



THE SCOTSMAN

THE SCOTSMAN 24 AUGUST 1994

Loose ends

as sex becomes a political act

● BITCH! DYKE! FAGHAG! WHORE!

PENNY ARCADE

Assembly Rooms

WHEN you've seen Annie Sprinkle, does it make you blasé about nudity and sex talk on stage? I watched Penny Arcade's gyrating, barely-clad

dancers, listened to her talking about prostitution, sexuality, politics, censorship, watched her take off all her clothes at the end, and it felt like no big deal. Great fun, dead sexy, hard-hitting, but not shocking — not after seeing Sprinkle insert a speculum on stage and invite the audience to take a look.

Which, I think, enabled me to see the weak, loose ends of Arcade's free-ranging, partly dramatised, partly autobiographical monologue. It's not enough to say that if everyone was free to express their sexuality and love who they wanted the world would be a nicer place.

"Love somebody, and let them love you back," she urged us. "It's the most political act you can make." Perhaps, but is it — to use one of her hate-objects — going to check Oliver North's gathering momentum towards the White House?

Sue Wilson