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[www.gapsn.org](http://www.gapsn.org)

# InformAsian



## GAPSIN 2000

*Patrick M.*



As we start the next millennium, I was thinking of the GAPSIN I remembered

when I first came out and started getting involved. GAPSIN was a place I meet some of my friends, who are



still my friends, and then I withdrew for a while, and now coming back to GAPSIN again, I feel I have come back home.

When I was asked to Co-Chair GAPSIN for the year

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# GAPSN 2000 Welcome Home

**Political & Social- Justice Issues:** GAPSN is dedicated to addressing political and social inequities with regards to the Asian Pacific Islander lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender communities.

**No on Knight/Prop. 22 Campaign:** Continue to gather support throughout the API community to endorse No on Knight/Prop 22.

**Asian Outreach Efforts:** Educate and broaden the level of understanding in API community toward its LGBT members. Work in conjunction with other communities of color who have had bigoted attacks on their LGBT family members.

**Immigration:** Take the lead on immigration issues within the Asian Pacific LGBT community, and represent the issues to other mainstream immigration reform groups. GAPSN will provide members access to limited services and information on immigration issues.

**HIV, STD & Substance Abuse Info:** Provide new information on HIV, STDs & substance abuse prevention and education updates in the GAPSN Newsletter and on the website, so members can access information anonymously.

**Programming:** GAPSN is dedicated to refocusing our efforts on a variety of programs that will attract a variety of new and old members.

**Raps / Coffee Talk:** Moving from Chinatown to the Village to create greater convenience for the membership. It's an open forum to discuss a variety of issues affecting the gay Asian male.

**Social Events:** Conducted as an alternative to the bar or club scene, in a positive and accepting atmosphere where people can really get to know each other without abusing substances

**Movie Screenings:** an opportunity for GAPSN to screen movies, either at the Village or at a private residence, for API LGBT films that people may not be able to see otherwise.

**Special Events:** High visibility for events such as Asian Pacific American Heritage Month, Christopher Street West, Lotus Festival, August Moon Festival.

**Website:** A new & improved website, which outreaches to both out and closeted Asians living worldwide.

*Continued from Page 1: GAPSN 2000*

2000, it was decided the theme would be Welcome Back to GAPSN, and I thought how appropriate.

So I threw my self into planning the new board and the installation dinner and the goals for the whole year with Pei. I am proud to say this installation dinner was well attended. By not only the Asian organizations, but also the other LGBT groups. The whole incoming and out going board worked together to make this a success.

Pei-Chi Chang and I both agreed that we at GAPSN needed to take an aggressive stand on political and social issues that affect the GAPSN membership and the larger Asian LGBT community. This year, you will see GAPSN tackle many important community issues. At the same time, we will work to improve even more the programs that our members have come to rely on.

This year, we are planning to revamp the Raps. We are moving them from Chinatown to the LA Gay and Lesbian Center's Village to create greater convenience for the membership.

We are creating new Special Events for high visibility for Asian Pacific American Heritage month, Christopher Street West Pride Parade, Long Beach Pride, and other very Asian specific cultural events all the year round.

We want to create an alternative to the bar or club scene, in a positive and accepting atmosphere where people can really get to know each other in a substance-free environment. One of the things that I had missed was having Dim Sum with my friends at GAPSN and Coffee after Raps. So we are hoping to bring them back **(February 26 @ 11:30 AM, see This Months Events).**

We also want to take the lead on immigration issues within the API LGBT community, and bring these issues to other mainstream immigration reform groups on issues that effect all people of color. GAPSN will provide members access to services and information on immigration issues. We are working with the LAGLC Immigration Law Project and Immigration Equality, LAMBDA Legal.

Oscar has done a wonderful Job as a web master for GAPSIN, please log on to the site and take a look. Our goal is to provide updated information on HIV, STDs and substance abuse prevention and education information so that our members can access information anonymously.

We know that we have an ambitious goal this year, but with the help of GAPSIN members we can reach this goal. To achieve all that we want, we need the support of the existing members.

Our goal is to attract not only new members, but reach out to our existing members and say to them Welcome Home to GAPSIN. ■

## Out Of the Closet: Seeking Understanding and Fighting For Equality

*Gay Asian Pacific Support Network Honors VIPs (Translation by Andre' Ting)*

(Note: A reporter from Sing Tao Daily, a major international Chinese language newspaper, attended our installation and interviewed some GAPSIN spokespersons. The following is the translation of the article that appeared in that publication on Jan. 9, 2000. There are some errors in the content due to the reporter's unfamiliarity. Nonetheless this is an unaltered version of the original article. A.T.)

