



The Manchester Lesbian Newsletter

Produced by the Lesbian Community Project
Issue 13 – June 2002

LESBIAN COMMUNITY PROJECT NEWS

At the end of April we said goodbye to Emma Decent, our Project Worker. Emma had been with the Lesbian Community Project for eighteen months and has made a big impact on the work we do. However, she decided to swap the streets of Manchester for the fields of North Yorkshire. We wish her luck and happiness in the future.

Our website is now online, so make sure you bookmark www.manchesterlcp.org.uk and visit us regularly. It's still very much a work in progress (as Mel tries desperately to get her head around HTML and Dreamweaver) but there's still plenty to look at in the meantime. There's some information about the Project and what we do, news about the groups that we support, a directory of lesbian groups and organisations, and lots more. We would appreciate any feedback on the site so please use our feedback form. Thanks to Sally Anderson for all her hard work on the website over the last 9 months.

Also, a big thank you to Desire and Claire Mooney for donating £50 to the LCP from their International Women's Day event at Retro.

Thanks to everyone that returned a newsletter questionnaire, winners and prizes will be announced in the next issue. We're still digesting the results but it seems clear that most of our readers would like to have more involvement in the newsletter. As a result, we'll be including a letters page from the next issue, so if you've got something topical to say, please write to us or e-mail and we'll do our best to include it. Plus, we always welcome articles about lesbian-friendly events or organisations around Greater Manchester but please send anything for inclusion by Thursday 1st August.

PARTNERSHIP REGISTER FOR MANCHESTER

In March of this year, Manchester City Council approved plans for a partnership register in Manchester, the first of its kind outside London. The ceremony gives couples who are unable or do not wish to enter into marriage, the chance to make a declaration of lifelong commitment to each other.

People wishing to take part must be aged 16 years or over on the date of application, and those under 18 years old must get a consent form signed by a parent or guardian. Couples may not register if one or both partners are married or have previously entered into a partnership, unless it has been deregistered. At least one partner must live, work or have other connections with the City of Manchester.

The standard fee for the ceremony is £97.50, for the ceremony at the Register Office at the council's marriage suite, Heron House. Other locations within Manchester must be agreed and carry an increased charge of £188.50 - £253.50.

The register has no legal validity but represents a step towards lesbian and gay equality. Mary Murphy, lead councillor for lesbian issues, stated "I am very excited that this is going to happen and pleased that it's happening in Manchester because we have always tried to keep the equality issue to the forefront" (Manchester Evening News, 18.3.02).

For more information about the register, contact the Register Office on 0161 234 5509. Manchester Register Office is fully accessible for wheelchair users and has a loop system for the hearing impaired. If you require more information on access, please telephone 0161 234 7862 (minicom 0161 234 7856).

Lesbian Community Project, PO Box 153, Manchester, M60 1LP Tel/Fax: 0161 273 7128
E-mail: mail@manchesterlcp.org.uk Web: www.manchesterlcp.org.uk

DIRECTORY OF GROUPS

Badminton Group

A new group for lesbian and gay badminton players, playing every Wednesday night. Mixed abilities welcome. Phone Rebecca at GHAP on 01925 631101 for more information.

Disabled Lesbians Social Group

A safe space for all lesbian, gay and bisexual women who identify as having a disability. Meetings the first Thursday of the month, 7.30pm-9pm at The Lesbian and Gay Centre, Sidney Street. Contact Amanda at the Lesbian Community Project for more information.

Dorothy's Drop In, Bolton

A informal and friendly group for gay, lesbian and bisexual in the Bolton area. The group meets every last Saturday of the month, from 1pm-4pm at 'The Friends Meeting House', Silverwell Street, Bolton. For more information phone 07818 046656 or 01204 360054.

Dykes on Bikes

Interested in motorbikes? Contact Mel at the Lesbian Community Project to be put on the contact list or Kirsty on 0161 257 2016 for more information about rides and events.

GHAP (Gay Healthy Alliance Project)

GHAP aims to promote the physical, psychological and spiritual health and well-being of lesbian, gay and bisexual people. They organise a number of activities weekends and holistic health days throughout the year. For more information contact 01925 631101 or e-mail: ghap@btinternet.com

Good As You 2 (learning difficulties)

A new support group for lesbians, bisexuals and gay men who have learning difficulties. Meetings once a month at the Lesbian and Gay Centre, Sidney Street. Call Daniel or Patricia on 0161 273 1221 for more information.

