INSIDE THIS ISSUE:
SCENE AROUND in ABERDEEN, DUNDEE, EDINBURGH and GLASGOW
Garry Otton says LET’S SHOW MARRIAGE the FUTURE

PLUS!
ALL OUR EDINBURGH FESTIVAL FRINGE REVIEWS
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JUDGE NOT

Rex Wockner’s reports in this issue on the Iranian hangings of gay youngsters (a regular occurrence with more to come on 28th Aug according to Farhad Hoseini of the International Federation of Iranian Refugees). All, it seems in accordance with the Sharia law which many Moslems would like to see adopted throughout the world.

Of course, many other Moslems roundly condemn these interpretations of their Holy Fetish Book (The Koran).

Some of these are, no doubt, the Moslems who support any form of violent action that is intended to bring about this depressing state of affairs: bombings in London are just one aspect of this culture of theologically justified violence.

There are many Christian superstitionists (including Born Again ones) who deplore some or all of these actions.

The Jewish Zionists who will tolerate no opposition to the State of Israel have the anathema of their faith in the equally (if not more so) superstitious Torah True Jews who claim that Zionism is totally at odds with Jewish teachings.

Our own dear Prime Minister is of a superstitious disposition which allows him to coddle up to his mate GeorgeW and send UK troops to kill and terrify people in Iraq. And to support the Met when they execute a blameless civilian, tell lies about him and send the folk that fired the shots on an all expenses paid foreign holiday.

But I probably shouldn’t have mentioned that last little problem - the Met really have cleaned up their act now that we have that nice non-inhaling PC Paddock as their Pretty Pink Policeman and soft soap dispenser.

Nevertheless, many Church people here in the UK are up in arms at these policies too which they find are against the precepts of ‘their’ Holy Fetish Books (one or another of the editions of The Holy Bible).

W hilst the superstitious are (in the considered opinion of this particular Atheist) just plain wrong in organising their lives around the presumed dictates of their imaginary friend or friends, only some of them are murdering bastards.

The difficulty, as with the non superstitious murdering bastards, is telling the nice guys from the nasty before it’s too late!

There’s one thing for sure: pooves, dykes and bicycles will always be amongst their principal targets.

John Hein
Email: editorial@scotsgay.co.uk

ScotsGay

News

WOOF!

There’s much mair than a bear can bare going on in Scotland later this year!

From Fri 30th Sep-Sun 2nd Oct, BearScots is proud to present BearScotFest, the annual weekend event which for a few years now has been synonymous with friendship and fun. Once again, they’ve prepared quite an event with the relaxed atmosphere that’s made BearScotFest famous.

On 30th Sep, the bears will gather in Edinburgh for a weekend of fun and frolic! The highlights of this year’s event include Posh Bears - a buffet dinner at the Botanics Hotel; two guided tours, two saunas, two brunches, a pub night, farewell drinks... what more could a bear ask?

On Sat night, the main event - the party bears night - is at the Thomas Morton Hall in Leith. This promises to be a great night.

Theme for this year is ‘Cowboys’. They are expecting bears from around the world to attend and because the number of places for some of the events are limited you must pre-register on their web site at http://www.bearscots.org.uk/ From 19th-21st Nov BearScots will be heading back to Blairmore House in Argyllshire in November for a weekend of relaxation and fun in the Scottish Highlands.

Only 8 miles from the bustling town of Dunoon, Blairmore can be accessed either by ferry from Gourock or by the beautiful Loch Long and Rest and Be Thankful road. It is ideally situated to explore the Cowal peninsula or venture further afield to the popular towns of Inveraray and Oban. There is a nine hole golf course in Blairmore and fishing (trout and salmon), sailing, walking, and numerous visitor attractions are close to hand. The house is close to the shore, not so close to the nearest shop and 1 mile to pub/hotel.

Blairmore House provides the perfect venue to relax and unwind with friends. With spectacular views over Loch Long and the Firth of Clyde, three floors, and accommodation for 22 bears, you can spend the weekend secluded in luxury. You can relax in front of one of the open fires, chat to the bears, or take a dip in the indoor swimming pool. Perhaps you fancy a game of pool in the pool room? Or a relaxing session in the Jacuzzi or sauna? During the day you can take a trip to one of the many nearby attractions, from the arboretum at Benmore to the castle at Inverary. Perhaps you would rather stop at a country hotel or pub for a meal of fresh trout or salmon?

For those who are even more adventurous, Quadmania, just along the road from Blairmore House, a wide range of action-packed activities from quad-bikes to abseiling, rock climbing, canoeing, kayaking, sailing, rib-boat adventure, archery, gorge walking and more.

GETTING THERE

Getting there couldn’t be easier. Although set in such an isolated location Blairmore House is only two hours from Edinburgh and only thirty miles from Glasgow Airport. By public transport there is a connecting service by train to Gourock, then ferry to Dunoon, and a connecting bus service right to the door. For those traveling long distances we may be able to arrange to pick you up from Glasgow Airport or railway stations. There is plenty of private parking.

10 NOT OUT

MCC Metropolitan Community Church of Edinburgh celebrated 10 years of ministry in Scotland on Sunday 17th Jul.
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Fax: 0131-228 2861
E-mail: dr@vmh.co.uk
Web Address: http: // www.vmh.co.uk/
The Congregation is part of the worldwide Metropolitan Community Church Movement founded in July 1995, a month by Rev Troy Perry in 1968 and the Metropolitan Community Church Movement founded worldwide Metropolitan Community Church with a special affirming ministry within the lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender communities, open to all people irrespective of sexuality or gender identity. Over the past 10 years, MCC Edinburgh has provided a safe space to worship God and has helped many couples seek God’s blessing on their covenant together.

The Church has been and is on the front line of many justice struggles – especially the fight for equal rights of gender and sexual minorities in Scotland - and its people have appeared on television and radio in the press and have given evidence to the Scottish Parliament and met with ministers and other politicians on several occasions.

HELP WANTED

The issue of Civil Partnerships and gay marriage is constantly in the news at the moment. However, there is very little known about what lesbians and gay men, who are contemplating Civil Partnership/marriage, really think. A research project based at the University of Leeds is hoping to fill this gap in our knowledge. The research team want to interview lesbians and gay men who have already held a commitment ceremony, registered their partnership, or are planning to. They hope to find out what kinds of rituals are important to lesbians and gay men, as well as the impact social and legal recognition of their partnerships will have. If you would like to be interviewed, please contact Becky Shipman on 0113-343 4903 or Email: r.shipman@leeds.ac.uk

TRADE

Pete Himsworth has launched a new Trade Night at Mool - details at http://www.grooveklub.co.uk/

PRIME TIME

Prime Time was started up by Steve O’Donnell from Gay Men’s Health along with two other men last October. Initially a monthly group, on average there are 10-14 gay/bisexual men whenever they meet. See listings for further details.

FIFE MEN SURVEY

As a result of complaints about homophobic B&B owners over the GB and Make Poverty History month, the Fife Men Project is conducting a survey of all accommodation and venues in Fife. The results will be available on the website with recommended accommodation together with an education campaign for those not operating a equality policy.

W W W: http://www.fifemen.co.uk/ accommodation/accommodation.html

JOBS FOR THE BOYS AND GIRLS

LGBT Youth Scotland which describes itself as “a leading national youth charity working towards the inclusion of lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) young people in the life of Scotland” has a job going in Glasgow. Like to be an Outreach Co-ordinator (37 hours, AP4: £20,808 - £23,034 + pension)? Then download a pack from http://www.lgbtyouth.org.uk/ content/resources/download.asp?id=108 or see our Listings for contact details.

LEGAL SURGERY

Fiona Cook, a solicitor, will hold a monthly surgery in the Glasgow LGBT Centre on the following dates: 27th Aug, 24th Sep and the 29th Oct. Please be advised appointments are booked on a first come first serve basis. To make an appointment contact the Centre office on 0141-221 7203. The first half hour consultation is free.

INDIGO

The popular Aberdeen boozer now as its own website - W W W: http://www.bar-indigo.com/

POLICE CALL

Constable Izz Hussene (Strathclyde Police Diversity Officer, A Division) is available in the Glasgow LGBT Centre for confidential advice and support and for the reporting of homophobic crimes or other related subjects from 7.30-9pm on the last Tue of each month.

PUSHING THE BOAT OUT

Sat 3rd Sep is the date of M’gin’ Ayhol!, the infamous boat trips on the Forth. Tickets for the cruise on the Forth cost £15 which includes coach travel from Edinburgh to South Queensferry and back, three hours sailing up and down the Forth accompanied by a thumping sound system and then free entry to M’gin’ afterwards. Tickets are available from The Regent Bar. For those not on the boat trip, entry to M’gin’ is £5 before midnight, £6 after. Next M’gin’ date Saturday Sep 17th.

FUNNY GUYS

Calling All Comedians! LGBT Youth Scotland needs all you funny people out there to take part in a comedy night which they’re holding to raise funds. To help, they’re organising three comedy workshops where you’ll be able to practice your act and look at the work of other comedians. For more information:

http://www.lgbtyouth.org.uk/

KEEPING IT CIVIL

Come along to a free information session at Glasgow LGBT Centre which will clarify the new laws on civil partnership. A financial advisor will be present and will give a short presentation and a question and answer session will follow. To be held on Mon 5th Sept from 7pm in Jackie Forster room. To book a place please contact the Centre either by phone 0141-221 7203 or E-mail admin1@glgbt.org.uk

GENDER RECOGNITION

The General Register Office for Scotland has a new page on their website to explain how they will issue replacement birth certificates to people who get gender recognition:


Information about how to apply for gender recognition is available from http://www.grp.gov.uk/

ROBIN COOK

Gregan Crawford writes: It was Robin Cook who introduced the amendment to the Criminal Justice (Scotland) Bill (a ‘consolidation’ bill) that resulted in the legalisation of homosexual acts between consenting adults (over 21) in Scotland. He moved the ‘New Clause 1’ for second reading on 22nd Jul 1980. Robin Cook was a vice president of SMG, along with Malcolm Rifkind in the early days. Rifkind was fairly useless but Cook was a good friend to the gay community (both Cook and Rifkind started as Edinburgh ‘twoon councilors’ before becoming MPs for Edinburgh Central and Edinburgh Pentlands respectively). I remember discussing with Cook how best to achieve law reform over a couple of pints in Broughton Street many years ago!

John Hein adds: I always wondered why Cook was so helpful to the gay cause. Following publicity about his own love life, I came to the conclusion that it was a welcome form of Shaggers’ Solidarity!

BIG BREATHS!

Breathing Space is a national, free, confidential phone-line to call when feeling down or stressed. 0800 858587.

W W W: http://www.breathing-spacescotland.co.uk/

Lisa and Alan receive a blessing at the Regent from the Order of Perpetual Indulgence. This was for the munificence of their punters and their contributions to O PI funds rather than for the quality of their beer for which no blessings could suffice!
Hi there,

got hitched at the local registrar, they see that Mr and Mr X have
have a few words to say when
be to everyone's liking and 'dis-
stand up and officially recognise
offered us a greater opportunity to
community is taking great steps for-
of LGBT people on the streets in
'secret' civil partnership services.
saddens me to notice the offer of
under the civil partnership act it
the opportunity to exercise your
round up of what's happening

6
obar dheadhainn
abderdeen
scene

Hi there, and here is this month's
round up of what's happening
orth of anywhere.

With only a few months before
the opportunity to exercise your
right to register your partnership
under the civil partnership act it
saddens me to notice the offer of
'secret' civil partnership services.