Southern California's largest gay Asian organization, Gay Asian Pacific Support Network, had their 15<sup>th</sup> year anniversary/installation event. It was a celebration held at the Westin Bonaventure Hotel on Jan. 8, 2000. The themes of the events were "Seeking Societal Understanding, Struggling for Equal Rights" [sic]. It also honored California Assemblyman George Nakano, Chinese [American] film producer [sic] Marcus Hu, and human rights advocate Morris Kight. It thanked these people for their many years of support. Over 200 people attended the function.

GAPSIN is a gay Asian Pacific organization for men. It currently has over 200 members. Over half of the members are of Chinese descent, the rest are of Filipino, Japanese, Thai, Korean, Vietnamese, etc. The chair of the organization Howard Yao, who immigrated to this country from Taiwan in his youth, indicated that the mission of the organization is to provide a place where gays can congregate and build a support network to reduce societal pressure, and to express their feelings. Members come from all walks of life and professions. They have widely different societal and academic backgrounds. But all share the same "classless and equal" vision. [He said] " We are an entity within the living society. We have our own lifestyle." Gay organizing is a societal phenomenon. It has its basis in their sexual orientation. Their goal focuses on their emotional and physical needs.

[New co-chair] Pei-Chi Chang, who came to this country at a very tender age from Taiwan, indicated that gays are struggling for equal rights and equal benefits. For instance, the right to get married is especially important to new immigrants. If a gay person had a lover, be it male or female, in Taiwan, Hong Kong, or China, his partner would be able to immigrate to the US through marriage. Without the right of [gay] marriage, they would not be able to unite.

Andre' Ting, who came {to this country} when he was 21, indicated that 10% of the population is gay and lesbian. Their community constitutes a significant [voting] block in the society. 5% of the [total] votes for President Clinton's election and re-election came from gays and lesbians.

Meanwhile, these spokespersons indicated that the Chinese community is under the influence of eastern culture, which discriminates against the homosexuals. These gay people are also under pressure form their own families. When they interact with other people in the society, they are not willing to claim to be gay. Also, they are not willing to reveal their real names to the public. However, they emphatically hope that society [at large] can correctly understand and accept or tolerate them.

Assemblyman Nakano (Southern California 53rd District) told this reporter that he totally indorsed AB 22, which aims to protect gays and lesbians in schools against harassment and criminal acts. In his speech [when accepting the Pacific Bridge Award] he said that he was not willing to see societal prejudice [against gays and lesbians]. He did that [supporting AB 22] in spite of the fact that it would have adversely affected his chance of re-election.

American-born Chinese Marcus Hu is a well-known gay personality. He is a film producer [sic] of Strand Releasing. In the past 20 years that company has produced [sic] over 100 gay-theme movies. They include "Billy's Hollywood Screen Kiss," "East Palace, West Palace," "Macho Dancer," "Tongues Untied," "Reeds," and "Edge of Seventeen." "East Palace, West Palace" is [a film] about two upscale restrooms in a venue in Beijing. Gays call them palaces, which became at one time an active site for gays in Beijing.

Morris Kight, a Caucasian, was the founder of a gay center called Christopher

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*NEWS ADVISORY FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE*

January 18, 2000

Contact: Judy Han 323-270-8998

KOREAN AMERICANS FOR CIVIL RIGHTS BREAKS SILENCE AND EXPOSES CHRISTIAN COALITION AND THE RELIGIOUS RIGHT FOR PROMOTING BIGOTRY AND DISCRIMINATION IN KOREAN AMERICAN COMMUNITY

Press Conference Participants Include: Reverend Seung-bae Paik (Wesley United Methodist Church); Inbo Sim (Korean Resource Center and National Korean American Service and Education Consortium); Jeff Kim (Deputy Director of Legal Services at Los Angeles Gay and Lesbian Center); and Judy Han (KACR Coordinator)

LOS ANGELES, January 17, 2000 - Korean Americans for Civil Rights (KACR) launched a media campaign against bigotry and discrimination with joint press conferences in Los Angeles and San Francisco. In honor of Martin Luther King Day, members of KACR linked the historic struggles of Dr. King to a present-day fight for civil rights for gays and lesbians in California. The media campaign aims to raise awareness of gay and lesbian issues in the Korean American community and build support against anti-gay initiatives on the March and November ballots in California this year.

