



DECEMBER 2002

STRAIGHT TALK GETTING Cheeky

BACK ON THE first season of *Sex and the City*, good girl Charlotte confided in her gal pals that her new boyfriend wanted anal sex. So given the show's tendency to both make and mimic trends, HIV preventionists who think they have to broach that taboo topic only with gay men should think again.

According to a comprehensive report by former University of California/San Francisco researcher Daniel Halperin, PhD, straight women are getting rear-end action in droves. This spells trouble for a pop-



cents, serodiverse couples and ladies who lunch with bi men or IV drug users.

This means that, numerically, more American women are having unprotected receptive anal intercourse than gay men (though rates of infection are, of course, much lower). Given that HIV is believed to be 10 times more trans-

missible through unsafe anal sex than vaginal sex, a significant number of newly infected women can blame it on butt-banging.

"I think prevention as a whole needs to refocus on anal sex," said Halperin of what he sees as an iron-

ic return to AIDS' early days, when phobic hets squirmed at

Het anal sex has hit prime time. Will HIV prevention catch up?

ulation that is least likely to use condoms (because there is no fear of pregnancy) for the most dangerous activity (anal sex).

In the U.S., surveys show that about 20 to 30 percent of het gals have let their men in the back door, about a third on a regular basis. And for reasons ranging from contraception to kinkiness, the practice is reportedly even more common among those who engage in high-risk behaviors—sex workers, adoles-

the spotlight thrown on what homos do in bed.

"The whole panorama of sexual acts needs to be addressed by prevention," said Deb McSmith, ED of Women Organized to Respond to Life-Threatening Disease. "It just speaks to the depth of our discomfort about sex that it's not there already." Prevention workers had better get comfy fast—before anyone else ends up in deep shit.

—Benjamin Ryan

◦ FUND FRISK:

A website devoted to discouraging new federal dollars for abstinence-only education is the latest to feel the Republican chill. The site joined AIDS groups charged with undermining Dubya's celebration of celibacy. In September, 20 members of Congress requested that Health and Human Services Secretary Thompson investigate groups like Planned Parenthood that sponsor nonewmoney.org, for, supposedly, wrongful use of federal bucks to lobby.
—Benjamin Ryan

BRIEFS

◦ HARDISH TIMES:

The post-9/11 economic downturn, a sluggish Silicon Valley and a wobbly first-year-sans-Pallotta AIDS Ride have left the San Francisco AIDS Foundation (SFAF) \$2.5 million short, forcing it to lay off 28 from a staff of 117 last summer. The nation's richest ASO said that it has prioritized its "core services," and that no clients will lose housing. Remaining senior staff took a 10 percent pay cut, with ED Pat Christen shaving 12 percent off her much-maligned \$185,000. (In a stinging release, ACT UP/SF's David Pasquarelli crowed that SFAF lost a sock because of a to-do—his own—over its "lack of services and overly abusive management.") Jibes aside, SFAF's loss came partly from the rocky split from Pallotta TeamWorks. While SFAF touted the triumph of its first indie ride this year, the event grossed only \$4.4 million, compared to Pallotta's \$11 million last year (both kitties were shared with AIDS Project Los Angeles).
—Benjamin Ryan