

Alan Clayton,
16 Riverview Gardens,
Glasgow.

Moral distinctions

May 31.

Sir.— The response of the unnamed minister to John Macleod's article is a typical line of apology made by the homosexual lobby and one resting on a very precarious foundation (May 28). Your clerical correspondent must surely realise he is guilty of the naturalistic fallacy in arguing that homosexuality, along with a whole range of heterosexual variations, must be right and acceptable just because it is "natural".

Consistently applied, such a stance would devastate all moral and legal distinctions and foster great reluctance to condemn any behaviour. Even a cursory review of a broad spectrum of gay literature would probably confirm that the "gay scene" is an intensely predatory, insecure twilight zone. In adopting the line he has, the minister has not only made himself more of a prophet of unbounded permissiveness rather than of Christian love and morality, but also rendered himself largely redundant, for there is no room for a gospel of repentance if no-one need change. Very often doing what comes naturally is not freedom but tragedy, which is fast what the story of the once Christian West is becoming. May John Macleod long continue.

Colin Gunn,
47 Sycamore Drive,
Hamilton.

Letters to the editor should include a daytime and evening telephone number. They should be signed and written on one side of the paper only, addressed to: The Editor, The Herald, 195 Albion Street, Glasgow G1 1QP. Letters can also be faxed to 041-552 2288.

... are fluent in standard English. Irish learning and culture had an immense impact on these islands, but to call it Gaelic is perverse. I am surprised Blind Harry is not on George Philp's list of approved authors; less so Scott.

Duncan Bryson,
109 Martin Avenue,
Irvine.

Clyde submarines

May 31.

Sir.— Ian Bruce's article on the "challenge to the million-pound men" currently training at Faslane and on the Clyde to become nuclear submarine commanders, strikes many a raw nerve (May 24).

It took the sinking of the Caradale fishing boat Antares and the loss of four young lives to make the Royal Navy aware of the dangers of submerged submarines exercising in the busy Clyde fishing areas.

It seems that "submarine alley" will once again be fraught with its unnatural dangers of the deep.

The Antares tragedy will only be laid to rest when all submerged submarine-exercising in the Clyde is stopped.

Marie Kennedy,
29 Argyll Street,
Campbeltown.

Privatisation

May 29.

Sir.— On reading The Herald, particularly the front page, I gradually became quite angry when I gathered that the Chancellor, aided by other senior Ministers, was intending to privatise roads and other services at the expense of the public with no financial help from the Government. The word thieving came to mind.

M. L. Muirhead,
The Barn,
Birchburn,
Isle of Arran.

TOM SHIELDS

Dying breed

IT is with sadness we report the demise, despite those green shoots of recovery, of a store in Glasgow's Buchanan Street — The Survival Shop.

The Names Game

WE note with interest that the East Kilbride policeman involved in an investigation into an incident when two male strippers were attacked and debriefed by their female audience was a Superintendent Willie Short.

■ The Collector of Taxes for Glasgow North is appropriately, one Mrs C. Gatherer.

Social and Personal

MARRIAGE

Mr. Keith R. Montgomerie

ings in Pollokshaws. It was a smashing holiday I remember, and we children ran about the Pollok Estate like savages. Pollokshaws, however, was after all about 15 minutes journey by bus from Townhead and my dad got to go to public houses in his native Gorbals every night. What he didn't get was the minimum four weeks' leave that the EC is now insisting on, nor the maximum 48 hours labour per week that the British Government is resisting.

Here I have to come clean. I work seven days a week, 52 weeks of the year. Mind you, I only work an hour a day, and why not?

Punishment

Why not indeed. For years factories and shops opened for business entirely so that they could punish the workers, instead of trying to produce a product. Years of shop workers starting at eight in the morning and finishing at half-past five at night. This meant that harassed office workers spent the last 20 minutes of opening hours purchasing their goods and the workers got flat feet standing behind empty counters all day. The employers were well pleased because they were getting what they thought of as value for money, that is plenty of workers doing hoo-haw but looking miserable anyway. In the meantime the bosses were doing one of two things. The enlightened ones were throwing expensive brandies down their throats in the Rogano and the like (more days have been lost through lunch than ever strikes could achieve) or they were being as industrially virile as buggery and spending 15 hours at their wasteful desks.

British industry yet thinks of work as essentially punitive, not as making money and things that can earn it. Today shops, especially supermarkets, understand the process of putting workers in at a time when people have the time to buy. Part-time workers might be taking in more poppy for their companies by working at times when other workers can manage to buy what's on sale, but they are getting paid less because British employers are still tied to the notion of hours actually worked, and not of targets reached.

And then naturally there are codicils for even the Europeans. Junior hospital doctors will have to work long enough for them to kill their patients with ease and that's all right then. Oil workers can set fire to the North Sea nae bother.

The EC directive is not saying that you cannot work more than 48 hours a week: on the contrary it decrees that you can work any hours you like, but that you should not be forced to work more than the amount laid down. It is saying that in an industrial, and post-industrial, society there is no reason why you should be a beast of bloody burden.

Am I right in thinking that various British Governments have accepted with alacrity any level of nonsense which these Europeans — you know, the chaps we liberated after a ruinous war — can think up except such decrees as is likely to make life better for the wage slaves and the ludicrously unemployed serfs who can't afford to buy anything the wage slaves make, thereby ensuring that the slaves join the are resented even by management and employers is unremarked by the least efficient Government, including the Callaghan of the post-war

prisonment on tax charges, had her home confiscated and lost her father". Don't mess with the IRS.

Unforgettable

A PUBLICATION called Wild Argyll — "Your fun-packed Nature Events Diary for Argyll and the Islands" — is a cornucopia of Haud Me Back happenings.

Like "Deer Rutting" at Bridge of Orchy. "Hear the sound you'll never forget in the heart of the mountains on a guided walk around Ben Dorain... The dramatic spectacle of stags rutting is the ultimate aim so enjoy an exciting adventure..."

Or a visit to the European Sheep and Wool Centre, where you may "enjoy the show of Scotland's only performing sheep".

For those whose hedonism knows no bounds there is always the "Oban Bog Walk".

Out to grass

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