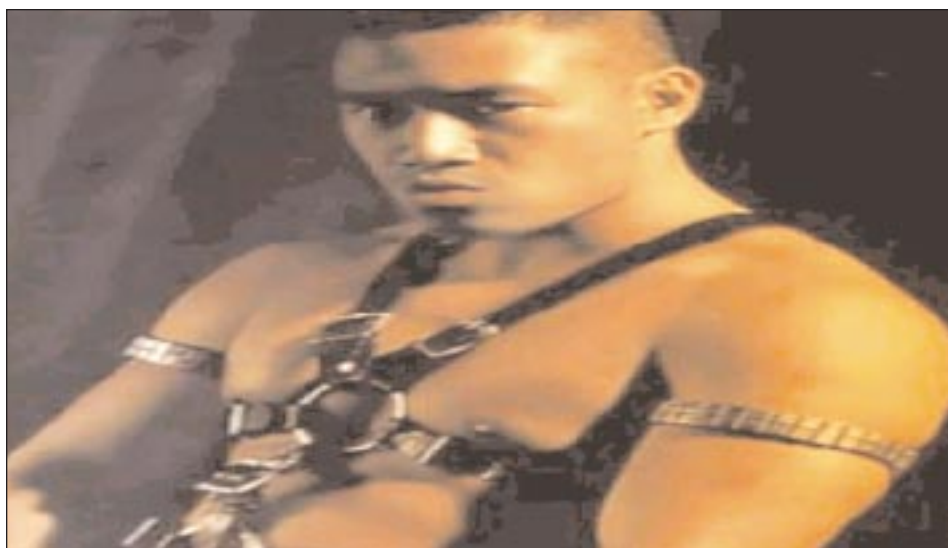


## HYBRID·IS·ASIA A Queer·N·Asian Artistic Joint



**A** showcase for Queer Asian Artists with many works being performed for the very first time.

An exposé of aesthetic and political tactics perpetrated by a band of Asian American performance artists. Spend an evening exploring the dark side of hybridity: Queer n' Asian vs. Straight n' American. Performances tackle racial cleansing, cultural parodies, and beauty from unsuspect-

ing sources. Expect to be questioned, challenged, and ultimately, enthralled.

Location: Highways Performance Space  
1651 18th Street  
Santa Monica, CA 90404  
Date: Sunday July 23, 2000  
Time: 5 p.m.  
Tickets: \$20  
Reservation: (310) 315-1459

## GAPSN Receives \$10,000 From Liberty Hill Money Is Earmarked For Coming Out Literature And Tolerance Campaign

GAPSN has been awarded a \$10,000 grant from Liberty Hill to prepare "coming out" literature for immigrant communities in eight different languages and to run a print media campaign with a "tolerance" message. This will be combined with an outreach effort geared towards educating API services centers with the lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgendered

communities that they serve. The focus of the campaign will be on API immigrant communities.

The first part of the grant will allow GAPSN to prepare coming out literature that is culturally sensitive for APIs. We will be working off of a "Facing Out" pamphlet distributed by ASIA (an AIDS

### GAPSN Monthly Rap

**There will be no rap this month. Happy July 4th!**

organization out of Toronto). The original pamphlet was geared specifically towards APIs. It created a model in which sexual orientation, whether it be gay, lesbian, bisexual or transgender, is first dealt with by the family. The family then faces society as a united front, hence the term "Facing Out."

In addition, there will be print campaign. This print campaign will be in API foreign language newspapers. The focus of the print campaign is to increase awareness about the LGBT members living, working, and loving in the immigrant communities. The focus will really be on a message of tolerance and acceptance. GAPSN is hoping to that we will have API families to showcase in their struggles to gain acceptance in the mainstream API community.

Combined with the literature and the media campaign is GAPSN's outreach to the API community services centers to try to educate their employees about LGBT issues. The idea is to sensitize them towards the hurdles that APIs face in gaining acceptance from their families, API society and America at large.

*(continued on page 3)*

## **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**, Historian  
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](http://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.

