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WEST LOTHIAN

QUESTION

Just how far should we go when it comes to those who oppose us?

That’s the question that’s been chasing around my cranium since a West Lothian councillor made a very public arse of himself the other week.

First, Duncan Maclean (Independent councillor for Armadale West) failed to find a seconder at a Council meeting for his motion against the proposals to hold civil partnership ceremonies at registry offices and approved venues. Failing to persuade them, he said they should “hang their heads in shame” and asked why “queers have to parade about in public”.

Then he told the Edinburgh Evening News, “I don’t think I am offending any of my constituents as I know for a fact that none of my voters are gay”. Well, not now I presume.

The ritual calls for his immediate resignation followed from the usual suspects including a petition organised by gay campaigners in Edinburgh. To no avail: the Councillor remains.

But complaints have also followed to the Standards Commission for Scotland. And that’s what worries me.

You see, the Standards Commission (like similar bodies elsewhere in the UK) has draconian powers to remove councillors it considers to have transgressed its standards. That, in itself, wouldn’t be so bad if it merely had the effect of forcing the ousted councillor to go back to his electorate and seek a new mandate.

But the Standards Commission also has the power to ban a councillor from standing again for a considerable period.

In my view, that’s anti-demosocratic. If people want to re-elect a tosser, that’s up to them.

But it’s all part of the modern trend to silence dissent and reduce the possible scope of debate. Often, this is dressed up as a way of reducing hurt to the feelings of minority groups. But, instead, it’s creating a society in which we don’t know who many of our enemies actually are.

If homophobes, racists, sexists and other assorted twallies are encouraged to speak their minds (which shouldn’t take too long), then we can combat their nonsense by rational debate.

If they’re forced to stay quiet, their pernicious cancer of irrationality may grow undetected and unopposed until it takes over the whole body politic.

I really don’t want to see that happen.

So, what should we do about the modern Councillor Maclean? Well, I for one would rather like to see next year’s Pride Scotia march moved through from Glasgow to Armadale.

This would not only have an illuminating effect on the good people of West Lothian, but would also mean that those of us from Edinburgh wouldn’t have to travel so far to Pride in 2006.

For which, some of us might thank the Sage of Armadale West whilst leaving the far travelled Weegies to vent their spleen on his doorstep.

I knew I’d find a use for a homophobe one day!

John Hein
E-mail: editorial@scotsgay.co.uk

The Cost of Equality!

All cohabiting same-sex couples will experience a reduction in state benefits, as a side effect the new Civil Partnership Act. Even couples who don’t want a civil partnership and have not registered their relationship will face cuts.

In addition, same-sex friends or ex-lovers who live together will have to prove that they are not in a relationship - otherwise they, too, will lose out financially. It is feared that the Department for Work and Pensions will assume that all cohabitants are partners and cut their benefits accordingly.

These revelations come from LGBT human rights group OutRage! and Rainbow Ripples, the Leeds Lesbian, Gay and Bisexual Disabled People’s Group.

They are concerned that civil partnerships will be financially beneficial to rich same-sex couples, but cause economic hardship to many low income and benefit-dependent LGB (lesbian, gay and bisexual) partners - especially unemployed, elderly, ill or disabled people.

OutRage! has written to David Blunkett MP, Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, urging the government to offer transitional protection to all the UK’s existing LGB state benefit claimants.

From December, to coincide with the introduction of civil partnerships, the government’s pensions and benefits agencies will assess as a couple all same-sex partners who are living together, ending individual assessment.

Couples will have no choice. The new arrangements will be forced on same-sex partners who choose not to register a civil partnership. There will be no transitional relief to help ease financial hardships caused by the new rules.

This means that an elderly LGB couple who previously received individual pensions will be reassessed as the equivalent of a married or civil partnership couple. They will receive only a married couple’s pension - resulting in a loss of nearly a third of their pension income.

It will also have devastating effects for a couple where one partner is on means-tested benefits and the other is earning a good income. Because they will be jointly assessed, the partner claiming benefits could lose most or all of their benefits income, including housing benefit and free prescriptions and dental treatment.

This could add thousands of pounds to the annual costs of cohabiting same-sex households, where one partner is on a low income or is unemployed, elderly, sick or disabled.

Joint assessment and cuts in benefits will force the partner on benefits to become financially dependent on their income-earning partner.

It will also mean that if they took out a tenancy or mortgage based on their existing benefits, the loss of income may force them to move to cheaper rented accommodation or to sell their home.

All LGB benefit claimants in relationships will be worse off.
We're pleased to announce that ScotsGay is now sponsoring free Wi-Fi Internet access in the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender Community Centre at 58a/60 Broughton Street, Edinburgh.

Coverage is currently restricted to the front room of Sala and the main meeting room downstairs, but our boffin is working on boosting the signal.

ScotsGay - Working for OUR Community
Gay Affirming Edinburgh Church calls new Pastor

The Metropolitan Community Church of Edinburgh, an Edinburgh Church, founded 10 years ago within the lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender community, has unanimously voted to call Rev Kerri Mesner as their new Pastor.

Rev Mesner, a native of Victoria, Canada, has a background in the arts, education and community work, bringing to the Church skills as a performer, manager, educator and mediator. She is graduate of the College of New Rochelle on the New York Theological Seminary campus and the American Musical and Dramatic Academy.

Rev Mesner completed her training for ordination in Metropolitan Community Church of New York where she was involved in running children’s ministry and transgender ministry and has served Metropolitan Community Church groups and congregations in Vancouver and North London.

Rev Mesner is looking forward to fitting into Edinburgh in early November. “Edinburgh is a beautiful City with an active and committed LGBT Community. It will be an honour to minister in this setting - I know that, working together, we can truly seek to live Christ’s Gospel of love and liberation for all.”

Human Fertility and Embroylogy Act

The UK government is currently reviewing the Human Fertilisation and Embroylogy Act 1990 (the HFE Act): the public consultation closes on Fri 25 Nov.

The HFE Act regulates all fertility treatment in the UK, including the use of donated sperm at treatment centres licensed by the Human Fertilisation and Embroylogy Authority (HFEA).

When a woman is treated with donor sperm at a licensed fertility clinic, if she has a male partner, a mixed-sex couple can be ‘treated together’, which makes a husband the legal father of the child and gives him automatic parental rights and responsibilities (PRR); a male cohabitant is still the legal father of the child and can apply for PRR.

However, the HFE Act’s language specifically excludes female partners. Not only is there no entitlement under this legislation for the female partner of the woman treated with donor sperm to become the child’s legal parent, section 13(6) of the HFE Act specifies that before a woman can receive fertility treatment, the clinic must take into account the need of that child for a father.

The HFEA guidelines say that ‘where the child will have no legal father’ the treatment centre is expected to ‘not only the ability of the mother to care for the child, but also ‘the ability of other persons within the family or social circle willing to share responsibility for those needs’.

The Equality Network believes that the language of the HFE Act should be amended to give civil partnership equal legal status with marriage: and that when a same-sex couple are treated together as a couple, the other partner should have the same right to be the legal parent of a child conceived via donor sperm, as the man in a mixed-sex couple does now.

See the Department of Health’s live consultations webpage (scroll down to Review of the Human Fertilisation and Embroylogy Act: A public consultation) http://www.dh.gov.uk/Consultations/Liv eConsultations/

The HFEA’s response to the Department of Trade and Industry Women and Equality Unit’s Civil Partnership consultation is available (scroll down to Published repsonses to consultations) at http://www.hfea.gov.uk/AboutHFEA/Con sultations/

BICYCLES RIDE INTO TOWN

by Alison Eales, Communications Manager, BiCon 2006

BiCon, a weekend-long festival for bisexual people and their allies, is coming to Glasgow in 2006.

BiCon, the annual national bisexual gathering, always enjoys a diverse attendance, representing a wide cross-section of gender, sexuality, ethnicity, spirituality, age, ability, lifestyle, and tastes. A comment often heard by attendees is how positive and accepting everybody is, and that they wish the rest of the world could be more like BiCon!

BiCon 2005 was held at University College, Worcester on the last weekend in August, and proved to be a huge success. There were many and very varied workshops on topics ranging from speed dating to commitment to Japanese bondage. The Time Travellers’ Ball was hugely well-attended, with music spanning the 1950's to the present and most attendees arriving in fancy-dress.

In 2006 the 24th BiCon will be held at Glasgow Caledonian University on the Glasgow Fair weekend (Thu 13th - Mon 17th Oct).

The organising team has a policy of inclusion, and we welcome suggestions from anyone who feels they would like to contribute. Most of the team attended BiCon 2005, and gathered valuable input from those attending.

Our goals for BiCon 2006 are to run a really fun event for the UK bisexual community and to create a space where attendees can feel accepted, and be safe from persecution. We will also do everything we can to make the event accessible to anyone who wishes to attend, including one-day registrations, a sliding scale of registration fees, a Helping Hand Fund, provision of child care and fully accessible literature, and close contact with the venue to ensure accessibility.

In addition, we would like to have a particularly Scottish theme to the event, and hope to improve bi-visibility in Scotland and to network with and involve other LGBT groups in Scotland.

The BiCon 2006 website at http://www.bicon2006.org.uk/ includes a Frequently Asked Questions section, information on travelling to Glasgow, and hopefully soon an interactive area for suggestions.

