

GAPSN Testifies Before The Presidential Commission On API Issues

On July 24, 2000 Patrick Mangto, GAPSN Co-Chair, was asked to speak to the Presidential Commission an API Issues focusing on LGBT concerns. This was an incredible opportunity to have the White House hear about issues of concern about the community. To have GAPSN be one of the few that were allowed testify was both a privilege and honor. Here are some of the highlights of his presentation:

The issues affecting the Asian American (AA) LGBT community are of being a minority within a minority group and not having equal representation or tolerance

from the main stream AA community. The important issues affecting the AA LGBT community are:

- Civil Rights (hate crimes, domestic violence including emotional and physical violence on coming out issues, domestic partnership, economic/job discrimination, LGBT Immigration,)
- HIV/AIDS and health services
- Social Services (youth, sexuality and gender identification issues, Substance abuse, residency status issues, linguistic and cultural issues, Homeless/displaced

persons, aging, etc.)

LGBT issues are generally not addressed in the AA community at any level. Much of this is because AA, culturally speaking, generally do not talk about issues pertaining to sexuality.

The other reason is that the AA community does not prize individuality the way that Western cultures do. As a result, when a person comes out their family, it is not seen as a person asserting his/her independence. Instead, it is perceived as something that the whole family must deal

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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

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GAPSN Monthly Rap

There will be no rap this month. Have a restful Labor Day Weekend!

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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.

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with as a family unit. The immediate result is fearing the issue likely will bring shame and ridicule upon the family from the API community.

In improving the life of AA LGBT we need to:

Recognize that AA LGBT individuals and communities are an integral part of the AA communities and that these communities do not necessarily provide adequate services to AA LGBTs. As a result, AA Community Based Organizations (CBO) cannot assume AA LGBTs are served by mainstream LGBT CBOs. There are language and cultural barriers that may keep AA LGBTs from receiving services from mainstream LGBT CBOs. This need is especially critical in areas where AA populations are not very large.

Recognize and fund programs that address "multiple marginalization" as the key barrier to service provision, quality of life issues, etc. for AA LGBTs (as well as other multiple marginalized communities).

Continue and increase support of the development and provision of Culturally/linguistically appropriate health and HIV/AIDS services for AA LGBT and AA communities in general.

Develop and fund cultural programming that addresses the needs of AA LGBT experiences through which the mainstream AA community can be educated about uniqueness of the LGBT issues.

Tolerance Campaign, (LGBT Issues/Homophobia in AA Workshops, etc.) -Externally, from a national mandate, or perhaps through national AA organizations, we need to address the question of "alternative families," not as antithetical to family, but an elaboration on the basic human need for developing communities to adapt to different definitions of family. The solution to some of the issues mentioned is support from the

federal level, with funding streams, and capacity building that will help the AA LGBT community start the dialogue with the main stream AA community. It would help, if and when federal dollars are allocated to AA CBO's, that it be encouraged, at the federal level, that some work be done to foster LGBT or HIV issues

GAPSN's campaign is a small drop in the bucket in community recognition the model for gaining acceptance is developed for LA County, but with some modification can work at the national level.

With the change in the demographic, Asian Americans will be close to 17 percent of the general population in LA County. Combined 10 percent of society being LGBT, one can see that an important whole section of the population group is not being represented. AA mainstream CBO's are not administering to this segment of the community. What we need is Federal funding stream directly to AA LGBT CBOs, to develop and continue the effort of building a bridge for acceptance and understanding by the mainstream AA community. And also the federal funding is needed by AA LGBT CBOs to do capacity building so that they can provide adequate and appropriate services to its own community.

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the journey to her homeland, Food recalls the love she lost there 50 years before. In an attempt to escape her impending marriage to a man she didn't 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.

Wednesday September 6th, 7pm, LAGLC Village (323) 960-0618

Hey G-Man

I learned recently that I have contracted genital herpes. It's a very anguishing and fearful experience. I do not consider myself promiscuous like some people that I know, and I have had few sexual experiences. My mind is filled with both anger and despair. This is not fair. I can't even think about the future.

The more I know about this condition, the more depressed I get. My head is confused with the thought of how I should deal with the next break out and what kind of relationship can I have with my partner in the future?

Exiled

Dear Exiled,

Having venereal disease is nothing to be ashamed of. Famous men throughout history have had venereal disease. Chairman Mao had syphilis. Napoleon had it as well. The fact that you have venereal disease nothing to be ashamed of. It is no different than catching a cold from sharing a cup. (In fact, you can get cold sores from sharing drinking glasses, not to scare you.) You can also get crabs from just rubbing on your sex partner, naked, during masturbation.