## **Chair's Message**

**It's July.**

**Sorry for stating the obvious, but it's been a long 6 months for us on the GAPSN Board. We started off the new year with a few offerings and now have some of the best quality programming available for any community.**

**We are continuing this trend in July with the OUTFest co-sponsorship of not just extraordinary films, but also with the reception planned for July 15. We're greatly pleased because word has gotten out in the community and now many of these organizations approach us about programming.**

**GAPSN's Original Programming Series continues with the offering of HybridIsoAsian at Highways on July 23. This is a first showcase for Queer API Artists and we are pleased to be holding it in a venue of such high regard as Highways.**

**GAPSN is also planning a writer's workshop and an open mike series throughout the second half of the year. We'll bring you more info and details are firmed up.**

**We are so pleased to announce our Liberty Hill grant. It allows us to outreach to our API communities and continue to make those connections. By creating coming out literature and an ad campaign designed to raise awareness, GAPSN is breaking new ground in relating to our own.**

**Please remember that GAPSN is entirely volunteer driven (although you wouldn't be able to tell based on our events), and we really need everyone's help. If you are interested, please join us in enriching the lives of queer APIs.**

**The year is half done and we've only just started.**

*(continued from page 1: Liberty Hill)*

The funds will be distributed specifically for the purposes of supporting our foreign language speaking brothers and sisters and may not be used for any of GAPSNS's general programming. GAPSNS is setting up a separate fund specifically for this grant separate from our regular account.

If you are interested in helping us outreach to our API community, please write us at [gapsn@yahoo.com](mailto:gapsn@yahoo.com) or contact one of our officers. Your support is greatly needed.

## STD In The News

*by Michael Lou*

### "Expert Warns of AIDS Disaster in China: Report"

Kyodo News Service ([home.kyodo.co.jp](http://home.kyodo.co.jp))  
(06/14/00)

China is seeing a 30 percent growth of HIV infections per year, according to a new report. Professor Zeng Yi of the Chinese Academy of Preventive Medicine said that unless aggressive measures are taken, the government may not be able to meet its goal of limiting HIV infections to 1.5 million by 2010. The United Nations estimates that 500,000 Chinese are infected with HIV, primarily the result of needle sharing.

### "Knowledge of HIV Postexposure Prevention Unrelated to Sexual Risk-Taking"

Reuters Health Information Services  
([www.reutershealth.com](http://www.reutershealth.com)) (06/14/00)

A study performed by Dr. Craig Waldo of the AIDS Research Institute in San Francisco determined that homosexual men are not likely to put themselves at greater risk of sexual exposure to HIV even though they are aware that postexposure prevention is available. Street interviews with 295 gay men in 1998 revealed that 24 percent of the subjects who knew of the postexposure treatment

*(continued on page 4)*

## Hey G-Man

Dear G-Man:

I can use some insights in sorting through my confusion. I think I'm in love with someone who I'm not sure feels the same way about me. Initially, when we met, he was new to the scene and he was uncertain and indecisive about what he wanted. Eventually we have become the best of friends, and I value his friendship more than anything. Throughout the whole time I have grown more and more attached to him. We always hang out amongst a group of friends. At this point, we are all supposed be buddies. By revealing the truth, I think I will jeopardize our friendship, yet my heart aches because I feel that he doesn't feel the same about me. It's impossible to get over him because I see him all the time. I want to know how to move forward from this.

Can't Get Him Out of My Mind

---

Dear Unrequited,

I can sympathize with your feelings. I think we've all been at a point where we feel that we've become infatuated with someone who doesn't feel the same. (Actually, I can name gay friends of mine who are only attracted to straight men, with whom they can never have fulfilling relationships, but I digress).

What makes the matter worse is that you've gotten to know him as a person, and that makes it more difficult because you feel that you really understand him and what he needs (and you believe that you can make him happy).

So now what?

You've got to take a step back and long hard look at what you have with this person. It seems that you've got a special friendship and you should try to keep it at that level. You seem to have a good understanding of your relationship and it has become apparent to you that he does not feel the same way that you do. (Gay men being what they are, are generally pretty obvious about who they are attracted to and tend to try to have sex with him.) Let's look at the two scenerios. In the worst case scenerio, you stand a good chance of losing the friendship if you try to take it where the other party does not want to go. In the best case scenario, even if you do not lose him as a friend, you may have added a "weird feeling factor" to the relationship where he feels really uncomfortable around you and starts to avoid certain situations when it's just you and him (because it would create a sense of intimacy that he would try to avoid).

If you can, you should say nothing and just wait it out. Chances are, you will most likely find someone else attractive down the line and your romantic feelings towards him will dissipate. At that point, things will return back to the way they were.

If this is really not an option, you might want to try to avoid him for awhile. I know that this is difficult because you are infatuated with him, but it will give you the "space" that you need to think these things thoroughly.

If you are just starting to have romantic feelings towards him, try to rationalize it and move on by focusing on the friendship. If the feelings are much greater and have developed into a serious infatuation, then you should stop seeing him for awhile. Trust me, it's an unhealthy situation that will most likely become more problematic down the line.

Either that or you can watch the film "Object of My Affection" and cry into your Haagen Daz. (Or you can just watch Paul Rudd... yummy....)

