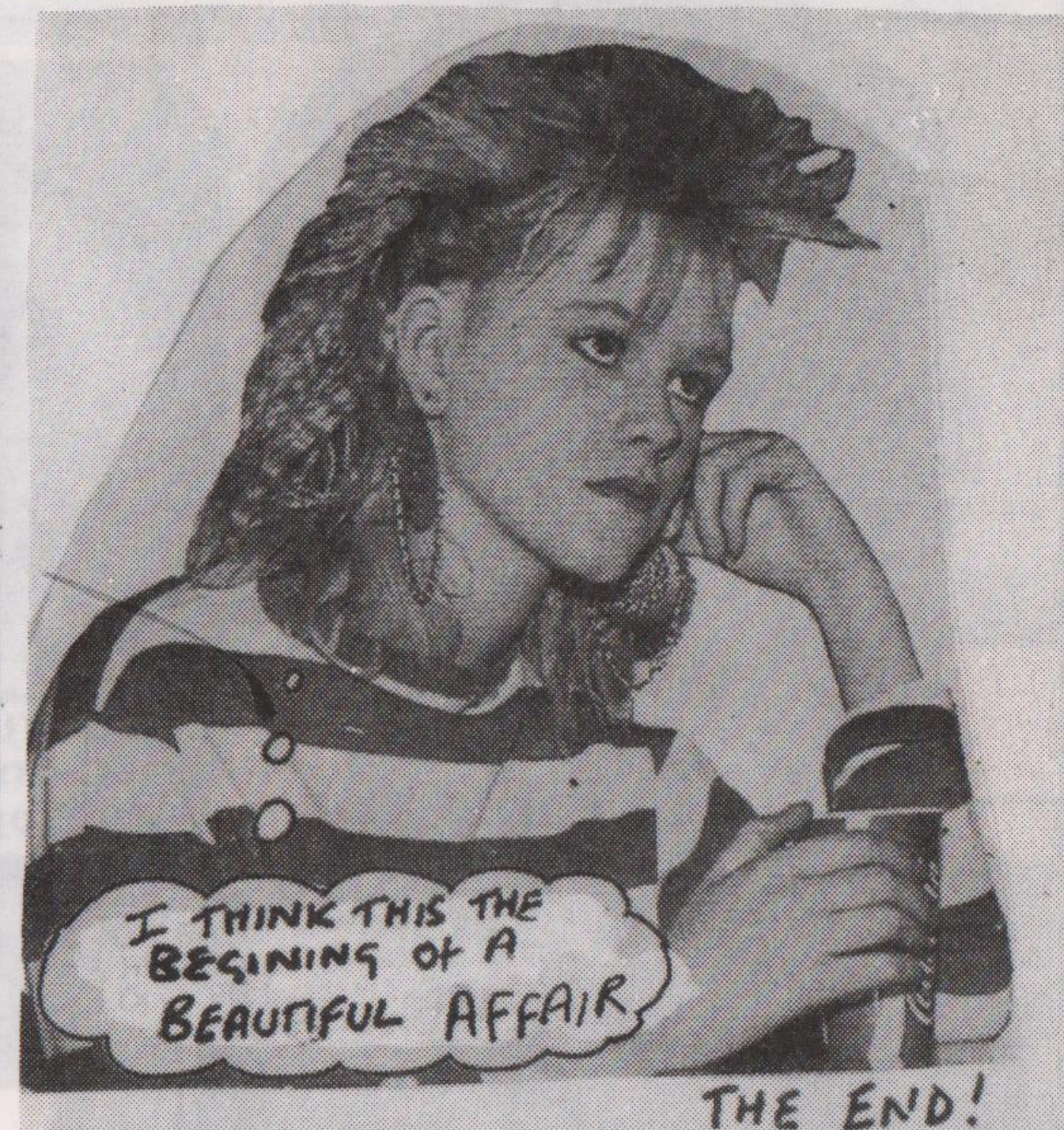
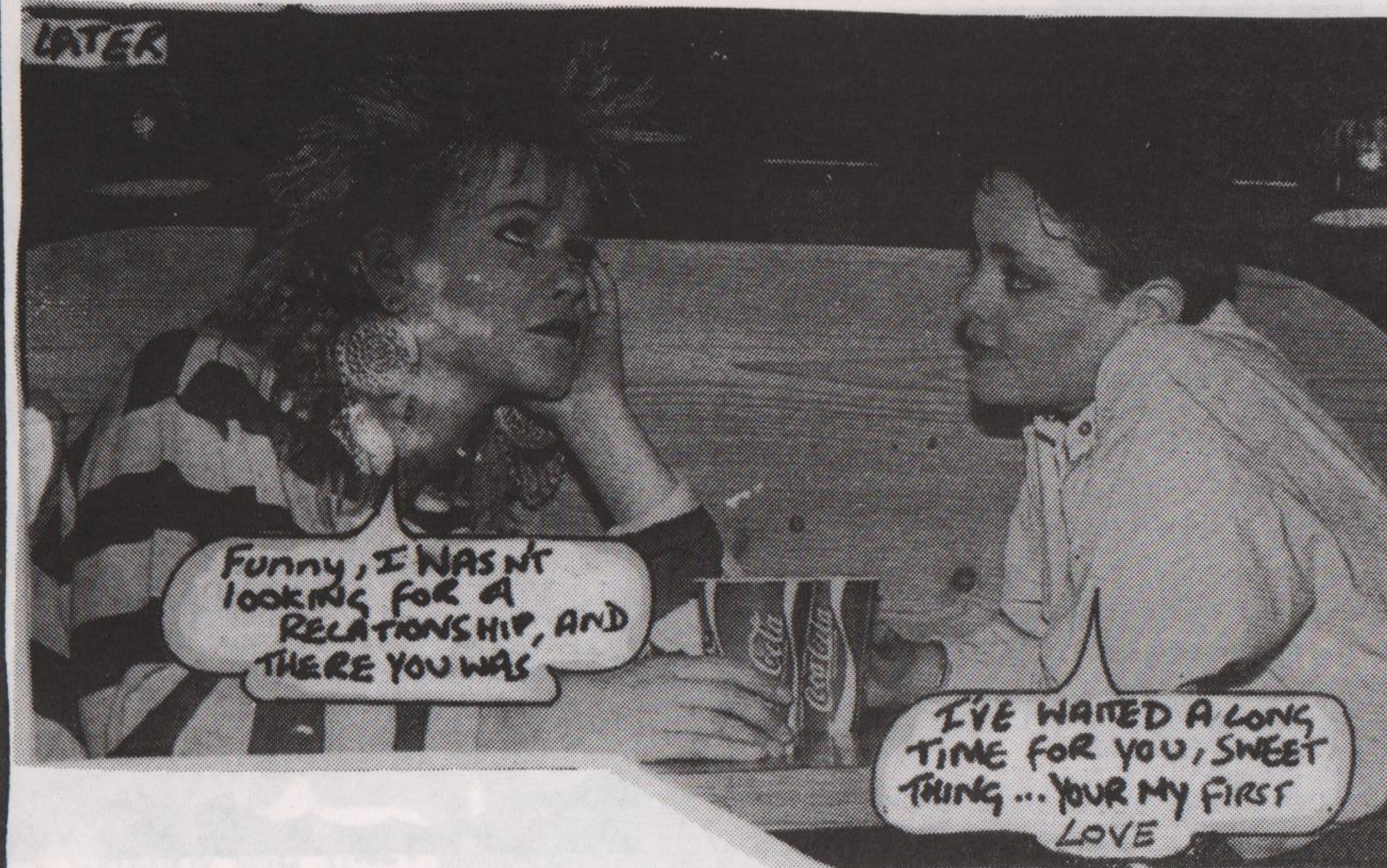
OH KAZ, YOU'VE MADE ME SO HAPPY !!

LATER THAT DAY

LET'S CELEBRATE, I FEEL SO WILD!

OK, LETS GET READY WHERE WE GOING

OH, TO OUR PLACE, WHERE WE MET!



EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES!!?

It's now two and a half months since the local elections, so what's happened to Equal Opportunities and the lesbian worker.

Well as of Wednesday 22nd July the Equal Opportunities Unit officially ceased to exist and sometime during the weekend that followed the sign outside the building marked Equal Opportunities Unit miraculously disappeared. You can just imagine a small band of overgrown managerial school boys ceremoniously removing the plaque and finishing the proceedings by urinating on the letters and jumping up and down. I must say I did feel faintly surprised that they didn't choose to do the dirty deed when more people could have witnessed the undressing.....

..... they weren't ashamed of what they were doing were they? Once past the unlabelled door we find that the officers themselves have gone. Gone that is, by title - they bodies can still be found inside. The officer for women's issues and lesbian and gay issues are waiting to be redeployed to another job because so far Councillor Bradbury has stuck to the principle of no redundancies. But many of the Equal Opportunities Policies that were worked on over the past three to four years have been made redundant. The Harassment and Discrimination policy and the Code of Practice covering all aspects of recruitment from advertising to interviewing, have been made redundant i.e. they've been suspended. The Equal Opportunities statement no longer exists and hence has been removed in its detail from application forms etc.

So where does this leave the multi talented lesbian world in Nottingham. It means that there are no longer specialist officers to advise you on race, womens, lesbian and gay and/or disability issues. There is no guarantee that if you are harassed at work for being any or all of the above, that your case will be treated sympathetically or indeed taken up at all. There is still some work going ahead on race and disability issues but the work falls far short of what was envisaged under the original equal opportunities policy.

There is no mention of the likelihood of setting up any sub-committees etc to ensure that the diverse sections of the public are consulted on city council policies and practices. Perhaps we can assume from this that the Tories feel that they are truly representative of the people of Nottingham, that their own expertise is equivalent to, and a direct reflection of the different life experiences of the people of Nottingham.

Added to this the types of projects that will be approved for the various City Council grants, will change. Money previously has gone to the 'Womens Centre', 'The Young Lesbian Group', and this very magazine - only mentioning a few and this is unlikely to continue. The City Council now favours Tourism and anything that will draw money and industry into the City so its time to don your tights, swing from the trees and rob the rich to give to the poor. You might get a grant for it but it's unlikely you must rob the poor to give to the rich then you'll really be helping our 'beautiful' city to get back on it's feet.

