

Margaret Cho Confirmed For GAPSN'S Pacific Bridge Awards!

GAPSN's 16th Annual Pacific Bridge Awards will salute the "Women of Distinction" and will be held at the El Rey Theater, in Los Angeles, on Saturday, January 13, 2001 at 6:00 p.m. This year, GAPSN honors Shamina Singh, Executive Director for White House Initiative On Asian American and Pacific Islanders, entertainer Margaret Cho, California Assemblymember Gloria Romero and Joo-Hyun Kang, Executive Director of the Audre Lourde Project.

The Honorees for the Pacific Bridge Award are all individuals who were instrumental in advancing or advocating on political and social issues that are of significance to Asian Pacific Islander (API) lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender (lgbt) community.

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City Of West Hollywood Declares Itself "CITY OF REFUGE" For Same Sex Binational Couples

West Hollywood, CA, November 6 - West Hollywood City Council voted unanimously in supporting civil rights for its lesbian and gay residents by passing a resolution declaring West

Hollywood as a "City of Refuge" for same-sex binational couples. Passing this resolution marks the City of West Hollywood is only the second city in the United States to publicly denounce the great injustice same-sex binational cou-

ples face under current law.

"I'd like to thank the City Council for acknowledging that it is inhumane and cruel to forcefully keeping loving, caring

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GAPSN 2000 Contact Information

Pei-Chi Chang, Co-Chair
stickyrice@earthlink.net
(310) 888-RICE pager

Patrick Mangto, Co-Chair
patmangto@aol.com
(323) 982-6335 pager

Henry Lo, Political Coordinator
henrylo1@msn.com
(323) 225-3084

Val Parayao, Treasurer
vparayao@aol.com

Chi-Wai Au, RAP
chiwai@paclink.net

Cirilo Domine, Social Events
cdomine@laglc.org
(323) 860-7337

Gordon Hara, Newsletter
ghara@asianhome.net

Oscar Hur, Web Master
ohur1688@alumni.ucsd.edu

Michael Lou, HIV & AIDS
mlou@apla.org

Eric Wat, Historian
ez_dub@hotmail.com

John Wirfs, Youth Programs
pogijun@yahoo.com

Tani, Cultural Coordinator
tanidance@hotmail.com

GAPSN
P.O. Box 461104
Los Angeles, CA 90046
(213) 368-6488
e-mail: gapsn@yahoo.com
www.gapsn.org

GAPSN

Mission Statement

The Gay Asian Pacific Support Network is dedicated to providing supportive environments for gay and bisexual Asian/Pacific Islander men to meet, network, voice concerns, foster self-empowerment, and advocate on issues of significance to the gay API community.

Tokyo Includes Gays in Rights

After catching flack for removing homosexuality from its guidelines for human rights, the Tokyo government has seen the light and may become the first Asian city with such protections for gays and lesbians.

The Japan Times reported that on November 21 the government of Tokyo bowed to public pressure and decided to put the term "homosexuals" back in its human rights guidelines. "The term had been scrapped from the draft guidelines unveiled for public comment in June on the grounds that various surveys indicated that Tokyo citizens 'do not fully understand' homosexuals," reported the Times. But international human rights groups sharply criticized the exclusion of sexual orientation, and the majority of Japanese citizens who expressed opinions on the issue believed it should be reinstated.

Gays and lesbians were included in the process of developing the human rights guidelines for Tokyo, and the advisory commission included their concerns in its report. So it was a surprise when homosexuality did not appear in the draft published in June. When Tokyo's Governor Shintaro Ishihara was asked about the omission at a press conference, he responded, "In what way are they discriminated against?"

According to the Times, though, the final version of the document = recognizes that sexual minorities suffer discrimination.

In an October 9 letter to the city's government, the International Lesbian and Gay Association (ILGA) said, "The city of Tokyo has a unique opportunity to become the first Asian city to enforce a human rights policy protecting gay and lesbian human rights. We hope that your government will see the importance of our appeal and adopt a human rights policy for its population in accordance with the international recognition of human rights for all."