KACR unveiled a full-page ad that appeared on Tuesday, January 18, 2000 in two major Los Angeles-based Korean newspapers -- the Korea Central Daily and the Korea Times. The ad urged Korean community members to fight for civil rights for gays and lesbians, and was signed by over 350 community members and prominent civic leaders including Angela Oh, a civil rights attorney and former member of the President's Commission on Race; Professor Elaine H. Kim of University of California, Berkeley; Rev. Kil Sang Yoon of the General Board of Higher Education and Ministry of the United Methodist Church; and Professor Jerry Kang of University of California, Los Angeles Law School. Leading community organizations throughout California have endorsed the ad, including the Asian Pacific Policy and Planning Council (AP3CON), Asians and Pacific Islanders for Reproductive Health (APIRH), Californians for Justice (CFJ), Korean Resource Center (KRC), Korean Immigrant Workers Advocates (KIWA), and National Korean American Service and Education Consortium (NAKASEC).

KACR formed in response to the anti-gay proposal, "California Defense of Sexual Responsibility Act" (CDSRA), which would "prohibit public entities from endorsing, educating, recognizing or promoting homosexuality as acceptable, moral behavior, and prohibit public entities from using the phrase 'sexual orientation.'" The SRA Committee needed to submit more than 400,000 signatures by January 18 to qualify for the November ballot -- they are expected to have failed to reach their goal. In a full-page ad published on December 14, 1999, the SRA Committee listed 267 committee members including many prominent religious and civic leaders such as Rev. Dong-sun Lim of the Oriental Mission Church, Rev. Hui-min Park of the Young Nak Presbyterian Church, and Charles Kim of the Korean American Coalition.

"The list includes some of the most well-known religious leaders representing the largest Korean American congregations in Southern California. The SRA committee may be led by a few individuals on the radical right, but we cannot underestimate the breadth of bigotry expressed by this endorsement," said Judy Han, coordinator of KACR. Han pointed to the SRA newsletter, which falsely claims, "80% of homosexuals eventually die from AIDS, syphilis, infection in the intestines, hepatitis B, and other sexually transmitted diseases." Han said, "This is one of the most virulent attacks against the dignity of our lives. We must make a firm stand against these outrageous lies and bigotry."

Reverend Seung-bae Paik of Wesley United Methodist Church, said, "I'm concerned that the Korean American community is working with the Christian Coalition. Members of the Christian Coalition and others on the religious right have long undermined the rights of immigrants and communities of color, and it is deeply regrettable that Korean American churches have joined hands with them." He also urged Christians to remember, "Christ clearly showed us that we must stand up for love, truth, justice, and fairness. We must respect differences that exist within our communities, and advocate for civil rights for everyone."

*Continued from Page 4: NEWS ADVISORY FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE*

Jeff Kim, Director of Legal Services at the Los Angeles Gay & Lesbian Center, said, "As a Korean American, I am deeply troubled that leaders of my community are actively working with people who are only interested in using us to carry out their plans for state-sponsored discrimination," said. "Our work locally and nationally informs us that hate rhetoric leads to harassment and violence. To call for a vote against another group's equal access to civil rights is shamefully irresponsible."

In addition to continuing the media campaign against the "Sexual Responsibility Act," KACR is committed to fighting against anti-gay initiatives such as Proposition 22 (The Knight Initiative). KACR will continue to work to raise Korean American community awareness about lesbian and gay issues, and advocate for civil rights, and promote social justice.

*Continued from Page 3: Out Of the Closet*

Street West [sic]. He has been a supporter of [gay] Asian Pacific organizations in the last 20 years, fighting for their civil rights.

Since 1980, he has been a commissioner on the LA County Human Relations Commissions. The dignitaries who attended the event unequivocally requested the society at large to truly understand the gays and lesbians. They support the protection of gay legal rights.



## Taking It off For Money

### *Off the Beat*

Leave it to the Internet for making the stuff available, and leave it to Japan to starting the whole thing in the first place, and leave it to Taiwan for picking up on it. What is this all about? Used underwear, panties, school uniforms, lingerie.