Yours,

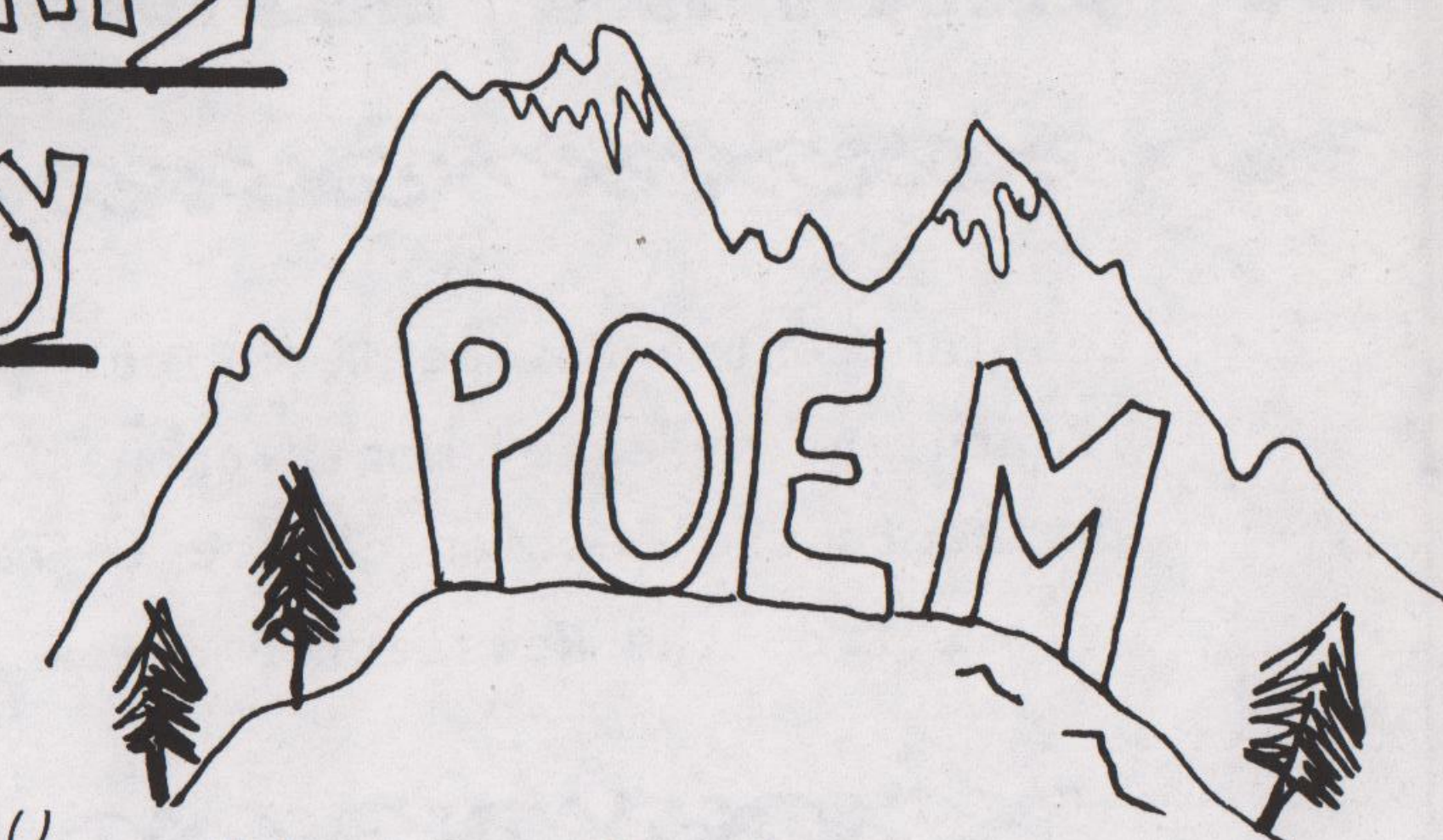
feeling very cynical these days.

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LESBIAN COMMUNITY CENTRE OPEN DAY

Nottingham Lesbian Community Centre celebrates its existence with a Grand Opening on October 16/17. The Centre is situated upstairs at the womens centre and houses 8 groups. The lesbian centre has a drop-in space with pooltable, juke box, dartboard, and coffee bar and is planning to run regular Friday night disco's. The Closet Library, with all lesbian books, opened in July. Groups meeting at the lesbian centre are; a young lesbian group, newcomers group, black lesbian group, jewish lesbian group, and a discussion group, among others. Various events have been planned for the grand opening; On October 16th there will be a performance - "Double Identity", a play about being a jewish lesbian, by Ev Silver - starting at 8pm, and a disco from 9pm. Meals will be available at the gossip cafe. On October 17th various groups are organising entertainment, films, exhibitions, and stalls; Lesbian Line is showing the exhibition "millions like us", Sappho Partnership (2 local photographers) is planning a photo exhibition, and there will be videos from the young lesbian group among others. We hope to also have contributions on the day from lesbians involved in local mixed gay groups like Gay Switchboard, AIDS Helpline and Nottingham lesbian and gay youth organization.

All lesbians are welcome to join in the celebrations. For more details call the lesbian centre (0602)483697 or the womens centre (0602)411475, also to arrange accomodation.



I have encountered many a mountain.
Craggy, dangerous jagged peaks
holding icy cold winds that peel
skin from your face and freeze
your hair.

With slippery, slimey gorges,
lose shale and deep stagnant
bogs.

Some are small and easy to climb,
walk even.

Hiding away in enchanted places.
Some stand tall and proud,
knowing all the world because
they see it all before them.

One I remember:

Big!

Soft!

You lost yourself within her valleys.
Heady perfumes and steamy rivers.

No jagged edges. Smooth and soft
to my searching footsteps.

And my voice did not sound hollow from
hernor did it echo endlessly.

When I shouted the mountain held my sound
buffering my cries for help
when I was lost.

Climbing her was pure excellence.

Not tearing my hands or fingers
on her skin - like climbing cottonwool.
Each step as if chosen by her for its
safety.

Free climb to the top and once there
I yelled so loud I felt her shudder
beneath me.

Cas

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NOTTINGHAM LESBIAN COMMUNITY CENTRE

Lesbian centre Newsletter first issue out now. appearing regulary every fortnight or every month. phone Fiver at the Lesbian centre (483697) or write to the Lesbian centre to be put on the mailing list 30, Chaucer st
Items from the Newsletter below

Volunteers needed!

The Lesbian Centre needs help with organising publicity and fundraising. If you have any experience with this or even just enthusiasm, come and see me or call.

Lesbian Line wants new members for the group. Working class women and women of colour are specially welcome. Training will be given. Call Lesbian Line (410652) on Mondays or Wednesdays 7.30-9pm.

Regular disco's will provide an important income for the Lesbian Centre. The Disco Collective is looking for volunteers to help at the door and bar and with the cleaning up afterwards. If you're interested, phone or write to them via the Lesbian Centre.

Groups meeting dates:

The next meeting for the Lesbian Mothers Group is on Tuesday, September 29 at 7.30pm in the Lesbian Centre. If you are interested in the group, but can't make the meeting, get in touch with Josie: 473104 (day) or 283416 (evenings) or write to: Lesbian Mothers Group c/o Lesbian Centre, 30 Chaucer St.

The Lesbian Discussion Group is meeting regulary every Tuesday at 7.30pm in the Gossip Cafe (wheelchair access from Chaucer Court). They are planning to discuss issues important to lesbians, like coming out, monogamy/non-monogamy, working with gay men, lesbians at the workplace, racism, etc... Should be interesting.



A Newcomers Group has been set up and meets on the first Sunday in the month from 2-5pm in the Lesbian social space. The group is aimed at women who are new to Nottingham and/or have recently come out as lesbians.

Other meeting dates:

Young Lesbian Group - October 6 and every 1st Tuesday in the month

The lesbian magazine Diversion, the Jewish Lesbians group and the Black Lesbians group meet irregularly, contact the Lesbian Centre for information.

The Closet Library

Nottingham has now got its very own Lesbian Library. It opened in July and has already over a 100 books, partly from donations. The library opening times are:

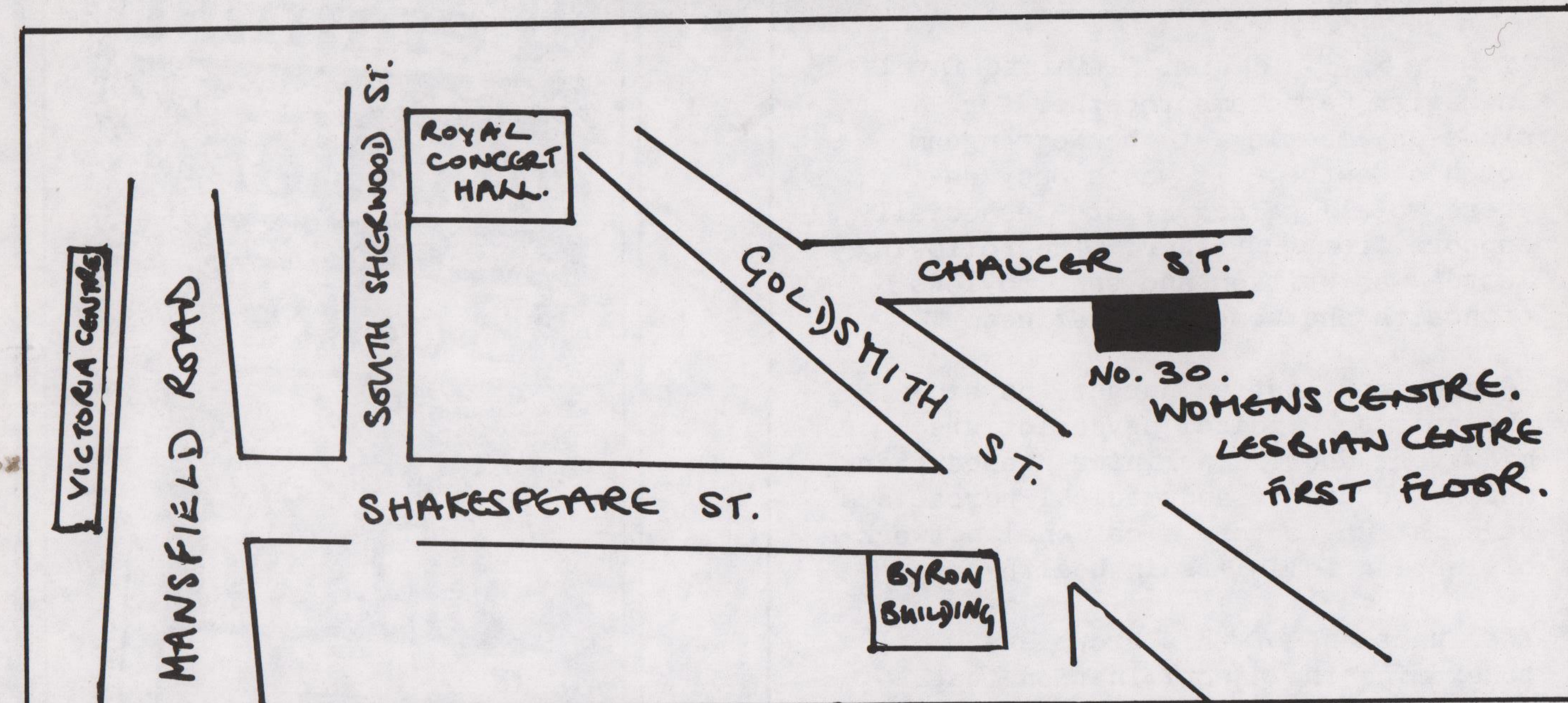
Monday 7.30-9pm
Tuesday 11-2pm
Thursday 10-4pm and 7.30-9pm
Saturday 11-2pm

and during Lesbian Centre events. It costs £3/£5 to join and you can borrow one book at a time for up to 4 weeks. More book donations are welcome.

