INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

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Top news this month is Pride Scotia which will now take place in Edinburgh on Sat 25th June. It was to be held in July, but the G8 Summit at Gleneagles has led to all police leave in Scotland being cancelled and Lothian and Borders Police wouldn’t have been able to spare even one Bobby for the March. Co-incidentally, Elton John is playing a gig in Edinburgh on that date, so the city will be even fuller of pooves, dykes and bicycles than usual – some of whom will no doubt join the March!

Tired and stressed out in January? Trying to stick to the New Year Resolution? Then why not head along to the Edinburgh Holistic Therapy and Remedy Day to be held at the Assembly Rooms on Sun 13th Feb. Entry is £2 and a whole range of therapies will be on offer including: Massage, Reflexology, Aroma-therapy, Reiki, Tarot Reading, Hypnotherapy and lots, lots more!! It could also be an excellent hangover cure as the Edinburgh LGBT Centre For Health and Wellbeing has led to all police leave in Scotland being cancelled and Lothian and Borders Police wouldn’t have been able to spare even one Bobby for the March. Co-incidentally, Elton John is playing a gig in Edinburgh on that date, so the city will be even fuller of pooves, dykes and bicycles than usual – some of whom will no doubt join the March!

The theme for the Bitchboard Ball will be Hoodoed and the doors open from 8pm-1am. To get everybody in the mood, the Country and Western band “Lemongrass” will provide tunes and DJ Trendy Wendy will be in the ballroom providing the more dance stuff. The dress code is (suprise, suprise) Country and Western. Tickets are £16.50 and £3.50 and are available from the Usher Hall Box Office in Lothian Rd. Alternatively, call 0131-228 1155. Switchboard continues to offer a nightly listening ear on 0131-556 4049. A thanks to the event’s sponsors Number 18 and Executive Sauna. Apart from their regulars, a lot of people can’t be arsed walking up town, but for affordable drinks and something different to the usual haunts, this place is worth a try. The usual line up of DJs on offer including Trendy Wendy, Jon Pleased, Sally F and DJ Michelle. The Pre Wiggle Party is now held at The Street.

Popular mid week madness continues at Vibes held weekly Tue at eGo. Entry is just a couple of quid and if you like cheesey pop music old and new, then this is the place to be. Drink promos run all night and the local bars – Habana and Planet offer promos on this night. Your host is James Longworth and his other night Blaize is still as popular as ever held fortightly Fri at eGo with slightly more dance music on offer.

Somebody I always forget to mention are the guys at Polysuper held at Mood in the Omni Centre every Mon night - entry is cheap and all the latest chart music is on offer. The Polysuper boys are no longer playing at the New Town Bar where DJ Malcolm has now returned to fill the Fri and Sat spots in the downstairs bar.

Planet Out seems to be getting busier (if that’s possible). The Monday Club held on (quelle surprise) Mondays is going down very well indeed. Selected drink promos are £1.50 and they have one of the nicest looking lezzers on the decks. POP outs open 4pm-1am throughout the week and at 2pm at weekends.

Habana is also still heaving no matter what day of the week - big massive sorry to Samantha Swallow - whose name I got wrong in the last issue – sorry and thank you for always playing my songs! Promos run daily at Habs and in the evening 9pm-1am on MonWed. Cocktail night is on a Monday. Big Well Done to Habana who are raising Money for the Tsunami Fund.

CC Blooms has welcomed Ms Cilla Slack with open arms and she’s now a resident DJ at the popular club. CC’s is also working with Gay Men’s Health to put on a stomper of a fundraiser for the Tsunami Fund. CC’s is the place to be if you are a poof or lezzer and is open till 3am seven days a week. Check out the bar for new drink promos.

A big hello to the boyz at Frenchchies on Rose St Lane near Executive Sauna. Apart from their regulars, a lot of people can’t be arsed walking up town, but for affordable drinks and something different to the usual haunts, this place is worth a try. Fri 25th Mar is the confirmed date for - wait for it – Burly’s first incursion to Edinburgh. The name is Burly Too and this date is the Launch Night. For anyone who doesn’t know, Burly is the popular crusty night in Glasgow now due to popular demand to be also held in Edinburgh. Usually appealing to older guys and more muscly guys, this night seems to have captured a niche in the market. Entry is £7 but I understand on this occasion that a donation from what is made on the door will go to Waverley Care. The next date will be Sat 16th Apr. O’ver at the Claremont, Saturdays are busiest with the following programme: 1st Sat - Bearcots for bears and bear lovers, 2nd Sat – Gaykilla and Sporan Clan, 3rd Sat – Felsh, leather and Scobkins, 4th Sat – Camouflage/uniform night, 5th Sat – Felsh night. The Claremont lads also worked hard to raise over £500 for the Order of Perpetual Indulgence as our picture shows. W hat our picture doesn’t show is Sister Athelicia trying to get the monster cheque onto the Night Bus without the local neds purloining it – and that’s because the consider Claremontians gave her a proper size cheque more suitable for banking and bussing purposes!

Up at the Regent, the past few weeks have seen members of the local branch of CAMRA (the Campaign for Real Ale) wandering in to score the pub’s beers. Pubs with the best real ale will finish up in next year’s Good Beer Guide and Alan and Lisa are in with a good chance. Local LGBT CAMRA members meet there on the 1st Mon of each month from 9pm.

The next Luvely is on Sat 26th Feb in The Liquid Room. But, as ScotsGay went to press, the theme had still to be announced – so you’ll just have to look out for flyers.

As we go to press, Gregor Laird (he of Discio Bloodbath) emails us about his new club night Heroes to be held every 2nd and 4th Sat of the month from 26th Feb in the Stag and Turret (opposite the Regent). Taking inspiration from London’s Duckie club and New York’s cutting-edge pop art nightlife, Heroes promises to shake up Edinburgh’s scene and will combine live bands, performance art, movies and fashion to a soundtrack of eclectic music – homosexual rock’n’roll, synthesizers and trash-pop. Motormark (who have toured with White Stripes and Peaches) will be playing the opening night.