Yes, you guessed it, Taiwanese surfers are now using the Internet to sell and buy used underwear. The sellers are college co-eds, short on cash and with an extra supply of used undergarments gathering dust in the closet.

The buyers? Dirty old men, perverts and "curious observers." Sure. The Chinese-language press is calling the items "hot-from-the-body" underwear. The going price: from NT\$100 to NT\$600 apiece, depending how "fresh" the items are. The

most sought-after products are those delivered "hot-from-the-body," in other words, those that have just been taken off by the wearer.

Some vendors also offer a "photo" of the woman to those who buy ten or more items. Men's underwear is also on sale for the gay market. On-line customers can make purchases by credit card.

Okay, the trend started in Japan. Now some people in Taiwan have embraced it. But doctors here are calling the whole scenario "risky consumption" and warning that some viruses and bacteria can spread long after bodily fluids have dried up. Is there an end to this Internet madness? ■

## China's Gays Coming Out

### *Advocate News Online.*

With a mixture of denial and acceptance, Chinese society is recognizing that homosexuality exists, hundreds of years after Western missionaries noted the prevalence of love between Chinese men, The [New Orleans] Times-Picayune reports. From a burgeoning gay-bar scene in Beijing to semi-open wedding ceremonies in Shanghai and a renewed nationwide AIDS hot line, China's small gay population has begun to come out of the closet after years of arrests and social stigmatization. Chinese researchers recently announced for the first time their estimate of the number of gay people in China: 40 million to 50 million out of a

population of 1.2 billion. And a researcher specializing in Marxism-Leninism at the University of Public Security, a conservative bastion, submitted an internal report calling on Chinese heterosexuals to study the equality prevalent in homosexual relations.

The openness of homosexual life in China is part of a broad trend in Chinese society toward more personal freedom that has grown during 20 years of economic reforms. "In our cities, things are freer and freer," said Fang Gang, author of a best-selling book on gay life in China. "And the average Chinese is pretty accepting of these changes. People realize that we lived in a straitjacket for a long time. Now that straitjacket is coming off."

Part of the reason for an easing of attitudes about homosexuality is a realization that if China continues its prudish ways, efforts to combat an already serious AIDS problem will be hampered. The health ministry says China has 400,000 carriers of HIV, although the real number is believed too much higher.



## HIV/AIDS News Update



*Michael L.*

Greetings, fellow GAPS Nites... This is Michael, your newly appointed HIV/AIDS Coordinator for 2000. This position has been left vacant for quite

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sometime, but I am happy to announce that the issues of HIV/AIDS are once again being brought to the forefront of several important GAPSN agendas. One

of my goals this year is to inform and to bring awareness of HIV/AIDS and STD's (sexually transmitted diseases) to our GAPSN members. Having said that, here are some excerpts for the recent news for your reading enjoyment. Until next month, this is Michael at your service.

**"HIV-Positive Man Gets 18 Months for Biting"**

**Washington Times (01/06/00) P. C3**

A HIV-positive Baltimore man who bit a security guard last year was sentenced on Wednesday to 18 months in jail for assault and reckless endangerment. Eric Glaspie was not given credit for time served after the scuffle at a store where officers believed he was using a fake check. During the incident, Glaspie cut his mouth and bit one of the security guards on the arm. The incident took place on June 18, 1999, and the security guard has tested negative for HIV.

**"City Official Protests Blood Bank's Refusal of Gay, HIV-Negative Men"**

**San Jose Mercury News Online (01/07/00)**

A San Francisco city official is protesting a regulation that prohibits HIV-negative homosexual men from donating blood. A U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) rule bars blood centers from accepting donations from men who have had sex with other men since 1977. On Thursday, Supervisor Mark Leno led a group of HIV-negative gay men to a Blood Centers of the Pacific office in order to protest the refusal of the group's blood donations. The president of the center, Nora Hirschler, said she agreed with Leno, but she added that the facility would be closed if they did not comply with the federal mandate. Hirschler also voiced concerns that the protest could draw attention away from the severe blood shortage in the region.

**"Across the USA: Hawaii"**

**USA Today (01/05/00) P. 12A**

Despite aggressive screening and treatment efforts, the tuberculosis (TB) rate in Hawaii has been well above the national average since 1992. That year the TB rate in Hawaii was 24 cases per 100,000 residents. The TB rate in 1998 was between six and seven cases per 100,000 nationally, but 15 cases per 100,000 people in Hawaii.

