

New study debunks myth of gay/lesbian wealth

by Tracey Conaty
Special to Q-Notes

WASHINGTON, DC—A new study released December 3 resoundingly debunks widely held beliefs about the economic status of gay, lesbian and bisexual (GLB) people. Contrary to what has become the conventional wisdom on the subject, GLB people do not earn more than heterosexual people. In fact, they may even earn less. "Income Inflation: The Myth of Affluence Among Gay, Lesbian and Bisexual Americans" was released by the Policy Institute of the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force (NGLTF) and the Institute for Gay and Lesbian Strategic Studies (IGLSS). The report was authored by M.V. Lee Badgett, PhD and professor of economics at the University of Massachusetts at Amherst and executive director of IGLSS.

"Income Inflation" is a startling study of the economic status of a frequently stereotyped population of Americans. Badgett explores the

pervasive and inaccurate notion that GLB people form an economic elite, insulated from discrimination by their wealth and disconnected from society at large by special, privileged status. After examining data from seven

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different surveys, she finds that none support this stereotype.

"The evidence from many different scientifically sound data sources points to the same clear conclusion: gay, lesbian and bisexual

people do not earn more than heterosexual people, either as individuals or as couples," reported Badgett. "Some GLB people are poor, some are rich, and most are in the middle, just as heterosexual people are. Now that we have credible data, we can stop relying on flawed studies that were designed to find high income gay people."

Right-wing organizations and individuals perpetuate and regularly exploit the myth of gay wealth to bolster their attacks against the gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender community. The myth is so pervasive and accepted that even Supreme Court Justice Antonin Scalia injected it into the dissenting opinion in the Colorado Amendment Two case.

"We have long known that the myth of gay wealth is just that — a myth," said Urvashi Vaid, director of NGLTF's Policy Institute. "Income Inflation" shines the light of truth on yet another of the Right's distortions of the facts," added Vaid. ▼

Letters

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cine to provoke cell-mediated immunity and strain-specific monoclonal antibodies (HIV immune globulin) to kill free virus. (Vaccine-based-only treatment for HIV was proposed by the late Jonas Salk, developer of the polio vaccine, and attempted by Daniel Zagury of France and by Robert Redfield at Johns Hopkins.)

As of today, there has still been no clinical trial of a vaccine/HIVIG treatment targeted against specific strains of HIV.

Recent observation of HIV rebound after initial viral suppression by combination protease-inhibitor therapy now forces consideration of other options. Time is fleeting. The hour has come for large-scale clinical trials of strain-specific, immune-based therapy against HIV. ▼

— Gary James Minter
Research Triangle Park, NC

[The views expressed in this letter are those of the writer and do not reflect the views/opinions of his employer nor any other entity.]

THE MASQUERADE

Competition
Promotes
Creativity
"Carpe
Noctum"

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
DEC. 1998		Open every evening from 8:00pm to 2:45am. Male strippers at 10:00pm every night.				
		1 Male Strippers on stage at 10:00	2 Boot Camp Fever \$5 Cover \$3 Cover if you wear Boot Camp Garb Great Drink Specials!!! Camp	3 Male Strippers on stage at 10:00	4 Number's Up Get a number sticker upon entry so you give and receive messages in the fish bowl. RETRO 80s	5 Male Strippers on stage at 10:00 Genea Lá Tete Drag Show at 12:00
6 Daemon's Night! Retro Heavy Metal Rock Party Male Strippers 5:00 - 9:00	7 Drag Show Featuring Brandy Alexander 11:30 \$ 12:45 Pool Tournament 12:00	8 Male Strippers on stage at 10:00	9 Male Strippers on stage at 10:00	10 Male Strippers on stage at 10:00	11 Number's Up Get a number sticker upon entry so you give and receive messages in the fish bowl. RETRO 80s	12 Male Strippers on stage at 10:00 Genea Lá Tete Drag Show at 12:00
13 Brandy's Christmas Party Male Strippers 5:00 - 9:00	14 Drag Show Featuring Brandy Alexander 11:30 \$ 12:45 Pool Tournament 12:00	15 Male Strippers on stage at 10:00	16 Boot Camp Fever \$5 Cover \$3 Cover if you wear Boot Camp Garb Great Drink Specials!!!	17 Male Strippers on stage at 10:00	18 Number's Up Get a number sticker upon entry so you give and receive messages in the fish bowl. RETRO 80s	19 \$100.00 Door Prize! Enter nightly to increase your chance to win. Drawing tonight! Genea Lá Tete Drag Show at 12:00
20 SECTION ONE Brought to you by your mistress of things dark and malevolent TRAGEDY - 10:00 Male Strippers 5 - 9	21 Drag Show Featuring Brandy Alexander 11:30 \$ 12:45 Pool Tournament 12:00	22 Male Strippers on stage at 10:00	23 Male Strippers on stage at 10:00	24 Christmas Eve Closed	25 Christmas Day Male Strippers on stage at 10:00	26 Male Strippers on stage at 10:00 Stage show at 12:00
27 SECTION ONE TRAGEDY A Nightmare Before Christmas... 10:00pm Male Strippers 5 - 9	28 Drag Show Featuring Brandy Alexander 11:30 \$ 12:45 Pool Tournament 12:00	29 Male Strippers on stage at 10:00	30 Male Strippers on stage at 10:00	31 NEW YEAR'S EVE UNDERWEAR PARTY!!! After party @ 2:00 Bring a movie.		

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