



Oct. 1, 2008

<http://www.libertybears.net>

Bear Essentials

The Official Newsletter of the Liberty Bears of Philadelphia

Community Businesses Support Liberty Bears' Funding Raising Efforts!

Local community businesses and individuals as well as businesses from the greater LGBT community showed their support for The Liberty Bears' fund raising events. We requested gifts for our bingo and other fund raising events. And they came through!

Here are some of those who helped:

Spruce Street Video, 252 S. 12th St./Phila., donated two gift cards, complimentary rentals;

Giovanni's Room, 345 S. 12th St./Phila., (www.gioannisroom.com) gave a gift card;

The Sansom Street Gym, 2020 Sansom St./Phila. (www.sansomstreetgym.com) contributed DVDs with six month complimentary memberships;

The Sporting Club at the Bellevue, 220-224 S. Broad St. / Phila., (www.sportingclubbellevue.com) provided a two

month complimentary membership;

Spunk Video (www.spunkvideo.com) furnished a box full of DVDs from their on-line catalog;

Bear films (www.bearfilms.com) supplied DVDs, 2009 bear calendars, and on-line memberships.

Several individuals donated items, too.

The Liberty Bears of Phila. thank our supporting businesses and individuals for their help in our fund-raising efforts.

Sat., Nov. 1, 2008

4th Annual Pornocopia Social

The Liberty Bears of Philadelphia will be holding our 4th annual Pornocopia Social at our Nov. 1, 2008 social, 6pm-10pm at the Bike Stop's main bar.

As in past years, Pornocopia includes our very popular PORN SWAP. We welcome everyone to

Porn Swap & Mega Porn Raffle!
Sat. Nov. 1, 2008, 6pm-10pm
in the Main Bar at the Bike Stop

bring their used porn and exchange it for others' tapes and DVDs.

This time around, we're adding a MEGA PORN RAFFLE. We're raffling off dozen of porn DVDs from Spunk Video and Bear Films as well as other items donated by community businesses.

upcoming events:

SAT., Nov. 1, 2008: General Meeting, 5pm-6pm in the PIT at the Bike Stop;

SAT., Nov. 1, 2008: Social, 6pm-10pm at the Bike Stop, main bar; theme to be announced.

SAT., Jan. 3, 2009: General Meeting, 5pm-6pm in the PIT at the Bike Stop;

SAT., Jan. 3, 2009: Social, 6pm-10pm at the Bike Stop, main bar theme to be announced.

Liberty Bears Visit Reading Bears

Once again the Liberty Bears went to Reading to spend a delightful evening in Jail with our brothers the Reading Railmen. In attendance before the bench and Judge Jerri was Ron" Diva" Spinelli, Bill "BOP" Hawk, Dave "Sapphire" Warden and Gavin "Cookie" Shifter and Dan "the Badger" Kemery. The event started at 9pm and went till 1pm. Citations, Warrants and 50/50 raised 196 dollars. The Railmen offered 1/2 the pot to the bears 98 dollars which we donated back to the Railmen for their 30th Anniversary party. All had a good time; we are already looking forward to next September and hosting the Railman here in the near future.

The Roving Badger reporting.

Gotta Question? Just Ask The Badger

Dear Badger,

I'm 40 years old. I'm uncut. I've been wondering if there would be any advantages of getting snipped. To Snip or Not To Snip

Dear Snip or Not,

Adult circumcision is a very unpleasant experience. You must not become erect until the scar heals, and even then the skin will likely be tight when erect.

There is very little evidence that being circumcised is advantageous unless there is a specific medical reason. There is a small medical advantage in lessening HIV transmission for exclusively gay "tops" who bare-back.

Here are excerpts from an article by Donald G. McNeil Jr., Published Apr. 15, 2007 in the International Herald Tribune/Health & Science section.

...Three clinical trials in Africa have shown that circumcision helps protect men against contracting HIV

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Liberty Bears Patch Patrol at Bear Camp's "Lube Wrestling."

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Just Ask the Badger

and the World Health Organization has endorsed it. Unfortunately, the data from Africa does not translate well [to America]. Those trials were of heterosexual men in countries where the virus is everywhere, education about safe sex is practically nonexistent, and condoms get in the way of the need to father children.

In the United States, the AIDS epidemic is very different. The highest risk groups are men having sex with men (whether openly or covertly or even forcibly - in prison rapes, for example), people who share needles, and women who, often unknowingly, have sex with high-risk men. Although AIDS has been killing people in America for 25 years, it has not turned into a generalized epidemic like it has in Africa. Sex education, condoms, abstinence, antiretroviral drugs and the fear of death have concentrated it mostly in small pockets of the population.

And for most of those people, circumcision probably would not do much good. It might help protect gay men who are exclusively "tops" - that is, they have only penetrative anal sex, never receptive. It presumably would help protect men having sex with infected women. It might help protect women who choose circumcised men - but even that was not proved in the African studies, which had to be stopped early because the benefit for men was so glaring.

And, besides, there hasn't been a groundswell of demand.

"We haven't gotten a lot of calls," said Noel Alicea, a spokesman for Gay Men's Health Crisis, an HIV/AIDS support network.

"Not a one," said Tokes Osubu, executive director of Gay Men of African Descent.



2008-09 Event Schedule

The schedule of events for The Liberty Bears' 2008-09 year is as follows:

- Sat., Nov. 1, 5pm, Bike Stop, Gen. Mtg.;
- Sat., Nov. 1, 6pm-10pm, Bike Stop, Social;
- Sat., Jan. 3, 5pm, Bike Stop, Gen. Mtg.;
- Sat., Jan. 3, 6pm-10pm, Bike Stop, Social;
- Sat., Mar. 7, 5pm, Bike Stop, Gen. Mtg.;
- Sat., Mar. 7, 6pm-10pm, Bike Stop, Social;
- **Fri., Apr. 24 & Sat. Apr. 25, Top of the Bike Stop, Liberty Bears' 4th Annual Art Show;**
- **SUN., May 2, 5pm, Bike Stop, Gen. Mtg.;**
- **SUN., May 2, 6pm-10pm, Bike Stop, Social;**
- **Fri., May 15-Sun. May 17, various venues, Bears on Liberty Weekend VII;**
- Sat., Jul. 11, 5pm, Bike Stop, Gen. Mtg.;
- Sat., Jul. 11, 6pm-10pm, Bike Stop, Social;

Hanna Limits Crowd, but...

Bingo Was Great Fun!

The evening of Sat., Sept. 6 was The Liberty Bears' first social of our new club year, and Tropical Storm Hanna was there to greet us! The weather reports were dire with forecasts of high winds and torrential rains.

Well, the storm went through quickly and wasn't quite as bad as predicted, but all the hullabaloo in the press did keep the crowds away. Nonetheless, we held three rousing sets of bingo. Each set included four games- bingo, four corners, "x" and "+" Prizes included 2009 bear calendars, adult bear videos and other donated items. (See article above for a listing of supporting businesses.)

The Liberty Bears of Philadelphia's **Pornocopia Social**



Sat., Nov. 1, 2009
at the **Bike Stop's** main Bar
Porn Swap: Bring Some Porn / Swap Some Porn
& MEGA PORN RAFFLE

Interested in being associated with the Liberty Bears?

Come to our general meeting,

Sat., Nov. 1, 5pm in the PIT at the Bike Stop.