**"Thais Worried by AIDS Risk Among Teenagers"**

**Reuters (01/05/00)**

While Thailand has been successful in limiting HIV overall, there are signs of an increasing number of infections among teenagers, according to National AIDS Committee spokesman Somtrong Rakphoa. Somtrong said that studies indicate that only 20 percent of Thai teens use condoms during sex. The official noted that HIV rates have fallen among blood donors, male military conscripts, and pregnant women, although infections among intravenous drug users have increased substantially over the past decade.

**"Continued Risky Behavior in HIV-Infected Youth"**

**American Journal of Public Health (01/00) Vol. 90, No. 1, P. 115;**

Diamond, Catherine; Buskin, Susan  
New research indicates that both adolescents and adults continue to engage in risky activities even after they were diagnosed with HIV. Researchers from the University of Washington School of Public Health and the Seattle-King County Department of Public Health reviewed data for more than 3,000 HIV-infected youths and adults in an effort to describe and compared the risk behaviors of the two groups. The data was obtained from the Seattle-King County Adult/Adolescent Spectrum of HIV-Related Diseases Study, conducted between January 1990 and February 1998. The results show that both female and male youths were over two

times as likely as adults to engage in risky behavior, including engaging in unsafe sex and sharing injection drug paraphernalia. The authors note, however, that both the youths and the adults participated in risky activities after HIV diagnosis, showing the need for public health campaigns targeting individuals infected with HIV as well as those at risk for HIV/AIDS.

**"Migrants Swamping City Threaten HIV Campaign"**

**South China Morning Post Online (01/12/00); Watkin, Huw**

Health officials in Vietnam are warning that economic refugees who have moved from rural areas to urban centers may hinder efforts to stem the spread of HIV. According to the Vietnam News Agency, there are nearly 250,000 unregistered migrants in Hanoi, a city of about 2.7 million people. Officials are concerned that high rates of unemployment may prompt some female migrants to become prostitutes. Furthermore, studies show that rural migrants are at high risk of contracting sexually transmitted diseases because of their low levels of education. A report from Hanoi's Reproductive Health Research Institute and AIDS Committee noted that about two-thirds of the migrants use condoms, but many have extramarital sex, while factors like temporary housing conditions and a lack of information sources also contributed to their high risk status. The rural migration to Hanoi has no easy solution as the economic gap between rural and urban parts of Vietnam continues to worsen.

**"Higher Rates of HIV Testing Seen in Los Angeles County"**

**Reuters Health Information Services (01/14/00)**

A 1997 Los Angeles County Health Survey shows that more adults with high-risk sexual behaviors are being tested for HIV. Researchers, led by Dr. Loren Miller of the Harbor-UCLA Medical Center in Torrance, assessed Los Angeles County Department of Health Services data on more than 8,000 households.

According to a study in the Journal of Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndromes (1999; 22:490-497), about 35.5 percent of those surveyed reported being tested for HIV in the past two years, while more than half of the individuals who reported engaging in high-risk sexual behavior said they had been tested for HIV in the past year. Nearly two-thirds of the individuals who engaged in high-risk sex--who represented 5.6 percent of those surveyed--were heterosexual men, the researchers found. ■

## Chinese Immigrants Vulnerable to Violence

*By Petula Dvorak Washington Post Staff Writer Thursday, December 23, 1999; Page A1*

Zhen Liu Guo had heard the stories: A pistol in the face for \$8; A bullet through a windshield; Pummeling in the dark corners of Sixth Street NW. And no police were called - ever. Walking home the night of Dec. 12, the 47-year-old Chinese immigrant took a different route to his apartment building just north of Chinatown, avoiding the spots his fellow Chinese immigrants said were dangerous.

He was safe until 9 p.m., when he arrived at the back door of 1301 Seventh St. NW, a 10-story box of apartments drawing Chinese immigrants who want low rent and proximity to their jobs in Chinatown. Just outside the entrance to his home, in the dimly lit parking lot and out of range of a security camera that functioned sporadically, Guo was shot three times and killed for his wallet. His 17-year-old daughter, Yun Shi Guo, looked out the window and heard gunshots. Then, she saw her father and the blood. This time, the police were called. And in investigating the still-unsolved slaying of Guo, one of dozens the 3rd District handles annually, police learned much about a community of immigrants

vulnerable to crime and locked in silence about what is happening to them. There are small ethnic enclaves of about 40 families in Shaw. Those who couldn't find or afford housing in Chinatown, but wanted to be near others who speak their language.

