

in monkeys. I certainly don't believe that we should remain inactive in relation to AIDS, but I do think it is worth keeping all health risks in perspective.

Do please keep your letters coming; on-going debate about the issues raised in the pages of S&S is crucial, and allows everyone to have their say.

Dear S&S,

I felt hurt and offended at the enjoining of S&S with crude and abusive attacks on the monarchy. Whatever the deficiencies of this highly-exposed family, and I know they are manifold, I did not expect them to be treated in such an insensitive and sneering manner. I hope there are others who share my view.

Alan Byron, Sheffield

Competition Result

Therapy and the Royals

In the March issue we asked readers to reply, in the words of a member of the royal family, to a letter in the *London Evening Standard* suggesting that the royals needed urgent therapy. Here is Roy Ridgway's winning letter, and thank you to all who submitted entries.

My dear psychotherapists!

To use your wretched psychological jargon, we are both our people's id and superego; their wooden leg and their tribal god; their right and wrong. If you didn't have a monarch, you would have to invent one or you would go stark raving mad.

We know we are telling a story, and we do it superbly well. We have spent centuries working out the perfect plot. We spend our whole lives living that plot,

which is the most magical story anyone could ever invent. It is the story of stories. Everybody loves it.

We are the life-blood of our people. We are their reason for living. We are, as Shakespeare knew so well, the very embodiment of this sceptred isle, this demiparadise, this earth of majesty, this seat of Mars. Remember this when your snivelling teams of psychotherapists invade our privacy. When you force us to conform to your sordid tabloid existence, you will be sorry. Your dreams will be shattered, your self-respect destroyed. You will have to spend the rest of your miserable lives wallowing in the gutter where, I'm afraid, you really belong. God help you all!

Yours in great sorrow,

Elizabeth Regina