Finally, news on the job scene – the Stonewall Director’s job in Glasgow is on offer (at £30K), whilst the LGBT Centre For Health and Wellbeing in Edinburgh is looking for a new Project Manager – Janine Botfield, having set the project up, is moving onto pastures new.

Wee Alan
E-mail: weealan@drink.demon.co.uk
Hi there. Hope you all had a great New Year. Here is this month’s round up of what is happening North of anywhere.

The piece of news that caught us all out was the sudden closure of Rabbies just before Christmas. Although never officially gay, it had a big following from sections of the gay community. I am not aware of the reasons for its closure and it has left many people very disappointed. So Aberdeen’s gay scene continues to be turbulent and unpredictable and as usual the rumours about where is to open next are flying.

I did pop along to Bar Indigo on the Adelphi just to confirm it was still there - and yes it is. No news as to what’s coming up but I’m sure they will put something together for Valentines weekend in a couple of weeks.

Phace Scotband are still at their Justice Mill Lane premesis. They had been due to move to their new offices on Waverley Place in Jan but when I spoke to Leslie, he said they were still waiting for the lease to be signed so I guess we are just going to have to wait. They will still be holding Icebreaker meetings for those coming out on the third Tue of the month and the Gay Group will meet on the third Sun of the month. The location of these meetings is still to be confirmed so give them a call on Aberdeen (01224) 587166.

It’s good to see that the Belmont Cinema are continuing with their ‘Rainbow’ theme for gay and lesbian films. They showed ‘At Home at the End of the World’ in Jan about two best friends and their experiences of living in New York over a period of twenty years. The next programme for the Belmont is due out at the start of Feb.

After the previous success of the sell-out performance of the Vagina Monologues, Completely Mad Productions return to Aberdeen Arts Centre on King Street with two further performances on Sun 27th and Mon 28th Feb. If you have yet to experience the Vagina Monologues, bring an open mind and a group of friends. Various charities benefit from these performances including the Aberdeen Women’s Centre. Tickets are priced £9 from the Aberdeen Box Office on Aberdeen (01224) 641122 or direct from the Arts Centre.

The Granite Sisters website has been updated for 2005 and lists coffee meetings both in and outside Aberdeen. They are also looking for bridge, golf and badminton players and for the more adventurous there is hill walking, rock climbing and off road biking. So, if you are interested, check out their website at http://www.13.clara.co.uk/ or call them on Aberdeen (01224) 713336.

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Salutations and felicitations
gentle folk

So, the first column of the new year and the same old crap. Dubya’s in the White House and Tony Blair is gearing up for another pre-election round of bullsh*t, disseminating, disingenuous half truths and misleading statistics. Alternatively, you can choose the refugee from the eastern bloc or the wishy-washies, who will sell their souls for a taste of power: witness their behaviour in the Scottish Parliament. The good ship Blair has hit the rocks and the rats instead of leaving are trying to refloat the rotting hulk. For a staunch believer in the right to vote and the need to take part in the democratic process, I have to say that I am sorely pushed when it comes to garnering any enthusiasm for the forthcoming elections. Yet we, as a community, need a strong voice and with all the widespread apathy displayed by the general public, now is the time when votes count. People still care when it matters, witness the overwhelming response to the aftermath of the Asian Tsunami. So, despite my serious reservations, I shall still be visiting my local polling booth in the coming year and I advise you to do the same. There endeth the sermon on the mint, have you ever tried balancing the hulk. For a staunch believer in the eastern bloc or the wishy-washies, can choose the refugee from the club welcoming a mixed crowd like their perversions served straight with a twist! Doors open at 8pm, club runs until 2am, doors close at MIDNIGHT. Tickets are £10 on the door or £5 for members. Annual membership is available on the door at £10. Discount news: you can get 10% off products from the Juju website. Don’t forget that your Violate membership card will also get you 10% off in Spyker and Cyber on King Street. Also all UK outlets of Clone Zone.

For those of you into the club, this club night is ideal. Doors open at 8pm, club runs until 2am, doors close at MIDNIGHT. Tickets are £10 on the door or £5 for members. Annual membership is available on the door at £10. Discount news: you can get 10% off products from the Juju website. Don’t forget that your Violate membership card will also get you 10% off in Spyker and Cyber on King Street. Also all UK outlets of Clone Zone.

For those of you into the Metal/Goth scene, check out New Flesh on Wed with Rock / Nu Metal at Privilege, 69 Hope Street, Glasgow (just up from the Solid Rock Café). Doors open 9pm-2am (£1 between 9pm and 10pm, £2 between 10pm and 11pm, £4 after 11pm); Tel: 0141-353 6555. W W W : http://www.andywale.com/ newflesh/st/ or http://www.signoise.com/ E-mail: newflesh@andywale.com or nightqueries@signoise.com

Club Allure takes place every Wed, 11.30pm until 4am at The Tunnel, 84 Mitchell Street, Glasgow. Entry is £3 or (£2 with text message) and the night features DJ Darren playing all the best Pop, R’n’B & Dance. On 2nd Feb, Ian Van Dahl and Lasgo are live on stage. With a top class sound and light system, HUGE dance floor and fantastic drinks prices, this is the only place to be seen on a Wed night. For more information contact Gordon or Shaun at Thorn Leisure on: 07813 269995 or 0141-204 1000. E-mail: thornleisure@yahoo.co.uk.

The next club ‘Rebound’ is on Fri 11th Feb. A great centre of the city venue, it’s ideal for those who like their perversions served straight with a twist! Doors open at 8pm and close at 1am. The entrance fee is £3 on the door. Location is the upstairs bar of the Hogshed, 36 North Frederick Street, Glasgow. Please use the entrance through the wrought iron gates to the left of the pubs main entrance. Dress code is fetish and/or black. Of gay culture vultures, here is something for you. Opera has been shocking and provoking audiences since long before Jerry Springer and Co jumped on the bandwagon. At the time of its premiere, Sir Michael Tippett’s The Knot Garden broke new grounds: putting opera in a firmly late twentieth century context, with complex, twisted characters - and the genre’s first openly gay couple.