If you would like further information about BiCon, please visit the web address above, or alternatively E-mail team@bicon2006.org.uk

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: http://www.gro-scotland.gov.uk/recognit/gender-recognition.html whilst information about how to apply for gender recognition is available from http://www.grp.gov.uk/

Switchboard Rings Changes

There is a new way to contact LGBT Gay & Lesbian Switchboard: check out their website at http://www.ligs.co.uk/ for news of their services, their events, what’s on in town, links to other organisations and sexual health info, etc. Click into their e-mail support service. Their trained volunteers will answer you within 72 hours. It’s now live. Meanwhile, they apologise for any recent disconnection to their phone services while they’ve been having a major upgrade to their helpline systems.

They’re still there almost every night on 0131-556 4049. They’re recruiting for new volunteers for their team. See their ad for more details. Finally, if you didn’t make the Highland Fling, a date for your diaries is Sat 15th Feb 2008: see website for more details.

Racqueleurs

The popular Racqueleurs Badminton Group which meets Thu evening 7-9pm at Meadowbank Stadium in Edinburgh will be taking a break after their Christmas party and arrive then and have the chance of meeting up for forty other speed daters. Contact Mel on 0131 426 8650 to book.

All Together

Public services Trades Union UNISON is to hold its Annual Scottish Conference for LGBT Members on 9th Dec. Speakers will include Lothian and Borders Chief Constable Paddy Tomsik.

Fife

Fife Men will be celebrating World AIDS with a number of events after 1st Dec but they’ll have an extra day. At Kirkcaldy Farmer’s Market on 26th Nov. On the day itself (Thu 1st Dec) they’ll be distributing condoms at the Harlins nightclubs in Kirkcaldy and Dunfermline. On Sat 3rd Dec, Kirkcaldy Town Square will see a Red Ribbon Balloon Release to which local MP Gordon Brown has been invited.

Research

Researchers are asking for ScotsGay readers’ to take part in a national survey exploring domestic violence in same sex relationships. Researchers based at Sunderland and Bristol Universities are being funded by the Economic and Social Research Council (ESRC) to undertake this research. If you’d like to take part, telephone Jonathan Holmes on 0191-515 2218 or E-mail: jonathan.j.holmes@sunderland.ac.uk

Transgender Offender

The Police. Public Order and Criminal Justice (Scotland) Bill, available on the Scottish Parliament website under Bills in Progress, contains possibly the first reference to “transgender” in British legislation: a court may make the order that the person convicted of engaging in a sexual relation or disorder by stirring up hatred against a group or against an individual defined by their identity as a member of that group. The “groups” listed include both sexual orientation and transgender identity. See http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/business/b ills/billprogress

Census

Officials from the General Register Office for Scotland are to carry out a sample survey, asking a large number of people to take a box to show if they are heterosexual, homosexual, bisexual or other. The Equality Network is carrying out a survey on the proposed wording of national census questions about sexual orientation - http://tinyurl.com/92ml
Whether you are buying or selling a house, need a Will drawn up, Investment Advice or are bereaved and need help winding up an estate and want a gay solicitor to do the work, call Donald Reid.

19 Torphichen Street, Edinburgh, EH3 8HX
Tel: 0131-228 2828
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Web Address: http://www.vmh.co.uk/
Churches were once the main place to be in towns for people of all ages to meet on a regular basis. A chance to talk, laugh, hold socials, meet anyone new, and perhaps secretly flirt with the regulars you’d previously had your eye on. One such church in Leith embodies these same social principles under the guise of a nightclub. **Mariners**, a converted church retaining many of its period features, hosts women’s club night **Velvet** on the first of each month. And the place has class.

On entering the softly lit building you are met by the male and female bouncer team. They don’t push their weight around but they have enough presence so that you wouldn’t think they’d have much trouble taking control of any problems. Inside the main door lies a short, wide corridor where customers pay their £3 (entry before 10.30pm) and get a cat stamped on their hands before entering the main building. The space on the lower level is partially split by a bar/staircase fusion, with booths running up both sides leading you to a modern version of a retro looking dance floor. The second level is open to the full height of the church and comprises of sofa and matching stool areas and small bar. Transparent panels around the drop to the dance floor connect the split level arrangement. The lighting inside is sufficient enough so that you’re not straining to see your friends and dark enough so you don’t feel like you’re on display.

Although this is primarily a women’s club, men are welcome if accompanied by a gay lady. This is a good idea and works well as long as the men don’t mind the fact that both toilets are open to women – fantastic! - less of the usual queuing for us girls. The men’s toilets have plumbed in buckets instead of the usual urinals, definitely worth a look.

Both the music and women who attend are diverse and likely to suit most tastes. The DJ booth is on the lower level looking onto the dance floor, two DJs take turns at choosing music throughout the night.

There were the usual little cliques but most of the clientele were mixing and there were plenty of people on the dance floor.

There wasn’t anything that put a dampener on my night even though twice during the evening, the glamorous, if over excited Natalie spilt her drinks over me (but that says more about Nat then it does the club).

Jess
jessica_laine@hotmail.co.uk

If you know of a ladies or mixed night that I should be writing about, or have anything to say about VELVET, get in touch at the E-mail above. xxx

I’d like to say thanks to everyone who posed for pictures. All the best to Serge, Cara, Claire, Helgo & Lyngar, Fiona, Kizzy, Greg, Jimmy, Maggie, Nancy & Elle, Mags, Desmond, Becky and Pete, Bob, Jo, Carrie, Lorrain, Jodie, Sarah, Anneka, Phil, Marlin, Natalie and all the venue staff. Sorry there wasn’t room for all the photos!
One highlight of the recent Lesbian and Gay Film Festival was, *Summer Storm*, which concerns Tobi, star of the rowing club, who is very attached to fellow team member, Achim. Achim has a girlfriend, and encourages Tobi to get closer to his own “girlfriend”. All four travel to the summer rowing competition, where and out team called Queer Strokes are competing. Tobi’s real feelings can no longer being suppressed.

One of the Queer Stroke team is keen on Tobi, and eventually things come to a head in a way very explicit for a mainstream film. You won’t forget the scene on the landing stage!

Yes, this is a German film, but you will forget any subtitle problems as you watch the gorgeous guys and enjoy the humour and the action. And I know what my favourite line in the film is - it comes very close to the end. Look out for the DVD!

You don’t have to join the rowing team to enjoy the company of handsome German men. All of the major German cities have a very wide range of gay venues, from gay “locals”, to mainstream clubs, to fetish venues, to saunas (for a long time now, Amsterdam has not been the only fruit) I’m sorry, but comparing the scene in say, Cologne with Bristol or Hamburg or Edinburgh suggests that Britain still has not entirely shaken free of Queen Victoria’s petticoats. If you haven’t tried Germany there is a treat in store at many levels – scene, architecture, history, lakes and spas – and very friendly people.

Back in Britain, I hear of the two vile killers who attacked Jody Dobrowski on Clapham Common in London last month. In what was called ‘a frenzied attack’ they seem to have pulped the head and neck of poor Jody, a 24 year old bar manager. The police said that, despite being accustomed to violent crime, they were taken aback by the injuries.

Homophobic crime occurs everywhere, in our cities, towns and countryside. However, it is reckoned that only about a fifth of anti gay hate crime gets reported. A spokesman for Gallup, the LBGT charity that counsels victims and homophobic harassment and violence said, “The level of hate crime is high and the level of reporting is low”. I’m sure there are many reasons why some of the people using a place like Clapham Common would not like it to be known that they were there. If they are attacked and the crime is not even reported, there is nothing is going to happen with the attackers. They are going to feel emboldened to further attacks.

The police stated that they felt that Jody Dobrowski’s murderers have attacked before, as such a sustained and vicious attack and would not be usual in a first attack. So those people who have been attacked on Clapham Common in recent months have two thugs became more confident, might now have some serious reflecting to do. Silent victims breed crime.

Whether you are in Edinburgh or Elgin or Irvine it could be you. And if self-respect means anything, it means standing up for yourself against attackers. Make sure that, even if you don’t want to reveal your details, the police know that the crime has happened. But preferably, pursue the matter as fully as you can. If we all display this kind of self-respect we will all be safer.

*tony_challis@hotmail.com  
Tony writes for the Lesbian and Gay Humanist*
Hello and welcome, I have taken over from Chris writing about Dundee. I have the daunting task of being one of the very few females writing for ScotsGay. My name is Beth and I am the new chair of Diversitay. You may know me from Dundee University where I graduated 2 years ago, from the Union where I worked for nearly 4 years or from Drouthy Neebors where recently worked. I hope to carry on from where Chris left off but also try to get as many new organisations and events in as possible.

Diversitay will be holding its monthly Icebreaker on Thu 17th November in Braes. This is a chance for people who may not be fans of the scene, people new to the area or people coming to terms with their sexuality to have a few drinks in a safe relaxed environment. Diversitay also hopes to build on the women’s disco held last month and try and organise something for the New Year. Most importantly, Diversitay is always on the look out for new volunteers - as Dundee’s only LGBT organisation, the help of the community is always needed. For more call (01382) 202620 on a Monday night or visit http://www.diversitay.org.uk/

Down the road at Brooklyn’s there is karaoke on Wednesday, Friday and Sunday nights, their pool competition on a Thursday night and the Showbar the last Saturday of the month (26th November). For those who have yet to visit the Showbar it is a must before Xmas. If you’re a weekend club goer, why not branch out and visit on a Wednesday or Thursday where they have a selection of shooters and spirits for a quid. Friday nights see Jamie on the decks and Saturday nights see Dean, no matter how much you resist they’ll have you tapping your feet and before you know it strutting your stuff on the dance floor.

