

## Assemblymember Romero Joins GAPSN and Bienestar for Community Forum



**Dr. Gloria Romero at the Forum**

*By Henry Lo*

On Thursday, May 11th, State Assemblymember Dr. GLORIA ROMERO joined members of GAPSN and Bienestar to discuss the package of domestic partnership legislation that is currently under consideration in the

State Legislature. The legislation would extend the number of rights that domestic partners have when they are registered with the State of California's Domestic Partner Registry. This registry was created last year by legislation sponsored by Assemblymember Carole Migden (D-San Francisco), who is one of 2 openly gay members in the State Legislature. Assemblymember Romero was very passionate when asked why she decided to sponsor her bill, AB 1990, which would allow domestic partners to make medical decisions for each other in the event that one of the partners is medically incapacitated. "At the end of the 21st Century, we shouldn't have to be having debates like the ones that are going on regarding gay/lesbian issues," said Dr. Romero. "It is about dignity, equal rights, and fair treatment for all Californians, regardless of sexual orientation."

*(Continued on page 4)*

## GAPSN Monthly Rap

### "Internet dating"

Curious about Internet dating and how to get the most out of it? Then join GAPSN and the Asian Pacific AIDS Intervention Team on June 3 for a discussion on anonymous sex and cyber sex. This interactive rap will provide tips on how to meet men online through personal ads and chat rooms, and provide an opportunity to practice writing your own Internet personal. Learn about the experiences of other members, as well as information you should know to play it safe.

**June 3, Saturday**

8:00 p.m.-9:30 p.m.

The Village at Ed Gould Plaza  
1125 North McCadden Place  
Los Angeles

For more information contact  
Chi-Wai Au  
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## GAPSN Social - Sex in the 70's, Asian Style, Baby!

*by Pei-Chi Chang*

Gay Asian Pacific Support Network (GAPSN) is proud to celebrate Gay Pride by hosting a social that is open to all. Come join GAPSN as we have an informal discussion with GAPSN Classic members about what it was like to be gay and sexually liberated in the 70's!

You've heard the rumors and read about all it. Now come find out what queer life was really like in the 70s by the people who lived it -- Was there really a lot of free love? How did API's function in the gay subculture back when they had to live underground? Where did they meet? How did they find love?

Here is your chance to ask the pioneers of the API gay culture anything you'd like. Is it true that turning down sex was considered an insult back then? Was there rampant promiscuous sex? Orgies? What are poppers and how do they work?

You may have heard other stories about life in the 70's, but come find out about THE GAY LIFESTYLE by people who lived, breathed, and sweated it (so to speak)."

After the informal discussion, please feel free to hang out and chat with the GAPSN Classic members. EVERYONE IS INVITED! Refreshments will be served.

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## 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

Greetings,

It's June and we at GAPSN have had one of the biggest kick-ass API Heritage Months ever! Never has GAPSN attempted so many events in one month and all of them have succeeded beyond a doubt. We estimate at least 500 individuals came to our events this month.....

We also have to give props to Cirilo Domine for all of the hard works he's accomplished for DAMAGE CONTROL and to Henry Lo for co-sponsoring a domestic partner workshop with Bienestar featuring Assemblymember Gloria Romero. Oh yeah, kudos to John for being our model both for our S&M session (sorry, no pics) for Barangay's Asiatica (mucho, mucho pics - come talk to us.....)

We have come out of this experience rejuvenated and excited about the programming for the next few months. Since June is traditionally Pride month, GAPSN is proud to continue our participation in Christopher Street West and to provide a social for talk about the free lovin' 70's, when the lifestyle was truly gay.

●GAPSN RAP continues with cyber sex. All of your questions answered. What profile works best in attracting men? What is the best chat room? How much can I get away with, anyways? Come find out this month in our rap. June 3 @ the Village

●Christopher Street West - we'll be there busy as bunnies. Stop by our booth for our new t-shirts, postcards, giveaways, and more. You won't be disappointed. June 10 & 11 @ West Hollywood Park

●Red Dragon - GAPSN sponsors Red Dragon this month! June 10 @ El Rey Theatre, West Hollywood

●GAPSN SOCIAL - 70's What's all this I keep hearing about he 70's? Free love? Poppers? Unprotected sex? Orgies? All this and more as we reminisce with Asians who were there and truly lived the "gay lifestyle." June 17 @ the Village

Upcoming events that you won't want to miss in July include OutFest Film Festival sponsorship, Dragon Boat Races at the Lotus Festival, and Hybrid-is-Asian Queer Artists' Performance Showcase. Special Note: Due to the holidays, we will not be having rap next month.