Just when we think the LGBT
community is taking great steps for-
ward there is a painful reminder that
there is still much to do. For
never has the Scottish Executive
offered us a greater opportunity to
stand up and officially recognise
our relationships. The act may not
be to everyone's liking and 'dis-
gusted of deepest Donside' may
have a few words to say when
they see that Mr and Mr X have
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but I believe that there is no more

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but I believe that there is no more

legislation that can greater
enhance the LGBT community.
Acceptance of LGBT actors in
soaps and performers on the likes
of Big Brother have not con-
tributed to an increased visibility
of LGBT people on the streets in
this corner of the world. It is now
up to couples to stand up and say
'My relationship is legitimate in
the eyes of the law and this is how
I intend to live my life'. I recognise
the right to a quiet life for every-
one but there will always be
homophobes in our community.
While it may have been possible
to elope a generation ago, I think
that now with the greater empha-
sis on media and communication
the offer of a 'secret' ceremony
may need to be taken with a
pinch of salt. Everyone from the
butch lesbian to the effeminate
guy and everyone in between has
a role to play in shaping the future
of our community in the North East
of Scotland. From a recent copy of
the Press & Journal – "There are
10 registrars here and only one
has concerns on religious grounds.
The rest of us will go ahead with
the ceremonies." So there you go!

The Aberdeen press certainly
seem to be up on the happenings
in the gay community these days.
Having just spoken to Wellman's
director Rod Brown and promised
a scoop on the relocation of
Wellman's Health Suite I dis-
covered that the city's Evening
Express had run the same story on
that very day. For those of you that
don't know the buildings around
Wellman's including the former
Health Suite on Justice Mill Lane
are set to be demolished to make
way for a "better Aberdeen".
Wellman's will be relocating to a
quieter site on Holburn Street at
the site of an (almost) former
motorcycle shop. The new two-
floor base could provide a gym,
treatment rooms, a sauna, steam
room and spa bath. But, a fact
omitted by the Evening Express is
that the Health Suite is exclusively
for men especially those that like
other men. The new premises are
planned to be open by Xmas. For
the moment though, Wellman's
continues to be open on the top
floor at 21-23 Justice Mill Lane,
Aberdeen.

The next women's disco will be
held on Fri 20th Aug from 8pm
with Soul Fong that was half-su-
itable. And, it is with regrets that we
failed. And, that I do not have any
other choice than to close us
down. The offered space we
thought might have done it
(PHACE) is not in any way a pos-
sibility. My question to you all is,
could you please spread the mes-
gage to women who are not in this
community. Because of how it was
run we don't have addresses or
even contact numbers. Thank you
all for the support over the last cou-
ple of years and for the happy
memories I hope it brings in mind.
A special thanks in the first place
to Pauline. Thank you Pauline for
all your work and involvement,
and this also goes for Nicola,
thank you your puds were the best.
Thank you all. Yvonne.

The Grampian Gender
Group is a support/help group
for trans-people. They meet once
a month in Aberdeen and have done
so now for several years. They pro-
vide a safe place to meet for infor-
mal chat, a place to dress if you
choose and also occasional speak-
ers and people coming along that
can give help or support. The next
meeting will be their AGM and
will be held on Sat 20th Aug from
12 noon. Their main point of dis-
cussion will concern the future of
the group. For further details,
please E-mail:

gillian_abdn@yahoo.co.uk

A few of us had a pleasant days
outing to Clachnaben as part of
the LGBT Sports Club on Sun 14th
Aug. We parked just above the
Bridge of Dye and ascended the
steep slope to the summit. With
the weather clearing and the sun com-
ing out, we stopped for lunch and
took in the panoramic views. From
there we continued on to another
path that took us back down into
the valley for a circular route along
the River Dye. A meeting at the
Phace offices on Thu 18th Aug at
8pm will discuss future events for
this club.

For the summer visitor the other
prominent gay venue in Aberdeen
is Bar Indigo (O h Henry's).
Situated at the end of the Adelphi
- a rather quaint lane off the bot-
tom end of Union Street - Bar
Indigo is open seven nights a
week with a variety of DJs during
the week and drinks promotions
between 9pm and 11pm. They cel-
brate their 2nd birthday on Sat
20th Aug with an Ultra Violet
night. There is free entry to those
with UV body paint and prizes for
the best birthday suit. Of course,
that reminds me of another impor-
tant anniversary that I must go and
do something about...

Tivoli
E-mail: Tivoli_abdn@yahoo.co.uk

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Dear Editor

Your "Edinburgh Scene" reporter says that he is finding it hard to make "the same things" sound like a nightmare (when I heard about it I thought it was a reference to Casualty!) but I do recall my female family members of all ages and needle size recalling if it made them any calmer! If you fancy a wee moan why not pop in, all ages and needle size welcome!

If you happen to be in the East End, (yes, I said East, the West is next month), pop into the St Mungo Museum of Religious Life and Art. Marvel at the wonder that is the St John of the Cross, have a wee peppermint tea in the Buddhist garden and gaze upon ‘Women and War!’ Jenny Matthews photographs are breath taking, shot in black and white, these images show conflicts from Afghanistan to South America and beyond. Taken from 1982, her eye is cast across a sea of despair and we are left with only the few notes she has been good enough to provide to guide us. If you liked ‘Venus Rising’ at the Burrell, you will love this different account of the beauty of the female form!

And now and most humbly! May I apologise for my error of failing to report that Nik McNicol was voted unanimously to the board of directors of the LGBT Centre in Glasgow. I would also like to take the time to say sorry to my long suffering editor and chief for failing to make ‘copy date’ last issue and last but not least to all of you for your patience. I can only blame ‘tech’ stuff (I must have a homophobic lap top!) and a wee bit of tummy upset. BUT! This is all set to change! With the aid of a poor unsuspecting college (nothing to do with young, fit students you understand!) I will master the key pad once and for all!

Well, that’s all that I have heard, seen, been told and had screamed at me! Till our next merry meeting, this witch must fly!

Criz
E-mail: criz@drink.demon.co.uk

Criz

Letter to the Editor

Is it nearly September already? Well, ‘skinny rib’ and badly fitting shorts can mean only one thing, our summer is all but done!

The end of July saw the welcome return of Revolver Bar’s ‘boot camp.’ Bootshines and head-shaves, well with clippers rather than a razor, were available on the night with proceeds going to ‘Phace Scotland,’ a good time was had by all and it looks like it’s a bimonthly event now (Fri 30th Sep is the next chance you have to dust off those combats!). Ron, John and all the staff look forward to seeing you there.

As for BURLY! the near naked foam party in the Arches on the night of the 5th of Aug was wild! A few brave souls did indeed strip down to the bare shorts, trunks and what evers! A clever wee bag with a ‘T-Lady’ night on a Wed! Stitch and Bitch (Glasgow Women’s Library, 109 Trongate, 0141-552 8345) is on every second Tue, (next on 13th Sep). It may sound like a nightmare but I do sound as popular as it was with the younger crowd and those that like the odd nibble on chicken! Bennetts has picked up big time and the Waterloo is safely gay and as busy as ever. The Polo is sticking with its tried and tested weekly mix, having said that it’s the only location with a ‘T-Lady’ night on a Wed!

Once upon a long time ago the word GAY was defined as fun, fun, fun and more fun! A few more nights like this would do Glasgow no harm, let’s face it: not everyone is 18 with a 28 inch waist and would we want that anyway?

Devotion, with DJ Annie and her mix of chart and soul, is still as popular as it was with the odd nibble on chicken! Bennetts has picked up big time and the Waterloo is safely gay and as busy as ever. The Polo is sticking with its tried and tested weekly mix, having said that: not everyone is 18 with a 28 inch waist and would we want that anyway?

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Criz
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Criz
Welcome pervers and pervesses to another instalment of my slap happy BDSM column. Quite a few changes this month, as we see several clubs moving venue for a variety of reasons. So pay attention if you do not wish to end up looking a complete prat.

As has been noted by a number of individuals this column has been absent for a few editions. Well, listen up, this Bitch ain’t goin’ nowhere. I speak my mind and tell it how it is, you don’t like it tough titty. If nothing much is going on then why should I bother my arse writing a column? You want this to be a regular feature, then tell me what the fuck is going on and I will report it in this fine periodical.

Okay. First up is news of The Glasgow Munch, which is moving to the Admiral Bar on Waterloo Street. The Hogshed is being refurbished and we wish them good luck for the future and thank the excellent staff for helping to make the Munch such a success. So, as per normal, the Munch will run from 8pm until kicking out time on the 4th Thu of the month. Your meeters and greeters are Bumbug and Simply D, lovely people and very welcoming. As you go through the main entrance, simply go down the stairs to the lower bar and look for the table with the little teddy bear sitting on it. Dress code is street clothes or casual wear. You will notice from the above example that people often use a pseudonym, mine for example is Mistress Anya.

Next up: no change for the excellent Munch in Edinburgh. It is held at Ryras Bar on the corner of Dalry Road and Haymarket Terrace. The Munch is held in a separate room, so just buy your drinks at the bar, go to the right hand end of it and up the stairs. The Munch is in the room at the top, just go on in. It’s held on the third Thu of each month, from 8pm until close. Dress code is street clothing or casual wear.

Now onto the clubs. ‘Rebound’ a very popular Glasgow club has moved to The Bastille Bar formerly known as Sloan’s Bar. This venue is in a prime city centre location and absolutely awesome, the entire first and second floors are taken over by the club. The original fixtures and fittings make a stunning contribution to the ambience, which resembles a decadent turn of the century party in a country house. The next date, for this to not be missed club is Sat 20th Aug. ‘Rebound’ is ideal for those who like their perversions served straight with a twist! Doors open at 8pm and close at 1am. The entrance fee is £10 on the door.

Location is The Bastille Bar/ Sloan’s 1st floor, Buchanan Lane, off Buchanan St, Glasgow (10 mins walk from George Square and Queen Street Station). Dress code is fetish and/or black.

Now to an old favourite: club ‘Violate’ which next takes place on Sat 3rd Sep at the Big Joint, 1084 South Street, Scotstoun. A very popular event, this club welcomes a mixed crowd of all ages. Music is provided by DJ Loveness - a mix of Dance and Rock. A play area is set up in the large back room and food is included in the ticket price. As an introduction to the BDSM scene, 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 Cyber on Kings Street. Also Melbourne, Joy 4 Us and all UK outlets of Clone Zone.

Yet another club that has moved is ‘Nightshade’ based in Edinburgh. It is now held at The Lighthouse Studios, at 20 West Harbour Road in Granton, just along the road from Granton Square. There is a separate area for equipment with a main socialising area near the bar. The next date is Fri 19th Aug, tickets are £6 for members and £8 for non-members. Fetish dress code or choose to wear the monthly theme. No jeans! Background music, with no dance area. A

‘Mariners’ the home of ‘Velvet Women’s Club Night’ & ‘Burly Too’ is Licensed to conduct Civil Partnerships; ‘Mariners’ embraces our diverse LGBT community; It’s unique; new; & seriously up-market it’s ‘Mariners’

Every so often, in Edinburgh, a new bar, restaurant or Nightclub opens that seems to capture the imagination of the city’s socialites. Few that have appeared over the past few years come close to the versatile and open minded ‘Mariners’. It’s got to be one of the most adaptable and flexible venues in the city; one of those places that has to be seen to be believed. ‘Velvet Women’s Club Night’ & ‘Burly Too’ have been vastly improved with their new home; proven by customers turning out in their droves.