Does your mother know is back at the Union every other Thursday Night (10th and 24th November) with Ross providing the music. This is a must for all students and for all you non-students, go, befriend one and get signed in, remember to bring some photographic ID in order to get past security.

For the ladies of Dundee I must mention Wee Bissums. This is a monthly newsletter for the women of Tayside and is an ideal way of keeping up with what’s happening in the area - E-mail: weebiz@hotmail.com for more information. For the energetic ones amongst you Lillidots meets once a month for hill walking with a side of socialising, I haven’t been able to get more details or contact information so if somebody can help please get in touch at my E-mail below.

beth_scotsgay@yahoo.com
Hi there and here is this month’s round up of what’s happening North of anywhere.

PHACE Scotland in Grampian is about to go through a wee bit of a change over the next couple of months. The reason is that Mark Thomson and his partner Mark are relocating to Leeds.

This is Mark T’s farewell:

After five very happy years at PHACE and almost twenty years in Aberdeen it has not been an easy decision to make. Mark and myself have spent a lot of time over the last two months deliberating, cogitating and discussing our options. Mark takes up a new post with Cooper Cameron in Leeds as a Product Design Engineer (he’s the brains in the family, closely followed by the cat!) at the end of October and I’ll be moving on to some similar work with Yorkshire MESMAC in early December.

One of the things I’ll miss most about Aberdeen and PHACE Scotland is the people. Since I came onto to scene as I said earlier almost twenty years ago. I joined the then ‘Aberdeen Gay Group’ now NESGG, I never realised what support and friendship I would be lucky enough to have in what I then thought of as the ‘Big City’ (come on…I did come from Elgin!!), Aberdeen is often accused of having a small town mentality, I’ve said so myself! But what that also does is give Aberdeen in the main a close and friendly atmosphere that for a country boy at the time was very comforting. I think that feeling still exists today in the city.

The LGBT community has changed and developed quite a bit since I moved here in the late eighties, we have a fantastic network of groups, internet resources, links with the police, health and local authorities and have proved through the PRIDE in Aberdeen events the talent and drive to do things for ourselves that bring not only our own community together but the wider Grampian community as a whole.

There are really too many people for me to say thank you to individually for their support, friendship and advice (some taken, some not!) both in my private life, previous work and at PHACE Scotland so I will only mention a few here: The staff past and present at PHACE Scotland, here in Aberdeen and Glasgow, but especially Charlie McMillan, Susan MacDonald, Leslie Hay and Michael McGregor; Andy Webb and Bridge! (those well kent faces); Graeme Fyvie and Nicky Summers (you know why); but more important than anyone Mark Guest, the most wonderful person I know.

So as the late Ronnie Barker would say, ‘Its goodnight from him and a goodnight from me’. As aye have fun, be safe and let’s be careful out there!

It is sad to see friends leave the area and Mark T’s effort and enthusiasm for working in and developing the LGBT community will be missed. I wish them both all the best for their new adventure South of the Border and hope that they will stay in touch.

The date for Pride in Aberdeen’s AGM has been announced -it will be held on Thu 24th Nov at 7.30pm in the Premier Travel Inn, West North Street, Aberdeen – just opposite the Lemon Tree. The old Board will be standing down and a new one elected to bring us next year’s Pride event. For further details, contact Chris - E-mail: chris@prideinaberdeen.org.uk

There will be a meeting of the Police Forum on Wed 16th Nov at 7.30pm in the Service Centre next door to the Police Office at Bucksburn. All visitors should go to the Public Office at Bucksburn Police where you will be met. The format of the meeting will be an introduction to the Service Centre, its role and the launch of the Consultation and its associated Action Plan. There will be an opportunity for questions and discussion on these topics. Contact Joan Morrison at Community Partnerships on Aberdeen (01224) 709576.

Continuing on the success of the LGBT Sports Club a further couple of walks are planned. The first will be the circuit of Loch Muick near Ballater and will be on Sun 13th Nov. The second will be a walk in or around Aberdeen and will be on Sun 11th Dec. Meet at the Phace offices on Waverley place at 10.15am. The next two meetings for the club to discuss future events will be on Thu 17th Nov and Thu 15th Dec both at 8pm at Phace. Phone the Phace Offices on (0845) 241 2151.

A couple of performances of ‘Game, Set and Match’ written by Mark Thomson will be performed for World Aids Day at the former Linksfield Academy on King Street. The dates are Sat 26th and Sun 27th Nov starting at 7.30pm. There are no tickets but donations towards World Aids Day will be gratefully received on both evenings.

As I am looking to hand over the role of Aberdeen’s reporter anyone wishing to take over from me please contact the editor.

tivoli_abdn@yahoo.co.uk

Silence is Not Golden

‘Silence is Not Golden’ is a new website aimed at tackling homophobia in our society. Supported by Police Forces across the country it aims to break the silence surrounding homophobia and hate crimes. Created by the same people that provide the online community Out Everywhere this website gives LGBT people the chance to speak out about homophobia. There are sections on providing advice for staying safe, personal experiences and links to police forces and support organisations across the country. There is also the ability to report a homophobic incident, advice on why you should and the different ways in which you can.

This site is not only for the benefit of LGBT people, but for our whole society. By working together and spreading the word, we can break through the silence that surrounds the lives of people affected by homophobia and hate crime. We can help make homophobic behaviour unacceptable. Being lesbian, gay, bisexual or transgender is not a crime, but abuse is. Everyone has the right to live without fear. If you are a victim of homophobia – tell someone. Contact Lisa on Escrick (01904) 727805 for information or visit http://www.silenceisnotgolden.org/
GodPods and Holy Socks! One step away from Blow-Up Priests and Biblical Loo Roll. Is The Church About To Blow Itself Apart? Asks Garry Otton

The Church gets evermore desperate. An advertorial in The Sunday Times Scotland for the Ideal Church Show - sorry, should I say, Christian Resources Show - held at The Royal Highland Centre at Ingliston said it all. It's a veritable Paddy's Market of Karaoke machines; preaching puppets; non-alcoholic communal wines; a GodPod; (solar-powered talking Bible); a board game called Salvation Challenge where players compete to give away money; game called Salvation Challenge where (solar-powered talking Bible); a board game called Salvation Challenge where players compete to give away money; make-up for Christian clowns; JCUK tee-shirts and Holy Socks adorned with Biblical scenes. There's everything but a make-up for Christian clowns; JCUK tee-shirts and Holy Socks adorned with Biblical scenes. There's everything but...
Commission has raised its objections with the city council, claiming it has not been consulted about a matter – sexual health and contraception – where it should have a major input. Should it? Just ask them how they treat gay kids! I don’t recall any Scottish newspaper challenging them on such an issue. I don’t recall any other religious media – or any other religion for that matter – having any business interfering in sex education, let alone being allowed to run schools, or worse, securing public funds to run them. With one in ten teenage girls infected with Chlamydia, Europe’s worst pregnancy figures and rising sexual infections in Scotland, we need radical action. If that means sweeping aside the moral concerns of religious feminists and moral conservatives, then so be it!

Some years ago I appeared on a programme filmed in Aberdeen debating whether gay kids should have children. The discussion centered on the opposing factions’ right down the middle. I remember a headmistress on the other side of the room indignantly remonstrating that these poor children would be victimised in school. The very idea of tackling the root causes of the bullying was clearly a step too far for her. 14-year-old Ross McKirdy is different. The six-foot, gentle giant is also a brilliant musician. (Perhaps in later years, his parents might be fortunate enough to discover they have a gay son, but for the time being, his sexuality is not an issue). He was a victim of an assault filmed by the perpetrators on their mobile phones and has suffered terribly at the hands of the bullies. His schooldays have been a complete misery and seemingly, like for so many gay kids, an utter waste of time. He has already had to move school twice and admitted to wanting to take his own life. After reading his diary of despair, his parents became desperate enough to try a private school, but when the cash ran out, Ross was forced back to a state school. However accessible good (and bad) porn is to kids, chances of being discovered by accident seems to be the most damaging. Out in the open is when people are forced to deal with it. The Southern Reporter’s staff reporter Bob Burgess told the tragic story of a 61-year-old religious education teacher, John Stephen, who ran the school’s video club. He was forced to resign after being convicted of culpable and reckless conduct. Rape? A stabbing? Pissing on his neighbour’s roses? No. Mr Stephen sold a video he picked up at the notorious law, introduced by former PM, Margaret Thatcher to prevent local authorities from ‘promoting’ homosexuality in schools. I have to say, I’m uncertain at this stage, of the Scottish Media Monitor’s future. The Scottish “…the mass killer was accused of taking ‘dirty’ photographs of a young boy.
Well it’s that time of year again when Witches, Werewolves and Wierdos wander wild, within and without!