We would like to take a moment to thank all of the people who've attended all of our functions this year. As we continue to grow and offer diverse programming, we'd like to thank you for all of your support (especially the one's who have signed on to be members- hint, hint)

Just try to keep cool this summer as GAPSN turns on the heat!

Cheers.

Pei & Patrick

ps. GAPSN has made the decision NOT to participate in the CSW Parade this year because we feel that West Hollywood has become enough an environment so that APIs have become a visible presence. Instead, we've chosen to focus on our sizable programming and offer content to our membership as opposed to trying to force them to march in a really hot and long parade (and you thought just watching it was exhausting...) You'll see the care and effort we've taken through our efforts at our booth at CSW (sandwiched ever so conspicuously between the L.A. Gay & Lesbian Center and Bienstar), so please stop by for your free gifts!

## Hey G-Man

Dear G-Man,

I feel trapped. I have been in a long-term relationship with my partner for the last ten years. He is fifteen years older than myself and he was there when I needed someone. We have had so much together through thick and thin, and we have a home together and same social circle. For the last three years, our relationship has been in a low point. He has been unemployed for quite a while and physically we haven't been intimate for the past six months. Last year, I met a married man and we have been having a love affair. At this point, I don't know how or where to move from here. I'm not happy in my relationship and we don't feel romantic when he is so low and needy, yet I feel guilt for pursuing my own happiness. Am I wrong for wanting to walk away at this time?

Sincerely,  
Sleepless in San Marino

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Dear Sleepless,

Hmmm... You are indeed in a very serious predicament. I'm not sure if I have the definitive answer (especially since your letter is very short and lacking a few necessary details - more on that later). I understand your desire to end the relationship. One of the benefits to being gay is that most of us can leave relationships that are no longer productive without having the legal and societal entanglements. Unfortunately, having bought a house and having the same social circle makes this relationship almost like a heterosexual marriage.

Ten years is a very long time to be in a relationship. But then again, three years is a really long time to have to suffer through difficulties in a relationship. This clearly isn't a situation where you are leaving someone simply because of minor turbulence.

I think that you should really stop for a moment and forget about this affair that you are having. Instead, take a moment and assess this relationship with your partner. Have you really communicated your problems with him? I know that it's often easier to avoid difficulties than to have a heart-to-heart discussion. Many Asian cultures just don't talk about marital problems and just ignore it, hoping that it will go away.

How long has he been unemployed? Is he actively seeking employment or is he going through a depression? I find it difficult to believe that he couldn't find a job if he really wanted to. If he really is in depression, you should try to seek some expert counseling. Also, ask yourself if you aren't somewhat responsible for your relationship's lack of sex. In the past, who usually made the first move? Have you been subconsciously pushing him away?

Now, about this married man that you've been seeing. I'm uncertain as to whether or not this man is married to another man or a woman. (Actually, it really doesn't matter).

You didn't describe this relationship very much. Are you really happy with this other married man? Or are you just trying to escape your current relationship? I'm taking your word that when you stated that he's married, that he's married. This means that there is another party on his end that is also affected by this relationship. Does he have an open relationship or are you both cheating on your partners? If so, I suspect that you guys are in a very

## STD In The News

by Michael Lou

### "China Reports Rise in Drug Addiction"

Washington Post (05/01/00) P. A17

China reported a 14.3 increase in the number of registered drug addicts between 1998 and 1999, for a total of 680,000 by the end of last year. According to a report from the New China News Agency, approximately 490,000 of the addicts reported using heroin. Most of the addicts live in Yunnan province, near the borders of Burma and Laos. Injection drug use is responsible for over 70 percent of China's HIV infections.

### "TB Tests of Immigrants Urged"

Washington Post (05/05/00) P. A2;

Okie,

Susan

A panel of tuberculosis (TB) experts has proposed a new plan for eradicating the disease in the United States. The plan would require immigrants to receive TB skin tests to enter and for those infected be treated before receiving a visa. The number of TB cases is highest among foreign-born people in the United States. The new proposal for skin tests for green cards would regulate the number of immigrants entering with TB infection. Countries such as Angola, Burundi, Vietnam, China and Thailand have high infection rates.