Best of luck in trying to get over him. Lovers come and go. Good friends are very hard to come by. I've gone through many boyfriends, but have kept a close circle of friends. Be thankful for what you have.

*(continued from page 3: STD)*

reported unprotected sex in the last three months, versus 26 percent who were not familiar with the treatment. After a community-wide effort to highlight the availability of postexposure prevention, a survey of 234 gay men in January 1999 found that high-risk sex was reported by 37 percent of the men familiar with treatment and 26 percent of those not aware of it. In both surveys, men who knew about postexposure prevention were no more likely than those unaware of the treatment to have unprotected anal sex.

## Kissing controversy

by Pei-Chi Chang



A poster hanging at the corner of Taipei suffered a spray-paint assault for apparently encouraging homosexuality. The photo, a work by Kuo Ying-sheng, is part of a photo exhibition looking back at Taipei's past century. The exhibition was organized by the Taipei City Government.

## Red Dragon

by Pei-Chi Chang

Red dragon was unbelievable? Whomever said that Asians love to gamble were right on! For a \$10 donation, people could get \$100 worth of gambling chips and a free Red Dragon t-shirt, CD, calendar or a GAPSN bunny shirt. GAPSN was swamped, the party was a success, we were exhausted. We'd like to thank John Burney and Donald for all of their support. You helped us immeasurably.

## The Chinese Rainbow Controversy

by Pei-Chi Chang and Patrick Mangto

There was a misunderstanding between GAPSN and China Rainbow Association (CRA) with regards to sharing a booth at Christopher Street West and we would just like to take moment to clear up any misunderstandings.

The GAPSN board feels that we may have misunderstood CRA's request to share a booth and we would like to apologize for any hurt feelings. When we were originally approached to share a booth, we were disinclined to accept because we had other requests to share a booth from Immigration Equality, TriKone LA, an API Women's Health survey, to name a few. We did not want to be perceived as being biased towards only the Chinese community, so we politely refused any requests and explained that we either had to accept

everyone or no one.

CRA believe that all they wanted to do was to distribute literature at the booth. This was a compromise that we could make (and we would have extended the offer to any of the aforementioned organizations as well). However, we honestly believed that CRA wanted to share booth space, which would not have been feasible given the number of organizations that needed to be accommodated.

Regardless, GAPSN supports all of our queer API brothers and will continue to do so. We apologize and sympathize if members of CRA were offended. In the future, we hope to work together in the future and continue our tradition of collaborative efforts.

## GAPSN is proud to be a Co-Sponsor of OUT-FEST

by Patrick Mangto

In addition to the following films, GAPSN WILL BE SPONSORING A RECEPTION on July 15th, at the DGA at 9pm, after the INTIMATES (JI SOR) and FIRST LOVE AND OTHER PAINS, all GAPSN members will get a \$1 discount on these 3 movies if the mention that they are GAPSN members when they order their tickets.

**Saturday July 8 @ 12pm  
@ the Village 1125 N. McCadden Pl.  
Hollywood**

## HONOR THY CHILDREN

The Nakatani family was living the American dream. Al and Jane Nakatani had successful careers, a comfortable home, and three bright children. Like millions of parents, Al and Jane were blind to the family pressures, homophobia, and racism that plagued their sons search for identity and self-acceptance. Their dream was shattered on when they received a phone call informing them their second oldest son, Greg, had been

*(continued on page 5)*

## New Chair Added to GAPSIN Board

"I'm not young enough to know everything."  
--Oscar Wilde (1854-1900)

Speaking from a completely personal voice, moving from that post-adolescent-idealistic phase to "the real world" has proven to be the most difficult challenges yet. Oh, but wait, right about now, there's that twinkle in the eye, the sigh, oh yes, Old Mother Nostalgia has struck again. What business does this [what's his name again....] new guy have writing this column speaking of nostalgia as if he knew what it meant and quoting Oscar Wilde... \*humpf\*

The GAPSIN board, in its commitment to the future and community, decided to begin an effort to assess and address the issues of queer API youth. A new chair was created [that's me, John, Chair Youth Programming] and here I am. I thought I'd use this opportunity, and white space in the newsletter, to talk about myself [to get to know me of course] and what I hope to do with GAPSIN.

I'm John Wirfs [WERE-fss], 22 years old and recent graduate from the University of Southern California's School of Architecture. I was originally made in Taiwan [as all good things are] and grew up mostly in Portland, Oregon and Seattle, Washington. I relocated to Los Angeles five years ago for school and through some adjustment, have managed to find comfort in this wonderfully bizarre city. I "came out" for the first time when I was about 16 and have been trying to build on this aspect of my identity ever since. Realizing that environment has an affect on identity formation, I want to take what I've learned about physical design and add the idea of "queer API" to the mix.