The Riverside Club is hosting ‘Utter Gutter’ on Fri 28th Oct, if you don’t like the mainstream gay scene you may enjoy this. Bennets and the Polo are doing their ‘Halloween’ head to head thing, with events from Thu 27th Oct through to Sun 30th Oct, it’s so inconvenient to have it fall on a Monday! Ghosts, goulies and goblins may not be your thing and not everyone thinks that Mr Fox was a bad guy! Fireworks going off at all hours and mid-riffed tops in mid-winter may do your head in but it’s all part and parcel of the season. If you take my advice you will baton down the hatches and just wait it out! Or you could join in, let’s face it anything goes at this time of year as far as gear goes and you may well surprise yourself by having a wee bit of fun! Guising used to be laugh!

BURLY is in the Arches on the 4th of Nov for its Carnival of Sin, they are still looking for dancers brave enough to do the stage. Violate will provide the ‘torture chamber’ and music by DJ Raymo and Hi-Fi Sean, the wickedness begins in Revolver Bar at 8pm and the Carnival is from 10.30pm till 3am! If you were lucky enough to catch it at last year’s Glasgay! then you know what to expect, if not give yourself a wee treat - you will love it!

Death Disco is having its third birthday in the Arches on 19th Nov - it promises to be interesting with ‘3D visuals’ and ‘play rooms’, you have David Holmes and Johnnie Wilkes to thank for bringing some imagination to clubbers!

Club Devotion has ‘Respect’ with DJ Mark on Thu and ‘Classic’ on Sun and it’s free! A ‘Tee Perty’ is promised in the future, for those who don’t attend places of a worship between the hours of 2pm and 7pm.

Photography has long been a love of mine so I was pleased to hear about two exhibits popping up from mid Oct to mid Nov. The Tron is hanging ‘Menelas: Shirley’s Temple’. For those of you who are not up in 90’s club history, Shirley’s Temple was an archetypal mixed Glasgow nightclub where anything went. The more things change the more they remain the same!

Christopher Bowen’s ‘Bobyshots’ is on at the Q! Gallery in the Saltmarket, these ‘portraits’ are moody in feel and seems to take a wee bit of the guys soul as the lens captures the image. Aching is an exhibition by Craig Robertson from the 1st of Nov in the Brunswick Hotel. He describes his body of work as ‘the work of his body’. Self-portraiture is used to explore form, outside and in with quite beautiful results. These photos are more than just ‘figure work’ they are art, hung in a gallery or in your home it brings an atmosphere all of its own.

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

criz@drink.demon.co.uk
ScotsGay cover girls, Annie Sprinkle and Beth Stephens are at the Centre for Contemporary Arts with a celebration of lesbian love as art in Post Porn Love, a red wedding for all! What happens when former porn star and performance artist Annie Sprinkle falls madly in love with experimental artist, professor and sexy dyke playboy Elizabeth Stephens? Check out this world premiere, exploring art, sex, death and queer weddings.

Hot on the heels of her sell-out concert at last year’s Glasgay!, Carol Laula performs at the Glasgow Royal Concert Hall with the World premiere of her new album “Kitchen Stories”. Written between Mexico and Lewis, it’s an acoustic journey that will transport you from the kitchen to far away shores.

There is more great music at The Tron, where Ruth Martin’s eclectic style and unique blend of acoustic folk/rock feature tales of love, loss and yearning combined with her down-to-earth style and distinctive country-blues-inspired voice.

If you’re looking for a serious play, The Citizens Theatre presents a new multimedia adaptation of Manuel Puig’s Kiss of The Spiderwoman. An old radical Communist martyr with a secret longing for a “woman with class” and a gay film lover may seem unlikely bedfellows and indeed, they are. But the interplay between the characters will take you to a tense, tight and totally gripping emotional space. Add a very modern multi media layer and you have what should be a very rewarding experience.

Also at the Citz you should check out the dark and richly funny Whatever Happened To Baby Jane – the chamber musical – well worth a look if you’re a fan of the classic film. The Theatre Royal brings us The Royal

Scotland’s annual celebration of queer culture is back GLASGAY! is bigger than ever with hundreds of events at seventeen venues across the city. To find out more read on...
National Theatre in Alan Bennett’s The History Boys an intensely moving funny play of depth as well as dazzle. Back at the Tron we find Tim Fountain, who brings us his naughty, sexy show - first seen in Scotland at the Edinburgh Fringe. In Sex Addict he casts his online net across Glasgow in the search of the perfect partner - and you decide who he hooks up with. Also at the Tron is a personal favourite of ours for many years, Chloe Poems - the gay socialist transvestite poet. This Verse Vaudevillian returns perhaps more literary than in her cabaret these days, but none the less as stark, vivid and entertaining as ever.

The film programmes at both the CCA and GFT have expanded massively from previous years. You can expect everything from Cowboys & Angels to 70’s icons Klaus Nomi and That Man Peter Berlin to kick boxing legend Michelle Arbore, the hilarious take off The D Word and Australia’s own Stonewall story The Tasty Bust Reunion as well as the 20th anniversary screening of My Beautiful Laundrette. If you missed them in Edinburgh live earlier this year, catch New York’s hottest cabaret act, Kiki and Herb, in a filmed recording of their live London performance on HMS President showing at the CCA - featuring songs made famous by the likes of Eminem, Radiohead, Kate Bush and Britney Spears. Brilliant.

Those fab folk at Healty Gay Scotland are exhibiting Cock Tales, at the Q! Gallery. Aimed at young gay and bisexual men, Cock Tales seeks to educate and inform as well as entertain and amuse. For the first time anywhere, visitors will be able to view original artwork from Issues One and Two of Cock Tales, as well as a sneak preview of Issue Three. Trace the development of favourite strips, from first rough sketches to final colour artwork, and get an exclusive look at unseen material.

The GLASGAY! festival wouldn’t be complete without some top comedy. Pam Ann (The Garage), Scott Capurro (The Stand) and Nathan Evens (the Tron) feature, but pick of the bunch must be Topping and Butch – don’t miss their show at The Stand – sadly performing for one night only. Combining satire and camp, Topping and Butch are the best double act in the UK today. Do what ever you can do to get a ticket - and tell them ScotsGay sent you!
So Margaret Thatcher has survived past her 80th birthday. And I am duly impressed, especially with Tony Blair whom, although too busy to commemorate Robin Cook’s life at a ceremony in Edinburgh, found time to party on with his right wing friend.

It was Thatcher who personally championed the infamous Clause 28, which effectively sought to bar any discussion of homosexuality in schools and put an end to local authority funding of community resources aimed a gay people. And it was the leadership of the ‘Old Labour’ Party that refused to the back so called Looney Left councils - which sought only to deal with this issue sensibly.

Thatcher’s hate law lead to an increase in the bullying of kids, the victimisation of gay teachers and succeeded in encouraging queer bashing.

Didn’t we just love the eighties? Thankfully amongst all these attacks, Frankie Goes to Hollywood were on hand to help us Relax.

Perhaps at 35 I’m getting old. But when discussing this ancient history with a couple of younger guys in Edinburgh’s Planet Out the other day, whilst they had heard of Frankie and indeed, were fans, they had no idea that their debut hit, ‘Relax’ had been banned by the BBC for being ‘too gay’ and for ‘promoting gay sex.’ Their lead singer, Holly Johnson, was (and still is) not only openly gay but, bold, brash and beautiful at a time when a closeted Elton John was getting married and Boy George ‘preferred a cup of tea’.

Nor had they an inkling of Clause/Section 28, the once unequal age of consent, the pretty policemen picking up and then arresting men in toilets, the police raids on gay bars – to those two eighteen year olds, the only problems with being gay were “coming out to my mum” and “where is my next shag is coming from?”

Of course, whilst much has changed for the better, things for us queers are still far from perfect. There are those that say that “past is passed” and have no time for history lessons. But what about those that marched, campaigned, protested, broke the law, got arrested, imprisoned, and worse, to fight for these rights that we all enjoy?

Thankfully there are those that still see the inequalities in today’s society and continue to campaign for change. That’s why ScotsGay proudly supports the work of the Equality Network, a campaigning organisation for total equality for all LGBT people in Scotland. We heartily recommend you visit http://www.equality-network.org for the latest on all issues effecting you – yes you! – and those of your friends and partners. If you’ve never been on a gay pride march or have no idea who your MSP is - well here is a good place to start.

LGBT rights, of course, may not be your bag. Perhaps the ‘Identity Politics’ of gay reform is too narrow for your agenda. Well then, take a look at the state of the environment, the state of your local hospital, or the state of the war in Iraq. Gay rights, workers rights, and all other rights have all been hard won by those that have gone before and campaigned for them. Unjust wars have ended, and lives saved, by those that protested for peace. History teaches that the old cliché, ‘You Can Make a Difference’ holds true. The information is all out there for anyone who can type a line into http://www.google.co.uk. Take a look, take an interest, and surprise yourself.

mgwuk@hotmail.com
ScotsGay Industrial Action

Review BURLY – Industrial Strength @ The Caves Friday 21st October 2005

BURLY - usually held in the Arches Glasgow and Mariners Edinburgh saw the award winning BURLY boys deliver an utterly fantastic club night at The Caves, Cowgate, Edinburgh. The club famous for its theme nights, attracted a heady mixture of superb looking BURLY men : bears/skins/leathermen/kilties/sportsmen/joe blokes and guys tooled-up wearing Industrial gear. The brilliant club DJ HiFi Seans’ electro house music gave a deep dark throb to the night ensuring the dance floor was packed all night. The excellent club layout of bars, chill out area’s and caves gave an edge to the night. Bears mainly took over the upstairs bar with its large balcony, lots of nooks and cranny’s allowed for a safe cruisy atmosphere to snog your favourite BURLY guy. BURLY has really moved with the times of the gay scene in Scotland and is for my money the best club around.
He used to give me roses I wish he could again... ah, the theme to Australia's most popular drama series – Prisoner Cell Block H. In the late 80's ITV screened this series – the original Bad Girls pulling in more than 11million viewers, tucked away after the watershed on Tue evenings. Set in Wentworth Detention Centre, we followed the goings on of the inmates in Block H. The star of the show in the early years and half the run of the show, Val Lehman (better known as Top Dog 'Queen Bea') has launched her own official website at http://www.val-lehman.com/

Val and the show has a strong fan base within the LGBT Community though a certain Edinburgh Nightclub turned down the offer of having Val doing a PA, apparently she doesn't pull in the crowds any more, a bit weird considering she is still the best known face of a programme first shown before I was born!