### "The AIDS Epidemic Is a World Threat"

Bangkok Post Online(05/02/00)

An editorial in the Bangkok Post supports the United States' decision to list AIDS as a threat to world security. While much has learned about AIDS since the beginning of the epidemic, the disease has not been cured. The editors note that the national security threat from AIDS comes in several forms, including shifting demographics as a result of AIDS-related mortality and strained economies as the disease takes its toll on young working people and limited health resources.

volatile situation that may explode at any moment. You should not allow this situation to continue, especially with two other unknowing innocent parties involved.

What does this married man think about all of this, anyways? Does he even want to have a serious relationship with you, or is this just a "little, sumptin', sumptin'" he's getting on the side? Is he being honest with you? Expecting relationships to last when both people divorce their partners to be with each other is highly unlikely.

I sort of get the sense that you just want to get out of your current relationship and that you are using this as an excuse to break up. You should give some serious consideration to the two innocent parties who are affected. It is really unfair to both of them. I just don't think that breaking up with one guy and rushing off to another person immediately is a healthy response. You should spend some time to think things over before rushing into another relationship.

Try looking at this as two separate issues. Are you happy with your current relationship? Could you make it work if you really wanted to? Is it worth the effort?

Only after you answer this question should you tackle the second topic of whether this married man is the type that will leave his partner for you. Is he really better for you than the guy you are currently with? If your current partner pulls out of the slump, would things be alright again? Are you certain that the relationship with the other married man won't just turn out to be the same way as your current relationship?

I really believe that you should have a long discussion with an expert counselor on this issue. This isn't a simple anal leakage problem and I fear that you make some decision that you will regret later. Perhaps you should talk to a counselor and then bring your partner in. It may not be too late to save the relationship. Not everyone makes it to the ten year mark, and you may just be at the hump.

Best of luck.  
G-man

*(Continued from page 1: Gloria Romero)*

Assemblymember Romero also asked the audience to help her and the other authors of the four pieces of legislation Medical Decision Making, AB 1990 (Romero); Inheritance Rights AB 2047 (Steinberg); Death or Incapacitation of Domestic Partner AB 2211 (Kuehl); Keeping Families Together in Times of Turmoil and Crisis AB 2421 (Migden) in getting the message across to other members of the Legislature and the Governor. "It will be difficult to get the 41 votes need and that is why I need all of you to write to other members of the legislature and the Governor's Office to let everyone know that your rights count," said Dr. Romero.

For more information contact Dr. Romero's Office at: Assemblymember Dr. Gloria Romero, 1255 Corporate Center Dr. Suite PH9, Monterey Park, CA 91754,

(323) 981-3426,  
<http://www.assembly.ca.gov>

## CoCo Lee

*By Pei-Chi Chang*

CoCo Lee's first album, Just No Other Way, is now available stateside. CoCo has long been a supporter of the gay community, having sung the theme song for the gay film "Bishonen - Beauty" and recently performed at Red Dragon (where she signed this album for a GAPSIN Board Member who is too embarrassed to be identified). Her new single, "Do You Want My Love," is now available. Check out her website and listen to samples at [cocolee.org](http://cocolee.org).



CoCo Lee - Just No other Way

## Interview Wth Tak Yamamoto

*By Eric Wat*

This month we are celebrating the history of gay Asian movement in Los Angeles by bringing together different generations of activists and organizers whose contributions have been valuable to this movement. Remember, before 1980, there was no gay Asian organization in Los Angeles. A lot of us are not familiar with the history of how this happened and the people who made it happen. So I thought an interview with one of these pioneers in our community is a p p r o p r i a t e