Lesbian Centre events:

The Lesbian Centre is organising a series of speakers, discussions, readings and slideshows on various issues. They will be held in the Lesbian social space on the 1st Thursday in the month at 7.30pm. At the first evening, on October 1, Judy, who has just returned from

HOW TO GET TO THE LESBIAN CENTRE.

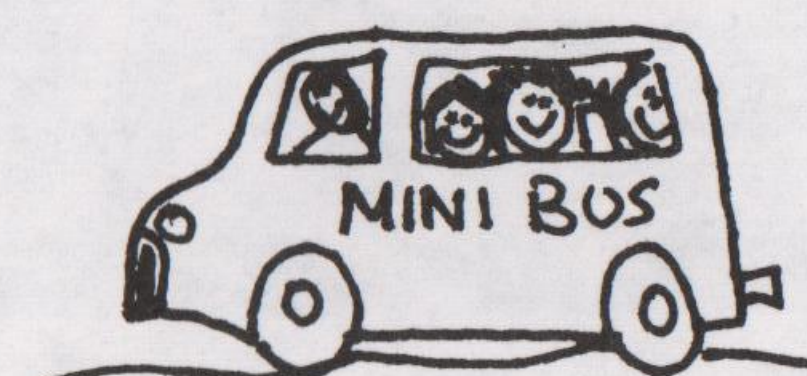


Tanzania, will speak about her experiences, hopefully also showing slides. Other subjects suggested are: Lesbians and the police; Religion; Lesbians in the Peace Movement; Therapy; poetry readings. Suggestions and help with organising will be appreciated.

The Children's Hour

by Lillian Hellman

Derby Playhouse is showing the play Childrens Hour, "a stunning drama" about "the love of one woman for another", from October 1-24. There are shows on Monday-Thursday at 7.30pm and Friday/Saturday at 8pm. Prices range from £2.50 to £5.50. Some women are going to organise a minibus to see the play. More details nearer the time. The Childrens Hour will also be shown February 29 - March 5, 1988 at the Co-operative Arts Theatre in Nottingham - in case you can't make it to Derby.



Statistically speaking within the city limits there's one in ten...

At number ten lives Angela White,
Witty and winsome and terribly bright.
For years she'd lived the life of the 'straights'
And gone with men on boring dates

Until the night when she strayed to a bar
Frequented by dykes from near and afar.
There she got chatting to a woman called Vi
And asked her all the 'standards' like "What do you do?"
and "Why?"

I've said that she's bright so this might sound absurd
But women as lovers had never occurred
To our friend Ange who'd been well brought up
By a mother who'd told her that queers were muck.

Twas a shock to the system she couldn't ignore,
Well there had been just one time before
When she'd had a crush on a woman at school,
And told her best mate who'd called her a fool.

Once again she confided - this time to her bloke,
He laughed so much that he started to choke,
In the light of the morning she said she'd been tight.
(Oh, come on now! Ms. Angela White).

But two weeks later she had to admit:
"Well, maybe my sexuality's split."
She cut her hair short and put on a tie,
"Bugger it then, I'm a bit of a bi!"

And now she's in love with the aforementioned Vi
There's a permanent twinkle that shines from her eye.
Yes, she's happier now than ever she's been.
Herein lies a moral that's plain to be seen:-

Dykedom beats boredom, and love beats lust,
Call us queers if you must
But our numbers are up - Oh yes we are plenty,
Take for instance Mary who lives at number twenty!

Janet.

THE LESBIAN FEMINIST IN HEALTH CARE NETWORK

On June 6, 35 lesbian feminists involved in Health Care came together for a one day meeting at the Nottingham Women's Centre. It was a busy day, where we all gained a lot - especially support from each other. The following letter was written and sent to lots of health and women's magazines.

"A group of lesbian nurses, physiotherapists, clinical psychologists, midwives, doctors, clinical researchers, medical students and medical herbalists have met up to form a national network of lesbian feminists in health care.

The functions of this group are to examine the discrimination that lesbians experience as health workers and patients, to provide support for lesbian health workers and to offer specifically lesbian health care. We therefore want to make contact with the many other lesbian health workers throughout the country.

We strive to attain the highest level of professional competence in our respective jobs. However we feel that we suffer discrimination in our work places to the extent that our self respect is undermined and our sexuality trivialised. We feel that this is a stark contrast to our fulfilling personal lives. At work our opinions are devalued and our promotion prospects are jeopardised if we seek acknowledgement of our lesbianism.

As patients, lesbians frequently receive inadequate information and care due to assumed heterosexuality, particularly in the fields of gynaecology and psychiatry.

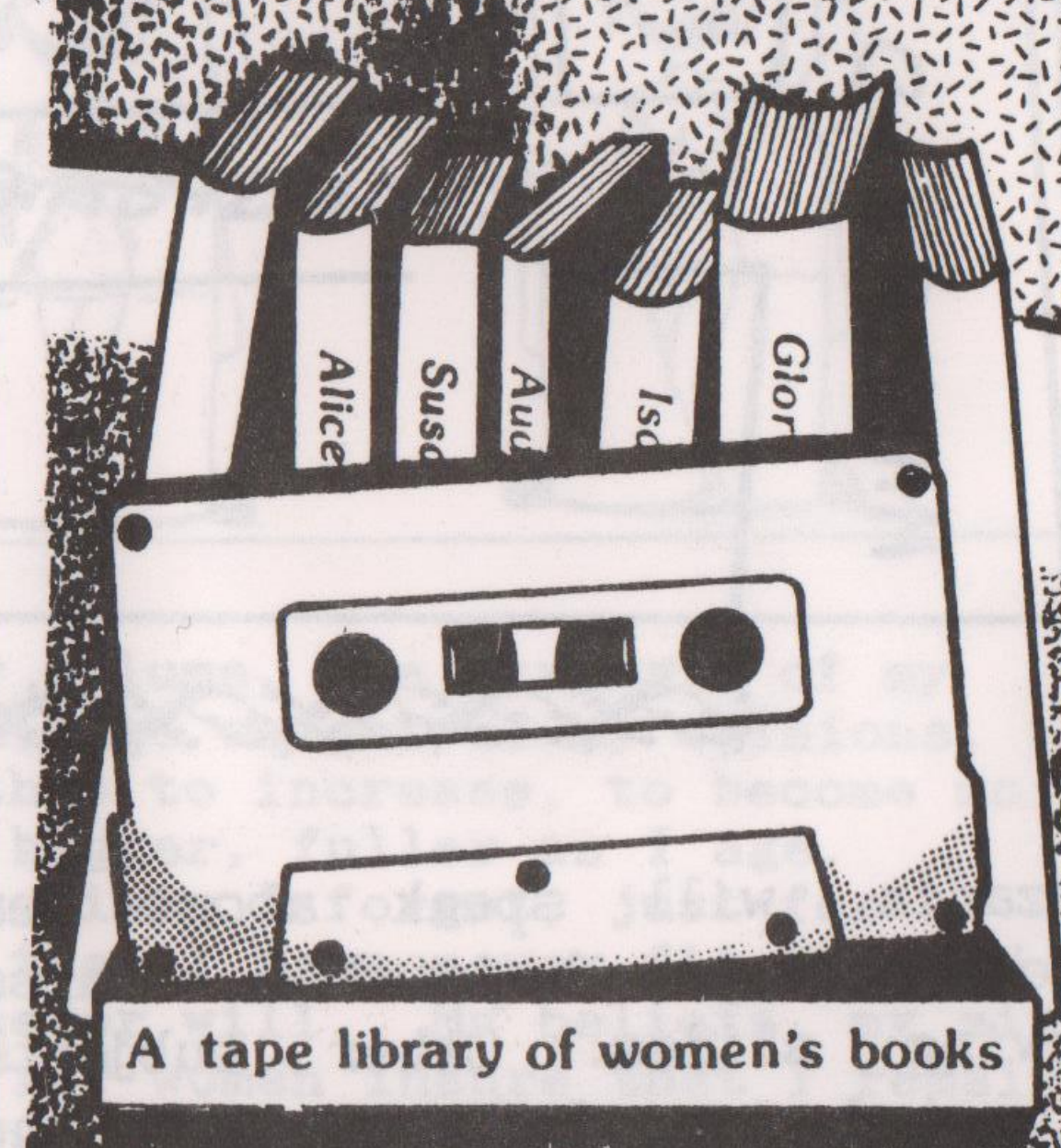
In order to develop this network we are holding another national meeting on October 10 1987 in Liverpool. All lesbians interested in attending this meeting or in finding out about the network please contact: Edwina, c/o The Women's Centre, 30 Chaucer Street, Nottingham."

FAB is a voluntary organisation which provides a tape library of books by, for and about women. The library is for anybody who is blind, partially sighted and/or has difficulty with the printed word. Z8

Feminist

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Books



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London EC1 8RT.
Tel: (01) 251 2908/0713



Delia Dykes Cookery Corner

CRUNCHY FISH PIE

Serves 4

1 lb Spuds, Cooked in their skins,
1 1/2 lb WHITE FISH fillets, skinned and boned,
(Can use FROZEN)

5 fl oz milk,

1 bayleaf,

4 oz mushrooms, Sliced,

5 fl oz Greek yogurt,

2 oranges, grated rind and Juice

1 tablespoon flour.