On the showbiz stuff, Madonna and Kate Bush have albums out in November both the best I have heard.

And oh yes why I am here (I was beginning to wonder – and that was after cutting four paras of this guff. Who do you think you are? John Addy? Ed.) the scene...

Fur-burger one of Edinburgh’s newest and hottest nights out has confirmed their next date which will be - Thu 10th Nov and then 2nd Thu of the month. The venue is the popular eGo on Picardy Place. 11pm-3am / £3 admission / drink promotions music provided by Dejay Bird, The Funki Diva, DJ Michelle & Guests you have been told to wear good shoes (wonder why?).

The weekend starts... Nowhere! With a new club night: "Nowhere" also at eGo. 1st Thu of the month - starts Thu 3rd Nov. Admission £3 / Drink Promotions DJs: Dejay Bird, DJ Michelle, The Funki Diva, DJ Yonis & Special Guests. Nowhere is based on the ever changing New York Club scene with people as eclectic as the music. Sounds interesting check out the website or pop into planet for more info and let me know what you think.

http://www.clubnowhere.co.uk
The Turkey-based Persian Gay & Lesbian Organization has posted graphic photos on its Web site of an Iranian gay man who escaped Iran after being beaten by the police because of his homosexuality.

The photos can be seen at http://ngo.pgp.org/english/index.htm

"Amir" said an underground policeman made a date with him over the Internet, then arrested him as he arrived. A week later he was sentenced to 100 lashes, which were administered in jail.

Amir said the police told him that if he were apprehended again, he would be hanged like the two male teens recently executed in the city of Mashad. The government claims those teens were hanged for raping a boy, but some human-rights groups say they have information that the boys were executed solely for being gay.

Homosexuals are ... subjected to oppression, injustice and death and it is likely that only a small fraction of it comes to light," the Persian gay group said. "The largest part of such disaster gets left[en] silent behind the curtain of fear — or many of [those cases] the main story gets disguised."

Turkish gay group survives shutdown attempt

Turkey's Kan Gay and Lesbian Cultural Research and Solidarity Organization has survived a legal attempt by Ankara Deputy Governor Recep Yavas to shut them down.

Selahattin Ekremoglu to shut the group down.

"This is the 11 year old organization incurred Ekremoglu's wrath when it received officialdom self-announced, was national goods to prohibit organizations that threaten morality."

But Ankara prosecutor Kursat Kayhan has dismissed the government's declaration that homosexuality is neither a disorder nor immoral.

Sperm donor must support offspring

A Swedish lesbian who broke up with her German partner has succeeded in enforcing a court order to pay child support to the former's child, who was born in the early 1990s.

The man argued that his agreement with the lesbians was that he would have no responsibility for the children, although he could visit them. However, just prior to their breakup, he said, the women persuaded him to sign a document admitting to paternity, which the former's mother then quickly demanded maintenance payments, the report said.

Unknown gay group takes credit for fake bombs

The previously unknown "Gay Power Brigade" has claimed responsibility for plant- ing 13 fake bombs around Warsaw.

They carried signs that read "Down with homosexuals" and "No to gay marriage." They installed devices that threaten morality.

"It is not a wise thing to do. ... It is not a wise thing to do."

The bombodigo have been portrayed in the media as a "bitchy" watchdog by all she want- ed was to be able to buy her kids clothes."

The authorities then took the dad to court to make him pay for his kids. This has been a terrible case for the mum who has tried all means to protect her children from the pub- licity and herself refused to be interviewed. ... She has been portrayed in the media as a bitchy watchdog by all she want- ed was to be able to buy her kids clothes."

The bill should see preliminary action in Parliament by January.

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"I don't think we're homophobic," Lee said, answering a question at a Foreign Correspondents Association event. "Homosexuals are people like you and me. But there's some segment of Singaporeans who vehemently disagree with that and we have to be aware of that."

"Gay pride — well, you can do that in Sydney, in London, in San Francisco. But I'm not sure if I want to do that in Singapore."

"I think it would be offensive to a large number of Singaporeans and will be very divi- sive. ... It is not a wise thing to do." Gay magazine launches in Beirut

Beirut has its first gay magazine — Barra (Out) is published quarterly by the gay organ- ization Beirut Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender Social and Cultural Rights.

"The 'bombs' were very professionally done, and it was only after thorough checks that officials were able to say we were dealing with fakes," Interior Minister Ryszard Kalisz told the Agence France-Presse news service.

In an E-mail to media, the gay brigade said: "We are not living in a paradise, let's ... carry a negative develop- ment." Only 29.9 percent said it was "a posi- tive development." The rest were unsure or didn't answer the question. The poll's margin of error was 3.1 percent.

The previous year, 42.6 percent of Italians opposed same-sex marriage, while 51 percent favored it. This year, 70 percent of Italians oppose same-sex marriage, according to a poll by Radio Sweden.

The poll should see preliminary action in Parliament by January.

The unnamed man lost an appeal to Switzerland's highest court, which said he is the legal father of the three children, who were born to a woman with whom he had been in a relationship from the mid-1990s. He had been denied the right to see them.

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**Film reviews**

by Malcolm Epstein

The problem about writing on new films is that half of them are either very inadequate or a complete waste of time. I read weekly reviews columns in national newspapers where highly paid journalists are giving a great deal of space to films that only deserve two sentences. They are justifying comfortable pay packets. I have a big enough problem every other issue in finding films to tell you about that wont waste your money. I don’t tell you about endless previews I write out of and don’t tell you about so that nobody writes to me to complain I gave space to rubbish.

The film reviewer in the Sunday Times, bish. writes to me to complain I gave space to rub-out of and don’t tell you about so that nobody you about that wont waste your money. I able pay packets. I have a big enough prob-

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that half of them are either very inadequate or short story by Pulitzer prize winning author make this compulsive viewing. Based on a Jake Gyllenhaal have enough sex appeal to they are off on fishing trips. Heath Ledger and 

When the job finishes they return to their cold nights they share a tent together and , hand and rodeo cowboy meet on a summer countryside of Wyoming and Texas a ranch vast the best bisexual film ever made. Set in the 

I will mention periodically.

The advantage of growing up in London in my teens is that I found the best way to see the best films of the past since talkies began in the latter twenties was to visit the National Film Theatre at Waterloo regularly organised by the British Film Institute. Fortunately many of these are being issued now on DVD which I will mention periodical-

An essential to look out for from the end of December is BROKEBACK MOUNTAIN (15) the best biseXual film ever made. Set in the vast countryside of Wyoming and Texas a ranch hand and rodeo cowboy meet on a summer job in 1965 herding hundreds of sheep. On cold nights they share a tent together and, surprising both of them just develops into love although they both maintain ‘I’m not queer’.

When the job finishes they return to their straight lives, but the electricity generated between them keeps them in contact and wifes and children are left as their story is they are off on fishing trips. Heath Ledger and Jake Gyllenhaal have enough sex appeal to make this compulsive viewing. Based on a short story by Pulitzer prize winning author An tony Proulx and directed with great taste by Ang Lee it is one movie you have to see.

If you have any interest in the spirit world or ghosts JUST LIKE HEAVEN (15) is worth see-

ing after Christmas. Reese Witherspoon lead this life as a couple of people who don’t realise it and returns to her flat that has been let to the tall dark and hairy chest-
ed Mark Ruffalo. How he handles the situation makes an offbeat comedy sustained by the fact they are both very good to look at.

MRS HENDERSON PRESENTS (12A) tells the factual story of how in the thirties a mature wealthy widow, Judi Dench, bought a London theatre. the Windmill, and persuaded the censor to let her present the first nude girls on stage as long as they didn’t move. Dob Hoskins directs her productions and they maintain performances through the war when the troops of many nations pack the theatre. Loved it.

Despite the fact it is very under-

scripted I was impressed by THE CONSTANT GARDENER (TBC) Ralph Fiennes has a personality I never tire of watching. Based on a John Carre novel he plays the London diplomat married to the love-

ly Rachel Weisz whose passion is helping minorities and poverty stricken people. When Ralph is post-

ed to Kenya she quickly befriends a black doctor and leads to him flying around the country to health centres.