‘Mariners’ is Scotland’s premier and dedicated Civil Partnerships Venue; the LG BT community’s ceremonial home. Book and plan your Civil Partnership and Function at ‘Mariners’ with the assistance of The Velvet Team, contact - Email: clubvelvet@blueyonder.co.uk. The landmark Civil Partnership Act will be brought into force on 5th Dec this year. Any couple wishing to form a civil partnership will be able to give notice of their intention to register at a Register Office from that date.

This will allow the first civil partnerships to be formed in time for Christmas on 21st Dec 2005, after the 15 day waiting period has passed.

The Civil Partnership Act allows same-sex couples to make a formal, legal commitment to each other. At present, same-sex couples have no way of gaining formal legal recognition for their relationship and as a result suffer a range of problems in their everyday lives.

Important rights and responsibilities will flow from entering a civil partnership, helping same-sex couples to organize their lives together.

The process of entering into a civil partnership will be administered by the local registration service. On the day of registration, each member of the couple will sign in the presence of the registration officer and two witnesses. The Act also allows for same-sex couples who have entered legally recognized overseas relationships to be treated as civil partners in the United Kingdom.

‘Mariners’ seems the perfect place to book your Civil Partnership and Function; a spectacular split level venue set in a stunning Converted Church in the heart of the Gay Residential Sector (located on Commercial Street, leith, Edinburgh); particularly when it’s so spectacularly lit up in the evenings and boasts a beautiful Modern Stained Glass Window set in the centre of two enormous spires.

They have spared no expense in creating a truly spectacular interior. Many original features have been retained and the décor really is a clever mix of traditional and contemporary styles giving it a unique ambiance with a clean modern feel.

The building is laid out over two floors, with a bar on each, and a large balcony overlooking the dance floor. The upper level is accessed by a staircase stretching the length of the dance-floor. Large comfy couches, scattered tables and cozy booths offer a variety of ways to relax and enjoy. Careful use of lighting has insured that ‘Mariners’ can have a coffee-house ambience during the day and in the evening it is transformed into a state of the art NightClub with a superior sound and lighting system, with plasma screens throughout.

Also the menu has something for everyone; from flame grilled steaks and burgers to seafood, pizza, pasta and much more; with promotional prices on drinks and food and great music.

Wow is all we can say, check it out folks...

Jinx & Carpe Diem
(Wee Alan is on holiday)
Finally for this issue, we have DV8: a monthly fetish club held in the atmospheric cellars of the Spiders Web Pub on Morrison Street, Haymarket, Edinburgh. Entry price is only £5 for members. Membership costs £10 for a year and is available to anyone who has been to at least two previous DV8 events. Guests can be brought in by members for £10 each. The doors open at 8pm and you may pose on the equipment for your own photos until the Club starts at 9.30pm which then runs until 1am. No cameras (including cameras on phones) allowed from 9.30pm onward.

Any questions or venues you would like listed contact me on my E-mail address below. You can also reach me on the following forums: http://www.informedconsent.co.uk/ or http://www.bondage.com/

I am registered as Mistress_Anya.

You know what they say about payback? Well I’m the bitch!

Mistress_Anya E-mail: Mistress_Anya@drink.demon.co.uk
I'm a law-abiding citizen, on the whole. A few minor incursions with speed cameras and then there was an incitement to impersonate a police officer (full uniform supplied). I wasn't charged for the latter. Well... Not officially, anyway! Respect the law. It is a message I would extend to these renegade councils who, at taxpayers' expense, are threatening to permit only civil registration of same-sex marriage and deny participants a ceremony. Religious extremist Gordon Macdonald, parliamentary officer for Christian Action, Research and Education (CARE) whinged in The Sunday Herald: "MSPs didn't properly debate this issue in the first instance, it was pushed down to Westminster because the parliament didn't want something controversial being discussed here. People haven't been able to express their views about this. Our concern is that civil partnerships were setting up a system that was essentially mirroring marriage. We disagree with this in principle... There is also an issue about ceremonies. This was purely about registration and now certain groups are calling for ceremonies as a means to suit their own agenda. This shouldn't be changed and this is another reason why the matter should have been more fully debated at the time. If you don't like gay marriage, Mr Macdonald, then don't fucking marry one! Full stop. End of! There is nothing to discuss. Our so-called 'Scottish Parliament' took that quite literally, of course, and left Westminster to deal with it. I want my taxes back! All it would have taken was a few tweaks in Scottish law and 'marriage-lite' would've only been something gays did in England before reaching Gretna Green. Now we have been awarded one of those 'special rights' moral conservatives crow about because civil partnerships are denied to 'straights'. What is the word of the part of the world 'equality' does the Scottish Executive not understand? Full marriage would've blessed gays with an excuse to flick through the latest wedding magazines, awarded religious leaders the chance to deny gay men the pleasures of promiscuity and given marriage the makeover so desperately needs. Scotland would've been a great country if it had only half the courage The Corries used to sing about. When Spain challenged the Catholic Church, which had a history of collusion with Franco's former fascist regime, to deliver equality to all its citizens, it did so with gusto. Spanish gays now qualify for all the same rights enjoyed by heterosexuals, including adopting children. It is certainly not strange, but true that a lot of gays love kids (News of an Austrian father of 12 who left his wife for a male lover did nothing to undermine the opinion of The Sunday Mail who qualified the tale for their "strange but true" section). The Spanish Socialist Prime Minister Jose Luis Rodriguez Zapatero put the full prestige of his office and party behind the passage of full gay human rights legislation in his country and a top government official attended its first gay marriage ceremony. In parliament, Zapatero quoted two gay poets in his speech. (Jack M Connell attending the first gay wedding quoting passages from our gay Scottish Makar? I don't think so!) Zapatero told his parliament: "We are not legislating, honourable members, for people far away and not known by us. We are enlarging the opportunity for happiness to our neighbours, our co-workers, our friends and, our families. At the same time, we are making a more decent society because a decent society is one that does not humiliate its members. In the poem 'The Family', the poet Luis Cernuda asked: 'How can man live in denial by giving rules that prohibit and condemn?' Today, the Spanish society answers to a group of people who, during many years, have been humiliated, whose rights have been ignored, whose dignity has been offended, their identity denied, and their liberty oppressed. Today the Spanish society grants them the respect they deserve, recognises their rights, restores their dignity, affirms their identity, and restores their liberty. It is true that they are only a minority, but their triumph is everyone's triumph. It is also the triumph of those who oppose the law, even though they do not know it yet: because it is the triumph of liberty. Their victory makes all of us, even those who oppose the law, better people. It makes our society better. Honourable members, there is no damage to marriage or to the concept of the family in allowing two people of the same sex to get married. On the contrary, what happens is this class of Spanish citizens get the potential to organise their lives with the rights and privileges of marriage and family. There is no danger to the institution of marriage, but precisely the opposite. This law enhances and respects marriage. Today, conscious that some people and institutions are in profound disagreement with this change in our civil law, I wish to express that, like other reforms to the marriage code that preceded this one, this law will generate no evil, that its only consequence will be the avoiding of senseless suffering of decent human beings. A society that avoids senseless suffering of decent humans is a better society. With the approval of this bill, our country takes another step in the path of liberty and tolerance that was begun by the democratic change of government. Our children will look at us incredulously if we tell them that many years ago, our mothers had less rights than our fathers or if we tell them that people had to stay married against their will even though they were unable to share their lives. Today we can offer them a beautiful lesson: Every right gained and each liberty has been the result of the struggle of many people that deserve our recognition and praise. Today we demonstrate with this bill that societies can better themselves and can cross barriers and create tolerance by putting a stop to the unhappiness and humiliation of some of our citizens. Today, for many of our countrymen, comes the day predicted by Kavafis (Ancient gay Greek poet) one century ago: 'Later was said of the most perfect society that someone else, like me, will come out and act in the spirit of freedom, and be rewarded.' Scotland, take note! The first 'gay marriages' - and, please, let's start calling them that if it's going to get
up the noses of religiousists - will be
taking place on 20 December.
Amongst them Aberdeen-based
John, Kay and Neil Fletcher, both
Lib Dem representatives on
Aberdeen City Council who have
been together for 13 years and
tantrums aside. Elton John and
David Furnish, who expect to be
‘tying the knot’ the following day.

I’m just back from Amsterdam.
One hot, sunny afternoon, I sat
by myself drinking coffee at the edge of
a canal in the Jordaan district, near
the Homomonument and the
Westerkerk. The sun glinted off
topspokes of bikes tied to the
iron railings of a canal bridge. I was
listening through my mp3 player to
Dutch pop artist Rob de Nijs
singing ‘Inch Allah’. I don’t know
why, but I felt uneasy. I’d been talk-
ing with friends. This country, so
provident of its liberal traditions, is at
war. The country appears to be
defending itself against a new moral
conservatism imported by immi-
grants. A gay map, handed out to
gay tourists with a personal welcome
from the mayor of Amsterdam, Job
Cohen, warns: “Do not change any
money on the streets. This is a known
rip-off from east-European thieves”.
There is widespread mistrust
amongst people towards immi-
grants, particularly Muslims, and it
is very open. There have been arson
attacks on Mosques in retaliation
for the murder of filmmaker Van Gogh
by a Muslim extremist and prior to
Gay Pride, I heard rumours that the
canal boat parade might be a target
for attack. One resident, living in
Amsterdam with his Egyptian
boyfriend told me: “They are guests
in our country and they have just
plased in the corner! They are our
guests and they’ve abused our hospita-
ility!” I can’t pretend to know the
answers; I know I abhor racism; that
is a certainty, although I cannot tol-
rance the institution of marriage
as an oppression of individuals.

Finally, after a few words at the
Civic Forum’s meeting on media in
Glasgow I’m pleased to say, but for a
bit of grumbling from the Scottish
Daily Mail, BBC Radio Scotland
has now moved Thought For The
Day, a piece of religious propaganda
that regularly interrupted the morning
news, to some hopelessly
early slot before the alarm goes off!

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The bombings. And the answers,
Gerald Warner-style in Scotland
on Sunday: “We need to respond to this
crisis in two ways. For the most imme-
diate is a no-nonsense response to ter-
ror. For the human rights, multiculturalist
lobby the party is over. Forty
years of political correctness have had
fatal consequences for 55 people more
will die, unless we act ruthlessly… The
secular jihad must stop too”.

Alan Taylor in The Sunday Herald
on cruising (described by straights as
dogging): “A colleague, who has a
purely professional interest in such
matters, tells me that Arthur’s Seat is a
favourite haunt for alfresco coupling.
Walking around the crags one night
recently he came across four separate
sets of copulators, which he claims is a
record. None of them seemed in the
least perturbed by his presence as he
bade them ‘good evening’. His deduc-
tion? ‘They must have been foreign’.”

Old Mither (Joan) Burnie in The
Daily Record on TV soap, Coronation Street’s Jack and Vera
Duckworth: “They represent not just
everything which is best on the Street
but about the institution of marriage
itself. I am deadly serious”.