Greater Manchester Lesbian Carers Support Group

For all lesbians who care for or look after a partner, friend or relative in Greater Manchester. Contact Lizzie on 0161 860 4285 or Nikki on Nnikkipattison@aol.com.

The Jessies Lesbian Walking and Cycling Group

The group meets for walks the last Sunday of every month and also organises occasional cycle-rides. Contact Amanda or Mel at the Lesbian Community Project for more details.

Lesbian and Gay Choir

The choir meets every other Thursday at 7.30pm, at the Unitarian Chapel, Cross Street, Manchester. For further information, please ring Wynne on 0161 652 0838.

Lesbian And Gay Salsa

Salsa classes are now held at 49-51 Sidney Street every Wednesday evening from 8.00pm – 10.00pm. £4/£3. For more information, contact Amanda or Mel at the Lesbian Community Project, on 0161 273 7128.

Lesbian Professional Development Network

This group organises social activities and meetings around work-based issues. They also produce a quarterly newsletter. For more information, contact Roz on 07976 394951 or 01625 525056.

Loving Me! (same-sex partner abuse)

A new support group for women who are or have been abused by other women. A free support group is to be developed in the Greater Manchester Area. For more information, please call Amanda at the Lesbian Community Project in complete confidence.

Manchester Older Lesbian Group (MOL's)

MOL's is an open-aged alternative to the 'scene', providing a space at the Pankhurst Centre for a variety of social activities, discussion groups and trips. If you want to be on the mailing list, please ring the Pankhurst Centre on 0161 273 5673.

Manchester Stingers Women's FC

A friendly lesbian football team that allows individuals to progress at their own pace. Contact Debra on 0161 225 0192 for more information.

Rainbow Families

A support and social group for lesbian parents and significant others. Contact Amanda at the Lesbian Community Project or Cath on 01204 493714 for more information.

Stepping Stones

A support group for lesbians and bisexual women. The group meets every 2nd and 4th Tuesday of the month, at the LGF building. For further information contact the LGF switchboard on 0161 235 8000.

VADA

VADA is a Manchester based theatre company run by and for the lesbian, gay and bisexual community. Contact Rose on 0161 881 0886 (daytime).

Women out in Wigan (WoW)

A friendly and informal group for gay, lesbian and bisexual women in the Wigan area. The group meets once a month at Sunshine House. For details, contact 07812 517543 (answerphone), write to: PO Box 287, Wigan, WN5 9EG, or e-mail: wowmail@mac.com.

Wythenshawe – oUT 'n' aBOUT

A project specifically for lesbian, gay and bisexual young people aged between 14-25 from Wythenshawe. The group offers support, information and activities. For more information, contact Marie at Signpost on 0161 436 5433/32.

EQUALITY AND MANCHESTER CITY COUNCIL

The Council's Best Value Team includes an officer for lesbians' issues, who work closely with the lead councillor for lesbian's issues on a range of initiatives. For 2002 / 2003 this includes the following:

Lesbians' Conference

Along with lesbians groups in the city, an event is being planned for later in 2002 at which individual lesbians and representatives of lesbians' groups can get together, and share ideas with each other and with organisations and groups who work with lesbians in Manchester.

Housing needs of young lesbians and gay men

Work is taking place with housing organisations, services for young lesbians and gay men, and young lesbians and gay men themselves to identify key issues and look at ways to address these.

Domestic Violence Strategy

The multi-agency domestic violence group is developing strategies to respond to the needs of heterosexuals, lesbians and gay men experiencing domestic violence.

Women's Voices – giving women the power to influence changes where they matter

This group discusses how services and events are provided and developed. It is open to all women who live, work or use facilities in Manchester. Topics include:

- women and health
- crime and disorder
- education, training and employment
- International Women's Week 2003
- access to services for women from abroad.

If you want to get involved or suggest other areas for discussion please get in touch.

For more information contact:

- Councillor Mary Murphy, Lead Member for Lesbians Issues, on 0161 2345000 or email cllr.m.murphy@notes.manchester.gov.uk
- Clare O'Regan, Best Value Policy Officer for Lesbians Issues, on 0161 2344309 or email c.o'regan@notes.manchester.gov.uk Textphone: 0161 2343036

WOMEN'S SPACE AT MARDI GRAS 2002

Last year women came together to organise a Women's Space that was a safe, welcoming and accessible place for all women at Gayfest. The Women's Space (a tent which took up nearly half of Sackville Park) was a great success, attracted over 1000 women and children, and raised over £2000 for charity.

