

# Notes and Queeries



Servants made redundant by the death of Princess Margaret included not only the Yeoman of the Pantries and the Maid to the Coffee Room, but also the Page of the Backpassage . We are not making this up.



Welcomes careful drivers

Is the sexuality of a town defined in any way by it's name? Perhaps it is if you live in Gay Head (Massachusetts), Gays (Illinois), Fort Gay (Wyoming) .... and then there's Dildo (Newfoundland).

At the unsuccessful trial in the 1980s - for wilful obstruction - of gay Councillor Richard McCance (Nottingham's only living Saint), the prosecution complained about microphone feedback from a woman who appeared to be trying to record the trial. The woman was Richard's mother; the feedback was from her hearing aid.



Lesbian composer Dame Ethel Smyth was imprisoned after becoming active in the "votes for women" campaign. She conducted a performance of her suffragist anthem from a window in Holloway Prison using her toothbrush as a baton.



Homosexual activity is common in giraffes and is actually more frequent than heterosexual behaviour - which may be quite rare. In one study, mountings between males accounted for 94% of all observed sexual activity. We're not sure how they actually do it.



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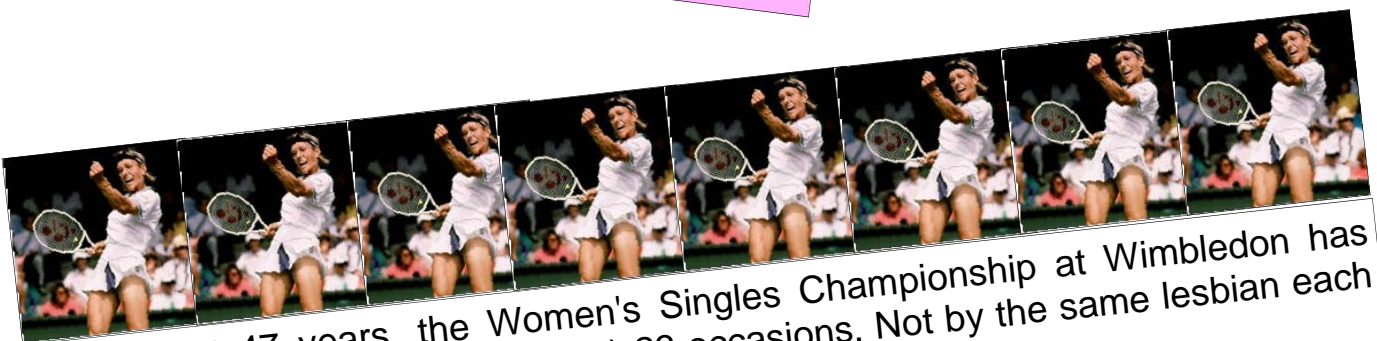
Joyce Grenfell's biography mentions film actor Maurice Flynn, described as "every gay man's dream". While filming, he left to go to the lavatory and was only found 8 days later painted blue from head to foot and playing the ukelele.



A brief note in the New Scientist mentioned that in a US hospital, the man in charge of surgery for penile dysfunction was Steve Hardman and his colleague responsible for vasectomies was Dick Chop.



Dieter Schellenberger, resident of Dusseldorf, lives in "The Pink House". The outside and inside walls are pink, the windows have "rose-tinted" glass. Carpets, curtains, furniture, bathroom suite, light bulbs, toilet rolls ... you name it ... all are pink. Herr Schellenberger is not gay.



In the past 47 years, the Women's Singles Championship at Wimbledon has been won by a lesbian on (at least) 23 occasions. Not by the same lesbian each time, obviously.

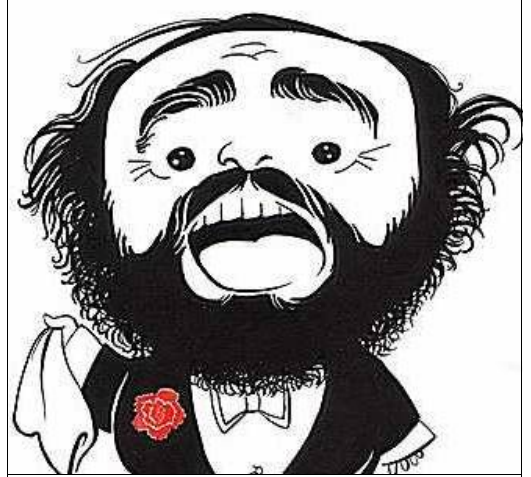
Cardinal Francis Spellmann, who supported the McCarthy witch-hunts against homosexuals in 1950s USA, had a fondness for Broadway chorus boys and was known to his friends as "Thelma".



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The first drag artists to feature in the Eurovision Song Contest (in 1986) were Norwegians Olav Klingen and Jonny Nymo - otherwise known as the Great Garlic Girls. Nul points?



Dr. Eddie Persson (from Stockholm Gay Opera Lovers) has written a book on "deaths in opera" full of fascinating statistics. 45% of sopranos die in operas, but only 17% of basses. Sopranos and tenors are both 5 times more likely to die by being stabbed than mezzo sopranos, but tenors are nearly 4 times more likely to be killed by explosions. Unfortunately, this essential tome is only available in Swedish.

The Great Cormorant is also known as the European Shag. About 1 in 500 pairs of Cormorants is composed of 2 male birds. It therefore seems that male Shags seldom shag males.

