

Best, worst colleges for gays ranked

by David Stout . Q-Notes staff

The Princeton Review has recently published "Best 368 Colleges: 2009 Edition," its annual book of college rankings based on dozens of topics.

Among the book's 62 lists of "Top 20 Colleges" in various categories are: "Gay community accepted" — a listing of the colleges at which students reported their campuses to be the most gay friendly — and "Alternative lifestyle not an alternative" — a listing of the colleges at which students reported their campuses to be the least gay friendly.

Both lists were compiled based on students' answers to the survey question, "How much do you agree or disagree with the statement: 'Students, faculty and administrators treat all persons on my campus equally regardless of their sexual orientation?'"

Students indicated their answers on a five-point grid with choices ranging from "Strongly agree" to "Strongly disagree."

The survey findings have sometimes sparked substantial improvements in campus attitudes toward gay and lesbian students. One such example took place at Duke University in 2003.

After appearing on the gay unfriendly list

for five years (and topping the list for two), straight and gay students joined together to launch a campus campaign to promote gay tolerance. They raised \$7,000 in donations to pay for 1,800 T-shirts that stated, "Gay? Fine by Me." From the student body president to the basketball players, students made themselves billboards for tolerance.

Gay Community Accepted

Emerson College, Boston, Mass.; New College of Florida, Sarasota, Fla.; New York University, New York, N.Y.; Stanford University, Stanford, Calif.; Prescott College, Prescott, Ariz.; Macalester College, St. Paul, Minn.; Bard

College at Simon's Rock, Great Barrington, Mass.; College of the Atlantic, Bar Harbor, Maine; Wellesley College, Wellesley, Mass.; Mount Holyoke College, South Hadley, Mass. **Alternative Lifestyle Not an Alternative** University of Notre Dame, South Bend, Ind.; Thomas Aquinas College, Santa Paula, Calif.; Hampden-Sydney College, Hampden-Sydney, Va.; Trinity College, Hartford, Conn.; Wheaton College, Wheaton, Ill.; Grove City College, Grove City, Pa.; College of the Ozarks, Point Lookout, Mo.; Baylor University, Waco, Texas; Seton Hall University, South Orange, N.J.; Brigham Young University, Provo, Utah. ▀

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