This year, Gayfest has become Mardi Gras and a new organising committee has taken over the running of the August Bank Holiday Celebrations. Amazonia (the group that organised last year's Women's Space) have been told that community groups, such as themselves, can't be part of the organising committee and that there, as yet, are no plans for a Women's Space this year.

Is Mardi Gras once again going to be about commercial interests or will it be open to all members of the community?

We want to know what you think. Should there be a Women's Space this year? Should the organising committee allow community groups to participate fully in the event, or should commercial concerns be paramount? Remember that the Women's Space only happened last year because enough women felt strongly enough about the issue and fought hard to make themselves heard.

Come and tell us what you think and make it happen!

Voice your views on the subject on **Thursday 30th May, 7-9pm** at the Lesbian Community Project, 49-51 Sidney Street (off Oxford Road). A buffet will be provided.

Alternatively you can go directly to the Mardi Gras website and post a message on their forum at www.manchestermardigras.com

EVER THOUGHT ABOUT ADOPTION?

Families That Last is a project which aims to find adoptive parents for children who local authorities have had difficulty placing. Children who are difficult to place tend to lie within one or more of the following groups: children who are over 5, children who are of Afro Caribbean or Asian origin, children who have a physical or mental disability or whose future development is uncertain and children who are part of sibling group to be placed together. Unfortunately, many of the children needing a permanent family fall into these groups and can wait upwards of a year before a family is found. It is a sad irony that it is these children who really can't afford to wait for a secure and settled future.

We run information evenings in a variety of settings to allow people to find out more about adoption and make home visits for a more individual opportunity to explore the issues around adoption. If following initial discussions you decide that you would like to proceed with an application to adopt we aim to complete the assessment process within 6 months. This will include attendance on our 3 day group preparation course, usually run over a 3 week period. The end product of the assessment is the assessment document, produced by the social worker, called the Form F. All children being placed for adoption have a similar document, identifying their needs – medical, educational, emotional, racial and cultural, called the Form E. It is the comparison of these two forms which begins the process of 'matching' each child with the right family.

Although not everyone will have the attributes required to make a successful adoption, no one is ruled out by virtue of their race, culture, faith, gender, age or sexuality, or because they will be a single parent. Each applicant is assessed on his/her own merits and in fact we find that it is often the people who may think that they would not be allowed to adopt that have the most to offer as adoptive parents.

Recent Government initiatives to maximise the potential for more children needing an adoptive family to be found one have led to a more open debate about the ability of lesbian and gay people to meet the needs of children and to be assessed equally with their heterosexual peers as prospective adopters. There has of course been heated feeling on all sides of the argument, but the Government has been clear in its view that 'All sorts of people can make a success of adoption. It doesn't matter whether you are married or single, in or out of work, or whatever your race, religion, or sexuality' (From: Department of Health leaflet 25964, November 2001). *Families That Last* has always taken this view and, as you may be aware, held an information evening at the Lesbian Community Project in March of this year. We hope, though, that the confirmation within the DOH literature will encourage more lesbians and gay men to come forward to help children needing adoptive or long-term foster families.

Although we all know that discrimination and prejudice will continue whatever the Government do or don't do, we can certainly guarantee that within the *Families That Last* project we are concerned only with your ability to meet the needs of the children that we are working to help. You will face neither prejudice nor discrimination in our assessment of you or relationship with you: As an agency After Adoption has an anti discriminatory policy and values diversity and this is reflected in the make up of our workforce.

If you would like to find out more contact the project at After Adoption, 12-14 Chapel Street, M3 7NN; phone us on 0161 819 3108 or email us on familiesthatlast@afteradoption.org.uk

Jane King, Project Worker, Families That Last

VOLUNTEERING AT PEER SUPPORT PROJECT

Peer Support Project (PSP) provides support and information services for lesbian, gay and bisexual young people aged 14-25 years. We are currently looking to recruit young volunteers to train as peer supporters. We would particularly like to recruit lesbian and bisexual young women to provide support to their peers via the core services that PSP offers. We currently have four main core services up and running: Youthline (a free, confidential helpline), a befriending service, a Peer Support by Post/E-mail service, and LYSIS (Lesbian and Bisexual Youth Support and Information Service) - a penpal service for young women, with nearly 200 members nationwide.