2 oz margarine

fresh chopped parsley - to garnish

Drain and Slice Spuds - Set aside -

put fish, milk, bayleaf and mushrooms in a pan.

Bring to boil, Cover + Simmer gently for 10 mins.

Strain the milk and reserve - chuck the bayleaf.

Blend the yogurt with the orange rind and juice,

and add plenty of ground black pepper - Melt three

quarters of the marg in a pan. Stir in the flour

and cook for 1 minute - Gradually blend in the

reserved milk - bring to boil, stirring, and simmer

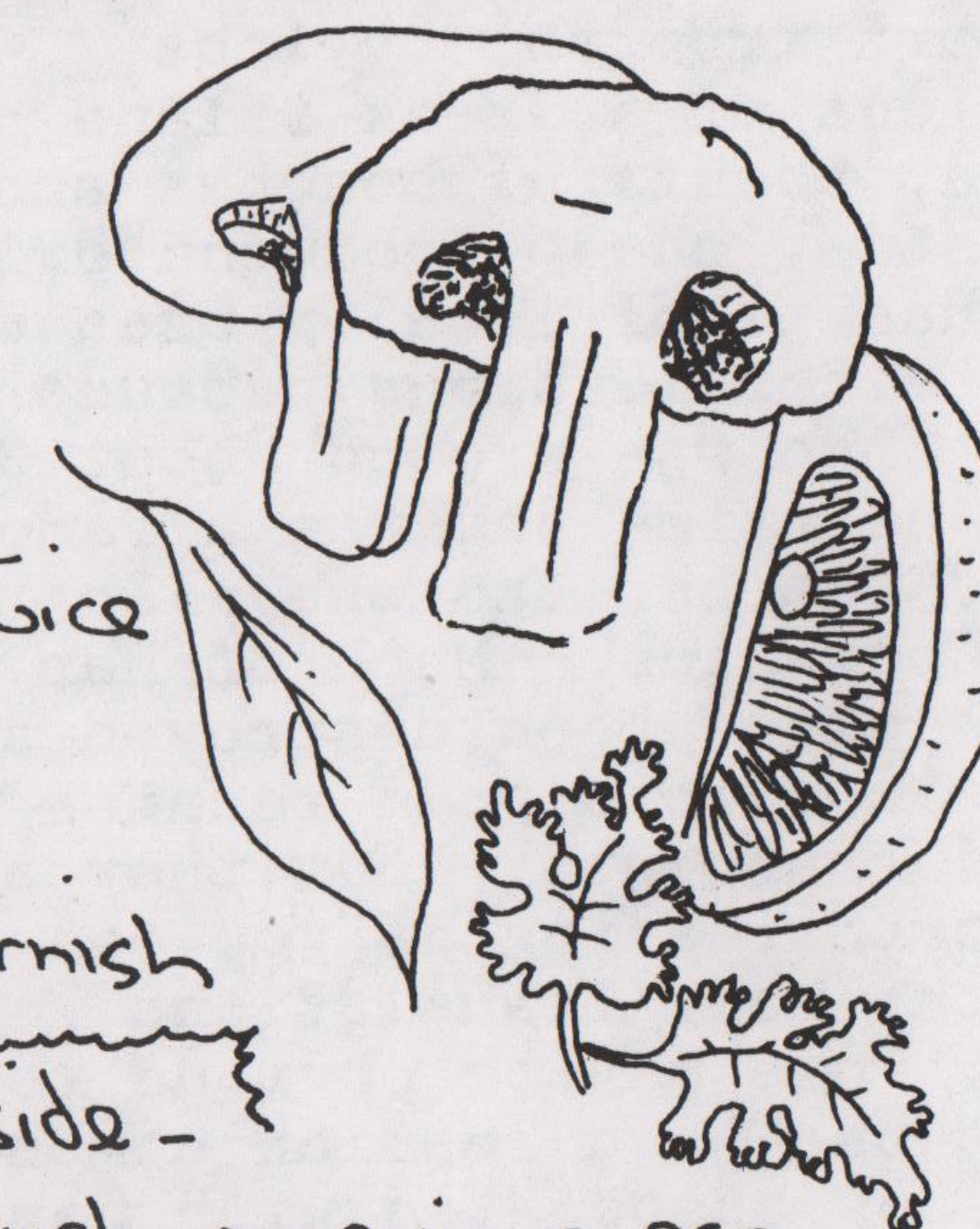
until thickened and smooth. Whisk in the yogurt.

Stir in fish and mushrooms. Pour into a baking dish.

arrange the Spuds overlapping on top of fish. Melt

the remaining Marg and brush over the Spuds -

Grill till brown and Crispy - Sprinkle with parsley.



A is for Alice, who liked to cook soup.

Lesbian Guide

Why Lesbos?

Well apart from the obvious attractions of a Greek island - sun, sea, beautiful beaches and countryside, cheap food and drink Lesbos has traditionally been a favourite for lesbians because of Sappho. She was around about 300 BC - in her time she was a famous poet and teacher and she also took part in politics. Much of her work has since been destroyed and only one complete poem remains with lots of fragments. But they are still worth reading if you can find one of the many translations around. This may be obvious to many but the word lesbian comes from Lesbos associated with Sappho and her circle of wimmin friends and pupils.

Places to stay and visit

SKALA ERESSOS - the place to go for dykes. It was Sappho's birthplace and she lived here until told to leave by the mayor of Eressos. It's the opposite end of the island from the airport so not too many tourists. SunMed do have tours here though. Beautiful beach and clear, clean sea with a small village too. Lots of places to rent rooms (about 1300 drachmas-£6 for double room). People wait for the bus to arrive and offer you rooms as you get off - do shop around though as prices and quality vary - watch out for the cockroaches.



Camping - one designated camp site about 5 mins. walk from village at back of beach - just go to the beach, turn right and keep walking, you can't miss it (famous last words!). No payment required when we went and although there was a hut with washrooms and toilets in, it was locked and unuseable! There is a standpipe for cold showers etc. You can sleep on the beach although officially it isn't allowed. Several people were when we were there. Nearest chemist - Andisa which is quite a way.

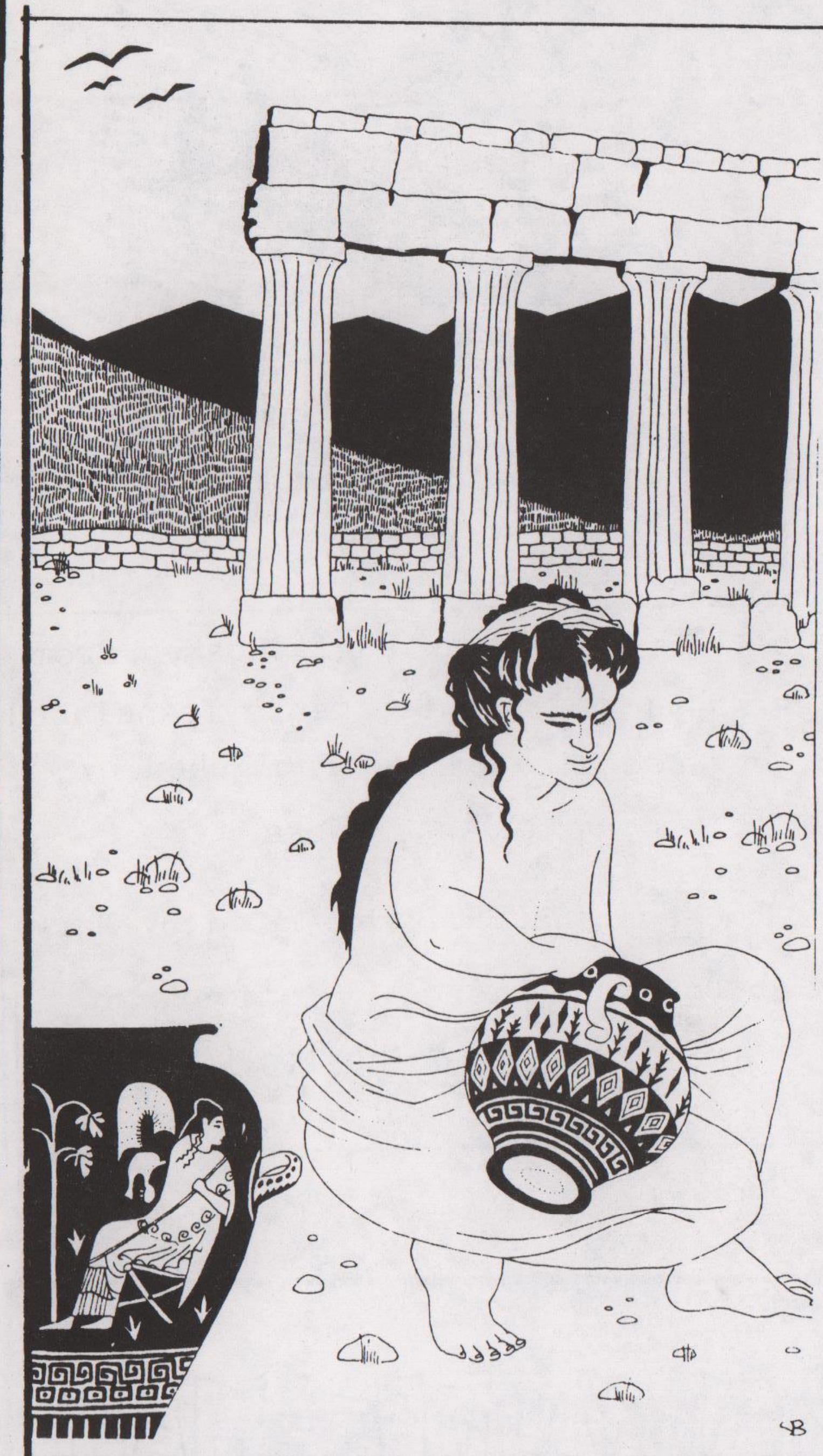
You may forget but

Let me tell you
this: someone in
some future time
will think of us

To Lesbos

TEMPLE OF THE TRIPLE GODDESS

Dating back to before Sappho the ruins of this temple are at NAOS MESON about a 20 minute walk from the main road about midway between Eressos and Mytilini. You can ask the bus driver to drop you off. There is a track leading up to the mountains with a square concrete building on its right - the temple is to the end where there is a farm, the temple is on the farmland on the right. The farmowner is actually the bloke who excavated the temple in the 1960s and he came out to talk to us about it although he only spoke Greek or German. Apparently Sappho used to bring her pupils here to sing and dance and also for political meetings. The basic layout is quite clear but none of the actual temple still stands - a church was built on the site about 700 years later (typical!) and there are ruins of that still there. It was built in the exact middle of Lesbos and in a place which is renowned for the circulation of air - great when it's really hot. A wonderful atmosphere, really peaceful.