From the GAPSIN standpoint, the youth of today is tomorrow's membership and most importantly, leadership. From the youth standpoint, GAPSIN aspires to be the beginning of a journey that will span over the period of a lifetime. In its initial phases, we hope to gather API youth and promote identity formation and foster leadership. It seems as though we're positioned to write a chapter of a history where there will be no shame in being a member of the LGBT community, nor question one's pride in being API. I aim to earn your respect and trust as one of many authors of this "next chapter." We'll be sure to keep everyone posted on the upcoming events and possible avenues for input. If you would like to reach me, the best method is via email at [pogijun@yahoo.com](mailto:pogijun@yahoo.com) I'm excited about the upcoming year and look forward to meeting and/or working with everyone at some capacity. I enjoy Thai food, intelligent conversation, walks on the beach ISO well-spoken ND/NS...

Ooops, how did my personal ad...

--John Wirfs

*(continued from page 4: Outfest)*

fatality shot. Gregs murder began a spiral of pain that continued with the HIV-positive diagnoses and subsequent deaths of their two remaining sons, Glenn and Guy, who were both gay. Since the deaths of their three children, Al and Jane Nakatani have courageously opened their hearts in

the hope of sparing other parents the tragedy of surviving their children. Screened here in a working version soon to be completed on film, HONOR THY CHILDREN exposes the killing power of hatred and shame in a civilized society, and serves as a testament to the human spirit.

**Saturday July 15 @ 7pm**  
**@ the Directors Guild of America 7920**  
**Sunset Blvd. West Hollywood**

### **INTIMATES (JI SOR)**

Spanning half a century, INTIMATES is an epic tale of love and friendship. Wai, a young Bay Area architect is fed up with her wimpy boyfriend and decides to escort her auntie Foon on a trip to China. In anticipation of the journey to her homeland, Foon recalls the love she lost there 50 years before. In an attempt to escape her impending marriage to a man she didnt like, Foon joined a women-only society and fell in love with beautiful Wan. The past collides with the present, in way neither woman could imagine, as Foon attempts to help Wai through the breakup of her tumultuous relationship while reliving the memory of her one true love. The breathtaking cinematography and superb acting enhance an already spectacular portrayal of female love.

**Saturday July 15 @ 7:15pm**  
**@ the Directors Guild of America 7920**  
**Sunset Blvd. West Hollywood**

### **FIRST LOVE AND OTHER PAINS**

The works in this superb program offers portraits of gay Asian men on three separate continents. Wayne Yungs FIELD GUIDE TO WESTERN WILDFLOWERS unravels racial stereotyping in its celebration of the first Asian kiss enjoyed by its many amorous subjects. Raymond Yeungs YELLOW FEVER follows the dilemma of a Chinese Anglophile in London who dates Caucasian men exclusively, but unexpectedly meets an Asian Mr. Right in the flat below his. Simon Chung's FIRST LOVE AND OTHER PAINS caps this elegant trio with its stirring portrait of the infatuation of a young Chinese student in Hong Kong with his order professor, with complications and lessons for all involved.

Call (323) 960-0618 for more info.

THE WHITE HOUSE

Office of the Press Secretary  
(Berlin, Germany)

For Immediate Release

June 2, 2000

GAY AND LESBIAN PRIDE MONTH, 2000

BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

A PROCLAMATION

Gay and lesbian Americans have made important and lasting contributions to our Nation in every field of endeavor. Too often, however, gays and lesbians face prejudice and discrimination; too many have had to hide or deny their sexual orientation in order to keep their jobs or to live safely in their communities.

In recent years, we have made some progress righting these wrongs. Since the Stonewall uprising in New York City more than 30 years ago, the gay and lesbian rights movement has united gays and lesbians, their families and friends, and all those committed to justice and equality in a crusade to outlaw discriminatory laws and practices and to protect gays and lesbians from prejudice and persecution.

I am proud of the part that my Administration has played to achieve these goals. Today, more openly gay and lesbian individuals serve in senior posts throughout the Federal Government than during any other Administration. To build on our progress, in 1998 I issued an Executive Order to prohibit discrimination in the Federal civilian workforce based on sexual orientation, and my Administration continues to fight for the Employment Non-Discrimination Act, which would outlaw discrimination in the workplace based on sexual orientation.

