

Two friends talking OR What would you do?  
a cartoon by Jeffrey Schmidt



Characters: Greek 1 } a chorus  
Greek 2 }  
Friend 1  
Friend 2  
Rod La Peter

Greek 1: Presenting...  
Greek 2: Two friends talking OR...  
Greek 1: What would you do?  
BOTH: A cartoon.

bar posture  
bang on counter -- toast glasses  
swig drink

**THEY SET THE STAGE**

Greek 1: Two friends meet in a bar...

FRIENDS 1 AND 2 DO

Greek 2: or in a restaurant...

grab chairs  
very formal  
fork to mouth

**THE FRIENDS DO THAT INSTEAD**

Greek 1: or in a gym...

forward chest press

**SO THE FRIENDS DO THAT**

Greek 2: or in a... →

actors begin to get into another posture

Friend 1: Could you make up your mind? —

friends freeze midstream

Friend 2: Please?

Greek 2: Bus!

**THE FRIENDS DO THAT**

one seated - one standing holding onto strap bounce w/ bus

Greek 1: It really doesn't matter where they meet.

Greek 2: Right. Okay. Two friends meet in a bar...

**THE FRIENDS, EXASPERATED, RETURN TO THAT**

return to bar posture

Greek 1: <sup>#1</sup> One is very excited, because earlier that day he has finally met a man over whom he has lusted from afar... }

select one

Greek 2: For more years than he would care to admit..

Greek 1: And his name is...

ROD LA PETER IS REVEALED IN ALL HIS SPLENDOR

chorus point as if statue is unveiled - friends heads in

Greeks: Tum-ta-dum. Rod La Peter!

Friend 1: Talk about chemistry! I mean it. It was the real thing. Sparks flying...

Friend 2: Double entendres bouncing from wall to wall? Bedroom eyes smoldering? Private parts twitching uncontrollably?

Friend 1: You've got it.

Friend 2: *look down at crotch* No, I would say you've got it. Bad. Honey, you're still moist and quivering.

Friend 1: I know, I know. I can barely contain myself until tomorrow night. I still can't believe it. I have a date with... *both sink into chairs - treat w/ bar stools*

Greeks: Tum-ta-dum. Rod La Peter!

Greek 1: Well, his friend thinks that it's just... *Greeks take several steps forward in front of Rod*

Friend 2: Fabulous!

Greek 1: And wishes it were...

Friend 2: Me and not you...

Greek 2: And he knows... *step apart*

Greeks: Tum-ta-dum Rod La Peter!

Greek 2: ...by reputation, and thinks he is so...

Friend 2: Hot!

Greeks: Sizzz. *to audience everyone on stage*

Friend 2: You know my friend, James?

Friend 1: Yeah...I think...

Friend 2: Well, he's in the same group as... *spin*

Greeks: Tum-ta-dum. Rod La Peter!

Friend 2: And James says that not only is he goodlooking, but...

Friend 1: Wait a minute! *>*

Greek 1: The man says... *]*

Friend 1: James has AIDS. *]* *pace must change dramatically here*

Greek 2: And his friend says...

Friend 2: Yessowhat?

Greek 1: And the man says...

Friend 1: You mean that the group James is in with...

Greeks: Dum-da-dum-dum Rod La Peter *> slow grinding tape*

Friend 1: ...is an AIDS group?

Friend 2: Well, yes.

Greek 1: It...

Greek 2: begins... *} melodrama*

Greeks: to dawn.

Friend 1: Oh, no! *> buries head in arms*

*Focus back on statue*

*spin around*

*pull him over confidentiality*

*must make sinking move*

*Da, da da da da ta (Bway)*

Friend 2: You mean you didn't know? My god, where have you been?

Greeks: Tum-ta-dum. Rod La Peter! *cluster like chorines trying to revive interest in Rod*

Friend 2: ...is a regular AIDS celebrity. He's had it for years and is still kicking *more here*

Friend 1: Oh, no! *another head burying posture*

Friend 2: I'm sure he thought you knew. He's been public about it forever. Been interviewed, photographed. I can't believe you didn't know. Don't you read the gay rags?

Friend 1: Just the sex ads. *new posture*

Greek 1: He is shaken.

Greek 2: Shocked.

Greek 1: He looks ashen.

Greek 2: Forlorn.

Greeks: DOES THIS CHANGE EVERYTHING? *to audience*

Greek 1: Arguments for:

Friend 2: The attraction was real. It still is. You felt it, didn't you? Since you're practicing safe sex...

Greeks: (TO AUDIENCE) He is. Are you?

Friend 2: ...why not practice with...

Greeks: Tum-ta-dum. Rod La Peter! *same tune - moving back to Rod*

Friend 2: He's someone you've wanted for years.

Greek 2: Arguments against:

Friend 1: I'm afraid. It's so scary. I don't want it in my life.

Greek 1: Arguments for:

Friend 2; You can't very well keep it out of your life these days. Although I guess you could move into a cave. Look, it's not that unusual anymore for a man to have AIDS. Welcome to the eighties.

Greek 2: Arguments against:

Friend 1: It makes everything so uncertain. What about the future?

Friend 2: It's a date, not a wedding. Chances are...

Greeks: ~~Tum-ta-dum. Rod La Peter!~~ *steam pinning out of steam*

Friend 2: ...will make it through the evening. He's survived this long.

Friend 1: I just don't know. I just don't know. I shouldn't feel this way...

Friend 2: No, you shouldn't.

Friend 1: ...but I can't help it.

Greek 1: Can he help it?

Greek 2: Could he change?

Greeks: WHAT WOULD YOU DO?

*frame the two men } looking at #1*