She would have been aware of the AIDS pandemic, and the 1990’s from dying of HIV/AIDS, TB and malars with the drug companies of the world not acting as if they were concerned about it as these people could not afford such expensive cures. A story, retaining her views on this would have helped. Ralph is stunned to hear she has been brutally mur-
dered with the rumour that she is not for gays. Ralph’s enquiries take him to Berlin and back to London to reveal a political cover-up. Worth tracking down in November.

France has produced the most stunning lead-

man for many years in Romain Duris. THE BEAT MY HEART SKIPPED (15) has him as a concert pianist and he has inherited her tal-
est. Her music raises this to a movie to see for Mr Duris.

CURRENT RELEASES

But now right he is essential viewing in THE ADVENTURES OF ARSENIC LUPIN (15), an expensive French story of a top jewel thief of the 19th! Directed by Claude Chabrol from the necks of wealthy women and he encoun-
ters Kirsten Scott Thomas who is a bigger name than she is in this film. The plot is extraordinary to explain, but if you only see one film with subtitles this year this must be the one. His exploits have him clean shaven, with mous-
tache or beard. Either way Romain Duris is irresistible.

A HISTORY OF VIOLENCE (15) is far better than it sounds as the violence is mostly in gunfire. Vigo Mortensen is married with two chil-
dren running a cafe in a small American town who is humiliated by two murderers on the run who aim a gun at him. In the fight that follows he kills both of them and receives some national publicity for his bravery. He tells the attention of three gangsters who turn up at his cafe saying they knew him from his teens. This is one of the very best thrillers of the year.

If you want pointless violence you may enjoy GREEN STREET (15) which they are calling ‘Hooligans’ in America as it is about the guys who couldn’t care less who wins football games as they are only interested in the punch-up aftermath. Charli Hunnam, remembered as being so good in the Queen’s Park Folk TV series, is totally transformed here into a football thug who leads Elijah Wood into fights. New director and screenwriter Lexi Alexander who grew up in Germany and is a former wrestler and kick boxing champion went to Hollywood with just two duf-
felt bags and a pair of boxing gloves.

She clearly enjoyed every bone crunching punch.

After the resounding success of the TV pro-
duction ten years ago it takes a great con-
dience to make PRIDE AND PREJUDICE (1) for cinemas. But this version is beautifully done and an interesting insight into the late 19th century. If Shakespeare plays are to be endlessly repeated on stage and screen why shouldn’t Jane Austen novels which have far more easily digestible dialogue.

GOAL (12A) covers a humble Mexican growing up in Los Angeles whose brilliance as a footballer in amateur games is noticed by a Newcastle United scout on holiday. The young man finds his own fate to fly to Britain and his story makes the best football film ever made. As they plan a follow up I hope they cover the vast number of girls who haunt nightclubs hoping wealthy players will pick up the phone so they can later sell their stories to the Sunday newspapers.

THE BUSINESS (18) is an efficient British made gangster movie about guys who go to Spain on the run from the police. It looks as if the men are your scene you could love it. The Spanish tourist board might not be so pleased as it points out maskless there could be tourist a very hard.

ONE DOLLAR CURRY (12A) has a good look-
ing Indian arriving in Paris whose personality attracts people to help him out of poverty. With his kitchen on wheels he manages to survive and is taken up by the wealthy to cook for their parties. Juggling two lovely women who are mad about him becomes his main problem in life.

SPIRIT TRAP (15) is a paranoid American thriller about a young couple and the pleasant to look at Luke Mably and a cast chosen for their facial appeal. Students move into an old empty mansion to find ghosts there who are not at all pleasant. Those of us eager to be scared will like it.

DVD WORLD

Makers of gay romance movies have been finding a big market in America on DVD. They are all made over here and imported and you could be the first to hire them from the end of September. For ophthalmology lovers see from Para sois Peccadillo about a disease young man new to West Hollywood who is chased by two queer bashes who meet their match in a large underground garage where a tall black transvestite befriends him and produces a gun from her handbag. That scene made my week. She gives him a bed and a bath and adopts him. His adventures are worth seeing.

TLA Releasing is a new company to Britain who are offering many good things. EDGE OF SEVENTEEN has the best looking teenager you will see during this incarnation coming out of his shell in 984 getting a summer job at his local amusement park. It is his first experience meeting guys who are happy to trade in his hair and the scene where he finally tells his mother he is gay will bring memories to many.

LATTER DAYS has a young Mormon mission-

ary new to Los Angeles who goes door to door spreading the word of his religion. He is rapidly noticed by a gay body building waiter who does not have an easy time trying to seduce him.

EVERYONE, named the best Canadian film at the Montreal film festival, has a couple choosing to cement their partnership with a gay marriage who invite their relations to the ceremony. The dramatic time their brothers have with their wives and lovers took up a fraction too much time for me. But it gets the point across that whether you are gay or straight much commonsense is needed to make a relationship work.

The brother and sister, Richard and Karen, were the Carpenters, my favourite singers of the seventies, and now REMEMBERING THE CARPENTERS is available from MovieMail. They were a magical act marred by Karen suffering from anorexia and dying at 22 twen-

ty two years ago. For me that was the biggest tragedy to happen as it was more than just a loss of beauty. Some of their songs like “Close To You” and “I Need To Be In Love” will be on my turntable for ever.

MovieMail is a DVD company essential to your life who issue a monthly brochure of their releases. You can be on their mailing list by phoning 0870 264 9000. Their catalogue covers over 3,000 subjects.

Those eager to know what Britain was like in the war should know they have issued three movies by the best documentary maker of the seventies, and now REMEMBERING THE EDGE OF THE WOODS. The British changed personality when they were surviving over 60 nights of air raids plus frequent afternoon bombing. The snob values of before the war changed with people talking to each other on buses and trains for the first time.

Those of us who love the early history of movies could be fascinated that the British Film Institute have issued PRIMITIVES AND CONVENTIONS covering 1919 and 1910. A double disc set has a voiceover explaining all and there is a 24 page booklet about early moviemakers. It is all an engaging time trip to another world.

Malcolm Epstein
John Fraser, who by many is thought to have been a rather sad and possibly cliquish, has written this very revealing, funny and moving autobiography. The book starts with his childhood in pre-war Glasgow, tells the tale of touring theatre in Africa and Asia and lifts the curtain on the glamour of ’60s Hollywood. Close Up reminded me of the classic autobiography by David Niven, “The Moon’s a Balloon”. I heard of this book when it was published in hardback at the end of 2004 but never got a review copy until now in paperback, which incidentally contains an additional chapter. If you like Hollywood and the scandal, gossip and intrigue or you are interested in such legendary figures as Rudolf Nureyev, Hedy Lamarr, Dirk Bogarde and Bette Davis then this book is a must for your collection.

Pulling Taffy by Matt Bernstein Sycamore
Published by Suspect Thoughts Press £9.99

This is the first novel by Matt Bernstein Sycamore. I read and reviewed some time back the book Tricks and Treats: Sex Workers Write about Their Clients, which he edited. I was very excited when this book landed on my mat. It’s got rave reviews all over the place and of all sorts of people such as Edmund White, Michael Bronsky and D. Sanders Scott – an excerpt from it even got selected for “Best Gay Erotica” – and you know what, I really didn’t like it. As far as I’m concerned it pictures a sad repetitive sojourn from one drug induced sexual adventure to the next, with just the very odd moment of genuine charm or excitement. I found the style of writing to be an affront to the English language, immature and clichéd to the extreme and I really can’t understand what all the hype is about.

Very funny and original book about a strange and somewhat sad relationship set in the carnal world of orgiastic delights of Lower Manhattan in the early ’80s. It tells the story of Jeremy, an almost painfully shy 19 year old who falls madly in love with Colin, a slighted jaded, but nevertheless brilliant older hustler. Colin does not return Jeremy’s feelings but never got a review copy until now in paperback, which incidentally contains an additional chapter. If you like Hollywood and the scandal, gossip and intrigue or you are interested in such legendary figures as Rudolf Nureyev, Hedy Lamarr, Dirk Bogarde and Bette Davis then this book is a must for your collection.

Very unlike the previous review my first thoughts on this book were totally negative, due to the fact that I live with a partner who is totally into watching any kind of crime or detective story on the box, while I’m completely indifferent about them. And guess what, this book is - have you ever heard of this - yes, it’s a crime - detective novel. Oh well, such is the life of a review writer I thought and got stuck in. And stuck in I got, so much so that I finished the book in record time. It is the old adage of not judging a book by its cover literally proved right once more. It’s the gripping story set in an unknown city, it could be Genoa, where the rubbish men are on strike, the smell is overpowering and tempers begin to flare. In typical British chaos the killing starts and the already over-stretched Inspector Amaldi has to deal with mutilated body parts appearing all over the filthy city. This book is a sure thing got from the first page to the end, if you like a good crime yarn then this is as good as it gets.

None of us like to think about the possibility of getting ill, let alone being confronted with the big “C”, but unfortunately it is a fact of life that Prostate cancer is the commonest cancer in men in the UK, with over 30,100 new cases a year. The lifetime risk for being diagnosed with prostate cancer is 1 in 14. This book might be helpful in the early self-diagnosis of this potentially fatal illness - but with early diagnosis this form of cancer has proven to be eminently treatable. And then there is the other side of help available in this book. If you or a partner or friend have already been affected then this book might be able to help getting support from doctors or partners, it might help by giving you up to date advice about the different treatments available or in the worst case assist you with issues of grief, mortality or worries about sexual activity, masculinity and incontinence. It’s good to see a book written from the perspective of a gay man’s need as most of the medical world tends to be too heterosexually assumptive.

