

conducted on the problem of job discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation. The study found that gay men earned 11 to 27 percent less than non-gay counterparts with similar age, education, occupation, marital status and residence. Lesbians earned five to 14 percent less.

"Far from having some mysterious advantage in the labor market, gay workers face discrimination that actually hits them where it hurts—in their paychecks," said School of Public Affairs Professor Lee Badgett, who studied data from the General Social Survey, a national random sample of the U.S. population collected by the National Opinion Research Center at the University of Chicago. Badgett's study applied research methods developed in the study of race and sex discrimination to the area of sexual orientation.

No federal law forbids discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation. The Employment Non-Discrimination Act, which is currently before Congress, would forbid such discrimination in employment practices. Opponents of the law, testifying before the Senate Labor and Human Resources Committee, cited data from marketing surveys to paint gay people as an "affluent elite" that do not deserve legal protection from discrimination.

"The stereotype of gay prosperity is based on marketing surveys of gay magazine readers and people attending gay events. Those marketing surveys are biased toward people with higher incomes," Badgett said. "Representative data and statistical techniques reveal an economically diverse lesbian and gay community with people who are poor as well as rich, with most falling in the middle. The real economic difference between gay and straight Americans is the daily struggle of lesbians and gay men against the psychological and economic effects of discrimination."

Silly Rabbit, Trix Maker Says 'Nix!'

REHOBOTH, DE -- It took less than an hour for an AIDS activist to have T-shirts emblazoned with an anti-gay message removed from a Rehoboth, Delaware store.

ACT UP/Philadelphia member Norman Baker initiated a blitz of phone calls to a Rehoboth store after finding T-shirts with the message "Silly Faggot, Dix are for Chix". The shirt is an unauthorized takeoff of Trix cereal's well-known advertising campaign that features a cartoon rabbit and the slogan "Silly Rabbit, Trix are for Kids".

According to Steve Elkins, executive director of Camp Rehoboth, the store's owner met with Baker and agreed to remove the T-shirt in question. Elkins said the store's owner set up a meeting with Baker less than 45 minutes after local residents began bombarding the store with calls.

Across the Delaware Bay on the shores of New Jersey, gay activists are also fighting the battle of the Trix rabbit shirts. On July 24, the Lesbian Avengers of New Jersey held a rally in Belmar, NJ. Since then, according to Lesbian Avenger Diana McCague, stores have not stopped selling the shirt and sales have increased. Activists are also spotting a spinoff which has the same slogan but with a rabbit wielding a bat, she said.

"We're not demanding that the shirts be banned—we're not into censorship," McCague said. The protestors' main objective, she explained, was to educate the public about the T-shirts and to show that the gay community in New Jersey is not invisible.

"The message is an insult to the gay community and is offensive to anyone who sees it," New Jersey Governor Christine Whitman said. "It is demeaning

to individuals and is little more than an appeal to personal bias and bigotry."

Barry Wegener, a spokesperson for General Mills, the Minnesota-based company that produces Trix cereal, said that the company "takes exception to the use of its trademark by any unauthorized individual or group" and is offended by the "obscene message on the shirt."

General Mills sent a letter to several companies who produce the shirts, demanding they destroy any remaining inventory. Wegener refused to identify the companies. He said General Mills received reports from consumers that the shirts were being produced in Ocean City, MD, Florida, and California. (*The Washington Blade*)

Survey Finds Men Prefer More Romance

NEW YORK -- Gay men are more interested in romance and long-term relationships than in sex, according to a survey by the Advocate, a national gay magazine.

The results, published in the magazine's August 23 issue, came from 13,000 readers. Eighty percent said they would rather live without sex than without love and 71 percent said they prefer long-term monogamous relationships to other arrangements.

The survey also found that 71 percent believe another gay man can tell they are gay while only 29 percent believe heterosexuals can tell.

Seventy-one percent of respondents said they lifted weights or did some other type of exercise to improve the way they look. (*The Washington Blade*)

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