SAPPHO

Thank you, my dear

You came, and you did
well to come: I needed
you. You have made

love blaze up in
my breast—bless you!
Bless you as often

as the hours have
been endless to me
while you were gone

The gods bless you

May you sleep then
on some tender
girl friend's breast

MYTILINI - the island's capital and nearest to the airport. It's a port with no sand beach. It was where Sappho lived most of her life and does have the islands only tribute to her - her statue. Didn't actually like Mytilini much - lots of cars and noise and quite a lot of soldiers about - as Greece and Turkey are at war at the moment and Lesbos is the closest island to Turkey. This houses the tourist information office.

LESBIAN GUIDE TO LESBOS

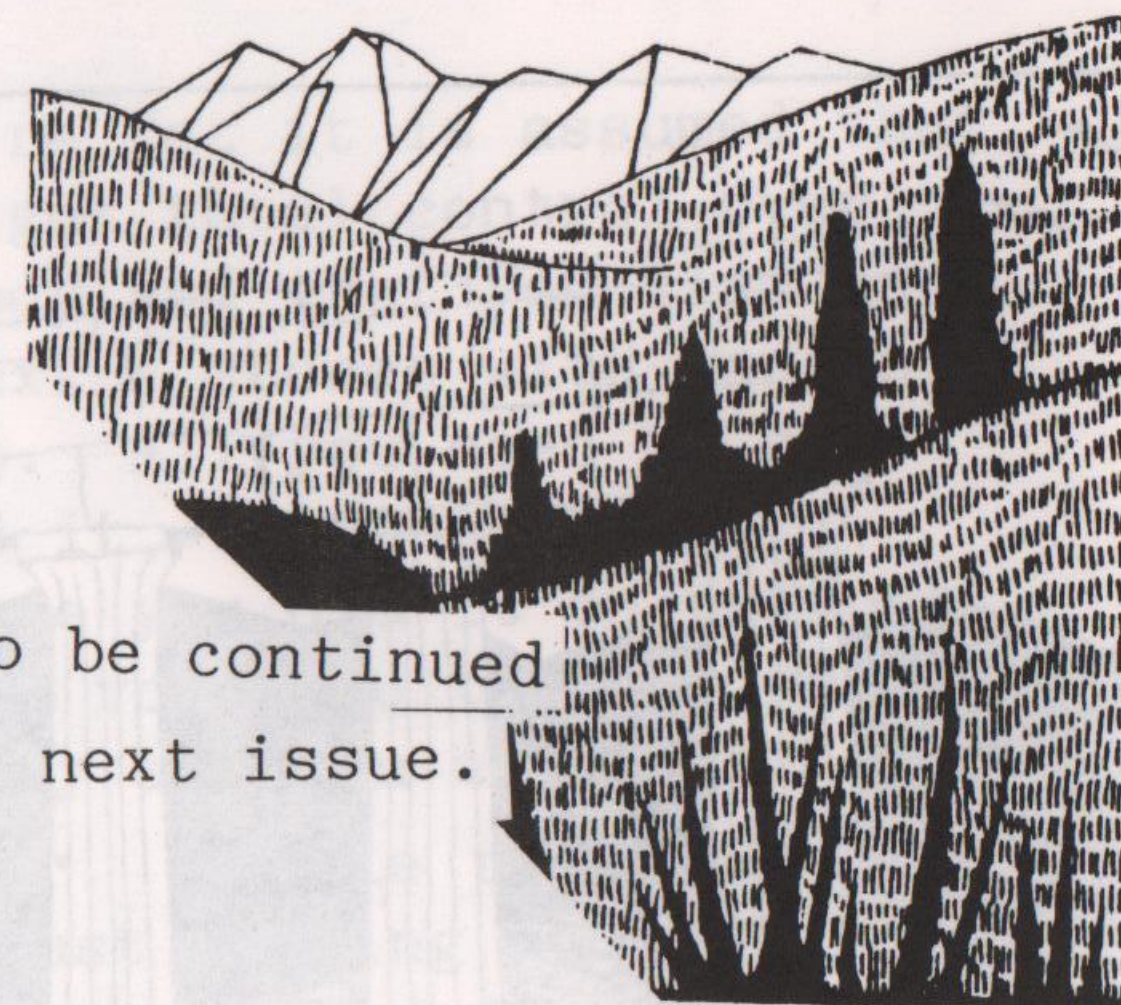
SIGRI on the east side of the island a very beautiful village by the sea. This area is famous for petrified trees - one of which can be seen on the beach just along the coast from the main beach at Sigri. There is a petrified forest nearby but beware of the snakes!

PETRA - on the north east of the island. SunMed tours go there. Didn't actually visit it but supposed to be very nice.

Attitudes to Lesbians

As I've already said lesbians have been going there for years - so they are quite used to us. However there does seem to have been a bit of a backlash in recent years and moves to get the traditional 'happy het' holidaymakers. Apparently (talking to a Greek lesbian living in Mytilini) the major of Eressos has recently changed with a manifesto of 'cleaning' up the area of lesbians. At Skala Eressos you used to be able to camp anywhere (last year there were around 200 wimmin all together around the Yello Bar), now camping is only allowed in one area. The Yello Bar has been used for several years by dykes and the locals see it as the bar we go to - run by a man and woman rumoured to be bisexual. However 2 wimmin were stopped from kissing because the police were supposed to have said that that sort of thing was not allowed! But we ignored this! What is great is the numbers of 'out' lesbians who come to Skala Eressos but unfortunately you can get hassle from horrible local men - staring, peering, shouting abuse etc (if only it could be a dyke only zone!). Generally a visit to Lesbos is well worth it. You don't need to know any Greek as most people speak some English. We did try to find a phrase book but none there so buy one here if you want one. It can get very hot (in the high 90s in early June) so take lots of sunlotion, sunglasses and a hat).

Good luck! Dawn Susan



To be continued
next issue.

Graphics by Sarah Baylis taken from
Sappho poems and fragments, Translated
by Josephine Balmer. Published by
Brilliance Books

Poems by SAPPHO, translated by Mary
Barnard, Published by university
of california press ltd, London

RADCLYFFE-HALL

The organisers of the
**RADCLYFFE HALL
MEMORIAL FUND** are
hoping to raise £3000 this
year enabling them to start
renovations on Radclyffe's
vault in Highgate Cemetery,
as a monument to lesbian
history. Donations (cheques
payable to The Radclyffe
Hall Memorial Fund) to
Account No. 7001586,
Lloyds Bank, High St, Rye,
East Sussex. Account No.
7001586.

MEMORIAL FUND

BEAUTIFUL BARBARIANS: A LESBIAN POETRY READING.

I went along to this poetry reading mainly because I'd said that I'd review the new Lesbian poetry anthology **Beautiful Barbarians**, (which I agreed to review so I could get a free copy to give to The Closet Library at the Lesbian Centre and yes we do still want your donations of books!) and because two of the poets in it, Suniti Namjoshi and Gillian Hanscombe, were reading some of their own stuff. I went in slight trepidation, feeling more than a bit wary - of possible intellectualising, or pretentiousness, or embarrassed silences, fears of not understanding, or worse, of feeling bored and trapped.

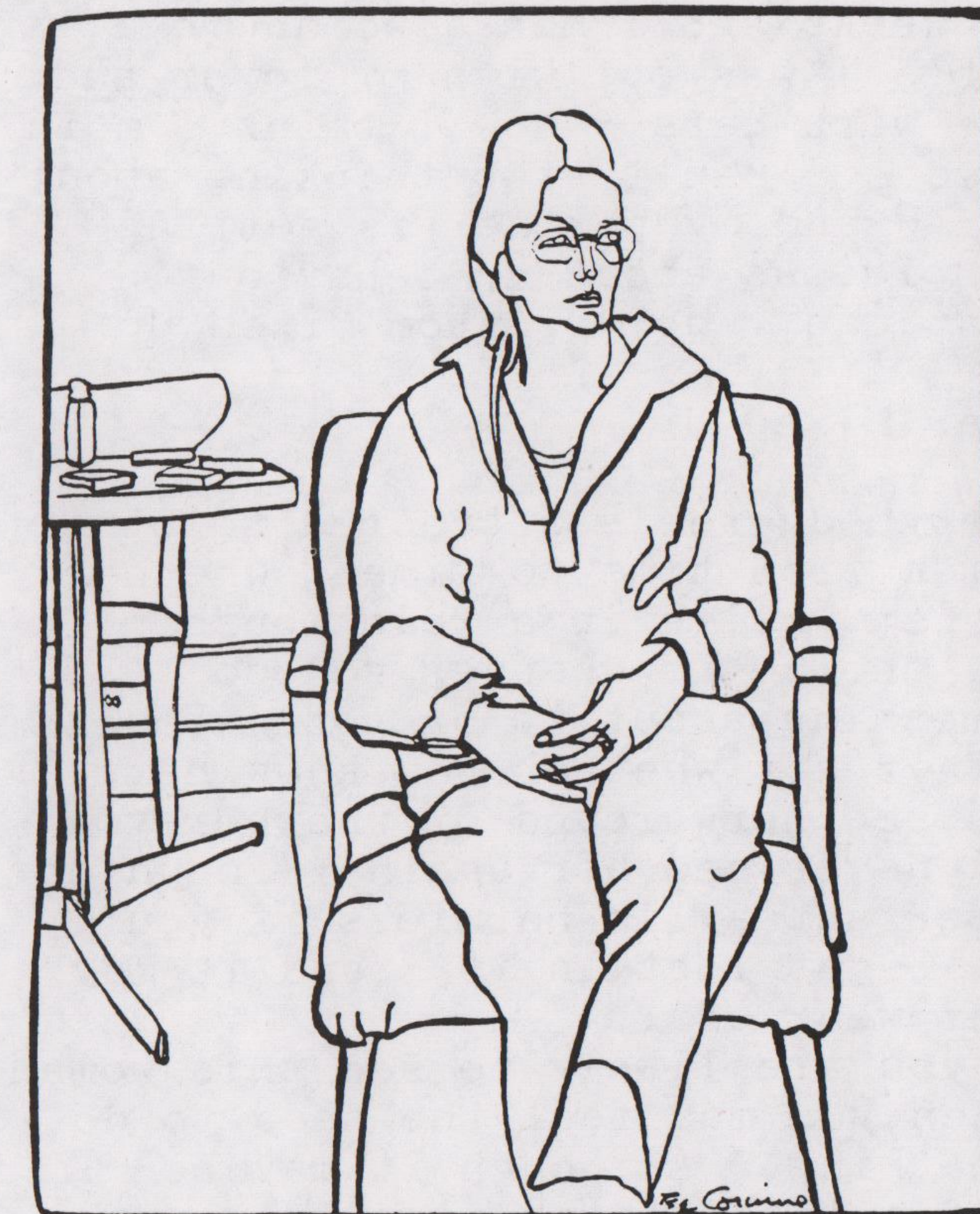
I should have known better and expected more from Lesbians. Apart from writing clever, funny, questioning and loving poetry, Gillian and Suniti were also a great double act. They introduced the reading by saying how they'd met and fallen in love, and the series of poems they were reading were love poems, (from their book **Flesh and Paper**). The poems are wonderfully goodhumoured and direct, and all about the warmth and passion (and complications) between two women in love. Their sharing of their poetry and their love made for a very positive affirmation of what being a Lesbian means to me, it was a great evening.

