



On Friday, 19<sup>th</sup> (Nov) there is a trip to Edinburgh planned as the play **A TORCH SONG TRILOGY** will be on. It was showing in Glasgow during Glasgow and should be excellent. There will hopefully be a bit of clubbing after the play. A minibus will be booked to take people who want to go from St. Andrews to Edinburgh and back. Details for this event will soon be sent out via

## Gay Soc. Information and Contacts

Society meetings are held every Monday at 8pm in the Chaplaincy (across from the Union). Afterwards, we usually go to the Westport to laugh and be gay (as in happy) together. To contact the society you can either e-mail us at: [lgbtsoc@st-andrews.ac.uk](mailto:lgbtsoc@st-andrews.ac.uk) or you can leave us a note under the "I" pigeonhole in the Union. Or just come along to a meeting...

# HIV TESTS

If you need to get tested for HIV, it is recommended that you do not go to your GP. Your GP is obliged to record your test (regardless of whether the results are positive or negative) and the record then remains in your files. Sadly, the very fact that you have been tested can negatively affect your insurance rates (as insurance companies are given access to all your medical records). There is a Genitary-Urinary (GU) Clinic at Ninewells Hospital in Dundee or the Victoria Hospital in Kircaldy. A record of your test does not have to be made at a GU Clinic. It is worth checking, to be sure, that they aren't making a record they don't need to. For more information on how to go about getting tested or if you have any questions at all, you can contact Calum (our VPW) or go to the Welfare office in the Union. Calum also has (free) safe-sex supplies and information on how to get to the two GU Clinics above.

## Our Fab website

Our website is at [www.st-and.ac.uk/~lgbtsoc](http://www.st-and.ac.uk/~lgbtsoc). Thanks to Joe (our CPO) and Kevin, it is up and running....funkier than ever! Whe-hey. It's got lots of cool stuff and is worth checking out...take the "Dyke or German Lady" quiz and watch the dancing hamsters...plus lots of other fun bits; even a bloke's gallery and a gal's gallery (nothing hardcore...sorry). News is updated regularly and there is an events preview. There are society photos too...and a guestbook so that you can give your feedback, write comments, ask questions or give more photos in.

Dip me in honey and throw me to the lesbians



Official Newsletter of the St. Andrews University Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender Society

Issue I, October 1999

## The LGBT Society's Mission Statement

The St. Andrews University Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender Society will exist with the purpose of providing support and resources to all its members regardless of their sexuality, race, colour, religious belief, political stance, educational background, or social class. The society is opposed to any form of discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation or gender identity; be that homosexual, bisexual, heterosexual, transsexual or transgender. It further commits itself to alleviating, and where possible eliminating, the effects of the existence of such prejudice.

# World AIDS Day

Wed., DECEMBER 1st

⌘ The society will have a stall set up in the foyer of the Union: we'll be handing out red ribbons, condoms and information as well as collecting donations for the Terence Higgins Trust (an AIDS charity)...anyone who wants to come along and help keep it running throughout the day is welcome. Last year we raised over £100...let's beat that this year!

⌘ That Monday (29/11), the prominent Scottish poet, Mr. Christopher White, will be reading selections of his poetry at 8pm (in the Chaplaincy). Mr. White read with Prof. Crawford in the Stanxa Poetry Festival here in St. A's at the beginning of term. He writes predominantly in Gaelic and wrote a striking elegy to a friend of his that died of Aids. They sell his book here in town...it's a worthwhile read (it does have translations!).

⌘ Wednesday evening there will be a PARTY raising more money for Terence Higgins. It'll be £3 at the door and starts at 9pm in Cloud 9 (the Frasier Suite). Come along and it'll be GREAT!



**WELFARE RESOURCES:** Perhaps some of you saw bits of the *A-Z of Lesbian Love* and perhaps some of you missed it (awwww...you'll get another chance) but don't let it scare you off; The society DOES have a few books and videos that you may find helpful, interesting or just plain entertaining (exactly what you do about pesticides on cucumber skins before inserting them, for example) Naw, sorry, don't get scared. You don't have to read anything about cucumbers. But go ahead and borrow whatever books or vids interest you...Calum has the complete list of titles. In addition to those, several committee members have books and videos that they are willing to lend out. If you want to learn more about homo-ness in all its different forms, this is a good way to go about it.

## Lady B Has A Pensive Moment...

This time, she is bringing a little serious note of discussion—she has been reading, you know, and has a few gems to share with us. You may not agree with what she says, but remember: we are supposedly living in 'liberal' times and well...freedom goes both ways. Got it? Ab Fab.

May I introduce myself—we are the Lady Bracknell and well if we ain't one of those darling people we refer to as "Queens" (and yes, that includes drag). Don't worry, we are perfectly harmless, excepting under operating instructions it states: If the Lady Bracknell should get wet, run for the hills screaming and she will probably not try to redecorate your entire house (for as the saying goes "Homophobia is the fear of queens breaking into your flat and rearranging your furniture").