As a volunteer with PSP you will be providing a much needed service to the many isolated lesbian and bisexual young women who contact us but we aim to ensure that our volunteers also benefit from their involvement in the project, through ongoing training and support. Many of the young women who volunteer with us find that they learn to be more assertive as well as increasing their self-confidence and self-esteem.

So if you are a lesbian or bisexual young woman with a couple of hours a week to spare we would love to hear from you. You can contact Lisa or Angela on 0161 274 4664 or e-mail us at office@peer-support.org.uk

NEW LESBIAN SEXUAL HEALTH LEAFLETS

"Lesbians Need Smear Tests" is a new leaflet for health care workers which explains to them the importance of offering all lesbians a smear test. It gives advice on how to put lesbian patients at ease during a smear test and how generally to be a lesbian-friendly health worker. The leaflet also offers information on lesbian sexual health and lists other services where lesbians can get support.

The leaflet, produced by Bolton and Wigan Health Promotion Departments has now gone out to all GPs and Practice Nurses in Bolton and Wigan and will soon be going out to practices in Manchester.

Melanie Ibbitson, who wrote the leaflet says "the reason for writing the leaflet was the increasing evidence of confusion amongst health care workers about whether we, as lesbians, need smear tests. We wanted to get across the clear message to them that we **all** need smear tests, whether or not we have had sex with men".

A second leaflet on lesbians, smear tests and sexual health is also underway. This one is being written for lesbians and focuses on the importance of going for a smear test and how to cope with anxiety or discomfort during the test. It will also address issues such as sexually transmitted infections, safer sex and coming out to your doctor. This second leaflet will be out in a couple of months.

If you would like more information about either of these leaflets or would like copies of "Lesbians Need Smear Tests" contact Melanie Ibbitson on 01204 360053.

LESBIAN HEALTH NETWORK

For lesbians and bisexual women working in the field of health or for individuals who have a specific interest in health within the North West.

The next meeting of the group will be on **Friday 7th June, 2.30pm**, at 49-51 Sidney Street. Please contact Amanda at the Lesbian Community Project for more details. Melanie Ibbitson who wrote "Lesbians need smear tests" will be attending.

DISABLED LESBIANS CARTOONING PROJECT

The Manchester Disabled Lesbian Group are running an innovative and ground breaking cartooning project - "In our Own Image", over two weekends in May and June. The aim of this project is to create cheeky, fun and challenging images and cartoons by disabled lesbians. These images will then be turned into postcards and posters to be distributed across the North West.

The images will raise awareness and challenge the discrimination disabled lesbians face in both the lesbian and gay community and the disability community. An initial workshop in May focuses on generating ideas and discussion, while the June workshop hopes to turn these ideas into images. All lesbians who identify as having a disability are welcome, regardless of impairment, age, ability or experience.

The group hopes to highlight the complex and sometimes humorous nature of the prejudices that disabled lesbians experience. For example, by challenging the assumption that disabled lesbians are a-sexual. This is a difficult issue for many women because on the one hand, lesbians have been fighting to prove that they are about more than sex. On the other hand, disabled women are fighting for recognition of their sexuality! As one disabled lesbian says, "Even though I live in a very conservative area, my lover and I can publicly maul each other to our hearts' content while wearing Lesbian Avengers T-shirts, and we'll still get tons of 'Isn't that sweet, she's helping the poor cripple girl' smiles because the assumption is so strong that I'm devoid of sexuality"

The group also wants to increase and encourage visibility in all areas of the community. Many disabled lesbians are isolated from the wider lesbian community because of the social, environmental and attitudinal barriers they experience. Women, for example, who are in residential care sometimes find it is impossible to come out as a lesbian because they are at mercy of homophobic assistants and health professionals. Similarly, many women can't access lesbian and gay pubs and clubs because none of the venues are accessible.

The workshops will take place on the 25th / 26th May, and the 22nd / 23rd of June 2002, from 11.30am-4.30pm, at BEVC, Aired Close, Ardwick, Manchester, M12. Lunch, travel and access expenses are available. For more details, please contact Paula on 07773 164330 or Amanda at the Lesbian Community Project.

The Cartooning Project has been assisted by an award from the 'Citizenship 21 project'

NEWS

THE PANKHURST CENTRE

The Women's Drop-in at the Pankhurst Centre runs from 11am – 2pm every Thursday. There is also a new, open-aged, easy walking group called "Drop-outs". For more information about either of these groups contact Pauline at the Pankhurst Centre on 0161 273 5673.

RIGHT TO UNITE!