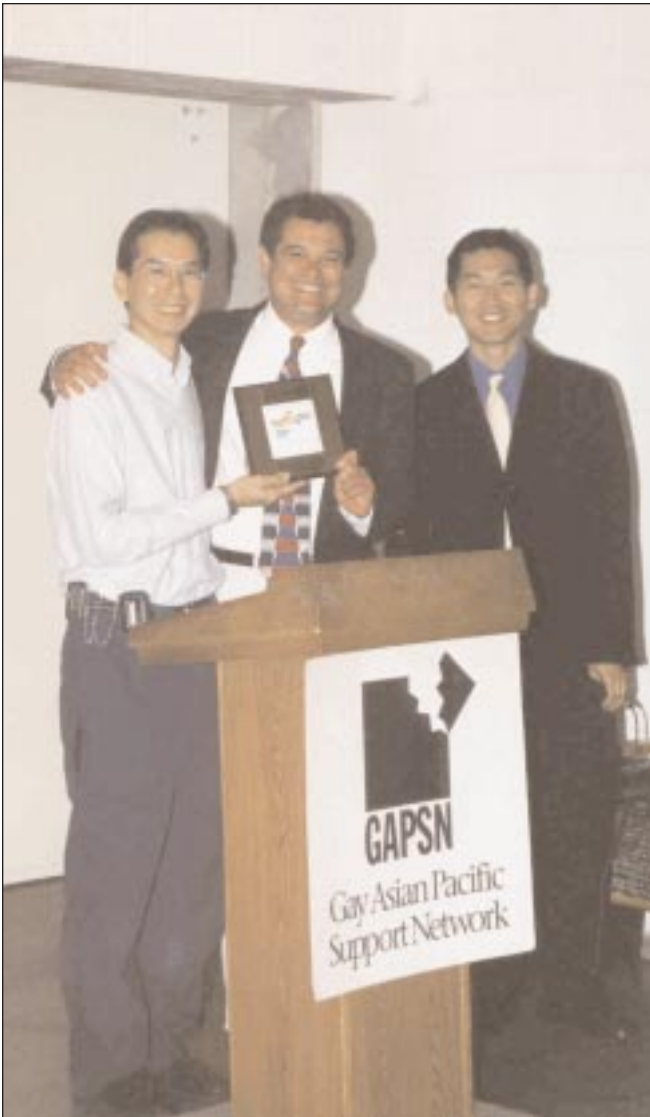
Tak Yamamoto was the first president of Asian/Pacific Lesbians and Gays (A/PLG), in 1980, at a time when A/PLG founders were concentrating on fostering a positive and independent gay Asian identity and on developing gay Asian leadership. These are goals that organizations like GAPSIN also strive to achieve today. Tak came to A/PLG with a lot of leadership experience. He protested against police abuse with Morris Kight in the gay community. He was president of the San Fernando Valley chapter of the Japanese American Citizens League. For years, his name has been virtually synonymous with the Manzanar Committee, an organization that made annual pilgrimages to the internment camp.

**Excerpts from interview with Tak Yamamoto:** My membership number is one; I wanted to be the first person to join A/PLG.

I went to one of the first discussion meet-

*(Continued on page 6)*

## "Damage Control" Opening



Right - David Hong, Council Member Steve Martin, and Pei-Chi Chang; Top Right - Cirilo Domine and Young Chung the artist for the American (Landing).

By Cirilo Domine

**D**amage Control was a tremendous success opening night. 250 people jammed the Gay & Lesbian Center's Advocate Gallery to look at the brilliant visual offerings such as Susan Choi's luscious color mural self portraits that reclaim the Asian female body. One of the controversial pieces that attracted attention included Young Chung's American (landing), 1999 - a disturbing, funny, thought-provoking piece that speaks about being enamored and also being fucked over by the host culture (see picture). And Viet Le's two paintings that seem like two banal-looking doors but actually contain within its veneers figures

" . . . I think that we are ready to dispose of the innocence of the Asian subject. It is time to turn ash the innocent construct of an essential Asian subject, the corpse without a murderer." Lawrence Chua

floating in clouds. Inspired by a T.S. Elliot's poem, Le's piece speaks about mortality, living and desire. And Chris Sicat's installation utilizing trophies held in tension with rubber bands - a commentary on Asian, and masculine achievement. There are nine artists total and also included Rico Reyes, Adrienne Lai, Allan De Souza, Tala Mateo, and Genara Banzon.