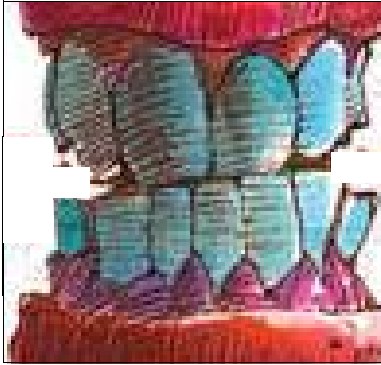


More than 100 men and women recently gathered in San Francisco for what organisers said was the city's second annual "Masturbate-a-thon". The event raised funds for charity - one of the sponsors was Kleenex.

Through his book "A Treatise on Skating", Captain Robert Jones was the man most responsible for popularising ice-skating. In 1772 he was convicted of sodomy and sentenced to be hanged, but was pardoned by King George III (who later turned into Nigel Hawthorne).



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Frankie Howerd's home has recently been opened to the public. On display are not only the comedian's wig and false teeth, but also his walking stick, hollowed out to allow it to be filled with gin.



Did you know that Paul Baker's book "Fantabulosa" lists Polari terms for various things. A policeman is "Hilda Handcuffs", "Betty Bracelets" or "Jennifer Justice". Sunglasses are "ogle filters" and a dentist's surgery is a "fang carsey"

As a by-product of the Civil Partnership Act, all the many lesbian and gay couples who own their own slaughterhouses will have the slaughterhouse licence automatically transferred should one partner die.



Canadian zoo officials have been worrying about gay ducks. Larry Le Sage, curator of the Vancouver zoo said "I noticed the mallards were gay about 3 years ago, but now the wood ducks have picked it up." He believes the wood ducks were corrupted by the mallards and has asked the Canadian Wildlife Service to sexually re-programme the gay drakes.



Does your name influence the job you do? Think of all those TV gardeners ... Pippa Greenwood, Bob Flowerdew, Alan Titchmarsh, Stefan Buczacki (Polish for carrot). It comes as no surprise that the World Health Organisation's announcement that circumcision can halve HIV infection came from Kevin de Cock.



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On the road driving south out of Stockholm to Södertälje is a feature known as "The King's Kerb." This is where King Gustav V's car crashed because the driver was distracted while being given a blow job - probably by the King.



A BBC radio programme promoting safer sex mentioned getting free condoms, which would be given away on "a first come, first served principle."



A first-ever museum display, "Against Nature?", which opened in January at the University of Oslo's Natural History Museum in Norway, presents 51 species of animals exhibiting homosexuality. Homosexuality has been noted in over 1500 species, says the exhibition coordinator. E.g. most dolphins are bisexual - he's not called "Flipper" for nothing.

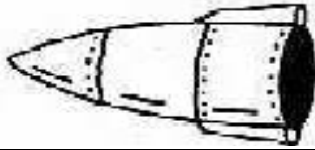
Swiss operatic tenor Hugues Cuenod was singing well into his eighties. He made his debut at the New York Met aged 85. Now 104, he is looking forward to his civil partnership ceremony now that Switzerland has passed laws recognising same-sex relationships.

The Archers is the first soap to have a Civil Ceremony. On December 14th 2006 chef Ian and farming dogsbody Adam tied the knot, much to the embarrassment of stepfather Brian (what will the village think?) Aldridge. Will the course of true love run smoothly, or will one of them fall into the threshing machine? Dum-ti-dum-ti-dum-ti-dum dum-ti diddily dum.



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In 1941, bisexual American composer George Antheil joined forces with 1940s movie star Hedy Lamarr to patent a remote control torpedo.



It is rumoured that Robert Mugabe's virulent homophobia stems back to his teenage years, when someone pointed out that his name is an anagram of bugame.

Some 19<sup>th</sup> century psychotherapists had unusual ideas about how to "spot a homo". E.g. Havelock Ellis "They cannot whistle or spit". Ambroise Tardieu "They cannot urinate in a straight line as they have a corkscrew shaped penis" (so useful when the bottle opener's gone missing)



Civil Ceremonies are providing an ample source of revenue for service providers. 1 issue of Gay Times had ads for venues (9) ranging from Tower Bridge to Stevenage Arts and Leisure Centre; for ceremony planners (5); for wedding jewellery (4); for legal advice (2). 1 each for gift-list organisers, photographers, wedding stationers and providers of low-noise fireworks. While you're in the mood, you could precede the big day with a quick colonic irrigation (1) and an STD test by post (2).

Carlos and Fernando are two gay, and very pink, flamingos. They have been a couple for several years, during which time they have raised some baby flamingos from eggs stolen from other nests.



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The entire Bible has been translated into Polari, the gay language made popular in the 1960s Round the Horne radio show.



Different languages have their own slang terms for gay men.

- Puerto Rico "plumifero" - with feathers
- Russian "goluboy" - light blue
- Portuguese "queima-rosca" - doughnut burner
- French "tapette" - flyswatter
- Slovenian "toplovodar" - warm water person
- Czech "bukvice" - beechnut



**Maurice Mills**, a councillor for the Democratic Unionist Party blamed the gay community for Hurricane Katrina, which devastated New Orleans. He said "The hurricane occurred just two days prior to the annual homosexual festival."

The Rt. Rev **Graham Dow**, the Bishop of Carlisle, claimed that floods that caused chaos and death in 2007 across the UK were caused by God after he was provoked by the introduction of gay equality via the Goods and Services Act.

**Shlomo Benizri**, was speaking in Israel's Knesset (parliament) debate on earthquake preparedness. After reading passages from the Old Testament, he said that "A cost-effective way of averting earthquake damage would be to stop passing legislation on how to encourage homosexual activity in the State of Israel, which causes earthquakes."