You should be thankful that you didn't get HIV. Consider this a warning about how you should use protection while having sex with individuals for whom you are unsure of their sexual histories. You are now much more aware of the dangers of sex than the average gay man.

Your biggest obstacle should be your honesty with partners in the future. Over 25% of all people have some form of herpes (if you've had a cold sore, you've got herpes). I suspect that it's much higher among gay men. You should think about your comfort level and how to best discuss this sensitive subject.

If it's just a one-night stand and you are POSITIVE you are not having a 'breakout,' you shouldn't really worry about it. (You should be really honest about whether or not you are on the verge of a breakout -- you don't want to commit the same sin of the person who gave it to you by spreading it to another unwitting party.) If it's a long-term relationship, you should tell your partner. It's not the end of a relationship. If your partner really cares for you, he'll understand. All you have to do is refrain from sex when you have an outbreak. (Besides, do you want to have sex with sores on your privates?) The length you have to wait is not that long. With new medications, you can even shorten the outbreak.

Best of luck in the future and play safe!

G-Man

STD In The News

by Michael Lou

"Asian-Americans and AIDS"

New York Times (www.nytimes.com)
(08/10/00) P. A22

According to an editorial in the New York Times, research has shown that many Asian-Americans--particularly new immigrants--have little knowledge about AIDS. Many Asian Americans are not diagnosed with AIDS until late in their infection. This is due, in part, to a lack of educational matter in Asian languages and also to conservative cultural beliefs that make it difficult to discuss the disease. However, the editors note that "even improvements in AIDS education will not be enough if the community's silence on the disease persists." While community groups have taken charge, and have received state and federal funding, they need more help, and public health agencies must also play a role. The editors assert that "leaders and organizations, which can reach their communities through a common language and culture, will have the most effect."

"Advertising: China's Censor Is Customer No. 1"

New York Times (www.nytimes.com)
(08/17/00) P. C1; Lee, Jennifer

Chinese television commercials are strictly regulated by the governments. Advertisements are not allowed to depict patients or symptoms, for example, and sexual modesty is emphasized. This can be problematic for advertising agencies, particularly if they are promoting a drug or certain public health issues. Even the Chinese government has run into problems with the censors. Last year, a government commercial supporting condom use to help prevent HIV and other sexually transmitted diseases lasted only two days--at which point the State Administration for Industry and Commerce deemed it too suggestive.

THE WHITE HOUSE

Office of the Press Secretary

For Immediate Release

August 11, 2000

EXECUTIVE ORDER
IMPROVING ACCESS TO SERVICES FOR
PERSONS WITH LIMITED ENGLISH PROFICIENCY

By the authority vested in me as President by the Constitution and the laws of the United States of America, and to improve access to federally conducted and federally assisted programs and activities for persons who, as a result of national origin, are limited in their English proficiency (LEP), it is hereby ordered as follows:

Section 1. Goals.

The Federal Government provides and funds an array of services that can be made accessible to otherwise eligible persons who are not proficient in the English language. The Federal Government is committed to improving the accessibility of these services to eligible LEP persons, a goal that reinforces its equally important commitment to promoting programs and activities designed to help individuals learn English. To this end, each Federal agency shall examine the services it provides and develop and implement a system by which LEP persons can meaningfully access those services consistent with, and without unduly burdening, the fundamental mission of the agency. Each Federal agency shall also work to ensure that recipients of Federal financial assistance (recipients) provide meaningful access to their LEP applicants and beneficiaries. To assist the agencies with this endeavor, the Department of Justice has today issued a general guidance document (LEP Guidance), which sets forth the compliance standards that recipients must follow to ensure that the programs and activities they normally provide in English are accessible to LEP persons and thus do not discriminate on the basis of national origin in violation of title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, as amended, and its implementing regulations. As described in the LEP Guidance, recipients must take reasonable steps to ensure meaningful access to their programs and activities by LEP persons.

Sec. 2. Federally Conducted Programs and Activities.

Each Federal agency shall prepare a plan to improve access to its federally conducted programs and activities by eligible LEP persons. Each plan shall be consistent with the standards set forth in the LEP Guidance, and shall include the steps the agency will take to ensure that eligible LEP persons can meaningfully access the agency's programs and activities. Agencies shall develop and begin to implement these plans within 120 days of the date of this order, and shall send copies of their plans to the Department of Justice, which shall serve as the central repository of the agencies' plans.

Sec. 3. Federally Assisted Programs and Activities.