But a brave new generation of media-savy, open-minded, 21st century opera-goers will be able to take all this psycho-sexual controversy in their stride though... won’t they?

The Story: Faber and Thea, a married couple, with their neurotic ward Flora and Thea’s freedom-fighting sister Denise, meet the bisexual black writer Mel and his white friend Dov, a musician. But Mel and Dov’s relationship has grown fragile, and soon the others begin to feel the strain. As each of the characters encounter each other unexpectedly, human behaviour is seen at its worst, although, in the end, a hard-won kind of hope prevails ...

The Music: One of Tippett’s eclectic scores (written between 1966-70), The Knot Garden shows the influence of jazz, blues and pop from the ‘swinging sixties’ (complete with electric guitar), as well as another of his great loves, Schubert song.

In association with Glasgow, you are invited to explore The Knot Garden for yourself, buy any available Stalls seat for the performance in Glasgow at 2.15pm on 29th Jan or for the Edinburgh performances on 3rd and 5th Feb at 7.15pm for only £10 - just call the box office and quote them "MAZE OFFER"! Theatre Royal, Glasgow: 0141-332 9000, Edinburgh Festival Theatre: 0131-529 6000. However, this offer only applies to telephone bookings. As always club ‘Devotion’ is packing them in on Jamaica Street, throughout the week. Now with the new chillout room available and more to come over the next year. Check this place out for those who already know tell your friends, this is the future of gay clubbing in Glasgow.

So that’s it for another stunning revue of gay culture in Glasgow, how on earth can I maintain this scintillating prose and razor sharp wit for yet another year? O nly time will tell folks, but keep on tuning in, it may yet all end in tears, recriminations and legal aid bills. The candle’s burning low and I need to flog the serving boy (Ah, that’s where Leo got to, Ed.). So until next time. Remember folks whatever you find to do: be safe.

Angharad
Email: angharad@drink.demon.co.uk
Jeffrey John spoke of his school-days during one of those religious propaganda programmes on BBC Radio 4. It was very touching. He remembered a boy who was bullied because he was ‘weedy’ and ‘effeminate’. The boy had been beaten up, got his lunch thrown away, called girl’s names and always sat on his own. “I can hardly think of the misery that kid must have gone through”, Dr John said. “I never said or did a thing to help him because, of course, I wasserterfied that if I did they would suspect me too and I would get the same treatment”. As Karen Walker spats in Living TV’s hit comedy Will and Grace: “Gays and yer discipline. No wonder you all end up in the church!” Talking of disciplinarians... Homophobic, Catholic, Conservative columnist, Gerald Warner took a moment to express his support for ‘freedom of speech’ in Scotland on Sunday. Well, sort of... “Freedom of Speech? Liberty of expression has progressively been outlawed by the government, under the relentless advance of tyrannical political correctness. Observe the demeanour of those around you at work, in pubs, at dinner tables or in any milieu where conversation is wide-ranging. Note the vacuity of expression of otherwise articulate people, as they grope nervously and self-consciously for a vocabulary of illiterate euphemism whenever they are obliged to make reference to any minority group championed by the liberal establishment”. No, no, no, my old fruit! What you’re mistaking for ‘political correctness’ were simply the genuine intentions of people who didn’t wish to offend. Displays of tolerance, sensitivity and a genuine need to understand; it comes naturally to most people. Gerald Warner had been wetting his pants over M’s Gurpreet Kaur Bhatti’s play Behzti (Dishonour) that had provoked violent protests from some members of the Sikh community for its scenes of rape and torture in a temple. But whose temple? Is not a theatre a temple for those fighting and defending the right to free speech and artistic expression? Muriel Gray could not have put it more succinctly in The Sunday Herald: “(The temple) is ‘sacred’ because, like freedom to worship, free speech has been fought for with the sacrifice of lives and the passion of nations. To have it desecrated, by the victory of thugs who threatened the atrocity of death for daring to see one woman’s valid expression about abuse, is a blasphemy on a parallel with anything the fundamentalist zealots in this country can conjure up as ‘offensive’... It was unsurprising... that the almost entirely male shouting threats at innocent people were, when interviewed, revealed as knuckle dragging misogynists who wouldn’t know Harold Pinter from Harold Stapeleo. Their favourite line when asked why they were so angry was: ‘These things don’t happen in a temple’. No, indeed. Nor do talking animals overthrow oppressive humans on farms, or guilty murderers get visited at banquets by their victims. People like George Orwell and Shakespeare just made stuff up. It’s called fiction, you pathetic fools. But the philistines won. None of the violent protesters have been arrested or charged with incitement, as they should have been. Meanwhile, the playwright is in hiding, fearing for his life, a great many law-abiding Sikhs are left shamed and frightened, and a bunch of smug religious fanatics are busy congratulating themselves that ‘common sense has prevailed’.” Gerald Warner’s argument was more steel-ooed at D C M artans than bare feet shuffling across prayer mats. He was with the militants. “The Sikhs have now saved notice that any provocation against their religion will be met with the same ruthlessness that ended the career of Indira Ghandi”... With Kitchener’s finger pointing at the nice couple tiptoeing their way across the York stones to church, Warner stormed: “At the same time as the play in Birmingham was offending Sikh sensibilities, Christianity was being vilified at St Andrews. A production of Corpus Christi, the blasphemous play by Terrence M Nolan, portrayed Christ and his apostles as a gang of promiscuous homosexuals, with the saviour represented as the son of an alcoholic. Christians protested in an orderly fashion: the play completed its run. Future Christian protesters, contrasting their result with that of the Sikhs, will not need a degree in logic to draw an obvious conclusion... Could so gratuitously offensive a play have been staged if its central character had been, say, the Prophet M’hammed? Of course not, because the fatwa is a much more effective guarantee against blasphemy than the Lord Chamberlain ever was. The cosy explanation is that Christians are more tolerant. In reality, they simply do not care. They have made themselves a soft target because they are largely indifferent to their faith. The injunction to turn the other cheek is often quoted, out of context, to justify craven submission. It was intended to inform the response of Christians to personal affronts but the appropriate reaction to insults against God was demonstrated when Our Lord whipped the traders out of the temple”. This was The New Scottish Bible: Get ye out there good Christians and let’s kick some arse! Trouble is, who always gets their arse kicked first? Warner snorted: “Part of David Blunket’s legacy is a proposed law against the inciting of religious hatred: would that not ban any similar production in future? Labour and its media satellites are all over the place. They are eager to impose discriminatory laws that will favour their plaguey groups (ethnic minorities, homosexuals, asylum seekers, etc) but to persecute those minority dislikes (fox-hunters, Christians, smokers, etc). There is no consistency, because their agenda is prejudice masquerading as social responsibility”. We were reminded: “In any other circumstances, the Sikhs could expect to be favoured by the liberal consensus; but what made this case different was the fact that it involved religion. For today the secular Left has broadened its long-standing vendetta against: Christianity to include all religions. With the rise of militant Islam, the Left has lost much of its enthusiasm for foreign creeds, formerly seen as helpful suppliants of Christianity”. And certainly the political Right want to fill that space, only the party Mr Warner loves to hate, Nulabour, boasts some thirty or so members, including Jack Straw, of the Christian Socialist Movement. Is there really no escape? The very odd, Wee Free teacher, John MacLeod, (E-mail: j.macleod@dailymail.co.uk), The Scottish Daily Mail’s only queer columnist, thinks George Dubya Bush’s America is just super! He agrees with Churchill that the US is “the last, best hope of mankind... In all truth it is in almost every respect our decided superior, politically and morally... I am a teuchter, a Wee Free, an oddity. In the U.S., I could be wonderfully and simply me”. Oh, jeez-oh! That’s so early eighties! To quote a tongue-in-cheek Alan Taylor in The Sunday Herald: “An oddity? Rev MacLeod! On Harris? Never!” But I’ve got to praise Bible John for his choice of countries. The home of: ‘Don’t ask; don’t tell!’? They’ll love you, dear! Soothing his homophobic paymasters he advised: “Of course it is easy to mock the earnest Christians rising in revulsion against state-recognised gay marriage... But what are they to make of a Scottish parliament where... a 73-year old M SP was forced to grovel for voicing his disapproval of homosexuality”. Yes, what exactly? A prudish, debt-ridden country that turns its back on its responsibilities to lead the world on green issues, flaunts international law and elects its President on the pressing issue of whether gays should get married or not? M uch of the same sort of drivel could be wiped off the lips of Gerald Warner in Scotland on Sunday: “... Here is Uncle Sam betraying the world again. It is America’s vast wealth, its successful capitalist system and its political...
cohesion that give it stalling power. Those last elements may implore during the course of a generation, with massive Hispanic immigration and bitter political polarisation threatening the traditional ethos of American identity. Yet, for the foreseeable future the US is the only game in town. They just don’t get it, do they? Pinch me. This is 2005 not 1905, right? We have the Federal Communications Commission in the US neither confirming or denying they were investigating indecency complaints over the broadcast of last summer’s Olympic opening ceremony which included actors depicting two lovers dancing in the sea, a goddess of fertility and a pregnant woman whose belly glowed.