Dungeon. They apparently think it
provides Satanism and are chal-
lenging the renewal of its entertain-
mence. The Kirk session of the church has
reported how the Kirk was
outraged. P O Box 17816, London
SW14 8WT. Donations welcome.
http://www.outrage.org.uk/
Hello everybody! So where the hell is summer? Well, although there is no scientifically proven correlation, the disappearance of the sun seems to have coincided with the opening of the Pavement Café outside the Out/Brooklyn’s Bar complex. This latest venture – not specifically gay but open to all – will surely prove popular if those clouds would bugger off. It has also had the repercussion of Brooklyn’s Bar extending their opening hours from Noon Mon to Fri and 12-30 on Sun, both the Café and Bar are serving coffee. Along with all the usual offers and nights at Brooklyn’s we can now add in the pool competition on Thu, from 8pm with a bottle of voddie up for grabs, and the Showbar’s mix of music and musicals still going strong held in Brooklyn’s on the last Sat of each month. Downstairs in Out are luring in the punters on Wed and Thu nights by offering spirits and shooters for a shiny pound coin (or note I guess, although not seen any of those for ages).

Along the Seagate in Charlie’s Bar everything should be back to normal in the next week or two as Charlie and Ian are back behind the bar and Ross returns to Dj’ing duties on Fri and Sat nights. The next quiz night will be on Tue 6th Sep, from 8pm with various prizes including £100 up for grabs.

Diversitay continue to hold their monthly ice-breaker evenings in Braes on Perth Road. These are on the third Wed of each month from 8pm, next one being Sep 21st. There are also plans to hold a woman’s disco downstairs in Braes in the future, more details will be published here nearer the time or by calling the Diversitay switchboard Mon evenings 7-10pm on Dundee (01382) 202620.

Chris
Email: courier_chris@yahoo.co.uk

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URGENTLY REQUIRED FREELANCE DESIGNER/TYPESETTER for ScotsGay Magazine

CONTACT THE EDITOR JOHN HEIN ON 0131-539 0666
Boyband member, Luke 16 has passed.

Poetry Boyband: "Aisle 16: The planet if you have no opinions? This very opinionated… but is that really an image? It's also her timing. She never misses a trick. GM crops whilst much of the world is still dried out. Sci-Fi promised a food pill that would change the future, but the only one that's as funny as it is relentless is that Rob Newman or Mark Thomas. It's as funny as it is relentless. Even better, Rob Newman or Mark Thomas. It's as funny as it is relentless.

Boyband was the next logical step. They have a huge fan following, forming a poetry boyband was the next logical step. They have a huge fan following, forming a poetry boyband. They can hold and twist themselves into a batic, talented pair of 25-year-old guys who, like her character in the film, was a consummate scene-stealer. And, at the end of the day, if you can't enjoy this play for the great piece of theatre it is, show it for the great Mama Cass soundtrack. Superb.

Beautiful Thing: "So what if the actors playing the two main gay leads are straight? - this is still the best production of Beautiful Thing I have seen in years. Other attempts at Jonathan Harvey's script have relied on the beauty of its two teenage stars alone and have failed. This production is much more than that. At its heart, Beautiful Thing is a comedy that anyone can enjoy. Dead Rabbit Productions capture the spirit of the piece so well that I was sad when the performance ended. Joseph B Mahon as Jamie with Sam McIlroy as Ste were great, but special praise must go to the marvelous Lindsay Powell as the mixed-up drug dealer, who, like her character in the film, was a consummate scene-stealer. And, at the end of the day, if you can't enjoy this play for the great piece of theatre it is, show it for the great Mama Cass soundtrack. Superb.

Being Earnest, "It's Quite Important "C" Central: This pack of talented teenagers actually get away with rewriting Oscar Wilde's classic comedy of manners. They've held their own in important bits (the Bumtub and the Handbag), but slipped in a few postmodern scenes of their own. Maybe the producers decided to hang this show on Wilde to get the punters in - I don't know. I wanted to see more of them and less Wilde - and I am a fan of the great Irishman. This company are clearly very talented - they should learn the lessons of the past and not attempt to resuscitate it. Wilde, if he were around today, would have gone for something new. Don't hold back people, take a risk.

Between the Water and the Air: "C" electric: This play revolves around the American practice of ice fishing. For those of you too lazy to figure out this one out, it means fishing in ice. Academic overachiever Ken leaves the ivory tower to become a mechanic, in the face of increased pressure from his family. There are three tremendous actors in this piece, who between them play the five characters in this touching and distinctive story. It's ironic as well as moving, and that's a difficult balance to achieve. The incidental music by Steve W hippie and Sarah Niblack is superb, atmospheric but never intrusive. This is an evocative production from a talented company.

Christie and Doyle's Axis of Evil: "Underbelly: The Caesar Twins are a gorgeous, acrobatic, talented pair of 25-year-old guys from Poland. What these guys can do with their bodies is quite exceptional. They can hold and twist themselves into such positions... it takes great strength, trust, and mental agility to perform this way. Eye candy agogo. Trouble is that this is a family event, and as such - they don't give us all they've got. Add to that some truly embarrassing, incomprehensible moments, and you have a potentially lame beast that we are left with is a much toned down performance of their late night show. Go see them at La Clique instead. Late, live and part of an adult cabaret experience that is one of the very hottest tickets on the Fringe.

Christie and Doyle's Axis of Evil: "Underbelly: A comedy entitled 'Axis of Evil' might have delivered an endless stream of satirical lefty critiques on the war on Terror or third world poverty - indeed, there are nods in this direction. "I always buy Nestle products - they kill babies, you see. They need the extra space for all their percolators." Racism and religion are also explored, but this show is at its best when depicting the 'evil' in the family arena. A recurring skit featuring a hideously dysfunctional heterosexual couple expecting their first child is frightening, frequently hilarious and all too real - the hate/love switch at the heart of their relationship is expertly depicted. This isn't simply hetero-bashing from the openly gay Doyle, it's a genuine attempt to discredit nature of relationships in general. Unlike their less successful previews, which occasionally seemed a bit inaccessible, Christie and Doyle now involve the audience from the outset, meaning that everyone is relaxed enough to explore their darker sides. I've seen the show twice, and it's definitely developed along the right lines, which is surely what the fringe is all about. Sketches have been tweaked and prodded into shape. It was a potentially lame beast that has grown new legs. The end result is a must-see show from two of the country's best up-and-coming writer/comedi ans.

Christine Jorgensen Reveals: Assembly Rooms: In the 1950s Christine Jorgensen was the most famous woman in the US because she used to be a man. After the Second World War, Jorgensen was discharged from the army and travelled to Denmark to undergo a sex-change operation. To her great surprise, she was met by a media circus on her return as she stepped off the plane at New York's Idlewild Airport. It was said that she was the most written about person in the world, but amazingly only one recorded interview with her still exists. Her recording has been digitally remastered and enhanced and is the basis of Christine Jorgensen Reveals. Bradford Loury brings Jorgensen to life with elegant mannerisms, and some perfect lip-syncing. Interviewer, known only as Mr Russell, appears in the corner on a black and white TV set. Jorgensen was clearly a funny and intelligent woman, who was more than a match for Russell as she casually, almost whimsically, debunked myths surrounding gender and identity. The capacity audience was enthralled. Highly recommended.

Collin and Fergus: Pleasance: Collin and Fergus is a traditional comedy double act and that is no bad thing.
English, this is Tom Stoppard's language of Dogg. The script seeks to explore the possibilities of wordplay and the way that language can both limit and free us. Sadly this production conveys none of that. In a script as complicated as this, we really need professionals - or at least some far tighter direction. To be fair, there are some lively performances from the young cast, some of whom show great potential, but this is ruined when the policeman - easily the most irritating character I have seen on any stage this festival, blusters on and on and on...

And when the Shakespeare element commenced it got even worse. Dogg's breakfast is too easy to write - but that is what this sorry excuse for a production is. I actually left the theatre feeling angry.

Forbidden

Hollyrood Tavern
Close to the bone and not afraid, as your mum might put it, of using bad language, Forbidden takes us on a journey with a devil. Tom Papitto is an actor/writer from Southern California, who uses his phenomenal stage presence to lecture us on a race, religion, sex and politics. "Both vital and taboo," he says, "controversy reaffirms life." Tom's website states, "The modern perimeter of theatre is trite and obvious. We know the endings of the classics. What's the solution? Silly concepts that feel they're being innovative? What's left? Your belief system is your prison. That which you're afraid of should be unleashed. Let us be scared by theatre, and compelled to think. Somewhere between religious/ideologies and political correctness lies the truth. Or at least let us explore the conflicts. See the show you need to see." I'm not going to argue with him.

Hedwig and the Angry Inch

Greeenside

The premise is just tremendous. A young man escapes from East Germany during the Cold War by undergoing a sex change operation and marrying an American called Luther. Just one snag - the penectomy is botched, leaving poor Hedwig with only "an angry inch" to play with. This is a punk revision of John Cameron Mitchell's classic, a concert with a strangely poignant narrative, based largely on Plato's philosophy of the origin of love from his "Symposium". The band members have an infectious energy, with standout performances from the brilliant Lydia Wilson as Yitzhak (Hedwig in certain shows), and the somewhat arouses James Traer VI on the bass. Joe Swarbrick transforms the audience as the title role, with his bitter sweet rantings and phenomenal singing voice. He adds witty asides and audience interaction to Mitchell's original script, and has interpreted Hedwig as at once confrontational and vulnerable, one moment peeping into his microphone, the next splashing water onto the front row in an affectionate gesture to the traditions of heavy metal. Just one word of warning - don't leave your mobile phone switched on.

Holly's Hot Spot

C Chambers St

This is quite, quite brilliant. An exhilarating, fast-paced, sleighedgermanny of a show. The Caesar twins, now stripped to the waist (the way we like them), contort their bodies into shapes that would make M.C. Escher cringe with envy. There are roller-bladers who throw each other around like rag-dolls, a trapeze artist with the malleability of a pipe-cleaner but the strength of Vin Diesel, a semi-Spanish semi-cockney singer who slips from one dialect to the other almost imperceptibly. Oh, and there's a woman who pulls her handkerchief out of her mobile phone switched on.

La Claque

Splinter Garden

This is quite, quite brilliant. An exhilarating, fast-paced, sleevehedge of a show. The Caesar twins, now stripped to the waist (the way we like them), contort their bodies into shapes that would make M.C. Escher cringe with envy. There are roller-bladers who throw each other around like rag-dolls, a trapeze artist with the malleability of a pipe-cleaner but the strength of Vin Diesel, a semi-Spanish semi-cockney singer who slips from one dialect to the other almost imperceptibly. Oh, and there's a woman who pulls her handkerchief out of her mobile phone switched on.

Lost and Lonely Rebels

Underbelly

Three talented funny young men - Humphrey Ker, Stuart Murphy and the critically acclaimed Myles Jupp - perform in a brand new sketch show, blending sure-fire gags with no-nonsense observational humour. Make no mistake, this is not the Miles Jupp show with guests; Ker and Murphy are easily his equal in terms of their performance skills. As a team, they work exceptionally well together, producing a slick and original hour of comedy. My main gripe is that the conceit of dancing through the set changes becomes monotonous, and what might have been an offbeat and creative interlude is ruined through repetition. Nevertheless, the show is worth checking out, and it's a fine testament to The Stand comedy club, who have supported these lost and lonely rebels.

Night of a Thousand

Jay Ashton's

C Chambers St

The best show came from Kiki and Herb's fellow New Yorkers in the audience - because of all the jokes. North American cultural references abound, and when large sections of an audience start feeling like they're missing out, a show could be in trouble. Thankfully, Kiki and Herb make up for this with a brilliant show with some truly terrific narrative. Kiki really is some bitch, whilst Herb thrashes away at the piano, continuously for the whole hour, trying to keep up with, and occasionally getting ahead of, her latest aural lampoon. There is so much here that's a real delight. Stories of how they met as preteens in a state institution with Herb getting bullied by homophobes and Kiki's flag-haggy protection/obession with him hit the mark. Kiki's utter hatred for George W and the neo-cons is stunningly harsh and totally appropriate. Most of the musical numbers feature bitchy remixes of famous songs. It's all there, and more, with volume.