So anyway, after that I found the poems in **Beautiful Barbarians** much more accessible and wasn't put off by my fears of the over intellectual, just thought here's a lot of poems by Lesbians writing about their feelings, for each other, and about the world, as it is and as it could be. Some poems are angry, some sad, some witty, some loving and many are deliciously erotic (plenty of

material for a thesis on sea/underwater imagery in Lesbian erotic poetry!).

If you don't want to mess around and want a whole volume of lesbian love poetry, you could try Marilyn Hacker's collection **Love, Death and the Changing of their Seasons**, described in the blurb as a novel in verse. I would describe it as a very intimate and sexy diary of a passionate affair. All this, and poetry too?

You can buy these books from Mushroom, and other good bookshops (the first and last are published by Onlywoman Press, £3.95 and £4.95 respectively. **Flesh and Paper** is published by Jezabel Books and Tapes, and is also available on tape, with accompanying music). You can also borrow them from **The Closet Library**, at the Lesbian Centre, 30 Chaucer St., Nottm.





sister



Margereta

Dear Sister Margareta

I've been with my present lover for just over two years. We get on great and I love her. But a couple of weeks ago I met a woman in a pub. I was out with my lover and she with hers - now I think I'm in love. I can't stop thinking about her - and my partner is getting suspicious about my behaviour. What can I do? from Mixed Up.

Dear Mixed Up

Everybody feels attracted to other women from time to time - whether or not you're in a relationship. The choice is whether you do something about it or not. You didn't say whether you know her and see her around or whether you may never see her again - In which case fantasy is harmless if you don't get lost in it - and it may just wear off.

If you are likely to see this woman often you may feel the need to do something. Although it may be difficult to think clearly - you have to decide what you want from a relationship in general. Do you want to change lovers every Spring or do you want something more permanent? You have to think in

what ways your present relationship is fulfilling - the positive things about it - as you may have to make a choice. Maybe you should see the other woman and if your feelings continue approach her and ask her how she feels. If she isn't attracted to you then at least that clarifies that issue. Only you can know your feelings about how you feel towards this woman - the options are many and variable. From doing nothing, trying to have an affair, clandestine or not, or you may decide to discuss it with your present lover. There is no clear cut solution to this problem - every woman is different - all I can do is point the options out.



A Glasgow-based writer is hoping to set up a community writing group that will actively help lesbian and gay writers to draw attention to their writing. The group, to run on co-operative basis, aims to help writers of prose, poetry etc to organise readings within the community, to hold workshops on writing, to act as a contact point for writers and to publish writing to reach a wider audience.

Anyone who is interested and would like to get involved to any extent should write to: Toni Davidson PH 19 340 West Princes Street, Glasgow G4 9HF

A conference for LESBIAN THERAPISTS AND COUNSELLORS is being organised in Birmingham this autumn, to discuss common issues and set up a national network. For further details and booking form send SAE to Mary Lynne Ellis, PACE, London Lesbian and Gay Centre, 67 Cowcross St, London EC1.

DON'T MISS OUT!



NEWS
AND
VIEWS

LETTERS

SMALL ADS



ON
SALE
TO WOMEN

What's On

agony dyke
Lesbians and AIDS
Blackpool Revisited

30p
ISSUE 4

"MY DYKE"
small ADS
LETTERS
NEWS

GET IT REGULAR! MORE!!

GOSSIP CAFE

30 CHAUCER ST.

VEGETARIAN WOMEN'S CAFE

OPENING TIMES



MONDAY	-	CLOSED	
TUESDAY	-	10.30 - 3	
WEDNESDAY	-	10.30 - 3	6 - 8.30
THURSDAY	-	10.30 - 3	
FRIDAY	-	10.30 - 3	6 - 8.30



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The Lesbian and Gay Rights Working Party,
City of Leicester NUT.

The City of Leicester NUT Lesbian and Gay Rights Working Party was set up in 1986 after two members of City Association had attended the New Dimensions Conference in Nottingham. At an association meeting held early in May 1986 these two, together with a third member, came out, and as a result of this meeting, the working party was set up. Its aims are as follows: to campaign for lesbian and gay rights within the NUT, to provide support for gay and lesbian colleagues, and to develop guidelines and material for use in schools on lesbian - and gay-related issues. It is a mixed group, and includes some straight members; but all members are strongly committed to campaigning for lesbian and gay rights in education, both through the Union and outside it. So far as we know, we are the only NUT lesbian and gay group in existence.



Over the past year, we have drawn up a Code of Practice on Lesbian and Gay Rights, which has been adopted by Leicester Association, by Mid-Leicestershire and by Leicestershire Division. We put forward a motion on lesbian and gay rights, based on the Code of Practice, to this Easter's NUT Conference, and we also put forward one on AIDS. Members of the Working Party have also helped to write curriculum materials for AIDS Prevention Education for use with fifth-year leavers in Leicestershire.

lishing
a bigger and better edition of Outlaws in the Classroom; we welcome contributions from anyone with recent direct experience of the education system, whether as pupil, parent, or teacher. We would particularly like more material relating to primary schools; special schools; and the experiences of Black and Asian pupils or recent ex-pupils, parents or teachers. We would also be very interested to hear from anyone who might be able draw us some cartoons.

Last, but not least, we have published Outlaws in the Classroom. Lesbians and Gays in the School System, which was launched at the NUT Conference. This has been positively reviewed in 'The Independent', 'The Times Educational Supplement' and 'Sunday Today'; besides inspiring some predictable comments in the gutter press, and generating considerable column inches in the 'Leicester Mercury'. Particularly heartening was the 'Mercury' letters page on Thursday, 30th April, when no fewer than four letters were printed, all strongly supporting our initiative in publishing the book, and critical of two earlier, hostile letters. Outlaws in the Classroom includes the experiences and reflections of lesbian and gay teachers and recent ex-pupils, and of lesbian mothers; advice for teachers with pastoral responsibilities and suggestions on the curriculum; observations on AIDS prevention education, and an annotated bibliography and video list.

Plans for the future include pub-

The group is open to all NUT members in Leicestershire, but we are also keen to make contact with teachers from other authorities and unions who are in support of our aims. Following the rule laid down in the City Association's Code of Practice, we recognise the absolute right of lesbians, gay men and bisexual people to control any disclosures about their sexuality. Confidentiality is therefore a primary rule of the group.

The group can be contacted by phoning Lena on Leicester 553672, or by writing to the LGRWP, City of Leicester Teachers' Association (NUT), 4 Rupert Street, Leicester, LE15XH (Tel: Leicester 539310). Copies of Outlaws in the Classroom are available from 4 Rupert Street, Leicester. They may also be bought from some gay and radical bookshops. Price: £2.00 plus 50p post and packaging. Reductions for bulk orders.

IT'S A BITCH BEING BUTCH

So me and my friend, see, we decided we was too soft, ya know?
I mean cream puff and marshmallow was an understatement, dig?
We wanna be tough, see
we wanna be so cool
you catch pneumonia just by looking at us.
So one day we go out and buy ourselves
some black muscle T-shirts and some tight jeans
and we put on our sneakers and our headbands
and our mirror sunglasses
and don't we look fine swaggering down Main Street
with our thumbs hooked in our pockets,
our keys dangling in the breeze?
Now I must admit I felt a little naked
without my Mickey Mouse watch, feather earrings
and the cute little labyris I got at the music festival last year,
but my friend says we be too cool for those kind of
decorations.

So we be cruising up the street
and we decide we need new names, see
so I be Velcro and she be Venom.
We don't see no dykes to show off for
so we go get some coffee and I make sure
no one hears me order DeCaf.
And as we leave the place I be so cool
I don't even notice the sliding glass door
is shut
and I slam right into it
spilling my DeCaf all down my brand new black muscle T
and Venom she be laughing so hard
she pee in her brand new tight jeans.
Well we cut out for home then
and there be some wimmin sitting outside the movie theater
laughing and carrying on some

but they sure hush up fast
and their eyes open wide
when we turn the corner
and they be wondering,
Who are these new dykes in town?
And as we get closer
one of them starts to laugh
and another one says You look adorable
and I say Adorable? Humph! and they laugh even more.
I'm Velcro and this here's Venom, I say
standing with one hip thrust out
and my thumb pointing at Venom as if I was hitchhiking
down some dusty road not giving a shit if I never get picked
up.

HEY, DON'T
I KNOW
YOU FROM
SOME PLACE?
God - I
HOPE NOT!



So they all be off and laughing again
except this one girl I never seen before.
She be in boots and a black leather jacket
with a tattoo crawling down her arm and across her chest
disappearing inside her tank top
where my eyes be liking to follow.
Well this girl be as quiet and cool
as a cat stalking a cockroach
and Venom and I, we almost choke on our gum
when someone tells us she just rode her motorcycle
here all the way from San Francisco
and suddenly me and Venom
we be real tired
we ready to go home to bed
and they ask us
Do you sleep in baby doll pajamas?
and we walk off
their laughter tickling the back of our necks
like a warm summer breeze
and when we get home Venom takes off
her headband and rubs her temples
and I get into bed with my teddy bear
and we decide next week we'll really show them
when we get all dressed up for the big dance
in gold lamme evening gowns
with high heeled shoes to match

by Lesléa Newman

LEICESTER NEWS



LEICESTER NEWS

Leicester Lesbian Group has been allocated a grant of £1 000 towards publicity, building up a lesbian contact group. And to set up a young lesbian group

YOUNG LESBIAN GROUP - LEICESTER

The new group will start on Thursday, 3rd September at 7.30 p.m. at 45 King Street (Lesbian & Gayline) 550667.