Most of the complaints — as always in these circumstances — were part of an organised campaign by religionists, in this case, the Parents Television Council, a similar group to Mary Whitehouse’s National Viewers’ and Listeners’ Association (NVLA); renamed MediaWatch, after Terry Sanderson’s superb MediaWatch column in Gay Times. Greece hit back, telling the FCC and guardians of US citizens’ morality to butt out of Greek culture (May I just say I love Mykonos; mousaka is yummy and Vicky Leandros is fab!) Back in storm-lashed Scotland, The Herald was reporting the recommendations of ‘experts’ to monitor lap dance clubs, including private areas as booths. One condition was to ban physical contact between customers and performers “…except for a simple kiss. One condition was to ban ‘experts’ to monitor lap dance clubs, the herculean task of which was to be undertaken by the Scottish Arts Council, become trustees of the National Galleries of Scotland, judged Creative Scotland awards, given their good names to hospital trusts, written reports for public bodies and private companies, joined political parties and sided with the enemy, all the while apparently unconscious of potential conflicts of interest.”

It’s all so painfully predictable, really. The homophobic B&B owner, Tom Forrest, who was struck off the VisitScotland register after turning away a gay couple, was sorely vaxed. Graham Grant, (E-mail: g.grant@dailymail.co.uk), the homophobic home affairs editor of the homophobic Scottish Daily Mail, had been waiting in the wings with arms outstretched to catch the swooning old soldier. A dash of absinthe to revive a couple of homophobic MSPs. (Fergus Ewing and Phil Gallie), and hey presto! We have another queer-bating story fit for The Scottish Daily Mail! The caption: “Anger as official website carries links to homosexual escort service” was manufactured anger; designed to have readers tapping their pipes on the sides of their brogues. The Scottish Daily Mail first advised going on to VisitScotland’s website, after which, you would have to have been gay and not a hapless Daily Mail reader to take the next step: Clicking on links to Gay Scotland. But it’s not over yet! You’ve still to click on ScotsGay! And a hard search through the mag awaits you before that elusive escort, with a moon like a full moon, is ready to take your rocket and let you land your face in his bird’s nest! Of course, Grant’s report was a joke. What’s not so funny is that many of these dickhead ‘journalists’ leave to work for The Scotsman or Scotland on Sunday! Is this really the standard of journalism in Scotland? It’s indisputably shoddy. The ‘report’ was amateur. “The only gay in the village? Just call the tourist board…” the paper sniped. Backed up by a picture of “Village person” M att Lucas as D afydd, from T V’s Little Britain, all the ‘report’ did was humiliate gays and discredit VisitScotland for acknowledging this £95billion UK market with a dedicated section so they ‘won’t have to be lonelier than D afydd…” They? Who are “they”? Does he mean us? Are we something so foreign to Mr Grant should we be scraped off his shoe? Sentences from the website that were supposed to address a more tolerant and liberal gay audience peppered Grant’s ‘report’ to justify the ‘storm’, ‘outrage’ or, in this case, ‘anger.’ VisitScotland’s quirky reference to the “United Kingdom” was light-hearted banter that quickly turned to poison in the Mail. Tony M SP Phil Gallie found the quip “utterly offensive”. Fergus Ewing, homophobic politician: M SP for Inverness East, Nairn and Lochaber (he offered vocal support for the reten-