Each agency providing Federal financial assistance shall draft title VI guidance specifically tailored to its recipients that is consistent with the LEP Guidance issued by the Department of Justice. This agency-specific guidance shall detail how the general standards established in the LEP Guidance will be applied to the agency's recipients. The agency-specific guidance shall take into account the types of services provided by the recipients, the individuals served by the recipients, and other factors set out in the LEP Guidance. Agencies that already have developed title VI guidance that the Department of Justice determines is consistent with the LEP Guidance shall examine their existing guidance, as well as their programs and activities, to determine if additional guidance is necessary to comply with this order. The Department of Justice shall consult with the agencies in creating their guidance and, within 120 days of the date of this order, each agency shall submit its specific guidance to the Department of Justice for review and approval. Following approval by the Department of Justice, each agency shall publish its guidance document in the Federal Register for public comment.

Sec. 4. Consultations.

In carrying out this order, agencies shall ensure that stakeholders, such as LEP persons and their representative organizations, recipients, and other appropriate individuals or entities, have an adequate opportunity to provide input. Agencies will evaluate the particular needs of the LEP persons they and their recipients serve and the burdens of compliance on the agency and its recipients. This input from stakeholders will assist the agencies in developing an approach to ensuring meaningful access by LEP persons that is practical and effective, fiscally responsible, responsive to the particular circumstances of each agency, and can be readily implemented.

Sec. 5. Judicial Review.

This order is intended only to improve the internal management of the executive branch and does not create any right or benefit, substantive or procedural, enforceable at law or equity by a party against the United States, its agencies, its officers or employees, or any person.

WILLIAM J. CLINTON

GAPSN Co-Chair Is Appointed To The San Gabriel Planning Commission

by Henry Lo

Among the new appointees to the City of San Gabriel's Planning Commission will be GAPSN's Co-Chair, Pei-Chi Chang. Pei-Chi has been a long time resident of the community of San Gabriel and we are confident that his experience and background will be a welcome asset to the commission.

Usually, cities have planning commissions that review and examine proposals for moderate to large residential and commercial developments and its impact to the quality of life in the surrounding area. Planning Commissions serve important functions in that their recommendations for projects will determine whether a development project is approved by the City Council.

We applaud Pei-Chi for his outstanding service and dedication to the public. Pei will be formally appointed by the City Council on September 5th and begin his duties on September 11th when the commission convenes.

Diversity Immigrant VISA Program (DV-2002)

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF STATE
Office of the Spokesman
STATEMENT BY RICHARD BOUCHER,
SPOKESMAN

Section 203(c) of the Immigration Act of 1990 makes available up to 55,000 permanent resident immigrant visas each year by random selection through a Diversity Visa lottery (DV-2002). The DV-2002 registration mail-in period will be held between noon on Monday, October 2, 2000 and noon on Wednesday, November 1, 2000

The visas will be apportioned among six geographic regions. A greater number of visas will go to those regions that have

lower immigration rates and no visas may be issued to countries that have sent more than 50,000 immigrants to the United States during the previous five years. No one country can receive more than seven percent of the available diversity visas in any one year.

Persons born in "high admission" countries are, in most instances, not eligible for the program. "High admission" countries are defined as those from which the United States has received more than 50,000 immigrants during the last five years in the immediate relative, family and employment preference categories. Each year, the INS adds the family and employment immigrant admission figures for the previous five years, to identify the countries that must be excluded from the annual Diversity Lottery. Since there is a separate determination made prior to each lottery entry period, the list of countries that do not qualify is subject to change each year.

For DV-2002, the "high admission" countries are: Canada, China (mainland born and Macau), Colombia, the Dominican Republic, El Salvador, Haiti, India, Jamaica, Mexico, Pakistan, the Philippines, South Korea, the United Kingdom and dependent territories, and Vietnam. Persons born in Hong Kong SAR, Taiwan, and Northern Ireland are eligible to apply for the DV-2002 lottery. There are also changes in the list of eligible DV countries from last year's lottery - Poland and Taiwan are eligible and Pakistan is not eligible for DV-2002.

All applicants must be a native of a qualifying country. However, if a person was born in an ineligible country but his or her spouse was born in an eligible country, such a person can claim the spouse's country of birth, provided both the applicant and spouse are issued visas and enter the U.S. simultaneously. Also, if a person was born in an ineligible country, but neither of his or her parents was born or resided there at the time of the birth, such a person may be able to claim one of the parent's countries of birth.

