Semen kit : whenever you dock, use condoms & lube / Gay Men Fighting AIDS ; photo: Hywel Williams.

Contributors

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I read about two epidemics in the paper this morning. There's this killer bug which eats away your flesh. It's infected about 60 people in the last year. They're setting up a task-force to work out how to stop it and how to treat it, it's all over the front pages.

Buried inside the same paper there was a tiny paragraph that said that nearly a third of people who tested HIVpositive last year were straight. That's it. That's all it said. It didn't say that last year a gay man was diagnosed with AIDS every 8 hours. That nearly fourteen hundred gay men tested HIVpositive last year alone. That more gay men have tested HIVpositive than all the other risk groups put together. Or that over eleven times as many gay men have died of AIDS than any other risk group. Why not? Don't they care at all about gay lives?

There's no task-force to fight AIDS. Instead the Government's cutting back its AIDS budget, as though it was only worth worrying about it when they thought that lots of straight people were at risk. They're even making it harder for people with HIV to claim benefits.

No wonder there was a virtual riot when MPs, including Labour MPs who are meant to be pro-equality, voted down an equal age of consent of 16. It's as though they actually want to make it as hard as possible for young gay men to get safer sex advice.

There's so much to be angry about and so much more to be done to get a fair deal for gay men. I'm fighting back by joining Gay Men Fighting AIDS, the only AIDS group dedicated to the needs of those most at risk. **What are you going to do?**

If you want to get involved in GMFA or make a donation contact: Unit 42, 49 Effra Road, LONDON, SW2 1BZ. Tel: 071 738 6872



Gay Men Fighting AIDS GMFA PHOTO:HYWEL WILLIAMS