

Charlotte Business Guild

Meeting Date:
Tuesday, May 19, 2009

Program:
Crossroads Charlotte Presentation
(Sponsored by Health Markets)
Crowne Plaza Hotel
201 S. McDowell St., Uptown Charlotte

Time:
Cash bar social: 5:30 pm • Heavy hors d'oeuvres: 5:30 pm

To Reserve:
Cost: \$15 members, \$25 non-members
Call 704-565-5075 by 12 pm, Friday, May 15, 2009
or email businessguild@yahoo.com
and request tickets for this event.

www.charlottebusinessguild.com

GLBT



Editor's Note

by Matt Comer . Q-Notes staff

New AIDS campaign is just the beginning



companies surely aren't going to picture the real life of a person with HIV or AIDS in their glossy and sexy magazine advertisements. Young men don't see the vomiting, nausea and diarrhea. They don't see the weight loss and facial wasting.

They don't see the effects of opportunistic viruses, colds or other ailments.

Telling gay, bi and MSM men that someone in the U.S. is infected with HIV every nine-and-a-half minutes isn't something these men don't know. Gay men already know about HIV and many of them know people who have it. What's more, many of these men see no way they'll escape it, so why try?

"If I'm going to end up with it anyway, why wait?" That's what more and more young gay men are thinking and feeling, says Jacquelyn Clymore, executive director of the Alliance of AIDS Services-Carolina in Raleigh.

Young gay, bi and MSM men have grown up in a world that tells them their sex is bad, their love valueless, their bodies sick and diseased. Getting HIV is just icing on the already STD-filled, self-loathing, culture-killing cake.

If you think you have nothing to live for, why care when or how you'll die?

To be fair to the CDC and other Act Against AIDS officials: The campaign hasn't been fully unveiled. They say the first phase is meant only to refocus the national attention on the crisis — to reach those in the general population who aren't aware and don't think about HIV/AIDS.

But the CDC is going to have to try harder, think smarter and come up with more effective messages when it comes time to target gay, bi and MSM men. If they don't, we'll find millions of dollars wasted, HIV/AIDS rates still rising and more deaths in the gay community.

For our part, gay, bi and MSM men need to wake the hell up. Strong language, I know, but it is time to stop pussyfooting around the issues. A large part of the HIV/AIDS crisis could end with two words: Personal Responsibility.

Dan O'Neill, chair of the HIV Prevention Working Group of the Washington, D.C., LGBT Community Center, recently wrote on DC.Bilerico.com that gay, bi and MSM men need to start taking more of that personal responsibility when it comes to sex and health.

"You been tested?" said in the breathless throes of getting it on, will no longer suffice," he wrote. "We need to follow up with: 'When were you last tested?' and 'How many people have you had sex with since?' ... 'What types of sex have you had?' ... 'Did you use a condom?' ... 'Did you know the serostatus of those sexual partners?' ... etc. And we need to answer those questions honestly."

And, for Christ's sake, stop downing so much alcohol, drop the needle and pills and put a damn condom on. ▀

'online q-poll'

Do you think the
"9½ minutes" HIV/AIDS
campaign will be effective?

See the options and vote at
www.q-notes.com

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