In 1993, the Guo family was among the pioneer Chinese immigrants to move into the building, which is owned by the First Rising Mount Zion Baptist Church Nonprofit Housing Corp. The building is government-insured, and about half its tenants qualify for government-funded housing under Section 8. A three-bedroom apartment goes for about \$600, and rent is pegged to a family's income. Some tenants are the adult children of immigrants who have chosen not to move away from their insulated community.

The story of Guo's family is much like that of others in the building. He left China in 1981. His wife and daughter followed in 1992. Gibson Plaza was affordable, and its small Chinese community was growing. Guo worked as a cook in a Union Station restaurant; his wife is a grocery clerk in Chinatown. Guo was distinctly active in community affairs, frequently attending meetings, said Greg Chen, director of the Mayor's Office on Asian and Pacific Islander Affairs.

He was different from many of his neighbors in that respect. "They don't want to get involved," said D.C. police officer Wen Ai, the Asian affairs liaison for the department, who heard accounts from half a dozen crime victims who refused to report the crimes.

Ai said many victims and witnesses in the Asian community don't want to burden police with their woes. "I see it in my mom, not wanting to bother people. It makes me so mad," said Ai, who emigrated from Taiwan when he was 7 years old. "I have to tell her, 'Mom, speak up for yourself.' And I want those people

in that building to speak up for themselves, too."

There are no statistics that can reflect crimes not being reported, though there is anecdotal evidence showing such a trend among Chinese immigrants, Chen said. "The next morning after Mr. Guo was killed, people in that building told me some horrible, horrible stories about being robbed and mugged," Chen said.

Statistics from District police show that in the last 2½ years, dispatchers received fewer than 300 calls asking for assistance in Asian languages. They received about 5,000 requests for Spanish-language assistance. Chen said the District's Spanish-speaking population is about twice that of Asian-language speakers, so the numbers are vastly disproportionate.

After Guo was killed outside the Gibson Plaza apartments, Chen organized a community meeting. He wanted to verify his gut feeling that Guo's killing was a horrific example of a trend Guo privately had feared. At the meeting, Chen aimed to learn how many of Guo's neighbors have been victimized and why they avoid police. "I only lost \$8. I didn't think it was worth it to call police," said one man, who told the story of a holdup months ago but asked not to be identified. "It's because we're Chinese," said one woman, afraid to be identified because she believes her brother was singled out for a recent holdup because of his race. She added that her brother refused to call police partly because the bandits were masked. "What good would it do if he didn't know what they looked like?" she said. Some mentioned futility, seeing few reports result in arrests. Others candidly whispered fears of retaliation.

Police Capt. Barry Malkin said the silence is damaging. "It doesn't help us," Malkin said. "In fact, it hurts us. It tells us nothing about the crime or the patterns of crime in the neighborhood. If we don't have an accurate picture of the

neighborhood, we can't police it correctly."

The apartment building is two blocks from an area recently labeled by Mayor Anthony A. Williams (D) as an open-air drug market. Francey Lim Youngberg, a lawyer who works with Access to Justice, said anyone could be a victim in such an area. But many of the Chinese immigrants there are particularly vulnerable, Youngberg said. "Because of the language barrier, they are less likely to report crimes, and they make better victims in the eyes of criminals," she said. "Their work hours also make them targets. Many of them work in restaurants and are coming home late."

Non-Asian residents who attended the meeting complained that crime is nothing new. They've been ducking hoodlums in the neighborhood for years. "These problems have been here for all of 27 years I've lived here," said Elizabeth Lightfoot, who raised four children in the building. She said outside lighting is poor and the surveillance camera works only occasionally. H.R. Crawford, a former D.C. Council member and the building's manager, said the security camera was broken at the time of Guo's killing, though its scope of vision would have skirted the area where Guo was shot. He maintained that the area was well lit. Malkin disagreed, saying it was inadequate. Crawford then promised to install high-density lighting and a reliable surveillance system. He also assured the Chinese families he will make all postings bilingual and will hire a bilingual office assistant.