NEW SELF-HELP GROUP FOR LESBIANS WITH PHOBIAS - LEICESTER

The first meeting was held on Thursday 26th August, at Lesbian and Gayline, of women who suffer from panic attacks and/or phobias. The group will meet weekly, the next meeting will be on Monday, 7th September at 7.30 p.m.

The aim of the group is to provide support and understanding of each other and to explore new ways of aiding our recovery. A member of the group said "There would appear to be a high proportion of lesbians suffering from phobias and panic attacks and I hope that in an all lesbian environment we can explore ways in which living in a hostile society increases our anxiety generally."

All lesbians who suffer from phobias and panic attacks are welcome to join the group. Contact via Lesbian and Gayline, 550667, 7.30 - 10.30 Mon - Fri.



LESBIAN & GAY HOUSING GROUP - LEICESTER

Things are looking good - it looks like the group will be setting up two hostels, one for lesbians the other for gay men, to be personed by a job-share - a lesbian and a gay man.

In order to compile a report to submit to the City Council, the group wrote to various local organisations asking them if they knew of any young lesbian or gay man who had been made homeless due to their sexuality. Of the replies received, most were not aware of any examples. The group has decided to write again to these organisations, partly to tell them about the hostels so that they can refer young people, and partly to tell them that the group are putting together an information pack about the needs of young homeless lesbians and gays and to ask whether they would be interested in a presentation of the pack. The group can be contacted via Lesbian & Gayline 550667.



LESBIAN INFORMATION SERVICE NEWSLETTER

A monthly newsletter, started by women in Liecester. This aims to provide a monthly roundup of National news and information for Lesbians/gay women. It also contains regional news and features. Subs are 50p (low waged/unemployed) £1 others and low/unfunded groups, £2 well funded groups. Write to L.I.S. P.O. Box 194, Leicester, LE1 9HP

NATIONAL CONFERENCE FOR GAYS AND LESBIANS WITH DISABILITIES

We're organising a National Conference for Gays and Lesbians with Disabilities. There are lots of us about but we don't usually get the chance to go to things because of crappy access etc. This conference will be different but it needs organising and we're a small group, just starting out.

If you're gay/lesbian with a disability come and help plan (if you're able-bodied phone contact number, we could use your help). Meetings are Sundays 7 pm at the Fallen Angel pub, 65 Graham Street, London N1. Tel. Kirsten day/ansaphone evening 01.802.8981 and Nola 01.922.8819 (day).

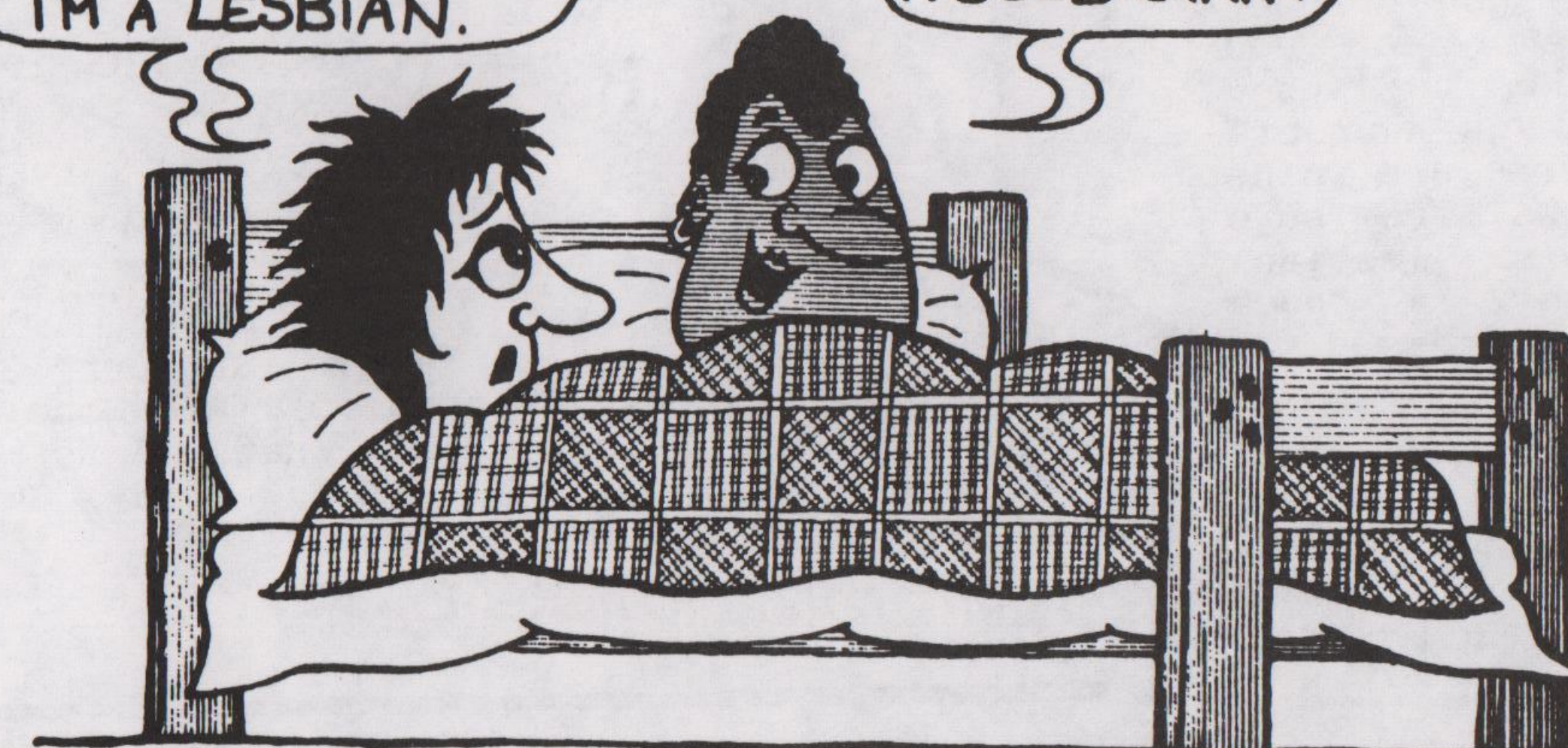
IN THE PINK.

Channel four is to repeat its series of gay and lesbian films under the title of in the pink. The series opens on September 18th.

In the pink runs for six weeks and includes repeats of films such as The times of Harvey Milk, Before Stonewall, Breaking the Silence and Lianna.

SLEEPING WITH YOU DOESN'T MEAN I'M A LESBIAN.

NO, BUT IT'S A GOOD START!





THE JEWISH LESBIAN GROUP

Has been meeting since early May, in each others homes. Apart from eating, laughing and crying we have started to talk about how we feel about being Jewish and how it affects us as well as discussing Jewish culture, history, politics. The group is very positive because we have many experiences in common; often for the first time we are looking at what being Jewish means to us as lesbians, women, daughters and mothers. When we mention to our friends about the group, the usual reaction is 'oh, how many of you are there?' which makes us laugh. Well, for those of you who are dying to know, there are nine of us...so far!! We are sure there are more Jewish lesbians in Nottingham so get in touch by leaving a note addressed to Jewish Lesbian Gp. c/o The Lesbian Centre, The Womens Centre, 30 Chaucer St. So we can let you know about the meetings.

Shalom.

WORD SEARCH

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

Summer, Sea, Sand, Dunes, Tennis, Sunburn, Sweaty Armpit, Melt, Rain, Hot Lips, Skinnydips, Red Nose, Ice Cubes, Dress Tie-Dye, Shades, Salads, Peel, Knats, Ants, Body, Tin-beer, Deck, Seashells, Fruit, Nav, Mood, Moldy, Surf, Sex, Nun, Tea, Tan,

DEAR READERS?

Could you write for and/or sell Diversion? We want Diversion to be representative of all lesbians/gay women in the East Midlands

-and we need news, views, stories, What's on in your area etc, SO WRITE TO US NOW.

We also need sellers - we try to get around the pubs and clubs - but we only get to places once - and its a large area to cover.

A FREE SUBSCRIPTION IF YOU SELL 8 OR MORE.

COULD YOU SUPPORT DIVERSION BY A SUPPORTING SUBSCRIPTION?

Diversion is run on a tight budget by volunteers. The income from sales and advertising doesn't really cover printing costs. Diversion is made possible by the generosity of our printers in giving us cheap rates. However, as Diversion grows we'd like to support them by paying them the full rate, (as well as paying ourselves for phone calls, stationery costs etc, etc.) So if you'd like to be a supporting subscriber --- send extra with your subscription 50p, £1, £5, £500, nothing is too little or too much!

The Fabulous Dirt Sisters are looking for a feminist woman to do our sound mixing and travel to gigs with us, as from the autumn/winter. Previous p.a. experience is not essential, but some musical background would be an advantage. Please phone 412098 for further details.

Whats on in the East Midlands

LESBIAN (and mixed gay) INFORMATION.

PLACES TO GO IN
Nottingham
Derby
Lincoln
Northampton
Sheffield
Mansfield
Retford
Worksop
Loughborough

NOTTINGHAM

THE FORRESTERS, pub, Glasshouse St, just round corner from The Olde Boot pub behind the Victoria Centre. Sometimes mostly women, sometimes mixed. Disco Thurs (60's music) and Sun.

POT-LUCK PUBS AND DISCOS
(some women use them sometimes).

The Clarence 284 Alfreton Rd, Nottm.

The Admiral Duncan 74 Lower Parliament St. Discos Fri, Sat & Sun mixed. Late bar. Bar with "Private Party" on door.

The Nags Head Mansfield Rd (right hand side going out of town). Back bar.

The Newcastle Arms 68 North Sherwood St. Thurs 9.30 onwards only.

The Napier North Sherwood St (by Arboretum gates).

GROUPS AND ACTIVITIES

Lesbian community centre 2nd floor, the Women's Centre, 30 Chaucer St, Nottm. Near the Poly. See map P. Lesbian line office, black lesbian room, lesbian centre office and coffee bar and pool room. Open occasionally at present. See below.

Lesbian centre group meets every Thurs 7.30-8.30 at the Lesbian Community Centre. Organising group for the LCC. All lesbians/gay women welcome.

Lesbian community centre social Thurs 8.30-10. At the Lesbian Centre. Pool, darts, coffee bar, juke box, closet library, etc. Small, friendly social.

