

sexual RESPONSE



We want your feedback, so write with your news, views, ideas and exploits. Keep it fairly short and we'll try to print the most interesting, provocative and representative stuff

PUFF 'N' STUFF

What is this prejudice against smoking? My wife loves searching through the contact ads for very special, new friends. Frequently we find another couple of the right age, in the right part of the country, with similar interests and desires to our own, only to have our enthusiasm destroyed by the dreaded phrase 'NS only'.

Whatever happened to the erotic virtues of tobacco in aiding seduction and relaxation, not to mention the sheer bliss of the once almost obligatory post-climax cigarette? It is difficult to comprehend how people who are so obviously uninhibited when it comes to a variety of physical pleasures, can be so uptight about adding a little smoke to the atmosphere.

Personally, I don't drink alcohol, but I would never insist that any prospective playmates be teetotalers. So come on, people, we are not asking you to light up yourselves, just to lighten up a bit. If you are free-spirited enough to consider having sex with relative strangers, at least be sufficiently open-minded enough to ignore the currently fashionable anti-smoking hysteria, and give some smokers a chance. You might just find the otherwise perfect people you were looking for.

David K, Essex

SINGLED OUT

In response to the letter by Stephen E (issue 21), bemoaning the comparative lack of female advertisers looking for single men in contact publications, I believe the reason for this is firstly that; in general, men seem to have higher sex drives than women. And secondly, that contact magazines cater for people who want no-strings sex, which men enjoy; but not

women to the same extent, who prefer to have sex with someone they are in a relationship with.

Despite this, *Desire* still has a large number of adverts from women seeking men, but I have been a member of several contact clubs and directories where there have been very few females seeking men.

Stephen felt unhappy at the number of gay and bisexual women advertising, because he felt frustrated at reading an ad only to find that the advertiser didn't want to meet single men. However, unlike straight women, gay women often can't go down to the local nightclub and pick someone up. Many gay women are likely to live in areas where there may be no clubs for them. Placing advertisements in contact magazines is probably the only way they can meet other women. I would appreciate the views of female readers on this matter.

Ian M, Gwynedd

NO ENTRY

Reading David Webb of NCROPA's response to Kevin Z's letter in issue 21, I found myself outraged once again by this country's censorship laws.

I am an American living here with my husband in London. I went back home on holiday and obtained the bondage movie 'House of Dreams' from the Good Vibrations store in Berkeley, California. It was a medium-core flick — nothing too outrageous. When I got to London and played it on our dual-platform video, I found the tape was blank, so I sent it back to Good Vibrations. They agreed not only to replace it, but to reimburse the £4 postage by including a large tube of Probe (probably the best lubricant on the market).

A few weeks later however, I got a letter from HM Customs & Excise telling me they had confiscated the

Logo from RUBBER WHAMMY's range of erotic rubber stamps. www.xtina@underbelly.co.uk or phone 0171-281 8084 for free Sauce catalogue

video and the lube. The letter says in part that; 'The intention is to prohibit the importation of any material which is not legally available for sale or hire in the UK, and which is prohibited by the Obscene Publications Act 1959... the video contains graphic and explicit depictions of fellatio, masturbation, cunnilingus, intercourse and ejaculation... these depictions are such that we consider the material obscene and its importation prohibited... any other items found, mixed or packed with the prohibited goods are liable to seizure.'

Well I was fried, so I called them. I was told that despite the fact that I had originally brought the video into the country, I wasn't allowed to have it now. They wouldn't even let me have my 'obscene and indecent' tube of Probe back either. I guess the packing material too, was guilty by association!

I am not familiar with the law here. Would it have been worthwhile to pursue in court? I simply can't understand how anyone considers natural acts such as intercourse obscene. In this day and age, I think I can decide for myself what I want to see, and perverted, power-mad individuals who take my stuff because they're uptight, have no place in any position of power. All it is, is puritanical bullying. I find it sad that any government is more concerned with controlling people, than in making their lives better.

Kerie C, London

You're damn right to be pissed off. Unfortunately, HM Customs and Excise are a law unto themselves, empowered to confiscate material seemingly at random. There are no hard and fast rules: they may even seize material which is already freely available in this country.

By their criteria, you are guilty until proven innocent. What this means is that when 'offending' material is confiscated by Customs, it's not down to them to prove it is obscene, but up to you to prove it's not.

You have 28 days to appeal against a confiscation, which you have to challenge in a civil court, before a magistrate. However, as David Webb pointed out in the last issue, magistrates generally rubber-stamp customs seizures. And if you lose, you're liable for costs. With the dice loaded against you in this way, it's no surprise that most confiscations go unchallenged.

That said, we've just received news of a nudist couple who won the return of books and naturist holiday videos which were seized after a raid on their home. And magistrates took just five minutes to decide that ten photographs confiscated from a fetish photographer were not obscene and were duly returned. — Ed

WHO'S WHO?

I have received a large number of replies to my ad in *Desire*. I have replied to all those I was able to, but some are impossible to reply to since, despite my requests, quite a few still fail to include an SAE. Others even forget to include a telephone number or address! Or they use dodgy accommodation addresses. Is it really too much to expect an SAE or sufficient details of where to forward a reply?

It seems they get a little over-excited.

Sylvie T, Herts

PUKKA FUCKERS

My husband and I picked up a copy of *Desire* at the Erotica exhibition at Olympia in May, sneaked a look at it on the tube home and were so aroused by the time we reached our front door, that we had the most shattering screw ever, right in the hallway! (*Praise indeed! — Ed*).

It's great to read a sex magazine which appeals to women as well as men, and approaches sex in a cool and adult manner, without getting all dull and preachy like so many sex manuals.

However, one point on which we are intrigued, and I have to confess a little sceptical, is this: are the letters, and particularly the fantasies, genuinely from other readers, or are they ghost-written by your staff? It would be great to know that there are others out there like us with truly filthy and imaginative desires! My husband therefore, suggested I put my most depraved and secret fantasy down on paper to see if it reaches your pages.

Chloe P, Middlesex

Well, the short answer to your question is: here's your letter, and your fantasy can be found further on this issue. Sure, other adult magazines may fill their pages with tired, production-line smut, but thankfully we've never had to rely on jaded, cynical hacks writing stuff like, 'My name's Debbie, I'm a right little raver with big knockers, and I like nothing better on a Saturday night than taking five guys in a row up the fanny, round the back of the pub...' You'd soon know if we did.

*Instead, the truth is that there are many, many readers out there like you, with truly filthy and wonderfully depraved imaginations, and the evidence can be found in any one issue of *Desire*.*

Reader input is an integral component of the magazine and we merely reflect our readers' personal and very individual tastes which, to judge from your contact ads, letters, fantasies and poetry, cover the whole fascinating spectrum of sexual diversity: straight or kinky and everything in between.