Luminaries included Karin Higa from the Japanese American National Museum, Catherine Lord, Yong Soon Min, Glenn Mimura, Russell Leong from UC Irvine and UCLA, and a whole slew of graduate and undergraduate students from Asian

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## Kiyoshi Kuromiya, HIV/AIDS Activist, Dies in Philadelphia

We regret to inform you that Kiyoshi Kuromiya, one of the world's leading AIDS activists, died on the night of May 10, 2000, due to complications from AIDS. To the last, Kiyoshi remained an activist, insisting on and receiving the most aggressive treatment for cancer and the HIV that complicated its treatment. He participated fully in every treatment decision, making sure that he, his friends and fellow activists were involved with his treatment every step of the way. He never gave up .

Kiyoshi devoted his life to the struggle for social justice. He was a committed civil rights and anti-war activist. He was also one of the founders of Gay Liberation Front - Philadelphia and served as an openly gay delegate to the Black Panther Convention that endorsed the gay liberation struggle.

As a pioneering AIDS activist, Kiyoshi was involved in all aspects of the movement, including radical direct action with ACT UP Philadelphia and the ACT UP network, PWA empowerment and coalition-building through We The People Living with HIV/AIDS, national and international research advocacy, and loving and compassionate mentorship and care for hundreds of people living with HIV.

*(Continued from page 4: Interview)*

ings at Paul Chen's house. Scarce furniture, which was a good thing, because there were seventy people in his apartment that day. It was a mixed group, so there were Caucasians there, too. There were a lot more Asians than they'd ever seen. All the people I could think of went to that meeting. And in the middle of this thing ... this got me and I got really adamant about this ... in the middle of these Asian Pacific people trying to come together and feeling we could do things with seventy people in the room, some white person came up and said, "Why do we need another organization? Why don't we just join all these other existing organizations?"

And I said, "Because it doesn't meet our Asian Pacific needs." See, if we join a mainstream organization, we would be the tokens again. We wanted an organization that was going to address our issues. I told him, "If you don't think you need this, then you need to get out, because there are

Kiyoshi was the editor of the ACT UP Standard of Care, the first standard of care for people living with HIV produced by PWAs.

Kiyoshi is perhaps best known as the founder of the Critical Path Project, which brought the strategies and theories of his associate/mentor Buckminster Fuller to the struggle against AIDS. The Critical Path newsletter, one of the earliest and most comprehensive sources of HIV treatment information, was routinely mailed to thousands of people living with HIV all over the world. He also sent newsletters to hundreds of incarcerated individuals to insure their access to up-to-date treatment information.

Critical Path provides free access to the Internet to thousands of people living with HIV in Philadelphia and this region, hosted over a hundred AIDS related web pages and discussion lists, and showed a whole generation of activists and people living with HIV that the Internet can be a tool for information, empowerment and organizing. He was a leader in the struggle to maintain freedom of speech on the Internet, participating in the successful lawsuit against the Communications Decency Act.

Kiyoshi understood science and was involved locally, nationally and internationally in AIDS research. As both a treatment activist and clinical trials participant, he fought for community based research, and for research that involves the commu-

seventy of us here. We are here because we feel there is a need." I kept him quiet. I was so vocal and upset that he wouldn't suggest why we didn't need an organization for gay Asians. Maybe for his own personal needs, there was no need for it. But as Asian Pacific people, we felt there was a certain power that we were now bringing together. There we were: we never had seventy of anybody speaking on the same subject, coming from the same location, and feeling a certain power that we never would've been able to generate otherwise, if we went into a white organization with our Asian faces.

One of the needs we felt was validation. We didn't say that in so many words, but the idea was: Why haven't we talked to each other until now? Why is it necessary that we look for validation outside of ourselves? Many people asked that. And with the realization that we could come together now, we could say we're okay. That was the beginning of something.

nity in its design. He fought for research that mattered to the diversity of groups affected by AIDS, including people of color, drug users, and women.

He fought for appropriate research on alternative and complementary therapies as well, and was the lead plaintiff in the Federal class action lawsuit on medicinal marijuana.

In the first issue of Critical Path, published in 1989, he wrote, "it is our conviction that . . . a heroic endeavor is now needed both to provide for the continuing health maintenance of Persons With AIDS the world over, and, by the year 2001 to find a cure for the ravages of AIDS for all time." That task he set us still remains unfinished.

We will miss Kiyoshi's intelligence and the clear and even analysis he brought to any meeting or political activity. We will miss his commitment, and dedication to the idea that all people living with HIV should participate in the decisions that will affect their lives. And we will miss his wit, his smile, his sense of fun.