Review by Adrian Finkelstein

Cannabis Breeder’s Bible by Greg Green
Published by Green Candy Press £13.99

Salivating over some of the pictures inside this book I decided to calm down and take a proper look at this publication. I had already had the good fortune to be loaned the Cannabis Grow Bible, which was also written by Greg Green and whereas the Cannabis Grow Bible was for everyone wishing to just grow a bit of grass successfully, the Breeder’s Bible is seriously delving into the whole world of the botanic experience and it helps to unlock the mystery of this plant and gives people the knowledge of marijuana possible with as much knowledge and understanding of this fascinating plant. There is a very two faced attitude by this government on the issue of cannabis and there are rumours amongst those in the know that this drug could possibly find itself going in the opposite direction and becoming a class “A” drug because of increased pressure from the Bush administration (no pun intended). In a colossal U-turn this government is now suggesting that making mental health problems arise from taking this drug, the propaganda machine hasn’t been so busy since the Nazis were in power.

Many people are out there giving aid to those in need of help to co-ordinate a life threatening illness to a severe risk to their personal freedom. They help individuals who suffer from MS, ME, Cancer, HIV, Glaucoma and many other things besides, they do not ask whether you are gay or black or rich or poor, they just help to the best of their abilities. There’s a witch hunt on at this very moment against members of THCAims and they could do with your support at http://www.thc4ms.org.uk/

The drugs companies must be getting desperate. Some time ago I was prescribed a drug by my doctor called Vioxx and was told that it was for my arthritis and that I should take all the tablets in the course, however after reading the instruction label which stated that one of the side affects was possible death (I assure you that this is no joke and although I’m paraphrasing it was really on the sheet of instructions that came inside the box of tablets). I thought to myself that there was no way I was prepared to take any of these tablets and after only weeks later there was news on the telly that this drug was killing people and it had been withdrawn from the market. Others have never killed. Cannabis has killed nobody at all, it has never produced children with a disability or made people mad, although it may have been the architect of nice dreams, the kind which include a sense of love and happiness and a true oneness with your fellow man and gives one a social consciousness and maybe it is this that makes this dangerous drug to the present government.
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I guarantee that you won’t go of weight recently. He is looking of a heavier build but has lost a lot from his Clyde Valley. He is 49 years old and is 6’3” tall and 250 lbs. He is clean shaven, 38” chest and a 34” waist. His hobbies include walking, swimming, cycling, travelling, and enjoys healthy cooking, the arts, music and painting. He is into dominant guys, any age. Phone 09068 556612 - Number 6255.

Two Masters Edinburgh. Two Masters, 60 and 49 years want bad boys to report for punishment. All levels of CP catered for. No under 25’s. No overweights will be dealt with. Phone 09068 556612 - Number 6200.

Easy Going in Aberdeen. Steve, 53 years old, single, slim, small build, easy going guy from Aberdeen. He is 5’9” tall and 160 lbs. He is clean shaven, has a chested and looks like a schoolboy. He is into a firm male bottom and is looking for someone 18-40 years, tall, 6’ tall, 350 lbs, and is looking to meet a guy who is stocky or muscular built, 30-50 years. Phone 09068 556612 - Number 6201.

Slim Slave. Paul, 43 years, is into leather, bikers, hairy chest, shaved heads, boots and gloves. Looking for leather top: “If you are interested, give me a ring. No strings”. Phone 09068 556612 - Number 6202.

Rubberist. Male Rubberapist would like to hear from others who are into rubber and latex. Phone 09068 556612 - Number 6203.

Passive And Young for discreet, safe fun. He is 43 year old Tayside male is looking for someone 18-40 years, tall, 6’ tall, 320 lbs, and is looking to meet a guy who is short, 5’2” tall and totally non-scene. He is very genuine, having a good chemistry, and is looking to meet a guy who enjoys a passionate guy and who enjoys hot sex. Phone 09068 556612 - Number 5580.

Teachers. We all fantasise about our teachers. Cross-dresser who lives in the Clyde Valley or South Lanarkshire area. Phone 09068 556612 - Number 6334.

Versatile Guy. His Master’s Pleasure. He is 53 years old and is looking to be introduced...”. Phone 09068 556612 - Number 6247.

I’d like to get in touch with a blond boy. Andy 53 years from the Clyde Valley seeking a man to befriend in the Edinburgh area. Seeking someone who is into straight boys, any age. Phone 09068 556612 - Number 6197.

Clyde Valley TV. Slim, pretty TV seeking mature man. He is 5’8” tall and has black hair, is 30 years old and is looking for someone 25-30 years, any nationality in the Edinburgh area. Seeking fun, friendship and a chance to be introduced...”. Phone 09068 556612 - Number 6387.

Aberdeen Area. Slim, pretty Female who lives in Aberdeen area. She is 30 years old, 5’9” tall, 160 lbs, and is looking to meet a guy that is into kink, BDSM, and latex. Phone 09068 556612 - Number 5456.

Skinny Sub. Genuine replies only. Phone 09068 556612 - Number 6260.

Loving And Casual. Andrew is 62” tall, 52 years old, hairy chest and likes rubber. He is from Morayshire and has his own house and car. He is a Vegetarian and enjoys healthy cooking, the arts, music and painting. He is into dominant guys, any age. Phone 09068 556612 - Number 6124.

Horny Uncle. He is 40 years old. He likes his short black, curling chest. “No camps, effeminates or guys who are into kittens”. Phone 09068 556612 - Number 5570.

Slim, Pretty, TV. Blonde TV, 38 years old looking for other guys into TV, who are 21-45 years old. Phone 09068 556612 - Number 5639.

Safe Fun In Tayside. Martin from the Clyde Valley or South Lanarkshire area. Phone 09068 556612 - Number 6373.

Safe Fun In Tayside. Andy 32 years old looking for guys in tight leather jeans. Phone 09068 556612 - Number 6374.

Safe Fun In Tayside. Tamsyn is looking for new friends in the area. She is 40 years old and is looking for someone 25-35 years, has his own place near Dundee is looking for discreet, safe fun. He is 43 year old looking for guys in tight leather jeans. Phone 09068 556612 - Number 6375.

Slim, pretty TV. Tall and tanned in the Morayshire and has his own place near Dundee is looking for discreet, safe fun. He is 43 year old looking for guys in tight leather jeans. Phone 09068 556612 - Number 6376.

Safe Fun In Tayside. Tamsyn is looking for new friends in the area. She is 40 years old and is looking for someone 25-35 years, has his own place near Dundee is looking for discreet, safe fun. He is 43 year old looking for guys in tight leather jeans. Phone 09068 556612 - Number 6377.

Safe Fun In Tayside. Tamsyn is looking for new friends in the area. She is 40 years old and is looking for someone 25-35 years, has his own place near Dundee is looking for discreet, safe fun. He is 43 year old looking for guys in tight leather jeans. Phone 09068 556612 - Number 6378.

Safe Fun In Tayside. Alan from Kilmarnock is a slim 38 years old looking for new friends in the area. He is 5’9” tall and 160 lbs. Phone 09068 556612 - Number 6379.

Safe Fun In Tayside. Tamsyn is looking for new friends in the area. She is 40 years old and is looking for someone 25-35 years, has his own place near Dundee is looking for discreet, safe fun. He is 43 year old looking for guys in tight leather jeans. Phone 09068 556612 - Number 6380.

Safe Fun In Tayside. Tamsyn is looking for new friends in the area. She is 40 years old and is looking for someone 25-35 years, has his own place near Dundee is looking for discreet, safe fun. He is 43 year old looking for guys in tight leather jeans. Phone 09068 556612 - Number 6381.

Safe Fun In Tayside. Tamsyn is looking for new friends in the area. She is 40 years old and is looking for someone 25-35 years, has his own place near Dundee is looking for discreet, safe fun. He is 43 year old looking for guys in tight leather jeans. Phone 09068 556612 - Number 6382.

Safe Fun In Tayside. Tamsyn is looking for new friends in the area. She is 40 years old and is looking for someone 25-35 years, has his own place near Dundee is looking for discreet, safe fun. He is 43 year old looking for guys in tight leather jeans. Phone 09068 556612 - Number 6383.

Safe Fun In Tayside. Tamsyn is looking for new friends in the area. She is 40 years old and is looking for someone 25-35 years, has his own place near Dundee is looking for discreet, safe fun. He is 43 year old looking for guys in tight leather jeans. Phone 09068 556612 - Number 6384.

Safe Fun In Tayside. Tamsyn is looking for new friends in the area. She is 40 years old and is looking for someone 25-35 years, has his own place near Dundee is looking for discreet, safe fun. He is 43 year old looking for guys in tight leather jeans. Phone 09068 556612 - Number 6385.

Safe Fun In Tayside. Tamsyn is looking for new friends in the area. She is 40 years old and is looking for someone 25-35 years, has his own place near Dundee is looking for discreet, safe fun. He is 43 year old looking for guys in tight leather jeans. Phone 09068 556612 - Number 6386.