Cameron Mitchell's classic, a concert with a strangely poignant narrative, based largely on Plato's philosophy of the origin of love from his "Symposium". The band members have an infectious energy, with standout performances from the brilliant Lydia Wilson as Yitzhak (Hedwig in certain shows), and the somewhat arousing James Traer VI on the bass. Joe Swarbrick transforms the audience as the title role, with his bitter sweet rantings and phenomenal singing voice. He adds witty asides and audience interaction to Mitchell's original script, and has interpreted Hedwig as at once confrontational and vulnerable, one moment peeping into his microphone, the next splashing water onto the front row in an affectionate gesture to the traditions of heavy metal. Just one word of warning - don't leave your mobile phone switched on.
The Pickfords

Ritchie Disney

Rocket

About Turn are a company who deserve a longer run with Ritchie Disney. The standard of acting in particular is very well maintained throughout. The show begins with two young people who seem to sustain themselves on a diet of chocolate, pills and dreams. They have been alone since their parents disappeared years ago. They permit two very odd strangers to invade their domain. This is a very verbal show, and the extended dream descriptions mean that it would work well on radio - listen to this in a darkened room and then try to go to sleep! One of the dreams involves the male dreamer being masturbated by a shopboy who is then violently murdered by the “monster” - a clear case of the dreamer destroying a part of himself that he cannot accept. The ending seems a little too upbeat - it could have been far nastier, but it is acompelling piece emerging from a strong and muscular imagination.

Rap Canterbury Tales

C’ Chambers Street

Right wing US Southern Christians are an easy target, but that doesn’t mean that poking them with a stick isn’t a lot of fun. The audience finds themselves in a morning of the “honey-beasts”, a female-only group of happy-clappy, rootin’-tootin’, Bible-bashin’ Christian gals. There’s a lot of fun to be had in implicating the audience so directly in the show, and writer/performer Steve Swift is remarkable as the larger-than-life Sister Myots. His script is peppered with one-liners, and cleverly intimates the dangers of fundamentalist Christianity without losing its sense of joviality. The trouble is that the show runs out of steam after about twenty minutes. The seeds are there for a terrific night’s entertainment, but the show doesn’t quite do justice to the ideas. It’s a jolly ol’ journey without a destination.

Some Explicit Polaroids

Underbelly Caves

If you like “Shopping and Fucking”, you’ll probably love this. The usual Ravenhill themes are all present and correct - abuse, loneliness, revenge, desperation, isolation. But fret not, you won’t emerge from the auditorium looking for the nearest precipice from which to throw yourself. There’s a lightness of touch that produces some incongruously funny moments. Characters from a variety of dysfunctional backgrounds are thrown together - a French rent boy, an ambitious New Labour councillor, a Marxist ex-con - and a series of confrontational setpieces ensue. The performances are uniformly excellent, and the direction is tighter than a Jean-Paul Gaultier sailor vest. The death of scenequeen Tim provides a point of focus for the disparate personalities, and we catch a temporary glimmer of hope. Like Ravenhill’s West End hit “Mother Clap’s Molly House”, the final image is that of the characters dancing together in a night club. As anyone who has been to C. Pleasance knows, there is a sadness at the heart of disco (as well as the occasional sweaty armpit in the face), but in Ravenhill’s vision this becomes explicit. Growling Monkey’s production is brash, powerful, and shockingly relevant. Plus all the money they raise will go to an AIDS charity, so even if it’s not your cup of chai there are worse ways to spend your money.

Sue Perkins

Pleasance

This show is an out-and-out success, with the emphasis being on the word “out”. For the first time in her career, Sue is more openly introspective (if that’s not an oxymoron) about her sexual orientation. It’s a refreshing venture, and one that does justice to her talents. She has a comedic instinct that would engage a wide range of punters, and her quips are unfailingly intelligent and incisive. More to the point, this show is laugh-out-loud funny. There is anabsurdist quality to her turn of phrase, but it is when she focuses on the anecdotal that she really hits the spot. It’s an edgy show than you’d expect from someone who has starred in a Kingsmill advert, but still lacking the kind of bite you’d see from the likes of Stewart Lee. Expect all the goodness of a fine loaf with the crusts trimmed off.

A Swell Party

Augustine’s

A musical biography of Cole Porter incorporating over twenty of his classic songs can’t go wrong. His music is genre-defining, and his lyrical prowess rivals the wit of Noel Coward or Neil Tennant. Chris MacDonnell is astounding in the lead role, and if ever in need of a resounding individual voice, and an admirable sensitivity to the nuances of the lyrics. Despite a few uneven performances, the cast are generally strong. Philip Giorgi and Wendy Killian are perfect in their varying roles, and support their lead with generosity and class. Worth a look, especially if you’re a Porter aficionado.

Topping and Butch

Pleasance

A very different celebration of a way of life came with Birth of Cool. This takes us back to the 50s, to the beginning of rebellious counterculture, and to the Beats. To Paul Cutlan’s evocative music, with references to Charlie Parker and Dizzy Gillespie, a past worldis conjured up. This is the world of Jack Kerouac’s “On the Road”, of Burroughs, Ferlinghetti, and starting with some of Allen Ginsberg’s “Howl”. John Turnbull gives a stunning performance as the voice of the Beats, reciting from the

Wedding, and that renowned raconteur George W Bush. Topping & Butch are well ahead of their game, largely because they understand the true nature of satire. It’s insufficient to simply mention the London bombings for shock value without having something to say. And to convey their caustic perceptions through the medium of whimsical tunes is even better. Despite their trademark lipstickstained S&M rubberwear, this pair has a camp charm that is accessible to all. They chat amongst themselves and involve the audience in a warm and unthreatening manner. But if you’re after something more extreme, check out their late night show “Filth!” at the Underbelly. Wild, acerbic, and above all bloody funny.

And there is so much more, how about... Stewart Lee at the Underbelly, Out on the Fringe at Augustine’s, W. Wilde by Name at Diverse Attractions, The Laramie Project at the Church Hill Theatre and at the Zoo, Bruce Devlin at the Stand, Out of the Corset at Greenside, Six Degrees of Separation at Roman Eagle Lodge, Lipstick Sherlock Holmes at Greyfriars Kirk house, Kit and the Widow at the Royal Academy and Corpus Christi (and countless other shows) at the wonderful “C” venues. Have a terrific festival, and do say hello if you see me loitering around a bar in need of some company. Thanks to Phil, Stephen and Jess.

TONY CHALLIS’S FRINGE

Birth of the Cool

Gilded Balloon

A very different celebration of a way of life came with Birth of Cool. This takes us back to the 50s, to the beginning of rebellious counterculture, and to the Beats. To Paul Cutlan’s evocative music, with references to Charlie Parker and Dizzy Gillespie, a past world is conjured up. This is the world of Jack Kerouac’s “On the Road”, of Burroughs, Ferlinghetti, and starting with some of Allen Ginsberg’s “Howl”. John Turnbull gives a stunning performance as the voice of the Beats, reciting from the
works, singing, and telling the life-stories, warts and all. It's difficult to comprehend how bravely this group stood against the mainstream, and the courage of someone like Ginsberg being openly and publicly gay at the time of McCarthyism. Cutten, Fabian Hevia and Steve Arie provide an intensely evocative musical environment. Remember - power and pleasure lie in kissing ass - and get your ass on down to the Gilded Balloon while tickets are still available.

Desperately Seeking Sorrow * Highwood Tavern

Danny Wooldrington and Johnny Sorrow presented this two-man show to a very select audience, and we two reviewers felt quite privileged. Some of the jokes were quite cringeworthy, and Danny especially had to pause to collect his thoughts at several points. Johnny had a much smoother patter, but he needed someone to rewrite his script. Danny's talk about coming out as gay was rather sympathetic, but I really couldn't recommend this as a good use of anyone's time.

Faultless and Torrance Take Their face/ Off ** Gilded Balloon

The second night of the jakki Moore company have jumped on the bandwagon of bombs and fear, and add to this a change of identity between them. The bomb goes missing and we are perhaps meant to feel a frisson concerning its whereabouts. The change of identity involves some scuffling behind a screen. Heigh ho. There were people in the audience who were in stitches, but I did not find it nearly as engaging as their show of last year. I could barely raise a titter.

Immaculate **** Gilded Balloon

Oliver Lansley: Immaculate imagines a modern lass who discovers herself to be six months pregnant a year after she last had sex. In comes a guy who looks very like William Golding - but, he is no Lord of the Flies, indeed, he is an Angel Gabriel who clearly has no control over God's flies! Being a modern lass, on my minus". If I thought I detected a sneer from Pam Ann's tone, this was surely just-timing is excellent. Highly recommend-

Minor Irritations **** Pleasance

Sam Peter Jackson's play is an extremely entertaining comedy about Ben, an aspiring actor doing various fill-in jobs, his friends in London, and his decision to visit his ex in New York, where new possibilities emerge. There are many excellent comic moments. Ben is very good at avoiding opportunities that are thrown at him like gauntlets. One of the best things is the unforced and extremely natural behaviour of the cast regarding gay life, (unlike some Fringe Shows I could mention - "Dark Horse Indiana" comes to mind which seemed to be all careful posing and rhetoric.) Nick White and Charlie Tigue move between various parts very effectively, and Dulcie Lewis displays great comic presence and char-

Dirty Fan Male, Gilded Balloon, 18:45

The premise of this show is remarkably simple: you end up collecting the fan mail sent to your sisters pornstar fanclub, as well as the letters they send to the other dozens odd fanclubs she runs for other Daily Sport girls, how do you present this material when your first venture of a CD doesn't take off? You do a Fringe show with an actor with an incredible vocal range. This is possibly the only show that can come back after a full year at last years Fringe with completely new material due to the amount of letters some of the "serial" correspondents wrote. The one thing that seems to keep re-appearing though is the lonely hetero-sexual fantasy of watching Page 3 girls dejecte.

Robert Newman: Apocalypse Now, Bongo Club

World War One was started by the assassination of Archduke Franz Ferdinand on June 28, 1914 in Sarajevo. Wrong. Rob explains how Iraq's oil was the real reason. May include Wordsworth, spies, and the shat-

NUN THE WISER'S FRINGE

Dirty Fan Male, Gilded Balloon, 18:45

This is a masterpiece. Bravely set in the present time, after Bacon's death in 1992, it tells of his life from his birth in Dublin. It focuses early on with his sex life and the men with whom he fucked. It moves on to tell his life story and of his painting. Much is made of the represen-

Martin Powell's FRINGE

Pip Utton, Bacon, Pleasance Courtyard *****
Pip Utton does it again. My main prob-

TONY CHALLIS AT THE BOOK FESTIVAL

The Book Festival opened on Saturday 13 August with a reading by the fabulous poet, Carol Ann Duffy. This included some engrossing flights of fancy, of which my favourite was "The Diet," in which a dieter is reduced to the size of a thimble, and the ends up inside the gut of a fat woman (Better as poem!) There was also the well known from Mrs Tiresias in which the protagonist, having been changed into a woman, demands "To be a woman is a privilege." And there was a poem about alternative love. Carol Ann Duffy promised to get "steamy" in her afternoon reading, but this was first thing in the morning.