dition of Clause 28) moaned: “My Scottish parliament computer was unable to access a link because the Internet filter blocks pornographic material”. (Someone please show the old fella how to disable his Net Nanny! “We should not in Scotland have a national website… which is basically advertising the country as a place to go and have sex.” If only! It was a fairly benign report in The Daily Record. A lesbian couple were wed. (Yawn). I know; some readers still get off on this stuff. Gays can’t get married yet in Scotland. This couple were only able to slip through the net because the UK doesn’t allow people who change sex the opportunity to do the same for their birth certificate, so they got married to her. Days later, “THEY MAKE A VICE COUPLE”, reporter Paula M urray attempted to tart up her story. “Sex-swap dad and his new lesbian wife are offering sex as an internet vice double act”. It was no big deal. “Karen Sweeney — once married father-of-two Stephen — and Slovakian partner Cristina Sladekova are behind an escort service charging up to £850 a night for their services”, M S M urray sniffed after “the Record confronted them about the sordid activities”. They readily agreed to close the website down, so whether they were really earning that kind of money is open to doubt. What was not, was The Record’s willingness to cash-in on the sexual aspects of the story with a string of sexy pictures albeit with strategically placed black patches over the best bits to award at least some concession to the moral probity of this story. At the very least, the couple walked away with the dignity of being called lesbian, but it still got me thinking. Was that how they saw themselves? With the Internet revolutionising sex, more men are having gay sex, in groups or otherwise, without adopting the media-trailed title of ‘gay’, so why should Karen and Cristina have to be lesbians, let alone “a vice couple”. Live and let live.

E-mail: garry@scottishmediamonitor.com

Read the papers, post your comments or search for material at the Scottish Media Monitor website: http://www.scottishmediamonitor.com/

ScotsGay supports the work of Outrage! P O Box 17816, London SW14 8WT. Donations welcome.

W W W : http://www.outrage.org.uk/

CUT IT OUT ...

Labour Catholic ‘family values’ campaigner, M S P Michael M cm ahon in The Daily Record:

“O ur religious institutions will have a much more important role in achieving tolerance in our society than any football clubs or their supporters”
VisitScotland recently deleted a “family run” Highland guest house from its records when the owner branded a gay couple “sexual deviants”, refusing them a double room.

Unsurprisingly, this swift action has helped ensure a gay welcome in even the remotest of glens. And you can’t get more remote than Orkney or Shetland: assuredly relaxed and gay-friendly settings, they make the ideal location to debxify and purge oneself of those big city scenes, or enjoy romantic isolation, far from the watchful crowd.

Shetland

Over 300 miles north of Edinburgh lies Shetland, more than half-way between London and the Arctic Circle. London is closer to Milan than to Lerwick, its main town. Shetland’s 100+ islands boast over 900 miles of dramatic coastline, over 200,000 puffins, a mere 20,000 humans and over 5,000 years of human history, etched across 6000+ archaeological sites.

Like Orkney, Shetland knows extremes: 24 hour light midsummer and almost total darkness mid-winter. As your flight from Aberdeen touches down on the rugged southern tip, jump straight in your hire car – the only way to navigate the Northern Isles – and whisk to the prehistoric and Norse settlements at Jarlshof. Explore Bronze Age houses, an Iron Age broch (circular castle keep), Viking long houses, a medieval farmstead and even a 16th century laird’s dwelling!

Then, exchanging historical for natural delights, head up coast to stroll the spectacular tombolo – a 1/4 mile stretch of sandy beach causeway – across to the small island of St. Ninian’s, with surf breaking up on either side! Take in the amazing scenery and fauna further north on Shetland’s mainland, beyond Brae, keeping ‘em peeled for seals basking on sand-banks and some of the most spectacular cliffs and cutoff beaches in Northern Europe.

Gay Northern Isles (Orkney & Shetland)

In many ways more Scandinavian than Scottish – though falling fully under UK and Scots laws – both Orkney and Shetland have a long liberal tradition, stretching from the Vikings to the present day MP.

“IT was arranged that Earl Harald and Svein had to use the same bed, with a good many men from either side also sleeping in the room” – from Orkneyinga Saga (1200 AD): not the prelude to some Viking orgy, just a canny scheme to effect reconciliatory male-bonding between two warring lords

Unlike Scotland’s archly Protestant Western Isles, the Northern Isles are far less religious, more steeped at heart in earthy Viking, pagan culture. They have had Liberal MPs for decades from former Party Leader Jo Grimond in the 50s to present-day Lib Dem Alistair Carmichael, a prime mover in helping shape the recently legislated Civil Partnership Bill.

Top gay composer Sir Peter Maxwell Davies has lived on Orkney since the early 70s. He and his long-standing male partner are well known throughout the islands.

Despite repeatedly slagging off teetotal Orcadian fish trader and Big Brother IV winner Cameron, comedian and TV presenter Graham Norton loves to stay on Orkney, at Kirkwall’s Ayre Hotel.

“Orkney Monk in Gay Porn Scandal!” headlines rocked the islands in 2002, as a naturally frisky trainee monk was caught – shock horror – viewing gay porn in an internet café in Kirkwall. Prudish staff reported the poor boy to police, who decided – mercifully – that he had no case to answer.