Right to Unite is a new lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgendered drop-in service, based at the Zion Centre, Hulme. The facilitators of the group aim to create a welcoming, safe-space for people and have a separate area for women. The group runs from 6-8pm every Tuesday.

MOLS MAY DISCO

The Manchester Older Lesbians Group are holding their May Disco on Saturday 25th May, from 8pm, at the Pankhurst Centre. Entry is £3/£2 unwaged, and DJ Funky Monkey (from Desire) will be supplying the tunes for the evening. Please bring your own drink. For more information, including access details, phone the Pankhurst Centre on 0161 273 5673

SAPPHOS EVENTS

Sapphos (an LGF project for older lesbians) have got a range of events planned for June:

- Saturday 1st June: Drop-in 1-4pm
- Tuesday 4th June: Quiz night 7-9pm
- Tuesday 16th June: Games night 7pm (come and play darts, bingo, cards or charades! Meet new friends and why not bring a bottle?)

All events are at the LGF building (Unity House) on Pritchard Street (off Charles Street). For more information, please contact Molly on 0161 235 8002.

QUEER UP NORTH

2002 is the tenth year of the Manchester lesbian and gay arts festival, Queer up North. A series of productions throughout May and June will be shown at various venues in Manchester. One production, "Friends of Dorothy", traces William Yang's life within the gay and lesbian community of Sydney, and illustrates how attitudes have changed over the last 30 years. "Friends of Dorothy" is at the Royal Exchange Theatre Studio, St Ann's Square on Friday 21st and Saturday 22nd June. For more information or to book tickets, phone 0161 833 9833.

For information about other Queer up North events, call 0161 833 2288, or visit the website at www.queerupnorth.com

LESSIE CAMP!

Lessie Camp returns! After a year's absence, this little bit of lesbian heaven is created again for 2 weeks in August on its regular site of a beautiful secluded valley in North Lancs. For over 10 years lesbians and their children have gathered for the unique experience which is Lessie Camp. Everyone pitches in with jobs such as wood chopping, fire building and cooking, and it's the perfect way to meet people.

This year there are improvements to the site, with toilets, kitchen facilities and some bunk accommodation. There are also activities for children and workshops. Costs are on a sliding scale.

Lessie Camp is run on a shoe-string - of human as well as cash resources - so if you can help organise or fund raise, do get in touch.

Lessie Camp runs from the 10th – 24th August 2002, near Lancaster. For more information or to make a booking telephone 01422 845515 or email lessiecamp@hotmail.com

CAMPING WOMEN

This years dates for Camping Women are:

- May 31st-June 4th (Lake District)
- June 28th-30th (Lake District)
- August 2nd-4th (Shropshire)
- August 23rd-26th (North Wales)
- 20th-22nd September (Yorkshire Dales)

For more information, contact Hannah Roberts at hannah@hml-roberts.freereserve.co.uk or visit the website at www.davenhill.co.uk

GAY YOUTH PRIDE DAY

On 20th July 2002, the Lesbian Gay Youth of Manchester will be holding a Pride day at LGYM Centre on Sidney Street, off Oxford Road (0161 274 4664). At the centre there will be a number of stalls providing information and literature about a number of organisations who have close relations with gay youth.

There will also be approximately 12 events for the young people to participate in. Based on what can be described as a treasure trail route throughout the city, the young people will visit a number of venues and have to complete a task in each one.

The cost is £3 per head and covers food, activities and hopefully an evening performance by LGYM. The day should run from 10am till 8pm and is open to all LGB young people.

GROUP NEWS

RAINBOW FAMILIES

Rainbow Families programme of events and activities for lesbian parents and their children, will take place at the Lesbian Community Project: 49-51 Sidney Street.

"My name is Cath Williams and I have been involved in Rainbow Families since the very beginning, almost 4 years ago.

We now have a drop-in the first Sunday in every month 1.00pm - 4.00pm, followed by a Management Committee meeting usually the Monday evening after 6.30pm - 8.30pm.

The drop-in is well supported and offers a friendly, safe environment in which lesbians, their partners and children can relax, have fun, make friends and generally share a common space. We would love more and more women to come along, so please do.

We hope to plan some outdoor activities soon and hopefully be involved in Mardi Gras."

Forthcoming dates for Rainbow Families:

June 2nd: Drop in - (activities to be confirmed)

July 7th: Drop in - (activities to be confirmed)

Aug 4th: Drop in - (activities to be confirmed)

The Social and discussion evenings are as and when. Refreshments will be provided

Please note that you will be expected to take full responsibility for your children at all times.