On my trip to NYC at the beginning of June, I purchased a book: *Sexual Ecology* by Gabriel Rotello, a man who is influential in the gay community in the US. His book calls for a radical internal reappraisal of gay life, specifically gay male life. What he says may not seem of direct relevance to all of us, but the conclusion he reaches means that no gay male can ignore his 'advice'. Personally, I found his work to be well researched, fully explained and backed up with plenty of evidence. I only hope that his message shines as a bright torch in the mass of flesh that the gay male scene seems to become.

Rotello's principle assertion is that gay 'core group' activity did contribute and is continuing to contribute to the propagation of the HIV plague. These 'core groups' are men engaging in promiscuous concurrent multi-partner versatile anal sex (now that was a mouthful!) The much heralded heterosexual plague of HIV is not happening in the West—yes, drug users that utilize needles and their close 'associates' have been as badly affected as gay men and Southeast Asian, African and other poorer nations are being affected—but these are places where the so-called 'ecology of sex' leads to all manner of rampant STD's. The hettie community simply doesn't shag enough, with enough partners, with enough concurrency, whereas gay men in 'core groups' can be shagging several men in parallel. He states that the very sex society of the 1970's has amplified effects of HIV on an already enclosed community—the gay man's very act of defiance became his death knell. Only gay men of that era and of today refuse to admit that a society in which monogamy is played down and promiscuity praised is any more likely to spread disease than one in which monogamy or at least reduced numbers of sexual partners is the norm.

The condom code, put simply, is not a great enough barrier to the spread of HIV and there is every chance that the third wave of HIV/AIDS is on its way. The first wave has meant that 50% of all gay men above thirty years of age are seropositive; the third wave could bring the infection to saturation in the under thirties. This could potentially destroy any chances of further gay liberation if it is seen that the lifestyle leads only to disease. Rotello is not calling for the development of a gay morality of marriage, but what he is saying is that shagging three men on the same night, and repeating this several nights each week, is one of the most effective ways of contracting and spreading HIV (even when using condoms most of the time—if not all the time—condoms aren't 100% effective).

To just put this in a more joyful context (not) the African subtype of HIV has already hit the US and Type E (the one that has been affecting Thailand and can infect the cells of the glans, mouth and vagina) won't take long to follow, if it isn't already there. Then it is a short hop for Type E to traverse the Atlantic (gays are very mobile, you know).

I have selected the barest details from Rotello's book and will have to reread—but he has a point. If anyone wants to borrow the book let me know. You can get in touch with me via the committee or e-mail me at [ladyb@st-andrews.ac.uk](mailto:ladyb@st-andrews.ac.uk)



Love and air kisses,

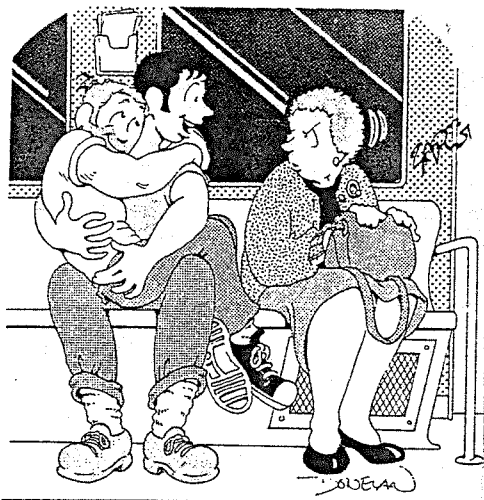
The Lady Bracknell

# SECTION 28

## Christmas Party

Don your gold lamé and whatever else you've got tucked away in that closet! The time has come to PARTY for the holidays at the *GLITTER BALL*. The society is trying to organize having a minibus to take all interested members to and from Edinburgh, so if you want to go let Steve know. The bash is being organized by JOY and will be at Wilkie House. Each member of Joy can bring in a couple of guests...so we need to know who wants to go *in advance* to make sure there are enough members to get them all in. Mike has forms for would-be-members (joining is free). Entrance charge will probably be around £7-£8.

*The Ethical Standards in Public Life Bill, which will soon be put before the new Scottish parliament includes a proposal for the repeal of section 28 of the Local Government Act of 1988. Section 28 states that schools may not "promote" homosexuality nor can they present a homosexual lifestyle as a viable alternative. To a heterosexual one. Besides making gays second class citizens, this measure also means that the support needed by gay youth cannot be provided to them and gay youth are at high risk of suicide already due to homophobic bullying. We hope that the Scottish parliament will pass the repeal of this unjust law, but the reaction from conservatives has been strong; help section 28 be repealed by writing to newspapers and having your voice heard. An e-mail with newspaper addresses has been sent already.*



"Isn't it great? I think we're in love."

### When I Came Out To Mum...

"MY MOTHER LIVES IN ALABAMA, BUT SHE TOOK ME BEING GAY REALLY WELL. SHE CAN HAVE VISITORS NOW. NOT EVERY DAY, BUT JUST A FEW AT A TIME, THE ROOM IS SO SMALL."

"BUT JOHN, EXCEPT FOR THE EYESHADOW, YOU DON'T LOOK GAY"

"NOW THAT YOU'RE A LESBIAN, WILL YOU BE NEEDING LESS MONEY FOR CLOTHES?"