“Orkney does have a gay community and lots of potential for everyone” – Sheila Faichney, Orkney Tourist Board, on a discreet and uncommercialised local queer population

Out in the sticks

by Adrian Gillan

Orkney and, above it, Shetland: the most Northern, isolated parts of the British Isles. Intrepid gay explorer Adrian Gillan nears this brink: an extreme, non-scene, great gay get-away – perfect for queer detox or remote romantic retreat.
Head south again to Shetland’s capital Lerwick to sample a traditional Orcadian music evening at the world-renowned Lounge Bar in Mounthooly Street, and grab some grub at Oslo’s on the cute, little, winding Commercial Street. Don’t fill your tum too much though, ahead of the choppy 5½-hour crossing south - on open water between North Sea and Atlantic - ‘twixt Shetland (Lerwick) and Orkney (Kirkwall).

Orkney

On landing in Kirkwall, peruse its narrow, craft-filled streets and absorb the intimately vaulted St Magnus Cathedral, containing the remains of local skull-crushed Viking earls! Lunch at Bothy Bar on Mounthoolie Lane - full of friendly young locals, happy to chat or receive your gaze.

Head south to wander alone, or hand in hand, through the amazing nature reserve at Deerness - a headland surrounded by sea, where gay lovers startle little more than flocks of birds or the odd prize bull! Then north again, to Orkney’s Neolithic (3500-3000 BC) World Heritage Status sites. If Shetland’s main treasures are natural, often linked to the sea, then Orkney’s are definitely land-based and all-too-human, stretching back into the shifting mists of time.

The haunting stone henge rings at Stenness and nearby Brodgar will simultaneously set your pulse apace and soul at peace. Their neighbour, Maeshowe, is the finest chambered tomb in North West Europe. And anyone with even an ounce of humanity will be utterly blown away by Skara Brae - some of the world’s best-preserved Stone Age houses, built 600 years before the Pyramids.

Before jetting back to CCs or the Waterloo, spend some hours in Orkney’s second biggest town (population 2,000), Stromness - positively groaning with winding cobbled streets and thrust into the limelight recently when local lad Cameron won Big Brother.

Top Five Gay-friendly Hotels:

» Busta House Hotel  
Tel: Brae (01806) 522506  
http://www.bustahouse.com/

» Breiview Guest House  
Tel Lerwick: (01595) 695956  
http://www breiviewguesthouse.co.uk/

» Albert Hotel  
Tel: Kirkwall (01856) 876000  
http://www alberthotel.co.uk/

» Woodwick House  
Tel: Evie (01856) 751330  
http://www.woodwickhouse.co.uk/  
Note: Gay wedding ceremonies are possible in the garden’s beautiful dovecot chapel!

» Stromness Hotel  
Tel: Stromness: (01856) 850298  
http://www.stromnesshotel.com/

Transport:

» British Airways - regular services connect Shetland (Sumburgh), Kirkwall and Aberdeen airports - http://www.ba.com/

» Northlink Ferries - regular services connect Lerwick, Kirkwall and Aberdeen - http://www.northlinkferries.co.uk/

Other useful links:

» http://www.visitscotland.com/  
» http://www.visitscotland.com/  
» http://www.visitshetland.com/  
» http://www.visitorkney.com/
Whether you are buying or selling a house, need a Will drawn up, Investment Advice or are bereaved and need help winding up an estate and want a gay solicitor to do the work, call Donald Reid.

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MAKE SURE YOU GET YOURS
Calls should cost no more than £2
Hello everybody! The holidays may be over, but the year is starting fairly up-beat with a few changes and events happening on the scene.

The social evening run by the Tayside LGBT switchboard Diversitay continues to gain in popularity, and has found a regular home in the friendly atmosphere of Braes public house - formerly Raffles - on the Perth Road opposite the University. Held on the third Wednesday of each month, by my reckoning that would next be the 16th of February from about 8.30pm. Complete and exact details can be obtained from Diversitay on Dundee (01382) 202620 Mon 7-10pm. Diversitay are also about to distribute their latest newsletter to all the usual outlets. They hope to start producing this more regularly through the year, and are looking for contributors to help create a comprehensive guide to all that is LGBT in the Tayside region.

Charlie's Bar celebrates its sixth year in business this month. Compared with our northerly neighbours in Aberdeen, Dundee’s LGBT scene is amazingly stable; near a dozen pubs and clubs have opened and closed their doors up there during the same period. Whether or not this will be the year that Charlie and Ian decide to go onto warmer climes is uncertain, but I think we can all rest assured that number 75 Seagate will very likely continue to be part of the LGBT scene in Dundee for years to come. The first quiz night of 2005 at Charlie's will be held on Tue 1st Feb, starting at 8pm with a 1st prize of £100 up for grabs. The dance floor has also seen a boost on Fri and Sat nights with DJ Ross - formerly of Brooklyn's / O out - providing the music between 8pm and midnight. Students and friends can also see Ross DJ every second Thu at an LGBT friendly night held in the Dundee University Students' Union, next one I believe to be the 3rd of Feb. Another LGBT friendly night that I have not yet mentioned is SiN, an industrial/goth night held monthly at the Fantasy Bar, St Andrews Lane. Next one is on the 25th Feb. Doors open at 10.30pm and entry is £3.

I've not had a chance to find out what's happening in Brooklyn's and O out this month, but no doubt many of the usual events and deals are on. Exact details as advertised on the premises.

Chris
E-mail: courier_chris@yahoo.co.uk

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**NHS Lothian**
Fair Waved The Golden Porn

The Kleenex has fair been getting a hit these last few days as I've been fast forwarding, rewinding and freeze framing this selection of salacious filth sent to me by those nice people at Eurocreme.

First up is BeachBoy, which has been lying around at ScotsGay Towers since before Xmas - but thereby hangs a tale. It's a double DVD set from the DreamBoy stable starring Jamie Summers, who I certainly recall from a previous production starring Reece Blader. Silly me. Blader not Summers. The latest DVD from DreamBoy will only be out in the shops a few days after this ScotsGay appears.