STD In The News

by Michael Lou

"Kissing and Herpes Virus"

Washington Post (11/09/00) P. A8
New findings published in today's New England Journal of Medicine (2000;343:1369-1377) show that a form of herpes virus may be spread through kissing. Herpes virus 8 causes an AIDS-related skin cancer known as Kaposi's sarcoma. John Pauk and colleagues from the University of Washington tested 39 gay men who were infected with HIV but not Kaposi's sarcoma. They found the virus in 30 percent of saliva and mouth swabs, but only 1 percent of anal-genital samples. The research also indicated that "deep kissing" could place gay men at greater risk for the virus.

"'Blackspot' Vietnam Expects 46,000 AIDS Deaths"

Reuters (www.reuters.com) (11/29/00)
New figures from Vietnam's Health Ministry forecast that unless aggressive measures are taken, more than 46,000 people will die from AIDS and another 200,000 will be diagnosed with HIV within five years. The statistics are in sharp contrast to the nearly 2,400 AIDS deaths and the 27,000 HIV infections the ministry previously reported. A report in Wednesday's official Vietnam News newspaper quoted the ministry as declaring the nation to be in the first stages of an epidemic of HIV and AIDS. UNAIDS estimates that 107,000 people in Vietnam are infected with HIV, nearly two-thirds of whom are injection drug users.

"Number of Chinese HIV Carriers Up 37 Percent"

Reuters (11/01/00)
As of the end of September, China had recorded 20,711 cases of HIV infection-

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GAPSN In Review



GAPSN's Installation Banquet 2000
(01/08/2000)



David Hong is awarded from the City of West Hollywood (05/04/2000)



Long Beach Pride (05/20/2000)



Outfest: GAPSN Co-Sponsor's Arther Dong, Forbidden City, USA,
(04/09/2000)



GAPSN's gallery opening, Damage Control (05/04/2000)



San Francisco Pride (06/25/2000)



GAPSN's dim sum, by Andre T.
(02/26/2000)



Assembly member Romero Joins GAPSN and Bienestar for Community Forum (05/11/2000)



Los Angeles Pride (06/10/2000)

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Date: Saturday, January 13, 2001
Time: Cocktails 4:30
Dinner 5:00
Program 6:00
Place: El Rey Theatre
5515 Wilshire Blvd.
(Between Fairfax and La Brea)
Cost: \$45

Contact: 213/ 368-6488, email
GAPSN@yahoo.com, or visit GAPSN's
website at www.GAPSN.org

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Highwas, Hybrid Is Asian (07/23/2000)

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-a 37 percent increase compared to the same time last year. The Xinhua news agency, quoting the health ministry, said that most of the new HIV infections were among people between the ages of 20 and 29, with injection drug users accounting for 72 percent of cases. Chinese experts in the state media estimate that the actual number of HIV infections is much higher, about 500,000 throughout the country. Furthermore, according to United Nations estimates, unless aggressive actions are taken, there will be 10 million HIV cases in China by 2010.

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couples separated," said Chris Haiss, co-chair of Immigration Equality, an organization who helped sponsor the resolution. "Tragically, under current U.S. immigration law there is no possibility for a U.S. citizen to sponsor his or her foreign same-sex partner for residency."

Although the resolution wouldn't change federal laws, it sends out a strong message of hope for those couples that live under constant fear of being torn apart, and, in the worst scenario, having the foreign partner deported.



Intimates, JI SOR (09/06/2000)

InformAsian is a monthly newsletter for the members and supporters of the Gay Asian Pacific Support Network (GAPSN). Publication of any person's name and/or photographs is not to be construed as an indication of sexual orientation. Opinions expressed are those of the contributor and are not presented as the views of InformAsian, its editor, or GAPSN. First name and last name by initial are printed unless otherwise instructed. Annual membership fees for general and supporting members are: Single: \$24.00, Couple: \$40.00, Student: \$25.00. There will be a \$12.00 charge for overseas postage. Checks (U.S. funds, no cash) to be made payable to GAPSN. Send to:

GAPSN Membership
P.O. Box 461104
Los Angeles, CA 90046
(213) 368-6488
gapsn@yahoo.com

Upcoming Events

January 13, 2001, Saturday
Pacific Bridge Awards (PBA)
El Rey Theater
5515 Wilshire Blvd.
Los Angeles, CA 90036



GAPSN's rap!

GAPSN Seeks Any And All Submissions

GAPSN is seeking submissions for our newsletter. As a voice for the gay or bisexual Asian male, we'd like any stories, poetry, jokes, etc. that you would care to send us. Authors retain all rights to their work (and you can brag that you've been published.)