If you want to honor Kiyoshi, we urge you to make a donation to the activist organization of your choice. And sometime soon, today, or tomorrow, or next week, take the opportunity to speak truth to power, join a picket line you might have passed by, or help plan a demonstration against global injustice that you thought you were too busy to be involved with. He would have liked that.

Before that, we were always asking someone else to tell us we were okay. That seems ludicrous now, I know, but back then, who was going to tell us that it was okay to say that we were okay?

After the meeting at Paul's, we really got into high gear. We decided to have rap groups because we got to find out where we were coming from. Before A/PLG, we socialized, we had dinners, we hung out. We could talk to another Asian person, but we still didn't reveal ourselves heart-to-heart. Not until A/PLG did we actually develop heart-to-heart. We were then able to focus on specific things that put us down. You know, in bars and other functions, you don't want to hear all kinds of gripes that go on in the real world. You want to be light and airy, and you want to feel good. But we weren't making a real impact, and until a group like A/PLG formed, there was no one to discuss these issues with.

From Kevin Fong in honor of Kiyoshi Kuromiya...

I was both shocked and saddened to hear of Kiyoshi's passing. For the past fifteen years, he has been the constant and often lone API voice for AIDS treatment and research. From 1990-94, we served on the Community Constituency Group of the AIDS Clinical Trials Group (ACTG), the agency that coordinated all of the federally funded AIDS research. That was back in the days when AZT was virtually the only option, and the cocktail was just an idea. We met four times a year for five days, first at the Sheraton then at the Ramada in DC. Our meetings would last from 7 AM - 10 PM, then Kiyoshi would go back to his room and work the hotline or write another article until 4 or 5, only to be back in the board room at 7. He had me convinced that he was invincible. As you can imagine, any gathering government officials, researchers and activists was bound to be tense. To be honest, it seemed most tense among the activists as we tried to establish a common agenda. In many ways, Kiyoshi was the one who pulled us together, and for the next four years, he quietly and patiently took me under his wing and guided me through the maze of ACTG and ACT UP politics. I count him as an important mentor, who, in many ways, was responsible for my development as a leader on the national front.

Several years ago, I was asked to speak at an API AIDS conference about the history of our movement. I told the stories of our heroes and heroines - and many of the names I mentioned drew nods of recognition from the audience. But when I mentioned Kiyoshi's name, not a whole lot of people nodded. Why is this man, who has done so much for our community, not recognized? Was it because he's not from SF, NY or LA? Or was it because he didn't exclusively devote himself to the API community? Or was it because his passion was treatment and research vs. prevention and client services? I later realized that that was part of Kiyoshi's strategy - he was a healer because he stayed just on the outside of the core, which allowed him to speak from many different perspectives. Recognition somehow meant that he would be "in the middle of it," and I think he preferred to be on the edge.

I saw him last fall, ironically at the Ramada in DC, and forced him to sit for a few moments. We talked about the standard of care, which he authored, and our persistent call to the ACTG for consent forms and protocols to be made available multiple languages (we got Spanish after 4 years). He told me about his current battles, and I said that it didn't sound much different than what we were advocating for ten years ago. He smiled and said, "it's not very glamorous but somebody's got to stick with it." That's how I'll honor Kiyoshi - by remembering that passion and persistence are the true measures of leadership.

Thanks Kiyoshi. Rest well

# Asian Pacific American Heritage Month



**John, Myron, and Shamina in DC**

*By Myron Quan*

The last week of April until the beginning of May was a busy time for DC - our nation's Capitol crammed inside a network of freeways, aka, the Beltway. Starting off this flurry of events, on the last Wednesday of April, the Supreme Court entertained oral arguments on the case of James Dale against the Boy Scouts of America.

James Dale had been an excellent role model for Scouting up until a decade ago. At that point, when James entered college, a newspaper article mentioned James' co-presidency of a gay student group for his school. The Boy Scouts of America informed James that his sexual orientation conflicted with the core purpose and message of the BSA and banned him from a group to which he had given many years of service.