It’s BarBoy, starring Reece Richards - who appeared as Kevin the straight boy in SkaterBoy. He’s tall, tattooed and rather cute and, in this London based romp (Brighton and Ivissa obviously drained the company travel budget) the alleged benefits of working in the hospitality industry are explored to the full. From shagging the cellarboy, buggery at the barbecue, balls (four sets) on the pooltable, to a glorious finale shot at The Hoist with eleven mates. Raw Luck and Raw Recruits. They’re in the Raw range and proudly advertise themselves as “Condom Free”. Call me old fashioned, call me anything you like, but I have a problem with this. Why the packaging makes a point of including a health warning “Sex without a condom can expose you and your partner to potentially fatal diseases - think before you fuck raw”, these films worry me on two counts.

Firstly, they may encourage viewers to bareback - which is not a good thing (much as I laughed my head off when I heard of the recent Amsterdam Safer Sex party which was gatecrashed by a contingent of Barebackers). Secondly, there's the whole idea of paying people to take risks with their health just for our entertainment.

If you can get your head round the barebacking, you’ll probably find these DVDs enjoyable. The men are cute with a good selection of twinks, muscle guys and, in Raw Recruits, a black guy with the expected massive penis. And the action is pretty universal - if it can be done, they do it.

Just don't try it at home, guys!

E-mail: justin@scotsgay.co.uk

Freebies

As consolation for not giftwrapping Ali and sending him over, that nice Mr Eurocreme has offered to hand out some of his wares free of charge to our readers. There are two copies of each of the titles I’ve reviewed and if you’re amongst the favoured few, will dispatch Eurocreme Offer, ScotsGay, PO Box 666, Edinburgh. EH7 5YW.

If there are any DVDs which you don’t want, please indicate that too.

We’ll pass on your details to Mr Eurocreme who, if you’re amongst the favoured few, will dispatch your erotica in discreet packaging.

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**MEN**

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Are you a keen footballer in your 40's. We play on a Wednesday evening. Train in Wishaw. For more information contact Mairi Mather (01698) 249134.

DOWN TO EARTH

30 year old female looking for a 40 year old or similar. I like to wear a skirt and I'm in the beauty business! I'm a good listener and a good friend. I'm from Wishaw. I'm very interested in meeting similar men for fun. Box SG51114.

**WOMEN**

Edinburgh

Unemployed no strings fun and friends. Seeks friends. I am 30 for genuine young lady, year old, team of you and as you. Please Box SG61204.

UP TO DATE

Frequent, Thralljed, easyJet international. Traveler, seeks 30's (younger 65) (older 25). I am interested in long term affairs and will do the same. Don't do the gay scene generally. More into food, tool and drink. Culture. Box SG11064.

DAD SEEKS SON

16 year old looking for a 18 year old. Box 20.

SHY GUY SEEKING 1-2-1

31 years old have good hair, skin, and large build. I am available for similar guy who is around my age (27-35) for a 1-2-1 who likes clubs, pubs and other locations. Box SG61106.

TRANSVESTITES CROSSDRESSERS

Looking for other people who admets, nlyes, gides, unies, high, head, and 16 year old. Also to like meet someone who is Blendered. Enjoy going out. "I have not yet gained my "H". Would like to find other people and understand them. I love all things feminine and I am domin - I am attracted to masco line/male and female and crossdressers or tittie tude bois. Box SG11067.

DOMINATION REQUIRED

TV crossdresser 30's, looking for disci- plinate from master, older or younger .. I want your replies, please. Box SG61126.

GENDER SWAPPING IN GLASGOW

day 38 year old in Glasgow, 5'8", 6 ft and 5'9", 6'. I'd like to meet a male and female line to share fun, fun, fun. I will promote drinks in bars/clubs in Scotland. Box SG61207.

14 year old looking for a 18 year old. We train Tue and Thu in Hamilton. If you are a 18 year old, you should be under 30, non smoking son to replace previous long term son, who has been treatuing you. Eddie. Call or text SG61204.

STRIVING 1984 - ASTROD -

OOSBRAUCK

Small bear type guy. I am 35, short hair, short dark hair, 5'9" small chid. Likes Germany on holiday. You contact me recteply, any infor- mation: E-mail: astrod19769@aol.com.

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MALE PROMOTIONAL STAFF

WANTED

Due to work load 16 year old looking for help to promote drinks in bars & Clubs. Must be happy to wear revealing clothing promoting products in a friends bar & Clubs. 10/7 (5'9") tall. Send photo to E- mail: info@buddiesweloveat44.com (54)

**EDINBURGH**

Unemployed no strings fun and friends. Seeks friends. I am 30 for genuine young lady, year old, team of you and as you. Please Box SG61204.

START THE YEAR WITH A

BANG

Hey! I am looking for intelligent men who enjoy the wilder side of life. If you are like me and O.O, Fl, fun, friendly, and company, why not give us a call/house. Box SG51114.

OLDER TOP SEEKING YOUNG BOTTOM

Do you fancy older guys? This one is 46-57, ready to teach younger lads to enjoying the more adult things in life. Completely inexperienced but definitely interested in the sexual experience. Box 45, to 65, for companionship/ fun friendship. Box SG61114.

OLDER ENGLISH COUPLAGE

Male 43 (5+2) creator, Sheffield based, waly older guy here for fun times down here. 16-24 year old preferred and we can accommodate. Gay & straight. Don’t be shy, you can reply at the time of your life. Holidays and weekends only, actually, to suitable boy Box SG61114.

ASPERGERS

Looking for a gay guy in the people who admets, nlyes, gides, unies, high, head, and 16 year old. Also to like meet someone who is Blendered. Enjoy going out. "I have not yet gained my "H". Would like to find other people and understand them. I love all things feminine and I am domin - I am attracted to masco line/male and female and crossdressers or tittie tude bois. Box SG61107.

MALE, 30, looking for a female, 25-30, white, one night stand. Am a straight male. No fees. No E-mails, only phone in the UK. Box SG61114.

SLAVE BOY SEEKING MASTER OR LOVER

Male, 35, looking for longer term. I just ask that you are under 30, non smoking and you are looking for a long term relationship. Box SG61116.