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Peter Reder, Guided Tour, Traverse 5 (McEwan Hall) ***

The title suggested we were going to get a tour of the underground passages of a prominent but little known building. It turned out to be rather different than this. It resonated with me because of a local history project I am involved in. Why was it built? Why did an uneducated beer tycoon finance it? What was there before? Why do we regard the written record as more trustworthy than the oral history? We move on to the history of Reder’s family and what is truth and fiction. We end up with a 10 minute film that added nothing for me. One audience member was heard to say on leaving “I’m sure it would have been more interesting if we had all got together and talked about the building”. It would certainly have been different.

Breath[e], Traverse 7 **

Well when you go to see “a play without words or actors” you expect something different. We spent 35 minutes of a smoke machine, sounds, and lighting design. I think what they were trying to convey was how we assemble the data that hit our senses and try to form a concept or a conclusion. I haven’t encountered it before. However it told me no story. At the end there was a stunned silence. Not a good sign.

The Riot Group, Switch Triptych, Assembly Rooms ****

This is probably the only publication reviewing the Fringe whose Editor used to have a fully functioning telephone exchange standing in his hall, so this story about the mechanisation of phones had an extra interest for me. I remember The Riot Group playing in The Gilded Balloon for a long time in the early 1970s which held about 20. This was staged in the Assembly’s Ballroom, one of the largest Fringe venues. However that wasn’t the only thing about this show that was large. The question set to the breadth of issues covered it was bigger. Like all Riot Group shows the words are delivered at a fierce rate of knots and there is so much delivered that I expect many will see the play in different ways. One problem was that some of it is delivered over headsets with the actors facing away from the audience and the PA system was not up to it. The action supposedly takes place in 1919 New York manual phone exchange so the audience and the PA system was not up to it. The action supposedly takes place in a 1919 New York manual phone exchange on the eve of automation but it could just as easily be set in the 1990s as lots of jobs were replaced by call centres or in 2005 when call centres were just meant to get to dislike the characters. About halfway through it came across in the camp with the thumbs up. I wasn’t the only one to think of a small Fiife town having disappeared without notice for a year. His friends Fred (Paul Rattray) and Stew (Paul Blair) have carried on with their business as drug dealers. We follow them through a period of less than 24 hours and see what emerges. A witty play with plenty of action it is OK but really doesn’t go anywhere and at the conclusion more or less stops rather than ends. An enjoyable play with the standard of acting you expect from The Traverse but it held no wow factor for me.

Volcano Theatre Company, My Pyramids, or How I Got Fired from the Dairy Queen, and Ended Up in Abu Ghraib by Private Lynndie England, Traverse 1 ****

This new play by Martin J Taylor Gibb (Gary Collins) has just turned 16. He lived in a small Fiife town having disappeared without notice for a year. His friends Fred (Paul Rattray) and Stew (Paul Blair) have carried on with their business as drug dealers. We follow them through a period of less than 24 hours and see what emerges. A witty play with plenty of action it is OK but really doesn’t go anywhere and at the conclusion more or less stops rather than ends. An enjoyable play with the standard of acting you expect from The Traverse but it held no wow factor for me.

Cinderella is dead, her husband must remarry, who does the slipper now fit? No other than her daughter Princess Amanda. A dark tale about incest? No, but then I hardly expected anyone unfamiliar with the play would have understood it. As to the acting, rather than Lady Macbeth (I?) advise the rest of the cast to look for a job after graduating. The main mark above is because I’ve no idea who played the part and nor does the company’s press release tell me. In fact if I’d read the press release before seeing the show I wouldn’t have noticed a bARGE pole. So the company also need to work on the publicity front.

Trestle Theatre Company, Beyond Midnight, Pleasance Courtyard **

No not the Volcano from Swansea this lot are from Toronto. For those who have forgotten Lynndie England was the one pictured in the camp with the thumbs up and a naked man on a dog leash. In this new play by Judith Thompson we follow her fictionalised attitudes from that time to her trial. I was reminded of George Orwell’s description of Neville Chamberlain “A man doing his best through his own rather dim lights”. It tells of a woman with 65,000 Google hits who is ridiculed but thinks of herself as a hero who in time will be welcomed back by the USA. It points at a mindset that sees others as sub-human terrorists and therefore without rights. Unlike the master race looking after them, and we all know where that leads. A chilling vision of where things could lead and a superb solo performance by W aneta Storms.

Macbeth The Hour, Cambridge University ADC, C Chambers ST **

Well the last Macbeth I saw was by Northern Broadsides so this company had a lot to live up to. Did they come close? No, but then I hardly expected them to. A radical reworking of the Scottish play lasting exactly 60 minutes. I had no problems with the weird sisters being portrayed as orgasmic lesbians. I did have a problem with part of the dialogue being delivered more like a horse racing commentary in order to fit it all in — a dramatic pause is just that. I did wonder whether anyone unfamiliar with the play would have understood it. As to the acting, other than Lady Macbeth (?) I’d advise the rest of the cast to look for a job after graduating. The main mark above is because I’ve no idea who played the part and nor does the company’s press release tell me. In fact if I’d read the press release before seeing the show I wouldn’t have noticed a bARGE pole. So the company also need to work on the publicity front.

We Love You Arthur, Assembly **

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Brian Longwell, Why Work?, Smirnoff Baby Belly *****

Forget slick PowerPoint presentations. Brian Longwell is a management guru still living in the age of overhead projector presentations. And naff ones at that, and that is the main joke. The first time I saw Longwell it worked really well. This time I was less sure. That the show had to be concluded with a couple of sketch- es including other acts made me think he really didn’t have enough material. I think the idea has merit, a satire on slick presentations, and could work well in the future but this one didn’t do it for me.

New String Theatre Company, The Wrong Man, Pleasance Dome *****

It’s not every day even at the Edinburgh Fringe that one gets a play written by a former IRA activist (David Rowlatt), but boy can he write. It starts off with a Catholic being kidnapped in Belfast. Is he the wrong man? I thought that was going to be the gist of the play, but no, perhaps I was the wrong man. What develops in this superb play is a powerful story about power, truth and lies, and what is legitimate to do to extract information. Not just by organisations but in human relationships. How honest we are, who can we trust and whose fault is it when things go wrong. Quite a lot to cover in 70 minutes but mastered effortless- ly by this superb company. One of the most thoughtful and thought provok- ing shows you are likely to see on the Fringe. I look forward to seeing Danny Morrison’s next play. Writers of this quality do not come along very often.

Peepolykus, All in the Timing, Assembly Rooms ***

One is never quite sure what to expect from this lot, or indeed who they will be. It was a second take. I initially thought part 4 of 3 chimps with typewriters trying to write Hamlet and complaining they didn’t have laptops. Part 2 was great, a conversation in real life where you’ve said the wrong thing but can take a second take. Part 3 was of 3 chickens and a man trying to type ‘Hamlet’ complaining they had gone away and we are the year yet again presented with David Sant, Javier Marzan, and John Nicholson. This year we got a sketch show in six parts. Part 1 was very funny. It’s a pleasure to be entertained.

Can Grid Iron do a crap show? If so, this wasn’t it. Wonderful as ever. A play based on the novel by Jim Crace about food and how we relate to it. The way the food industry provides work for the new migrant, hotel food, poisonous food, our tendency to store food we will never use, the essence of the dinner party, producing ones own food, food and sex, and much much more. As usual with Grid Iron a promenade. In this case through Debenhams. As you might expect, the acting is superb, the music sublime, and the design cannot be fault- ed. I’ve been thinking rather a lot about food recently as my fridge-freezer has stopped working so this work really struck a chord with me, and I can hardly blame Grid Iron for the state of my electrical appliances.

State of the Art Productions, Beautiful Child, C Central ***

A lovely original and thoroughly witty show. If you think of the zany comedy of a Pig Iron show and the danger of rather more involvement from the audience than they wanted from an early Told by Brian Longwell, Why Work?, Smirnoff Baby Belly

They have a son Isaac (Alex Eisenberg) who is an art teacher with a liking for 8 year old boys. There is also a psychologist (Julia Stidolph) who seems to need one. The parents decide they need to take some drastic action to do something about their son, which is if the mother has known about his desires for 3 years seemed utterly implausible. However it has its moments and the acting is quite good.

FRINGE BUNNY

Anyway, enough about me. Now, I’m not one to gossip but Alan Carr and Brendon Burns are living together and sharing a little unhealthy competition. Referring to each other as Poofy and Shouty they are competing for Gay Points by snogging a boy in the kitchen “I just did it to shut him up, he was talking too much.” Yes Brendon, we believe you. Carr says “I’m not doing well, I think I’ll be on minus points by the end of the festival.” So if you see him you needs help. With his baking that is.

Burns has been getting up to his usual antics during Mark’s 2005 Minutes show so far he’s challenged all the comedians in the room to a Trivial Pursuit Ashes, lost quite spectacularly and has paid the penalty by dosing his trousers in lighter fluid and setting fire to them. Trouser’s burnt to Ashes the comic was left in just his little tight pants. Mark has been going for 28 hours as I write, and in the small hours Brendon popped back (with new trousers) to lend some more support. So far I think we’re safe. The audience member snoozing on the front row with his mouth open, he decided it was time for tea, and, straddling the unconscious boy’s face, unleashed his particulars and dipped them into his gaping mouth! Enough Burns!
As ever I have been your French many mums, can you spot who? One of the boys thought he'd guzzled an abandoned bottle of apple juice. Never again will that poor kid have a wee dram.

"Excuse me, I just had to leave my post on Mark's stage in order to storm Brendon Burns' show to commemorate the French revolution. I have already been interrupted to re-enact the Civil War outside and to have the Boston Tea Party. And now I have just run onto Brendon's stage with 13 others dousing him in water and jeering. I thought it might be quite French and Revolutionary to strip him too. However I broke my nail on his belt. Some would say too enthusiastically.

Those poor girels from sellout show Babooshka keep getting their panties pinched. Sponsored by Coco de Mer they were given ample supplies of undercrackers to go round. So if anyone ever asks why are you wearing a bikini? What did he say?

Topping and Butch Interview

Put simply Topping and Butch are the UK's finest cabaret double act. ScotsGay predicts that the next twelve months will see them go absolutely huge. Martin Warker interrupts the hard-working and prolific Andrew "Butch" Simmons.

"Both ScotsGay and The Scotsman gave us 5 stars last year - there's a lot to live up to."

So what have you been doing in the last 12 months since your total sell out 2004 Edinburgh shows?

"Sititin' on our arsest! No! Last year's Fringe was very successful and helped us in a number of ways. We'd never played any other Festivals before but this year we've already done Manchester, Leicester, Prague and in September we'll do Dublin. It's also helped secure the Radio 4 slots on Loose Ends and got us work on Channel 5 and the Paramount Comedy Channel. We're writing a lot more and often now the show is written around our own music as well as the lyrics. We have managed to work that in to the schedule and still be able to play loads of venues on the gay scene round the country. It also helped that both ScotsGay and the Scotsman gave us 5 stars for the show so there's been a lot to live up to.

W hat should the audience expect from the show? What is the show about?

The main show "A Lot To Take In" is a brand new hour of material from the last two shows, but will be in similar style. Half the show is comedy songs and half stand-up and banter. We like to get as much topical stuff into the show as possible so we'll be writing material right up to the time the curtain goes up at 9.20pm. So far this year, we've announced to unsuspecting audiences, the score of an England International and the news of the Pope's death that happened minutes before we went on - all in (tasteful) song form. Aside from that we have set performance numbers which this year will include a poke at the Royal Family, the joy of being thin, and a parody of yob culture in "Chav! - The Musical".