At the oral argument, the Justices were very respectful of gay people. They asked difficult questions of both sides. For James Dale, they wondered whether a ruling in his favor would not force other groups - such as a women's group - to open up their membership to other sorts of people. For the BSA, the Justices noted the inherent inconsistency of the BSA's position: both openly gay and closeted gay members can be banned from the BSA

if their sexual orientation is discovered, but straight members will not be, even members that are strong pro-gay civil rights advocates. [A decision should come down by July 4th.]

Additionally, GAPSIN was invited to attend the kick-off event on May 1 for Asian and Pacific American Heritage Month Celebration, sponsored by the White House Initiative on Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders. The featured speaker was Dr. Deepak Chopra. Chopra began his address with some amusing anecdotes of his introduction to the practice of medicine in our country. Unfortunately, the remainder of his address devolved into an advanced physics lecture, drawing analogies between principles of quantum mechanics and eastern philosophies and other related schools of thought

Nevertheless, it was good to see a positive by-product of only the second executive order of this country specifically addressing APIs - the first one ordered the internment of Japanese Americans. Executive Order 13125 seeks to improve the quality of life of APIs through increased participation in federal programs where they may be underserved. Supporters from throughout DC and many federal employees made a point of attending this event

and supporting the White House Initiative. Last, but certainly not the least controversial, in between the BSA oral argument and the kick-off to Asian Pacific American Month, the Human Rights Campaign pulled off the so-called Millennium March on Washington - ironically, it also was the 25th Anniversary of the fall of Saigon.

Although I did not participate in the March on Sunday, I happened to be invited at the last minute to a queer API brunch in DC on the day before, sponsored by KHUSH - the South Asian and Friends organization, Asian Pacific Islander Queer Sisters, and AQUA - a 25-and-under support group for gay and bisexual API men. About forty men and women from across the country gathered to network and discuss queer API issues. I met over a half-dozen of our sisters from the now-defunct LAAPIS. There were folks from Boston, New York, Seattle, Los Angeles, and Chicago. And, the executive director of the White House Initiative, Shamina Singh, also dropped by at the last minute. The best quote of the day came from our sister, Joanna of Culver City: on the way to the brunch, she heard someone say very loudly with a Southern accent, "Well, I've never seen an Oriental lesbian before"! All in all, this event served a useful function of providing an alternative to the March and allowed folks to come together outside of the March - in fact, many of these queer APIs joined an Alternative March the next day, sponsored by the Radical Fairies, Lesbian Avengers, and other grassroots groups.

Anyway, back to the mainstream March that was boycotted by most of the country's local organizations. This March itself was lacking for several reasons. First, it was an incredibly non-people of color crowd. Of course, folks from smaller - and mostly non-POC - cities did not have a problem with the lack of diversity. Second, the folks who showed up seemed to comprise of mostly recent LGBTs. In other words, they had just come out of the closet, had missed the 1993 March on Washington and previous ones, or had never been to DC. Third, there wasn't any grassroots involvement. If you're like me, you probably did not see any endorse-

*(Continued on page 9)*



(Continued from page 8: Heritage)

ments of this March by any of the local organizations. Notice that GAPSIN did not mention it in our newsletter. Fourth, the March was not organized well. At the fringes of the March, there were piles of unopened boxes full of HRC signs with slogans. Finally, the number of attendees was very low. Although supporters will claim that the number of marchers is irrelevant, to people that attended the 1993 March, it was indeed sad that seven years after the last March - where we were jam packed from the Capitol House all the way to the Washington Monument - we could only pack the Mall. Further, this March was definitely commercialized. As a non-gay friend mentioned, "Doesn't the fencing off of the festival and demand for \$5 really hurt the LGBT movement? It's not very civil rights-like." She was completely correct. Students, youth, and lower-income members of the community were kept out of the festival, while LGBTs with greater economic means went in and supported the commercial sponsors of the March. I certainly hope that our next March does better with diversity, grass-roots organizing, and a more inclusive vision for civil rights.

(Continued from page 5: Damage)

American Studies, Studio Art and Film Studies. GAPSIN members as well as representatives from different Asian groups were there to lend their support including Barangay, APGF, China Rainbow Association. That same night a special award was given the founder of GAPSIN, David Hong, from the City of West Hollywood.