FIFTY 50 MASCULINE" SEEKING YOUNG MALE 18-35osexual oriented for some 1 on 1 action. I am 18 and will. Box SG61117.

DATING SUGAR DADDY

Looking for young man, preferably between 16-26 who are hot and willing to learn. Box SG61118.

DISCIPLINE GIVN

Friendly army master (33) requires dis- cipline for long term affairs with a young patrol. Age group 16-35. No fees. Box SG61119.

MALE IN UNIFORM

16-20, wanted for adventurous fun (50-60) Interest in young police officer. Good clean fun. Box SG61120.

FIRE BOTTOM

40 year old Fire bottom seeks older 45- 50. Same. Laves and oil will work. Box SG61121.

SHELTON ISLANDS


SIDEWAY HOMOR

Looking for young black man, preferably liked but not to be liked, to service and be admired by 6’white Gentile woman. Look for straight, no gays. Pay well. Travel expenses paid. Box SG61123.

WANTED - FRUBDY

Handsome, 28 year old, passive guy seeks mature male 28-35. Box SG61124.

HUNTER SEAKS REAL GEN

Looking for a genuine single guy, 45 year old, real leather, decent gear, and will accommodate. Can be accommodated. Box SG61125.

ORDER AURALLY SEAKS

REAL GEN

Leather, single guy, 45 year old. Likes leather, decent gear, and will accommodate. Can be accommodated. Box SG61125.

PUSSYhunt SKEAKS REAL GEN

Single, genuine, age 45 year old. Very straight yet very kinky! Seeks out- looking in fanatical indoor with Candamar. JA Box SG61126.

LOOKING FOR LONG TIME MATE

30 year old, blue eyed, 40 year old and Cleavileged guy looking for bi versatile any age for long term relationship. Live clients, Palace, nice pub and good to meet. I am available for travel in the UK. Charlie. Box SG61147.

LEGRUGY TYPE SEEKING

Guy with rugby type build, fit and mosco- tised. Needs WMH doing some for some 1 I am 45 and off Box SG61148.

MATURE DAD SEEKS MATURE NAUGHTY

Mature DAD sees OKT sparkles, bang- ing and whipplo to 65 plus naughty box friends in your area. Your fantasies turned into reality or discounts. Box SG61149.

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Looking for young black man, preferably liked but not to be liked, to service and be admired by 6’white Gentile woman. Look for straight, no gays. Pay well. Travel expenses paid. Box SG61123.
**Aberdeen**

**The Commplex**, 39-40 Commercial Street, Leith. Tel: 0131-555 5600. Fax: 0131-555 5600. Sun-Mon, flat rate, closed Fri-Sat. Vegetarian meals available. 575 Dunbar Road (next door to Lemon Tree). Tel: 0131-557 8336. 25 Easter Road. Tel: 0131-220 3577. Sun-Thu 5pm-2am, Fri-Sat 5pm-3am. Gay bar/club in old Oh Henry’s premises. 2nd Sat: Gaykilts & Bears, last Mon: CB9. 8pm-3am. £5 entry (£4 before midnight). £6 entry (£5 before midnight). Mingin’ before midnight. Alternatively, bring along a leaflet on bars over the next few weeks for FREE ENTRY to Mingin’. WWW: http://www.luvely.net/

**Dundee**

**TRASH** 223 St Leonard Street. Tel: 01382-472540. 2pm-1am. Sun:Noon-9pm, Mon-Sat 10am-1am. Café: Noon-10pm. Live Music, go-go dancers, movies, performance each month. New club night launches 26th Feb. 22, 23 & 24 Union Street. Tel: 01382-273827. Monthly. Next dates: Sat 12th Feb. Popular club night held on the last Sat of each month (except 2nd Mon). £8 members/£10 - Taste members £5 before midnight. Free (Handbag Heaven Show). 10pm-3am. Monthly. Next dates: 26th Feb, 26th Mar. Live music & cabaret. £1 drinks promos all night. £8 members/£10 nightly member-price. £5 before 2pm, Wed-Thu Buddies Days £12 per head. 265 Nethergate. Tel: 01382-729414. 2pm-1am. Sun 2pm-1am, Mon-Sat 1pm-1am. ‘Men’s Club’ with sauna and private cabins. Not accessible to women. 20 Adelphi. Sun-Thu 5pm-2am, Fri-Sat 5pm-3am. Large, friendly club night that brings together like-minded people from across Scotland. £1 entry before midnight. £2 thereafter. £3 minimum spend. (Handbag Heaven Show). 12.30pm-6pm, Mon-Sat 11.30am-2.30pm and 5pm-11.30pm. Vegetarians and carnivores catered for. Hospital Road (next door to Lemon Tree). Tel: 0131-557 8336. 25 Easter Road. Tel: 0131-220 3577. Sun-Thu 5pm-2am, Fri-Sat 5pm-3am. Gay bar/club in old Oh Henry’s premises. 2nd Sat: Gaykilts & Bears, last Mon: CB9. 8pm-3am. £5 entry (£4 before midnight). £6 entry (£5 before midnight). Mingin’ before midnight. Alternatively, bring along a leaflet on bars over the next few weeks for FREE ENTRY to Mingin’. WWW: http://www.luvely.net/
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Edinburgh
0131 477 3567
11am - 11pm Daily
www.steamworks-sauna.co.uk
**burly**

@ the arches

glasgow

sat 12 feb

£8 / £10  10:30 - 3 am

club dj’s  dave and hifisean

Future Dates @ The Arches
1st Friday of every month except sat 4th june

dress code : denim, sports, kilts, industrial, uniform, rubber, leather

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**LOVEHURTS**

RETURN OF THE
TORTURE AREA

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**LAUNCH NIGHT**

burly too

@The Complex
glasgow

fri 25th march

£7  10:30 - 3 am (tbc)

club dj hifisean

*donation will be made to Waverley Care

Future Dates @ The Complex:  sat 16th april

dress code : denim, sports, kilts, industrial, uniform, rubber, leather

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