Some residents said they were pleased that good may come of Guo's slaying. Guo's family, however, fears he died for nothing. His widow, Xiu Wen Guo, has spent most of the days since his death in despair, only slightly self-conscious about staying in her teddy-bear pajamas all day. She couldn't bring herself to come to the meeting, huddling in their \$500-a-month apartment with their 6-year-old son. His

daughter quietly watched the maelstrom her father's death had helped create. "I don't think anything will change," she said. "There are big American teenagers outside every day that still scare me. I just miss my dad. ■"

## Dear Friends

Henry L.



Welcome to the first major election year of the new millenium. As members of a democratic civil society, it is important that we exercise our right to participate in the political process. As we move forward, I hope to be able to report to you on important events as they happen at the ballots, and at the three levels (local, state, and federal) of our government. I thought that I would begin this year as GAPSNS's political affairs coordinator by reminding all of you of important dates that you all should be aware of. I urge all of you to stay abreast of current events as they occur.

February 6, 2000: The last day to register to vote. You must be registered to vote in order to participate in the upcoming ballot and primary elections.

For more information on how to register you may go the LA County Registrar's website at [www.co.la.ca.us/regrec/main.htm](http://www.co.la.ca.us/regrec/main.htm) or call at (562) 466-1310.

March 7, 2000: Election Day! Remember to Vote! Remember to vote against Proposition 22, the Knight Initiative, the anti-gay marriage initiative. March 7<sup>th</sup> is also the day for Californians for the Democratic and Republican Presidential Primaries.

April 1<sup>st</sup>, 2000: The United State Census bureaus will be conducting its count of the population in the United States. Every ten years, as mandated by the United States constitution, a census is conducted. It is important for all of to participate as

to it will determine how much federal and state money will be allocated to our local community and neighborhoods. ■

## No on Knight / Proposition 22 Update – Spanish language commercials

Pei-Chi C.



Our opponents, the "protect marriage" side, have unveiled a Spanish language ad campaign targeted towards the Latino community. The 30-second ad spot shows an extended Latino family celebrating a family member's 50<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary. There is no mention of lesbians or gays in the ad and it concludes with "Marriage and family. That's what Proposition 22 is all about." If you would like to see the ad, their website address is [www.protectmarriage.net](http://www.protectmarriage.net)

The No on Knight campaign continues its struggle, with only 40% of individuals polled opposing the initiative versus the 51% who currently support it. However, among individuals polled, awareness of the issue was only at 27%. What we've discovered is that support for the initiative goes down as people become aware of the radical conservative forces behind the initiative. So we really need it to educate our community and our allies on this issue.

Remember that last day to register voters for the election is Monday, February 7. If you have already registered, please register a family or a friend. We must fight back against these conservatives who attack our community, our friends, and our family. Contact Pei-Chi Chang at 310.888.7423 if you want to get more involved. ■



# Immigration Equality

Patrick M.

**Lesbian and Gay  
Immigration Rights Task  
Force/L.A.**

c/o L.A. Gay & Lesbian Center / Legal  
Services  
1625 North Schrader Boulevard / Los  
Angeles, CA 90028-9998  
voice: **323.526.2915** / fax:  
**323.993.7653** / e-mail:  
[lgirtf@abacus.oxy.edu](mailto:lgirtf@abacus.oxy.edu)  
web:  
<http://www.qrd.org/qrd/www/world/migration/lgirtfla.html>

*Immigration Equality*, the Los Angeles chapter of the national Lesbian and Gay Immigration Rights Task Force (LGIRTF), has launched a visibility and educational campaign called **LOVE KNOWS NO BORDERS** regarding the plight of bi-national same-sex couples. The group is mobilizing to contact any same-sex couples who are affected negatively by immigration laws.

Immigration laws particularly negatively impact bi-national couples, where one partner is a non-U.S. citizen, because there is currently no legal provision by which an American citizen can sponsor their same-sex partner for permanent residence in the United States based on their relationship. Thirteen countries (Australia, Belgium, Canada, Denmark, Finland, France, Iceland, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, South Africa, Sweden, and the United Kingdom) have legal provisions, which allow gay and lesbian partners to remain together through immigration procedures.