"YOU'RE A LESBIAN? DON'T YOU THINK WE SHOULD GET A SECOND OPINION?"

### The Heterosexual Questionnaire

1. What do you think caused your heterosexuality?
2. When and how did you decide that you were a heterosexual?
3. Is it possible that your heterosexuality is just a phase you may grow out of?
4. Is it possible that your heterosexuality stems from a neurotic fear of others of the same sex?
5. If you have never slept with a person of the same sex, perhaps all you need is a good gay lover?
6. Have you told your parents you're straight?
7. Why do you flaunt your heterosexuality? Can't you just be who you are and keep it quiet?
8. Why do heterosexuals place so much emphasis on sex?
9. Why do heterosexuals feel compelled to seduce others into their lifestyle?
10. A disproportionate majority of child molesters are heterosexuals. Do you consider it safe to expose children to heterosexual teachers?
11. Just what do men and women do in bed together? How can they truly know how to please one another, being so anatomically different?
12. With all the societal support marriage receives, the divorce rate is spiralling. Why are there so few stable relationships among heterosexuals?
13. Statistics show that straight women have a much higher incidence of sexually transmitted disease than lesbians. Is it really safe to maintain a lifestyle that exposes one to such risk of disease?
14. Could such diseases be seen as God's way of telling us that he did not intend humans to be heterosexual?
15. With the problem of overpopulation, could the human race survive if everyone was heterosexual?
16. Could you trust a heterosexual therapist to be objective? Don't you feel that s/he might be inclined to influence you in the direction of his/her leanings?
17. There seem to be very few happy heterosexuals. Techniques have been developed that might enable you to change if you really want to. Have you considered aversion therapy?
18. Would you want your child to be a heterosexual, knowing the problems s/he would face?

# A Very Gay and Merry Christmas

*Sung to the Tune of  
Hark the Herald Angels Sing*

I intend to drop the bomb  
On my dear old Dad and Mom.  
For this year, without a doubt  
Is the Christmas I come out.

First I'll get their full attention.  
Then slip in a subtle mention:  
"Tasty Turkey! Perfect Peas!  
Could someone pass (I'm gay) the cheese?"  
That should do the job okay  
When I come out on Christmas Day.

Oh say can you see it now  
Watch my parents have a cow.  
Or perhaps, if fate is kind,  
They'll insist that they don't mind.

Then they'll say "We always guessed.  
After all, look how you're dressed:  
Seven earrings in each ear.  
We're not quite that dense my dear!"  
They'll adore me anyway,  
When I come out on Christmas Day.

Coming out to everyone  
Makes the winter doldrums fun.  
It's a crazy thing to do—  
Why don't you come on out too?

Make the choice! Damn consequence!  
Lift your voice, get off the fence!  
Shout it from the highest roof:  
Gay is great and you're the proof!  
Make this Christmas bright and gay  
Come on out on Christmas Day!



"Thanks for coming out on Christmas, son.  
Your mother and I really can't think of  
a better present."

## Upcoming Events

Next week there will be no meeting (22/11) because of Raising the Rainbow Weekend, but the week after (29/11), Christopher White is coming to read some of his poetry to us for world AIDS day...Then we have a "Facts of Life" meeting (6/12). Not sure what that means? Not sure if it'll be fun? Come along and find out what it's all about: a Monday night guaranteed to be worthwhile. And it's *not* just another sex talk...there are other facts in life, y'know. And don't forget that *Torch Song Trilogy* is on in Edinburgh...it will probably cost around £8 for a ticket and we'll be leaving around 5:45pm. See y'all there!



## Muffy the Woman Slayer

The forest floor was soft with a litter of dead leaves—I stripped and sauntered to the lake's edge, enjoying the crisp air caressing my skin. As I dipped my toe into the crystal water, I heard a rustling and crackling coming from further down the forest path. Without a moment's hesitation I dove under cover. I peeked from through the foliage just as a fair maid came running over the crest of the hill, golden hair streaming behind her. I could hear hoof beats in the distance: She was being chased! I did not know why, nor what she may have done...all I could see were her flushed cheeks, full lips and pendulous breasts swinging to and fro, poorly concealed by her fatters. My heart and loins melted at the sight, and I rose from hiding to offer her my assistance. She gasped at the sight of me, standing there naked before her. Our eyes met. And she did not call out. I pulled her up against my naked body and together we plunged back into an abundant bush. Seconds later, the horses, mounted by dark and fearsome creatures, thundered past. I felt her shiver against me as the ground trembled with their rhythmic pounding. The danger gone, I looked down at her, she was nestling in my arms. She turned her mud-smearred face up to meet mine, sweat glistening on her downy cheeks, and between gasps she managed to whisper, 'Oh, thank you', before she fainted. I carried her soft limp body in my arms and removed her last shreds of clothing. Down at the water's edge I bathed her and bandaged her wounds.. Enraptured, I slowly stroked the contours of her supple body, relishing every moment as the last rays of the setting sun glistened off the moisture of her treasure: She was pure. As night began to fall, I built a fire and lay her down beside it. With my sword and my dagger in reach, I curled up against her nubile flesh and murmured a prayer of gratitude. Mmm.