In addition, applicants must have either a high school education or its equivalent, or within the past five years have two

years of work experience in an occupation that requires at least two years of training or experience. If the applicant does not meet these requirements, he or she should not submit an entry for the DV program.

The month-long application period will be held each fall beginning at noon on the first Monday in October. Holding the application period in the fall ensures successful applicants are notified in a timely manner. This also gives both them and our embassies and consulates overseas a full fiscal year (fiscal year 2002 begins on October 1, 2001 and ends on September 30, 2002) to process the necessary immigrant visas.

Being selected in the DV Lottery does not automatically guarantee being issued a visa because the number of applicants selected is greater than the number of immigrant visas available. Those selected will therefore need to act quickly on their immigrant visa applications. Applicants who are physically present in the United States may be eligible to apply to the INS for adjustment of status to permanent resident. However, such applicants must ensure that INS can complete action on their cases before September 30, 2002. Once all available visas have been issued, the DV Program for fiscal year 2002 will end. In any event, all DV-2002 visas must, by law, be issued by September 30, 2002.

Interested persons may call (202) 331-7199, which describes the various means to obtain further details on entering the DV-2002 program. Applicants overseas may contact the nearest U.S. embassy or consulate for instructions on the DV lottery. **DV information is also available in the "Visa Bulletin" on the Internet at <http://travel.state.gov> or via the Consular Affairs automated fax at (202) 647-3000 (code 1550).** Calls to the automated fax service must be made from a fax machine using the receiver or voice option of the caller's fax equipment.

Please note that the full press release statement is on the internet at <http://travel.state.gov/dv2002.html>

Criminals Blackmailing Gay Men

CRIME: An organization devoted to protecting the rights of homosexuals is stepping in to help gay men fight back against a wave of recent extortion attempts

By Irene Lin *STAFF REPORTER*

Gay men are being targeted by blackmailers who are preying on their fear of being exposed publicly as homosexuals, gay and lesbian rights organizations have said. During the last two months, three gay men -- two from Taipei City and one from Taipei County -- were reportedly blackmailed out of hundreds of thousands of dollars. The blackmailers had threatened to reveal the victims' sexual orientation.

The cases of the three men began under similar circumstances. Each were approached by another man while alone at the 228 Memorial Park or at the beach in Tamsui, Taipei County -- places where homosexuals often gather to socialize or meet friends. After striking up a conversation -- with the intended victims responding positively to the man's friendly overtures -- a group of three or four other men would appear, demanding that the gay men turn over their ATM cards and PINs. The victim would then learn that his new friend was actually part of the scheme.

Fearing of being outed, the victims complied with the blackmailers' request and did not report the incident to the police. "Loss of money is one thing. But what makes the gay men feel extremely upset and frustrated is the way the gang had taken advantage of their fears and vulner-

ability," said Wang Ping, secretary-general of the Gender/Sexuality Rights Association. The association helped the men file complaints with the police against the blackmailers.

Wang said the blackmail of homosexuals is common in Taiwan. Many gays and lesbians are not open about their sexuality, and they often fear telling others -- especially the police -- about blackmail attempts. "Publicity is the last thing they want," Wang said. Though they didn't report the incidents to police, the three gay men contacted Wang's association individually. Workers at the association noticed similarities between the three cases and began to suspect the incidents were linked. In addition, Wang said that physical descriptions of the blackmailers also led them to believe that one group of three to four men was responsible for the incidents.

After gathering enough evidence, the association filed complaints with police on behalf of the three victims. The association also ensured that the identities of the three men would be protected throughout the police investigation process. "Society has long had a habit of discriminating against the weak. First it's women and now it's homosexuals," Wang said. "And the very reason the gay victims won't go to the police is that they

fear being discriminated against."

The association said it has contacted the office of Taipei Mayor Ma Ying-jeou and was promised the cases would be handled by a special police unit in a prudent manner. The cases are now under investigation by police.

Gay Day At Disneyland In Japan

The annual Gay Day at Florida's Disney World inspired an estimated 3,000 Japanese gays and lesbians to turn out at Tokyo Disneyland on July 30. Like their Florida counterparts, many wore red T-shirts for visibility, reading "July Pride 2000." As in Florida, it was not an official Disneyland event, although management said the gays and lesbians were as welcome as any other group. The gathering was organized by gay writer Shigenobu Umeki.

Upcoming Events

September 6, Wednesday

7:00 p.m.

Intimates (Ji Sor)

Inmates is an epic tale of love and friendship.

The Village

1125 N. McCadden Place,

Hollywood, CA 90038

(323) 960-0618

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 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

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