For any information contact Cath on 01204 493714.

DISABLED LESBIANS GROUP

The Disabled Lesbians Group is open to all lesbians that identify as having a disability. The group meets on the first Thursday of the month, 7.30pm-9.30pm, at 49-51 Sidney Street. The building is fully accessible and there is a BSL interpreter.

If you would like to know more, or meet or talk to someone from the Group, please contact the Lesbian Community Project.

Next meetings: Thursday 6th June, Thursday 4th July, and Thursday 1st August.

THE JESSIES

The Jessies meet for monthly walks of between 4 to 8 miles. For more information, or to be put on the mailing list for the Jessies, contact Mel at the Lesbian Community Project.

Next Jessies Walks:

Sunday 26th May:	Yorkshire
Sunday 30th June:	Derbyshire
Sunday 28th July:	To be confirmed
August:	NO WALK

LESBIAN AND BISEXUAL WOMEN'S NETWORKING GROUP - LINX

LINX meets quarterly at 49-51 Sidney Street. It offers lesbian and bisexual women's groups and organisation a chance to learn more about the voluntary sector and share ideas, plans and successes.

The next LINX network meeting is **Thursday 12th September, 6pm-9pm**. The focus of the meeting will be funding, with representative from funding organisations attending and funding workshops for lesbian and bisexual women's groups. A free buffet will be provided. If you have any access requirements, contact Amanda at the Lesbian Community Project.

LOVING ME!

"Loving Me!" is a new project for women who are or have been experiencing abuse within a same-sex relationship. The project aims to provide a confidential and safe environment for women, removing isolation and providing a place to gain support

The Project is supported by the Lesbian Community Project, and also has the support of Manchester Rape Crisis, Central Manchester Women's Aid, the Women's Domestic Violence Helpline and the Manchester Project. For more information, please contact the Lesbian Community Project in confidence on 0161 273 7128.

DYKES ON BIKES

Dykes on Bikes is a group for lesbian and bisexual women with an interest in motorbikes.

Going on rides together...Sharing information & space to do bike DIY...Advice and help from other women when looking to buy a bike...Off road biking...Social events...

Call Mel at the Lesbian Community Project or Kirsty on 0161 257 2016 for more information

MANCHESTER STINGERS

Want to bend it like Beckham? The Stingers lesbian football team are looking for players, particularly goalkeepers. If you think you've got what it takes, contact Debra on 0161 225 0192

LESBIANS NEEDED FOR BAND!

Got musical talent? Can you sing or play an instrument. Would you like to get a lesbian band together (working title: Dykezone / Dyke That / Backstreet Dykes / New Dykes on the Block!)? If so, contact Amanda at the Lesbian Community Project. And if we get enough interest we may even hold our very own 'Dyke-Idol' auditions...

SOMETHING TO THINK ABOUT... 20 HETEROSEXUAL PRIVILEGES

1. The right to marry
2. The right to talk about your relationship.
3. The right to not question your normalcy.
4. The right to kiss/show affection on the street.
5. The right to have children without any questions.
6. The right to be open about house-hunting with significant other.
7. The right to be validated by your religion.
8. The right to be accepted, rather than just tolerated.
9. The right to feel comfortable in your child's school, with your child's teachers and school activities.
10. The right to dress without worrying about what it represents.
11. The right to have in-laws.
12. The right not to hide friends and social activities geared to the same sex.
13. The right to have your children be comfortable with their friends.
14. The right to family support.
15. The right to have access to sitcoms, songs, books, etc. with your sexual preference as the basic core of the plot.
16. The right to show pain openly when a relationship ends
17. The right to not be nervous about "coming out" to friends and family.
18. The right to not fear that your sexuality may become a major point in a smear campaign that may affect the custody of your child, the job you want, the house you would like to buy, the way you are treated by your neighbours, friends, or family.
19. The right to custody of your children if your partner dies.
20. The right to be seen as a whole person, rather than defined/judged by your sexual preference.

Adapted from "Heterosexual Privileges" [www-rohan.sdsu.edu/~jlorenze/page4.html]

CLASSIFIEDS

outlet

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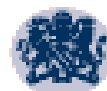
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NEXT ISSUE (SEPTEMBER): OUT MID AUGUST
PLEASE SEND ARTICLES / ADVERTS FOR INCLUSION BY 1ST AUGUST

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