Lesbian line 410652. Telephone advice and info service. Mon and Wed 7.30 - 9pm. Run by small group of lesbians. Any lesbians who'd like to join in phone us for more info, new members welcome. Training given.

Young lesbian group meets on the 1st Tues of every month, 6pm at the Women's Centre, 30 Chaucer St. Next group meeting: Oct 6. For more details see article in last issue.

Disco collective run by lesbians If you are interested in joining please phone Sal on 504087 or send a note to Disco Collective c/o Women's Centre, 30 Chaucer st.

Black lesbian group newly formed group for Black Lesbians. For more info phone Lesbian Line or write to Black Lesbian Group, c/o Women's Centre, 30 Chaucer St.

Newcomers' Social 1st Sun of the month 2.30 - 5pm at the Lesbian Centre. For women new to being lesbian or lesbians new to Nottm. Ring Lesbian Line for more details. Next one: Oct 4.

Lesbian Discussion Group. Every Tuesday 7.30 at the Lesbian Centre.

BOOKSHOPS

NOTTINGHAM.
MUSHROOM, 10 Heathcote St., Hockley. Has a lesbian book section. Sell Diversion.

LEICESTER
BLACKTHORN, 70 High St.

This guide is as full as we can make it.. If you know if anywhere that we have missed off - PLEASE LET US KNOW. THANKS.

Whats on

OTHER LOCAL MIXED GROUPS

Gay Christian Movement (East Midlands). Meets 2nd Fri in month. Women phone Sheila/Chris Loughborough 236871.

Lesbian/Gay Welfare Workers Group. (Social and Support) including health and education workers. Meets monthly. Central Nottingham. For info: Chris Williams, 27 Moore Rd, Mapperley, or 602164 (after 7pm). 3rd Sat in month in afternoon.

Midland deaf gay group. 021-707 8327.

Labour Campaign for Lesbian and Gay Rights c/o Mick Wallis, 3 Marlborough Rd, Beeston, Nottm. Tel 223090.

NATIONAL LESBIAN ORGANISATIONS WITH LOCAL GROUPS.

Gemma (Lesbians with disabilities) BM, Box 5700, London WC1N 3XX.

Kenric National social organisation for lesbians plus monthly newsletter and regional reps. Details: B/M Kenric (M53), London WC1N 3XX.

DERBY

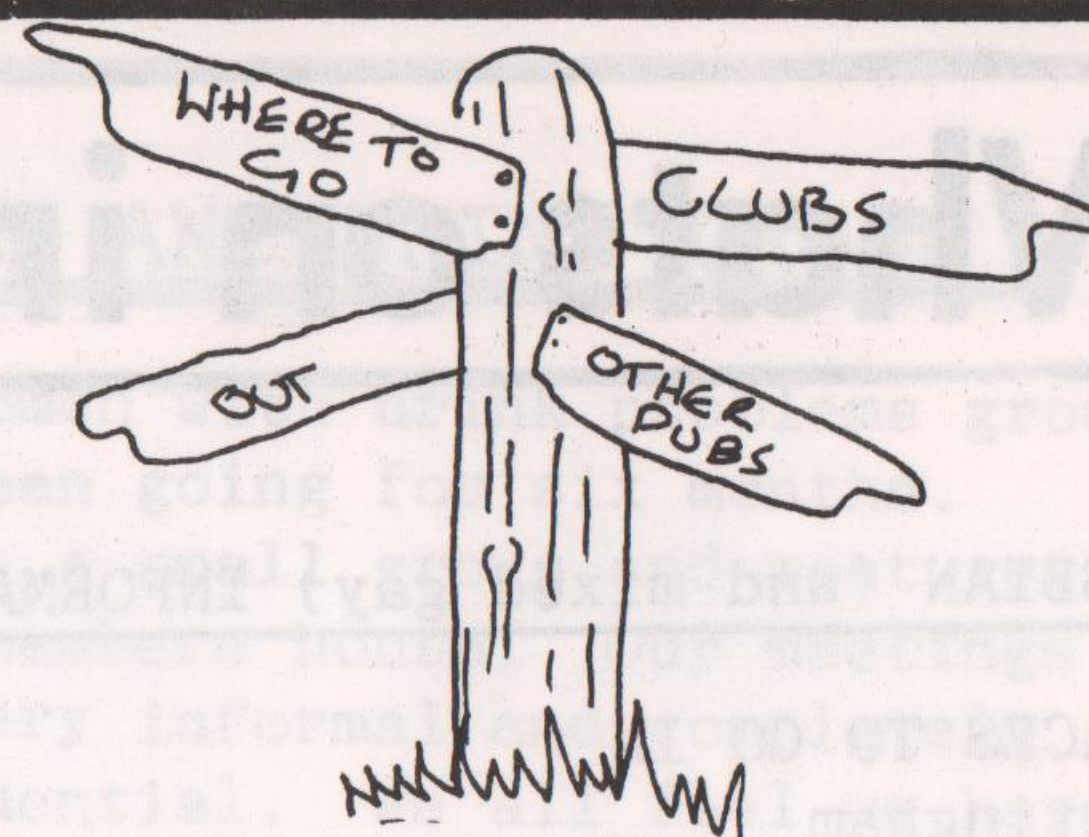
Derby Lesbian Line 414111 Wed 7 - 9pm. Write: c/o PO Box 140, Derby DE1 1XS.

Derby lesbian line socials 1st & 3rd Fri in month at Women's Centre, 135 Green Lanes, Derby. 8 - 10pm. Social for women not keen on pubs and clubs. Ring Lesbian Line for more details.

Women's disco at the Station Inn (near Derby Station). Every 1st Sat. 8 - 12pm. £1.00.

DERBYSHIRE

GREYHOUND PUB, Findern village. Tuesdays in cellar bar is womens night. (for Findern, leave Derby and follow signs to Burton on Trent. Turn off to Findern on left some way out of Derby.)



LEICESTER.

LESBIAN SOCIAL GROUP Wednesdays 7.30 - 11.00pm at the womens centre, 94 Belgrave Gate.

WOMENS DISCO Every three weeks at the womens centre. Phone Gayline for details.

Black Lesbian Group Contact Debbie 0533-532111

GAYLINE COFFEE BAR Tuesdays 8 - 10 Women. Saturdays 10 - 5.30 Mixed. 45, King Street.

LEICESTER GAYLINE 0533 550667. Mon - Fri 7.30-10.30 Women on line on Tuesdays.

Lesbian & Gay Housing Group contact via Lesbian & Gay Line 0533 550667. Nalgay, Lesbian & Gay Section of NALGO, contact Marie Critchley 531191 ext. 5099 or Jen Harrison 539181 ext. 258. NUT City or Leicester Lesbian & Gay Rights Working Party, contact Lena 553672 eves. Self Help Group for Lesbians with Phobias, ring 550667 for details. Young Lesbian Group, meets alternate Thursdays, 45 King Street, 550667 for details.

LEICESTER LESBIAN & GAY TEACHERS GROUP. c/o 4, Rupert St, Leicester. LE1 5XM or phone Gayline for details. (see article this issue).

THE CROWN/LEICESTER PLACE 24, Dryden Street (off Lee Circle) Pub and Club. Go through pub to club. Mixed. Club open Mon-Sat 9.30-2.00am. Cheaper drinks before 10pm.

THE DOVER CASTLE 34 Dover Street (off Granby St). Mixed.

in the East Midlands

MANSFIELD

The White Hart, Church St. Mixed. Thurs - Sun. Disco upstairs. Admission free.

NORTHAMPTON.

LESBIAN LINE

Northampton 39723. Tuesdays 6.30 - 9.30 also drop-in between 8.00-9.30.

PRINCESS ROYAL

Womens disco 1st Saturday of the month. 172 Wellingborough Road. This is open as a mixed gay club the rest of the time. (open 10.30pm onwards). Closed Wednesdays and Sundays. £1 entry.

REGENTS CLUB 76, Regent Square. Mixed gay. Monday-Disco 9 - 2am, Wed and Thur - lounge bar, Fri, Sat and Sun disco.

WOMEN ONLY DISCO About once a month. Details from lesbian line.

MILTON KEYNES.

Gay womens group and womens disco every 4-6 weeks. Details from Northampton lesbian line.

LOUGHBOROUGH

THE WINDMILL PUB, Sparrow Hill (near parish church) Thursday, women only.

THE PACK HORSE INN, Woodgate Mixed. Fridays in lounge bar particularly good.

MABLETHORPE

THE CROSS IN, Alford Road. Mixed. Gays mainly Mondays. Music, food, pool, restaurant.

WEDNESDAYS 200 CLUB, Otley Terrace. Mixed gay discos. Fridays 7 - 11 pm.

DONCASTER

THE OLD CROWN, Grey Friars Rd (near St. Georges Church) Lounge bar. Mixed.

GAYPHONE

0302 262250. Tues. 7.30-10 pm.

SCUNTHORPE

JENSEN PUB. Mixed.

NEWARK.

YE OLDE WHITE HART.

Thurs, Fri and Sat only. Mixed. 1940's Blitzbar.

SHEFFIELD

LESBIAN LINE

0742 581238. Thursdays 7 - 10pm.

GAY CHRISTIAN MOVEMENT

Womens group. Contact Hazel 0246 415656.

THE HOLE IN THE WALL.

72, Saville Street. (tel: 0724 755618) Pub, very popular with women. Mixed lesbian/straight.

KINGS HEAD, Attercliffe Road. New, mixed, men and women. Disco's Fri, Sat and Sun. Tel 0724 445757

LINCOLN

LINCOLN GAY SWITCHBOARD

Tel: Lincoln 0522 224458. Weds 6-10pm. Sat 3-5pm.

THE GOLDEN EAGLE, High St, Lincoln. Mixed disco, 1st and 3rd Saturdays of the month. 8pm - midnight. Upstairs room. Last admission 10.30pm. BASSETLAW GAYLINK. North Notts, Retford and Worksop. Mixed group and occasional discos. Tel Lincoln Gay Switchboard for details.

PUB REVIEW

MANSFIELD

THE WHITE HART

Small upstairs room (not too small). Disco - so difficult to talk. Friendly mixed crowd - good atmosphere. Not posey. Easy to find. Barstaff male mediocre.

NOTTINGHAM

FORESTERS, GLASSHOUSE STREET

Nice back room. Juke box when discos' not on. Mainly women - good atmosphere. Go early if you want a quiet drink - gets full later on. A small dance floor (started off dancing then got lost in the queue for the bar!). Barstaff women, very friendly.