



Photos by Jens Soelberg, Oslo.

NORWAY is one of the most progressive countries in the world when it comes to gay human rights, with equalities legally enshrined across the board from age of consent - 16 for all - to entry into the armed forces. However, in the land of the Midnight Sun and the Nobel Prize - where only a few outstanding issues remain, like church blessings and adoption rights - there are still conservative attitudes to change, not least out beyond the big cities and in Norway's own Protestant "bible belt".

Nature and culture collide at the far end of a mighty fjord that is Oslo, one of the few European capitals to have an openly gay mayor. There are two world-class

artistic attractions that only a dumb queer would miss - the awesome and occasionally erotic nude Vigeland's Sculpture Park just west of centre and the Edvard Munch Museum (he of "The Scream" fame) just to the east.

Build up your strength with fine modern dishes at the one-price-fits-all menu pallet in eatery **Det 11 Bud** (Kirkegt 34; T: 0047 22 33 35 70), part of a gay restaurant-lounge-club complex on Kirkegata near the Cathedral. Unfortunately the club part of this equation - Soho - was shut at the time of

There are a couple of good, clean saunas a short walk north east of bars: **Club Hercules** (Storgt 41; T: 0047 22 11 11 13) and **My Friend** (Calmeyers gate 15B; T: 0047 22 20 36 67). And just north of the saunas are a couple of gay sex shops - **Gay International** (Rosteds g 2; T: 0047 22 20 37 36) on Rosteds gate and **Big Boy** (Schaeffers g 1; T: 0047 21 92 43 27) on Schaeffers gate - for the usual shelves of toys and vids.

Oslo has its own gay beach - **Paradisbukta** - a short bus-ride (No. 30) out of town, which fills up on sunny days. At nights - which hold their light well in the summer months - there are several city cruising grounds. Try the small **Stens** (pronounced "stains") **Park** or, even better, check **Vigeland's Sculpture Park**, in bushes just beyond the main central monolith - note the condom dispensers nailed to the trees!

GAY OSLO

ADRIAN GILLAN admires Norwegian queens in Oslo, home to EuroPride in 2005

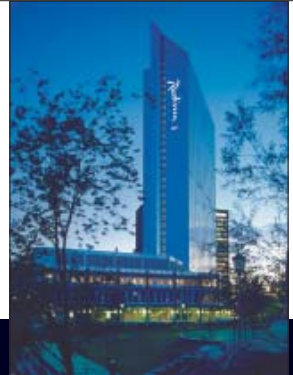
➤ **EUROPRIDE OSLO 2005, > 17th - 27th June 2005**

IT will be a ten-day fun-fest celebrating Norway's 100th anniversary since becoming a modern independent state. www.europride.no

We also recommend the plush, central and fully gay-friendly Radisson SAS Plaza Hotel in Oslo:

www.radissonsas.com, 0047 22 05 80 00. Standard Room rates as of September 2004 are from £105 - including breakfast, service charges and VAT.

SAS offers great-value online fares from the UK to Oslo, Stockholm and Copenhagen: www.scandinavian.net, 0870 60 727 727. Prices start from £99 return including all taxes. Apart from EuroPride Oslo 2005 next year (see above), there's still time this year to fly to Stockholm Pride (28th July - 1st August 2004; www.stockholmpride.org) and Copenhagen Pride (14th - 15th August 2004; www.copenhagen-pride.dk/uk/)



REGULATION LTD

Monday to Saturday 10.30am - 6.30pm
Sundays 12 noon - 5.00pm

Tel No. 020 7226 0665



**leather - rubber - bondage
toys - lube - electrostim**
www.regulation-london.co.uk

email: regulation@btconnect.com

**17a St. Albans Place
Islington Green
London N1 0NX**

**SHOP STAFF REQUIRED
EXPERIENCE IN
FETISH RETAIL &
IT SKILLS ESSENTIAL**