Safe Fun In Tayside. Tamsyn is looking for new friends in the area. She is 40 years old and is looking for someone 25-35 years, has his own place near Dundee is looking for discreet, safe fun. He is 43 year old looking for guys in tight leather jeans. Phone 09068 556612 - Number 6387.

Safe Fun In Tayside. Tamsyn is looking for new friends in the area. She is 40 years old and is looking for someone 25-35 years, has his own place near Dundee is looking for discreet, safe fun. He is 43 year old looking for guys in tight leather jeans. Phone 09068 556612 - Number 6388.
TO REPLY TO A CONTACT AD 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 in side another envelope with two loose first class stamps. If you are writing from outwith 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 on replies without postage stamps or IRCs.

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WOMEN

Cute But Careful! 29 year old personal female still looking for that special woman. I like relaxed, caring, honest, cute, caring, kind and romantic relationship and friendship and more. Box SG66036.

Bi Female Sought - Moray To Aberdeenshire

32 year old female with 7 - 10 male friends. I am looking for more male friends. Long term & interested. Please write: Eamonn, 19, Ury. (box nos. etc. by request. Let's take care of each other. Box SG66011.)

MEN

Your Parents Warned You About Me!

Are you 16-21? Then this 47 year old guy’s father would like to meet you. Box SG66023.

Stirred Head boyfriend Wanted


Wanted: Bare buttocks to spank!

I have a desire to spank boys in my early twenties, I am 50 looking for a sub for a discreet fun as I consider myself to be rather straight! Sexual interest can and maybe can involve being on a chair or bed when being spanked. Box SG66012.

Wanting: Barricades to be hit

I am 18 year old boy being spanked for the first time, a first time gay boy being spanked by an adult male. Box SG66017.

Looking For That Special Woman. I am 57 year old guy, (60+) for friendship. Enjoy 63 year old buddy, s/a, n/s, guy. Box SG66053.

Mature Male Bonding Group

Mature men only Group. Box SG66025. Any age group, meetings at various times, friendship and hopefully more. I would like to meet some members of your club to arrange a meeting. Box SG66018.

Wanted House and Models

Models needed to go with my photos, max £50 a piece. Box SG66054.

Natural Male Bonding Group

C. O. N. was formed to bring some order to the many activities allowed at our functions. I would like to arrange to have a local authority or it’s like leisure club, related to hold sports and swimming events, rules of conduct, I hope. We hope to arrange some diverse as the men of Scotland, from as young as age 18 to 65. We are only interested in friendship and being active is a function of our group. Box SG66055.

Cyclist Sought

18-35, slim/average build, clean shaven, from the Dundee, Edinburgh, for safe daytime fun. Box SG66056.

Looking For CP

I like to spank. I then like to spank any waste you wish to give me. Once you are reduced to your underpants. I then like to spank you. Box SG66038.

Looking For CP

Boy seeks a 40’s-50’s for fun nights in/out, reading and a sci-fi fan. Box SG66039.

Looking For A Male Friend

I am looking for that special woman. I am interested in a sexual encounter as I consider myself to be rather straight! Sexual interest can and maybe can involve being on a chair or bed when being spanked. Box SG66046.

Looking For A Male Friend

I am 55 and a Music Director in the Edinburgh, for safe daytime fun. Box SG66058.

Looking For A Male Friend

I am looking for someone of any age. I am looking for someone to share my life and friendship. I’m slim, 5’6” own car. Box SG66057.

Looking For A Male Friend

I am looking for someone of any age. Box SG66059.

Looking For A Male Friend

I am interested in a sexual encounter as I consider myself to be rather straight! Sexual interest can and maybe can involve being on a chair or bed when being spanked. Box SG66040.

Looking For A Male Friend

I am interested in a sexual encounter as I consider myself to be rather straight! Sexual interest can and maybe can involve being on a chair or bed when being spanked. Box SG66050.
DISCOUNTS: Gay London and Gay Society Scotland, a group for and by gay men and lesbians in Scotland, provides a welcoming and caring meeting space and events centred around the needs of the gay community, its friends, family and supporters. Regular social evenings are held, and a newsletter is produced. The London Gay Men’s Group for people up to age 25, coordination for gay and bisexual men, meets 3rd Sun each month at 7.30 pm. Support for people and their groups. A free monthly online newsletter for Londoners in London and around their local areas is produced. It contains a range of gender, sexuality and age appropriate events, issues, information and resources for men. Personal space can be free email and a group of male/female contact points with the town where released. One newsletter can be free subscriptions, email g2mgroup@btopenworld.com for a free "publications" editor in the subject is in the body of the email.

GROUPS: Aberdeen based social and cultural groups for Londoners throughout Scotland. The group provides information on members and public venues. Confidentiality and privacy are very important to the group. At every event, you will find the members respect the people’s and the group’s wishes. A newsletter containing news and information about gay issues, and a newsletter containing advice and information. Tel: Aberdeen Royal Station/Hospital Management. Tel/Fax: Aberdeen (01224) 713350. E-mail: elaine@waverleyplace.org.uk

LEIGH: Coven: A social group for gay and lesbians who want to make friends and have fun, meet in a ring of gay people. Run by Waverley Scotland volunteers. Takes place from 7.30-9.30 in Coven’s 2nd Floor. Meet the 3rd Fri of each month at 7pm in the Coven. As a gay group we can get a lot of fun and a lot off it as well on our own. A welcoming, Refreshing environment. Free train can be met at out. Please telephone Waverley Scotland for details.

LGBTGEOGRAPHY: A group for gay and lesbians interested in every aspect of the Gay and Lesbian geography. Tel: Aberdeen LGBT Community Centre, 351 Waverley Place, Aberdeen. AB10 1XH. Tel/Fax: Aberdeen (01224) 713220. E-mail: glbtgeography@btinternet.com

LGBTQI: Glasgow LGBT Centre: The Centre Board manages and promotes the only centre of Scotland and with a £35 000 per year grant. Meeting: 1st Fri of each month. Tel: 0141-211 6146. E-mail: sasha@glgbt.org.uk. Telephone: Glasgow LGBT Centre, 351 Waverley Place, Glasgow. G31 1JF. Tel: 0141-211 8133. Fax: 0141-558171 or Rose on 0141-423 3025. E-mail: glbt@womens-library.org.uk

LLESEBRI: Edinburgh Gay Women’s Group: Weekly social gathering. Edinburgh: Thu, 2nd Thu of each month at 34 WATERLOO PLACE. Tel/Fax: Edinburgh (0131) 558171 or Rose on 0141-423 3025. E-mail: glbt@womens-library.org.uk

LLswish: Lothian Lesbian Working Group: Contact via e-mail: Lothian Lesbian Working Group on the Strathclyde E-mail: Lothian lesbians@btinternet.com

LOST: A support group for people who are lost. Tel: 0114 273 0972. E-mail: lost@stonydevon.co.uk

Lomas: A friendly and informal group for gay men and bisexual men who want to make new friends and meet gay men and other gay men. Tel: 0141 212 2088. E-mail: info@lomas.org.uk

Lwynydd: Llanelli Lesbian and Gay Society: A social group for and by gay and bisexual people in Llanelli. Meet the 3rd Thu of each month at 7.30 pm in the Lambton Hall. Tel/Fax: 01554 724076. E-mail: info@lwynydd.org.uk

LOWA: A social group for women who are interested in the local gay community. Tel: 01475 721064. E-mail: info@lowa.org.uk

LOWMEN: A group for men who are interested in the local gay community. Tel: 01475 721064. E-mail: info@lowmen.org.uk

LWLH: Lesbian and Waxing Group: A group for women who are interested in the local gay community. Tel: 01475 721064. E-mail: info@lw lh.org.uk

LXSH: A group for gay and lesbian and bisexual people who are interested in the local gay community. Tel: 01475 721064. E-mail: info@lxsh.org.uk

MAGDA: A group for men who are interested in the local gay community. Tel: 01475 721064. E-mail: info@magda.org.uk

MAIM: A group for men who are interested in the local gay community. Tel: 01475 721064. E-mail: info@maim.org.uk

MAN: A group for men who are interested in the local gay community. Tel: 01475 721064. E-mail: info@man.org.uk

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MUV: A group for men who are interested in the local gay community. Tel: 01475 721064. E-mail: info@muv.org.uk

MVE: A group for men who are interested in the local gay community. Tel: 01475 721064. E-mail: info@mve.org.uk

NATIONAL ORGANISATIONS

ABIDE: A national organisation for men and women who are interested in the local gay community. Tel: 01475 721064. E-mail: info@nact.org.uk

ACHIEVE: An organisation for women who are interested in the local gay community. Tel: 01475 721064. E-mail: info@achieve.org.uk

ACROSS: A social group for men and women who are interested in the local gay community. Tel: 01475 721064. E-mail: info@across.org.uk

ADAM: A group for men who are interested in the local gay community. Tel: 01475 721064. E-mail: info@adam.org.uk

AIDS: A group for men who are interested in the local gay community. Tel: 01475 721064. E-mail: info@aids.org.uk

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Aberdeen

Aberdeen women's centre* St Yapı ve Kredi Bankası Building, 10 Union Street Aberdeen 5am-9pm. Monday-Saturday. Aberdeen's first (and only) gay women's centre with regular meetings, support, advice and a friendly environment. Phone for more information. Women's centre.

BAR INDIE

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