As part of this campaign, we are asking everyone who is in a bi-national relationship to write a brief story (a few paragraphs long) describing how current immigration laws affect him or her. The idea is to assemble a packet of information to present to legislators and

## *TOP TEN REASONS WHY THERE WON'T BE AN ASIAN PRESIDENT ANYTIME SOON*

By Henry L.

10. White House not big enough for in-laws
9. Engineering, medicine, and law always preferred over politics
8. Oval Office has bad feng shui
7. Can't find decent roast duck inside the beltway
6. Secret service can't handle nagging from mother
5. Dignitaries generally intimidated by chopsticks at state dinners
4. No chance for promotion
3. Lactose intolerance not considered politically correct
2. Senior aides won't take off shoes before coming in
1. Air Force One: No frequent flyer miles

others to put a human face on the real-life consequences of the non-recognition of same-sex relationships. You should email your story to [LoveKnowsNoBorders@yahoo.com](mailto:LoveKnowsNoBorders@yahoo.com)

Another important part of the campaign, which you can participate in, is attending two upcoming events in February. On February 4 there is a benefit performance of Tim Miller's "Glory Box." This performance piece which is inspired by the artist's own bi-national relationship has received rave reviews from audiences and critics alike in New York City, San Diego and many other cities. The shows are February 4<sup>th</sup> & 5<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> & 12<sup>th</sup> at 8:30 PM at Highways Performance Space in Santa Monica. Tickets are \$15. Bring your friends!

On February 14<sup>th</sup>, there will be a press conference and rally at the downtown I.N.S. building at 10:00 am. We'd like to get a good turn out of supporters to demonstrate before the federal agency that "Love Knows No Borders," especially on Valentine's Day. In particular, we will be raising awareness that love can take many forms, and same-sex love can also occur among people of

different nationalities. The press conference will be geared towards the announcement of forthcoming legislation by a New York Congressman to end discrimination against same-sex couples in immigration by allowing U.S. citizens to sponsor their same-sex lovers for permanent residence in similar ways that straight U.S. citizens can. ■



**Since Valentine is coming up, the topic for this month's rap is "Romance and Dating".**

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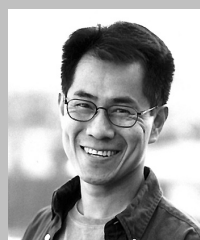
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InformAsian is a monthly newsletter for the members & supporters of the Gay Asian Pacific Support Network (GAPSN). Publication of any person's name and/or photographs is not to be construed as an indication of sexual orientation. Opinions expressed 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 (US 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](mailto:gapsn@yahoo.com)

The mission of GAPSN is to provide supportive environments for gay and bisexual Asian Pacific Islander men to meet, network, voice concerns, foster self-empowerment, and to advocate on issues of significance to the gay API community.



**March 9, Thursday**

**7:30 PM, The Village at Ed Gould Plaza, 1125 N. McCadden Place, Los Angeles, CA 90038**

**Arthur Dong's Forbidden City, U.S.A. and Sewing Woman**

GAPSN is proud to Co-sponsor with Outfest a GAPSN member and Sundance Award Winner Film Director Arthur Dong's Forbidden City, U.S.A. and Sewing Woman.



## This Month's Events

**February 12, Saturday**

**7:00 PM – 10:00 PM, The Village at Ed Gould Plaza, 1125 N. McCadden Place, Los Angeles, CA 90038**

**Monthly Rap**

Since Valentine is coming up, the topic for this month's rap is "Romance and Dating". For more information call, Chi-Wai.

**February 19, Sunday**

**7:00 PM, West Hollywood Park Auditorium, 647, N. San Vicente Bl, West Hollywood**

**LANTERN FESTIVAL: dances of Asia**

This will be a concert of the highest artistic quality such as we have come to expect of Tani. Yet it will be highly entertaining and thoroughly enjoyable, while satisfying on an intellectual level. Come early for social interaction! GAPSN members may purchase tickets at the group rate of \$10, through GAPSN in advance. Regular tickets are \$15; seniors, students, and groups 10+ are \$10. Half the income from tickets purchased through GAPSN will go to GAPSN. For more information, call Tani.

**February 26, Saturday**

**11:30 AM, Empress Pavilion 988 N Hill St., Los Angeles, CA 90012 (213) 617-9898**

**Dim sum Gathering**

GAPSN cordially invites you to dim sum. Come one come all, meet the new board members, friends and bring new friends enlarging our community circle. For more information, call Cerillo.