

For Immediate Release

Tuesday, June 24, 2008

Pride Safety Alert

Community United Against Violence (CUAV) has recently received reports of pick-up violence, drink drugging, and sexual assault in gay male cruising sites, specifically Collingwood Park in the Castro. CUAV asks the entire community, queer and straight, to create safety plans with friends and loved ones, so we can celebrate Pride together safely and proudly. During San Francisco's Pride festivities, CUAV receives calls from survivors and witnesses of anti-LGBTQQI hate violence and domestic violence. CUAV encourages the community to utilize CUAV's services by calling our 24-hour crisis line, **(415) 333-4357 (HELP.)** For information about our services, please visit:

www.cuav.org

Safety Tips:

- **Personal Safety** -- Carry a whistle and/or a fully-charged cell phone.
- **Reporting Violence** -- If you or someone else experiences anti-queer hate violence and/or domestic violence please contact CUAV's 24 hour crisis line at **(415) 333-4357 (HELP)** or San Francisco Women Against Rape at **(415) 647-7273**.
- **Sexual Assault** -- If you have been sexually assaulted, it is recommended that medical attention be sought at San Francisco General Hospital's Rape Treatment Center within 72 hours of the assault. This is the maximum time period in which HIV prevention medication and emergency contraception (morning-after pill) can be administered. If five days have passed since the assault, and you would like medical treatment, you can call the Trauma Recovery Center at 415-437-3000. San Francisco General Hospital emergency services related to treatment of sexual assault are offered to survivors free of charge. If you need immediate assistance, call 911 for help. Remember, you are not alone.
- **Safety Buddies** – Make a plan with a friend, neighbor, or co-worker who knows where you will be and what to do if you need help. Keep an eye on each other if you are going out together.
- **Hookup Safety** -- Let a friend know where you will be, with whom, and for how long. Meet in a public place where you can see other people. If possible, go with someone to meet the person. Be clear about your boundaries and trust your intuition: if something feels wrong, it probably is. If you plan to hookup somewhere you will be alone, have someone check on you, and plan a way out of the situation. Get your own drinks and take 'em with you!
Never leave drinks unattended.
- **Call for Help** – Bring a whistle, a fully-charged cell phone, or just shout to get the attention of people around you.
- **Safe & Sober Traveling** – Travel safely and soberly, making sure to let friends know your plans.