You have two shows. "A Lot to Take In" and "Filth"! Why the difference?

Maggie Bourgein who played the posh tea lady with a mucky mouth who held everything together in "Afternoon Tease" last year was brilliant so we're incorporating her into the main show. The other show is one we don't really talk about. It's at the Underbelly for 4 nights only and it's really for those who know us and want to see how far we push the envelope (so to speak). By the way, it's strictly not for children or critics - so if ScotsGay want to come - they'll have to buy a ticket - and no reviews!!

Is it true that Dara O'Brien dispensed some prophetic advice to Butch whilst in a toilet? What did he say?

When we first played Edinburgh in 2003 we had just started the run - I think we were still in previews - and I went for a waz in the Pleasance Dome. Dara walked into the urinals and stood beside me - glanced across - and said "How did the show go tonight?" and I said "Fine thank you, I've just finished" and pulled my zipper up. The giggle turned into a laugh and I'd like to think we had a moment. Ha ha ha. At the end of the run I asked Dara where he thought we should play next year and he named the theatre, the room and the time and - as if by magic - we got it. The same thing happened the next year, he's a bit of lucky charm, so we're performing where Dara tells us to in future... unless it's a cubicle.

So how do you like Edinburgh? Been out on the gay scene? Fan of the city? This is the bit where we all say "Oh we LOVE Edinburgh" - isn't it, and you Scots take the piss cos we know it all but we only see it in the summer chaos. Topping and I visit a couple of times out of season and it does feel like a home from home (see, I just said what you want). Like any place it has its problems but we especially like the sense of humour people have here - it's wonderfully dry, the beauty of the architecture and the fact every thing's so walkable. The gay scene's great but you have to ask where to go as a lot of the bigger nights are one-offs that visitors won't catch up with until week 2!

W hich other comedians do you like?

On the fringe, Dara O'Brien, for his charm and wit, Jason Byrne for making an hour go by out of seemingly nothing, Paul Foot for linking subject matters that can have us in stitches, Pam Ann for her beautiful comic creation and Julia Morris for her observation which is downloaded in broadband (she talks so fast I reckon she thinks that breathing is a speech impediment).

Is SPANK! The best night on the Fringe? This is our top tip. James and Leon the organizers of Spank! in London have recreated a night at the Underbelly, which is gay friendly in a way some of the late-night stand-up shows can never achieve. It's just basically a feel good show but as well as male stand-ups, it includes some of the best character comedy you'll find on the fringe as well as some more alternative acts that really make you feel like you've seen 10 shows in one.
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GET YOUR DANGLY BITS HERE!
British humour is alive and well and lives in a caravan park in Sheringham, Norfolk. Seldom have I had so much fun reading an autobiography, which essentially this book is. The author - an unemployed caravan dweller - decided to change his name by deed poll to HM King Nicholas and founded a new empire from his royal seat - a 4 berth trailer on the Beecham Regis Caravan Park.

The whole thing started as a bit of a joke - he was dared by his best friend to sign on at Cromer Job Centre wearing a crown and on a horse - but by now I suspect it'll make him a little more money than he was getting on the dole.

Apparently - or so his publisher claims - he sells peerages on the internet, although a thorough and comprehensive 5 minute session on Google would not confirm that fact and he blegs as many corporate freebies as he can manage. He's become a bit of a legend in his own lunchtime and has appeared in the local press numerous times, but I somehow doubt whether the notoriously stiff upper lipped British royalty will be chomking on their cucumber sandwiches this summer, when they learn that they have been joined by this unlikely new figurehead.

If you fancy a bit of light relief this autumn then this is a book I can thorouighly recommend and do have a look at his website as well, you might end up renaming yourself Lord Toff of Toffsville, although your mates will probably just think you're sad, anyway.

Wicked
Erotic Tales of Legendary Lovers
Edited by Mitzi Szereto
Published by Cleis
£9.99

Here's another book I thoroughly enjoyed. It's one of those you can just pick up and read one or two of the twenty one stories in a spare half an hour or so and leave feeling cheated up, sexed up, perplexed or any other of a whole gamut of emotions. The editor has brought together a playful and varied collection, not only grabbing curiosity about sex symbols like Marilyn Monroe, but exciting readers with the imaginary adventures of such unlikely icons as Toulouse Lautrec, Sigmund Freud...and God. The stories are funny, sexy, provocative, but never dull and I would definitely say that this book is a tenner well spent. Go on, treat yourself....

In the '70's, having spent several years hitch hiking back and forth in Europe and getting bored by the seemingly endless roads and the occasional prison of horses, hairy truckers, I got invited to crew on a sailing yacht out on its way to the West Indies. I won't bore you with details, just let's say that because of youthful stupidity I never got as far as the West Indies but instead got stuck on the Rock of Gibraltar for a few months. While there though I learned an important fact of life, if you're determined you'll always be able to blag yourself into any situation you really want to be in and eventually I managed to blag myself another job on another yacht and consequently spent the most enjoyable year cruising the Mediterranean and the Atlantic Ocean. So when this book arrived I really looked forward to revisiting the places in my mind so long almost forgotten. It did that and much more though, much, much more. It moved me deeply with its true sense of the realities of a life under sail. The story has us navigating through Hell Gate in the East River and through dense fog in Cape Cod. But surprisingly, given my history, was the fact that this book illustrates the special bond between two men committed to one another as they sail together, live together and care for each other through the best and worst of times. The author allows us to share his two deep and profound passions - the love of wind filling sails and the love of one man for another. And even something I usually find a real turn off is handled with real sensitivity and the inane horror of AIDS becomes bearable in the words of this truly gifted writer.

Deep Water
A Sailor's Passage
By E.M. Kahn
Published by Harrington Park Press
£9.99

In the 70's, withreal sensitivity and the inane horror of AIDS becomes bearable in the words of this truly gifted writer.

Now, just to show you that I'm not just on a downer about the writing capabilities of our friends on the other side of the pond, here's another book by an American writer I thoroughly enjoyed. In fact I got quite excited getting the new novel by Steven Cooper through the post, remembering the strange story of a dead drag queen providing answers in his first mystery, With You in Spirit, and an unruly penis directing the action in his second Saving Valencia. And I was not disappointed by this newest book by this talented and imaginative author. The unusual plot involves the investigative reporter Damon Fitzgerald who hot on the heels of the story of his career is strangled to death in his own apartment. But that proves to be of little hindrance to this plucky reporter and he sets out to solve his own murder from the confines of his own grave. Steven Cooper once again has shown in this book that he is the master of thrills, slapstick and the supernatural in equal measures to delight his readers.

Deadline
By Steven Cooper
Published by Alyson
£9.99

Cruise Control
Understanding
Sex Addiction in Gay Men
By Robert Weiss
Published by Alyson
£10.99

Are you addicted to sex? Have you ever really thought about it or asked yourself that question? I certainly hadn't and I wasn't really surprised to find that some people see sex as something you can be addicted to. Isn't just the normal sex drive that has us out in the bars every weekend, I hear you cry. Well, I quite agree, but there are those that would like us to believe that Gay men live in a world of deeply conflicting messages when it comes to sex. There are constant messages that say they should be liberated, responsible, experimental, safe, cutting-edge, traditional, dominant, submissive, sex-positive and celibate - and above all else they are not supposed to follow a heterosexual model. Cruise Control is supposed to lead men to a better understanding of the difference between sexual compulsion and non-addictive sexual behaviour within the gay experience, but to be perfectly honest, I cannot see any reason in this book other then lining the coffers of a few psychotherapists by giving people yet another thing to worry about.

 Deadline
By Steven Cooper
Published by Alyson
£9.99

Now here's one for all of you who just like a good one handed read, well done for still being with us and you won't be disappointed by this book in the slightest. I tell you, it's been worth waiting for and reading through all those other reviews of boring books. This one has got it all, hot straight guys shooting in the back of another guys throat shouting "ohhh Cindy Lou", very special home videos featuring inno-cent farm boys, the pizza boy that really does deliver a hot load and the day at the beach when your brother in law tells you that he thinks of you when he's buried deep inside your sister. Just like the magazine by the same name this book features just the hottest and horniest stories of young gay men exploring their sexuality. This is one handed reading at its best.

Live and Raw: Let the Most Powerful Name in Porn Work for You!
By Chi Chi LaRue
Published by Bruno Gmünder
£12.99

Last but not least, here's a book for all your lovers of hunky tattooed men, a Bruno Gmünder book full of pictures of Chi Chi LaRue's favourite hunks. Of course being a book by this famous German publishing house the pictures are of stunning quality as are the men. Much watering bodies galore and for a bit of a preview you can visit Chi Chi's website at http://www.LiveAndRaw.com/
Regular contributors to ScotsGay will be well aware of our Editor’s nasty habits - like turning up with a box of DVDs the day before the copy date and telling you to get on with it.

So it was that I settled down this afternoon with a box of Kleenex left over from last week’s flu and tried to keep the cat off my knee as I viewed...

First out of the box was “Fuck Fever” from Liquid London (http://www.liquidlondon.com). A fair variety of mature guys (smooth, slightly hairy and some Hispanic) having hardcore fun, as they say. Afraid the vaguely arty narrative style didn’t do it for me. But, there you go.

But, that’s not the point. It may just be that this group of young men have made informed choices about unsafe sex. But I ha’e ma doots! And what they’re getting paid isn’t going to pay for the anti-retrovirals that they’ll need if they get infected with HIV. O’n the other hand, maybe they are and this is to earn money for the drugs they need.

Don’t get me wrong, they’re all nicely made with decent camerawork, indecent guys and lots of stunning action. But my cock just goes limp in a way it doesn’t at condomless videos made in pre-AIDS times. However, don’t let me spoil your enjoyment.

Much more to my taste was College Cumfest, another production from Eastern Europe. This time, it ‘did’ make me somewhat sticky with ten young men doing very much what the last lot were doing but interposing a satisfying layer of rubber between them and their partners. I only wish that my Student Union had allowed shagging on the premises!

Finally, a couple of UK productions. RudeBoiz didn’t particularly do it for me. The guys are the sort you’ll find at http://www.fitlads.net/-neds, scally, chav, whatever you want to call it. The film includes an interesting trip round some Council Hooses in parts of London and the human contents thereof who seem to have fairly single track minds! Which is nice - if you like that sort of thing. But a lot of them will be so much nicer when their shaved hair grows back.

My favourite video of the lot was BikeBoy, from the Max Lincoln stable. The 6+ hours of XXX action are made up of the main feature and a CD containing scenes and promos from many other Euro-creme productions (including some of those reviewed above). Apart from Tommy “Sex On Legs - albeit fairly short ones” Trent, there are 13 other guys who get into lots of shagging. And, as an extra, the cuter guys from RudeBoiz turned up in the final orgy scene!

Anyway, as per usual, that nice perve Mr Eurocreme is giving away a lot of his porn to ScotsGay readers. Several of each of the above titles, no less. And Zipper (who are responsible for Fuck Fever) are handing out copies too. Just send us a postcard with your name and address and the titles you’d like to receive listed in order of preference. We’ll do the rest. You should know the address by now:

DVD Offer, ScotsGay Magazine, PO Box 666, Edinburgh. EH7 5YW.

If you’re not lucky in the draw, you can pick up most of these titles from all good filth merchants (like Q-Store and Leather & Lace) or click the links to Homo@ctive on the ScotsGay website at http://www.scotsgay.co.uk/

FAIR WAVED THE GOLDEN PORN by Justin Milne
The two male teenagers hanged in Mashad, Iran, on 19th Jul were executed not for having sex with each other, as has been reported, but for raping a 13 year old boy, USA based Human Rights Watch is claiming.