Yet many challenges still lie before us. As we have learned from recent tragedies, prejudice against gays and lesbians can still erupt into acts of hatred and violence. I continue to call upon the Congress to pass meaningful hate crimes legislation to strengthen the Department of Justice's ability to prosecute hate crimes committed due to the victim's sexual orientation.

With each passing year the American people become more receptive to diversity and more open to those who are different from themselves. Our Nation is at last realizing that gays and lesbians must no longer be "strangers among friends," as the civil rights pioneer David Mixner once noted. Rather, we must finally recognize these Americans for what they are: our colleagues and neighbors, daughters and sons, sisters and brothers, friends and partners.

This June, recognizing the joys and sorrows that the gay and lesbian movement has witnessed and the work that remains to be done, we observe Gay and Lesbian Pride Month and celebrate the progress we have made in creating a society more inclusive and accepting of gays and lesbians. I hope that in this new millennium we will continue to break down the walls of fear and prejudice and work to build a bridge to understanding and tolerance, until gays and lesbians are afforded the same rights and responsibilities as all Americans.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, WILLIAM J. CLINTON, President of the United States of America, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and laws of the United States, do hereby proclaim June 2000 as Gay and Lesbian Pride Month. I encourage all Americans to observe this month with appropriate programs, ceremonies, and activities that celebrate our diversity and recognize the gay and lesbian Americans whose many and varied contributions have enriched our national life.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this second day of June, in the year of our Lord two thousand, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and twenty-fourth.

WILLIAM J. CLINTON

# Pride



*Long Beach Pride* ↑

**G**APSN was proud to staff a booth at the Long Beach Pride Festival. Long Beach Pride has always been a sponsor of GAPSIN and we were pleased to enter a different part of town. This was the first booth we've ever had in Long Beach. Adorned with an Pacific Island motif, we were warmly greeted by the crowds and had many sign-ups. We were very successful and look forward to returning next year.

*San Francisco Pride* ↓



*Los Angeles Pride* ↑



Los Angeles was another story. CRAZY. Our booth was even more attractive, building upon what we learned in Long Beach (thanks to Cirilo and John). Many flocked to our booth, drawn by the sights (of the flowers, of course). At one point, we had so many people in and around our booth, no one could move. GAPSIN gave away free lee chee candies and copies of A. Magazine. (And sold our brand new GAPSIN bunny shirt as well).

GAPSIN showed its pride at San Francisco's Gay Pride on Sunday, June 25th. Eight members of GAPSIN drove up

to the bay area to join in the celebration of gay pride. GAPSIN participated with the GAPA API Wellness Center contingency. For many of the participants it was their first time marching in San Francisco. For others, its was their 3rd or fourth time. We also have Michael L. and Gordon H. for taking memorable photos that will be preserved in our historic photo album. Turnout for this years pride was estimated at over 800,000 people and many of us left the bay area was fond memories that will last a lifetime.

## Upcoming Events

### July 8, Saturday

12:00 p.m.

Outfest: HONOR THY CHILDREN

The Village at Ed Gould Plaza  
1125 North McCadden Place  
Hollywood

### July 15, Saturday

7:00 p.m.

Outfest: INTIMATES (JI SOR)

The Directors Guild of America  
7920 Sunset Blvd.  
West Hollywood

### July 15, Saturday

7:15 p.m.

Outfest: FIRST LOVE AND OTHER PAINS

The Directors Guild of America  
7920 Sunset Blvd.  
West Hollywood

### July 23, Sunday

5:00 p.m.

HYBRID-IS-ASIA

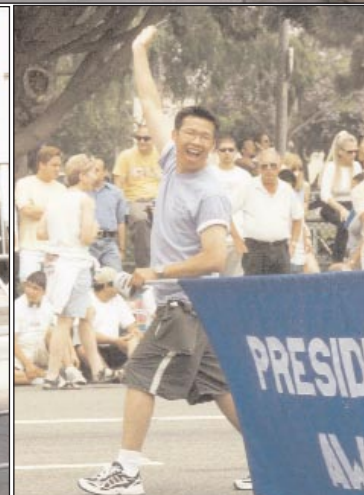
A showcase for Queer Asian Artists

Highways Performance Space  
1651 18th Street

Santa Monica, CA 90404

Tickets: \$20

Reservation: (310) 315-1459



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

## GAPSN Message Boards

GAPSN's message boards are now open. If you have something (or someone) to sell, or if you would like to make an announcement to GAPSN membership, GAPSN will have new message boards open starting next month in our monthly newsletter. Just e-mail your messages to Gordon at [ghara@asianhome.net](mailto:ghara@asianhome.net) or mail them to our mailbox. All senders are kept in confidence unless noted otherwise.

## 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.)