This exhibition addresses and interrogates the meaning of a celebratory month that traditionally meant keeping difference in line. Asian Heritage Month as we know it has always meant a touch of ethnicity, a taste of the exotic, a cornering and oversimplification. This kind of celebratory act reduces identity to the barest essential body. As Lawrence Chua says in his essay "The Postmodern Ethnic Brunch," "We have boiled [it] down for simplicity of digestion. How long have we sunk to identify something that only resembles ourselves on the screen, on the multicultural museum wall, in the bedroom.

The show's premise began as a conversation that lingered to fruitful debates with Young Chung, one of the artists in the show. We agreed that there must be an exhibition that refuses to clean-up, iron out rough edges of whatever one might think of Asians, for example, as model minorities. Instead the show includes installation, photography, painting, and drawing that reveal creative and critical attention to the diversity of our experience in the world. It is an examination of assets and liabilities, an airing out of issues for the sake of discussion. It is a show of extremes that teeter between blatant visual subversion to quiet meditative works. It is also a balancing act, sly maneuverings where subjects slip, become framed and unframed. It is a show of damages whether psychic, political, autobiographical and the creative means of overpowering control these artists have in conveying messages.

Beyond reinscribing "positive" representations of Asians "doing the right thing", or only concerned with our inclusion in the narrative, the show



## Singapore Cancels Homosexual Forum

by *The Associated Press*

SINGAPORE (AP) - Authorities on Wednesday canceled a planned homosexual forum, saying it would legitimize practices considered unlawful in this conservative city-state. In a statement, police said they "cannot allow the holding of this public forum, which will advance and legitimize the cause of homosexuals in Singapore."

Businessman Alex Au, who had requested government permission to hold Singapore's first forum on gays and lesbians on Sunday, said he was saddened by the ban. "It seems that civil society can only operate within the narrow confines of what the authorities deem to be the public interest," Au said. Dana Lam, president of the Association of Women for Action and Research, said the police statement "makes the environment sound very hostile to the gay segment of the population."

"If we can deny people their right to an open forum, if we can threaten imprisonment to their face for what is essentially a private act, what will we do next?" Lam said.

Police noted that anyone convicted of having "unnatural sex" can be sentenced to life imprisonment. "The mainstream moral values of Singaporeans are conservative," the police statement said.

## Upcoming Events

### June 3, Saturday

8:00–9:30 p.m.

GAPSN Rap

The Village at Ed Gould Plaza

1125 North McCadden Place

Los Angeles

### June 10, Saturday

9:00–2:00 p.m.

Red Dragon *Casino Club Nite*

El Rey Theatre

5515 Wilshire Blvd

Los Angeles, CA 90036

(323) 936-6400

### June 10 & 11, Sat. & Sun.

Sat. 11:00–12:00 a.m.

Sun. 11:00–11:00 p.m.

CSW–West hollywood Pride

647 N San Vicente Blvd

West Hollywood, CA 90069

### June 17, Saturday

7:00–9:30 p.m.

GAPSN Social (Everyone is invited)

The Village at Ed Gould Plaza

1125 North McCadden Place

Los Angeles

## Upcoming Events

### July 8 & 9, Sat. & Sun.

Lotus Festival

### July 23, Sunday

Hybrid Is Asian

# 19th Annual LA Frontrunners' Run/Walk for Gay and Lesbian Pride



Join us on our annual run/walk down Santa Monica Boulevard, a "work in progress"



### Benefitting Project Angel Food

"for Life, for Love, for as long as it takes"

Sunday, June 11 9:00 am

### Santa Monica Boulevard at La Peer Drive

(one block west of Robertson, West Hollywood)

PREVIEW THE CHRISTOPHER STREET WEST PARADE ROUTE BEFORE THE PARADE BEGINS! GET YOUR WORKOUT IN EARLY AND THEN JOIN US FOR ALL THE PRIDE DAY ACTIVITIES THAT FOLLOW THE RACE AND REMEMBER, BY PARTICIPATING, YOU'LL ENSURE EASY STREET PARKING FOR THE DAY!

Co-sponsored by  
Christopher Street West  
and City of West Hollywood

For more information, call (323) 460-2554 or visit [www.lafrontrunners.com](http://www.lafrontrunners.com)

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PlanetOut is the leading Internet media company offering a vibrant, welcoming and safe community for all gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender people as well as their family and friends.

## 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.

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](mailto:gapsn@yahoo.com)

## 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.)