Mahmoud Asgari, 18, and Ayaz Marhoni, 19, allegedly raped the boy at least 14 months prior to their executions, meaning at least one, and perhaps both, of them were minors at the time.

According to Scott Long, director of HRW’s Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender Rights Project: “On the morning of 19th Jul – that is, just before the executions – a long article in Quds, a Farsi daily published in Mashad, described the case. It is clearly identified there as a rape case, with a lengthy interview with the father of the 13 year old apparent victim. The account there is that the case dates back two years, that the boy in question was seized outside a shopping area by the two boys ultimately convicted, who took him to a deserted area where five other boys were also waiting. (It’s not clear what happened to the five other members of what is described as a gang.) He was gang-raped at knife point, according to his father’s account, which is supported by three passersby who interrupted the act. Passersby were attacked with knives and had their cars vandalized.

It also now seems that an article from the Iranian Students News Agency, translated and circulated by the London gay group OutRage!, was not the first article about this case, as OutRage! believed, and may not have been translated correctly.

OutRage! had reported that the ISNA article said the boys were executed for consensual gay sex. But HRW says the headline and the first sentence of the article make it clear they were hanged for “sodomy by coercion” (“lavat beh onf”). “Lavat beh onf”, HRW said, is an archaic phrase that is not the normal way to refer to rape.

“Ultimately,” said HRW’s Long, “one has to ask what is the basis for believing that the boys were tried for consensual sodomy. It boils down to an English language article on the Iran Focus Web site having made no mention of the rape charge. There is no other substantial evidence.”

“THE ISNA report seen by our contacts in Iran makes no mention of rape or of a 13 year old boy. It states they were hung for homosexual acts,” OutRage! leader Peter Tatchell said this week. “OutRage!’s sources for our reportage of this story include clandestine gay and lesbian activists inside Iran, members of the democrat- ic and left Iranian opposition, and the Web sites of governmentsanctioned news agencies in Iran. ‘We work with many exiled gay Iranians in London,’ Tatchell said. ‘They confirm that smears and torture against gay people are routine in Iran. Whenever the regime wants to deflect criticism, it trumps up charges of alcoholism, adultery, rape and drug abuse against the victims of its brutality.

Foreign gay couples can marry in Spain

Marchers at Madrid’s gay pride parade celebrate Spain’s legalization of same-sex marriage. Wockner News photo by Xevi Botic

Spain’s Justice Ministry has ruled that foreign same-sex couples who live there can get married there.

A marriage celebrated between a Spaniard and a foreigner, or between foreigners of the same sex resident in Spain, will be valid as a result of applying Spanish material law, even if the foreigner’s national legislation does not permit or recognize the validity of such marriages,” the government declared.

Large turnouts at Reykjavik pride

Approximately 50,000 people participated in the gay pride parade and festivities in Reykjavik, Iceland, the Iceland Review reported. The turnout amounted to one-sixth of the island’s population, which totals 296,737.

Married Aussie MP to quit after gay-sex revelations

A Liberal member of the Parliament of the state of South Australia will not run for office again after it was revealed he had an affair with a 24 year old man that included sex in the MP's office. Announcing his decision, MP Mark Brindal, 57, who is married to a woman, also threatened to reveal other MPs’ secrets.

Aussie study: Catholics are the least homophobic Christians

Among Australian Christians, Roman Catholics are the least homophobic, a new Australia Institute study has found. Two-thirds of Baptists and evangelical Christians told pollsters homosexuality is immoral, compared with only one-third of Catholics. Members of the Anglican and Uniting churches scored similarly gay-friendly.

Nonreligious people were the least antigay of all, with only 19 percent calling homosexuality immoral.

The survey, which questioned 25,000 people, revealed that residents of central and southwestern Queensland state, western Tasmania, and the Sunshine and Gold coasts near Brisbane are the least tolerant.

HIV infections climb among gay Danes

Danish gay and bisexual men apparently have fallen off the safe-sex wagon. HIV infections hit an all-time high last year.

There were 159 cases of HIV transmission between men who have sex with men in 2004, compared with 114 in 2003 and 92 in 2002.

“This is quite serious,” Stop AIDS’ Jakob Haff told the newspaper Berlingske Tidende. “We could be on the brink of a renewed outbreak of the epidemic.”

Amnesty: Uganda targets gay activists

Amnesty International is worried about gay activists in Uganda following the nation's recent passage of a constitutional amendment banning same-sex marriage.

The organization said activist Victor Juliet Mukasa, chair of Sexual Minorities Uganda (SMUG), fears for her safety after her house in a Kampala suburb was raided. Without displaying a search warrant, local officials seized documents and other material. Another lesbian activist who was present during the raid was arrested and taken to a police station where she was subjected to humiliating and degrading treatment.

Recently passed Bill C-2 criminalises writings and recordings “whose dominant characteristic is the description, for a sexual purpose, of sexual activity with a person under the age of eighteen that would be an offence under this Act.”

The law exempts material that has a “legitimate purpose related to the administration of justice or to science, medicine or art,” but only if the author can prove that an undue risk of harm is not posed to persons under the age of 18. Canada’s age of consent is actually 14 except for anal sex, for which it is 18. Thus, the new law disproportionately affects gay art.

Bill C-2 has been denounced by the Canadian national gay lobby group Epale, the large gay publishing company Pink Triangle Press and other gay and civil-liberties organizations.

They say its definitions are so broad and vague as to invite abuse of authority by local police and prosecutors, resulting in artists and writers having to endure expensive public trials to defend their work.

Even Canada’s largest daily newspaper, The Globe and Mail, editorialised that C-2 has “glaring flaws” and is excessive.
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Text cost 50p to send.
DUNDEE SUE 80 male submissive guy with his own place near Dundee is looking to meet dominant fellows up to 45 years of age. He is also into cross-dressing, bondage, CP and poses. "Gentle guys only please. All calls will be returned." Phone 09068 556612 - Number 6248.

BEND OVER 5’9” tall, 20 years old, seeks non-vocational stages. "Do your turns on me and I’ll do your turns on another guy, we both need it, and have fun together. But please don’t send a spammy email!" Phone 09068 556612 - Number 6250.

FELONY NOVICE WANTED 39 years old (or so) looking for a novices and someone who will take someone for a spin. "I’m looking for someone who can make me feel good, and will make me feel at ease. Phone 09068 556612 - Number 6251.

HEADMASTER 48 years old and is interested in working as a master with similar age range as him. Phone 09068 556612 - Number 6252.

THING ANYONE (YOU NAME IT) is a 38 year old male who is not into novelty and is looking for someone to make him happy. Phone 09068 556612 - Number 6253.

HORNY UNCLE Santa is looking for someone to help him out. "I am 63 years old, and have some free time to offer. If you are interested, give me a call." Phone 09068 556612 - Number 6254.

FIRE FETISH FOR RUBBER FACES RUBBER 22 year old man from Dundee is looking for a rubber guy to help him out. Phone 09068 556612 - Number 6255.

LEATHER GLOVES 33 year old boy is looking for a leather gloves for fun and games. "I am looking for someone who can make me feel good, and will make me feel at ease. Phone 09068 556612 - Number 6260.

MILD AND MODERATE 31 year old professional, non-scene gay guy, looking for a like-minded gay or bi-guy who enjoys life - 18-25. Phone 09068 556612 - Number 6261.

TV TIMES 44 year old, straight looking and acting gay guy. Phone 09068 556612 - Number 6262.

COLOURFUL ABERDONIAN 34 year old, tall, slightly chubbier, seeking new faces in Aberdeen. Phone 09068 556612 - Number 6263.

DANCE DAY DANCE DAY 24 year old looking for someone to dance with. Phone 09068 556612 - Number 6264.

STRICT GENTLEMAN 59 year old looking for someone to be his new secretary and master. Phone 09068 556612 - Number 6265.

GORDON is a very naughty boy in Edinburgh who is looking for a teacher to "punish me some more" and to "teach me more". He is 54 years old, slim built and gets lonely. He is looking for a guy who can also occasionally meet with his mum and dad. Phone 09068 556612 - Number 6266.

MEN

RAINBOW 36 year old, 6’2”, cool guys for fun and games. Phone 09068 556612 - Number 6267.

DOUGLAS 57 year old, looking for a 30-40 year old guy to have fun with. Phone 09068 556612 - Number 6268.

INSURANCE SALESMAN SOUGHT 29 year old, looking for something to do in the evenings. Phone 09068 556612 - Number 6269.

BEND OVER 20 year old looking to go out and about, having a laugh, meeting new people. Phone 09068 556612 - Number 6270.

COLOURFUL ABERDONIAN 35 year old, looking for someone to help him out. Phone 09068 556612 - Number 6271.

BOBBY FRANKS 50-year-old retired leatherist from Dundee is looking for someone to meet with and to do things with. He is looking for someone to meet with him for fun and games. Phone 09068 556612 - Number 6272.

EMERSON FITSOMETHING 50 year old gay man in Dundee. Straight acting and looking unusual - boring, travel, music and reading - is looking for a guy with similar interests for fun and games. "If you're interested, please ask me a question and I'll get back to you!" Phone 09068 556612 - Number 6273.

STEVE is a 30 year old straight looking and acting dominant for fun and games. Phone 09068 556612 - Number 6274.

Glasgow Smoothie? Male, mid-forties, quite fit and fully employed levels of CP catered for. No under 25’s, no drinking, smoking or drug using. Phone 09068 556612 - Number 6275.

STRICT GENTLEMAN 59 year old looking for someone to be his new secretary and master. Phone 09068 556612 - Number 6265.
Send all replies to: ScotsGay, PO Box 666, Edinburg EH7 5YW.

TO REPLY TO A CONTACT IN OUR MEET MARKET

Just pop your reply in an envelope with the box number written in the TOP RIGHT corner and place the envelope with your reply inside another envelope with two loose first class stamps. If you are writing out of the UK, an International Reply Coupon (IRC) should be enclosed for each reply instead of postage stamps. International Reply Coupons are available from Post Offices throughout the world. We are unable to send replies without postage stamps or IRCs.

LOOKING FOR ARMED FORCES
My name is a Ghanaian, I am 20 years old and I am a new immigrant.

Looking for someone to stay with, someone who can take care of me.

Send all replies to: ScotsGay, PO Box 666, Edinburg EH7 5YW.
Caithness Gay, Lesbian & Bisexual Group: A support group across the West of Scotland. Tel: 641 5227, Edinburgh. E-mail: caithnessglb@yahoo.co.uk

Icebreakers: A support group for members of the gay, lesbian and bisexual community. The group is relaxed, informal and run by a small team from the Phoenix Project, 19 Bogle St, Greenock on the third Tuesday of each month. If you enjoy the company of other gay people. Run by the Phoenix Project which offers support and information, and a forum for parents of young people questioning their sexual identity. Tel: 01475 758121. For more information, please contact The Phoenix Project, 19 Bogle St, Greenock.

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ABERDEEN

WOMEN'S CENTRE

Shine Line, 95-97 Queen Street, AB25 1QA. Tel: 01224 593726. Sun 11-2pm. £2. McMillan cancer charity. A friendly and positive environment where women can talk to anyone about anything.

ADVICE CENTRE

35A Queen Street, AB10 1NL. Tel: 01224 541999. Mon-Thurs 10am-6pm, Fri 11am-5pm. 6pm. Personal and emotional support, including relationship, family, work, money, legal, housing, community and health advice.

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