

LAAPIS

VOLUME TWO NUMBER TWO • OCTOBER 1994

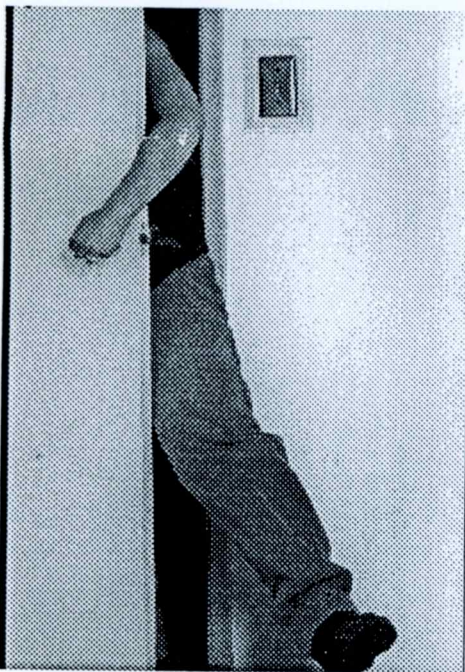
October 11th is National Coming Out Day

Special
Edition

From All Walks of Life

In this special coming out issue, LAAPIS members share their colorful tales, full of humor, pain, love and surprises. We hope that these words will help other Asian Pacific lesbians and bisexuals through their own coming out process.

(The newsletter staff would like to extend their heartfelt thanks to all contributing writers for sharing their personal experiences.)



This is my closet.
I built this closet myself,
But society has created it for me.
I feel safe in the closet.

My closet is a barrier from
me and society,
me and the Asian American community,
me and the Lesbian and Gay community,
me and my friends,
me and my co-workers,
me and my parents,
me and myself.

I feel too safe - I'm in the dark
I came out of the closet

three years five months and
three days to myself,
three years four months at a Gay and
Lesbian meeting on campus,
three years four months and ten days
to my friends and I'm still coming
out to them,
two years and nine months to
my mother and father,
one year ago to my clan family with
the help of my mother,
seven months ago to a
Japanese American

Gay and Lesbian panel at a Japanese
American National Conference,
three months ago to my new
part-time boss; I still have not come
out to my other boss (I have worked
there for three years now)
today by sharing myself.

I have to choose to whom I come out to.
I still hide behind the door, because
getting bashed is popular
among homophobes,
the Japanese American community
denies my existence,
queers can be racist too,
of the fear of causing conflict at my job,
being a lesbian is still shameful,

But I will always strive to be true to myself.

T.H.O.
Japanese American
25 years, Lesbian

Did You Know?

Compiled by Shella Aguilar, MPH

In celebration of National Coming Out Day, we thought our members might find the following information interesting:

DEMOGRAPHICS

▼ The average household income for lesbians in the US is estimated at \$45,927, while the average household income for gay men is estimated at \$51,325. In 1990, average household income in the US was \$36,520.

▼ The fifteen largest concentrations of the lesbian and gay population in the US are: 1. Manhattan, 2. San Francisco, 3. Boston/Cambridge, 4. Seattle, 5. Oakland/Berkeley, 6. Washington, D.C., 7. Chicago/Evanston, 8. Atlanta, 9. Minneapolis, 10. Marin County, CA, 11. Los Angeles, 12. Santa Monica Bay, 13. Portland, 14. San Diego, 15. Pittsburgh

▼ 10% of the population of California is lesbian or gay, constituting 12.1% of the lesbian and gay population of the United States; 27.6% of the population of San Francisco is lesbian or gay.

CIVIL RIGHTS

▼ As of 1993, there were 20 states in which one could be imprisoned for same-sex sexual relations, describes as "sodomy," "unnatural intercourse," "deviate sexual conduct," "sexual misconduct," and "crimes against nature": Alabama, Arizona, Arkansas, Florida, Georgia, Idaho, Kansas, Maryland, Massachusetts, Minnesota, Mississippi, Missouri, Montana, North Carolina, Oklahoma, Rhode Island, South Carolina, Tennessee, Utah, and Virginia.

▼ As of September 1993, 25 jurisdictions recognized some sort of domestic partnership for lesbians and gay men; At least 20 private-sector companies and organizations recognize same-sex domestic partnerships in employee benefits.

continued on pg. 2

What's Hot

8

MODELS OF PRIDE CONFERENCE

The Gay & Lesbian Education Commission of the Los Angeles Unified School District presents a conference for Lesbian, Gay and Bisexual Youth: Saturday, October 15 from 9 a.m. - 8 p.m., Occidental College, 1600 Campus Road, Eagle Rock. There will be 8 Different workshops covering topics such as Coming Out, Health Civil Rights, Relationships, and an Asian and Pacific Islander workshop which LAAPIS members will be facilitating; a dance with some of LA's hottest deejays; college and career information; entertainment & speakers; comedy & dramas; meals, morning snack, lunch, and dinner. This is a free event, open to anyone 15 to 23 years old. For more information and to register, call (213) 625-6392.

ASIAN/PACIFIC ISLANDER COMING OUT DISCUSSION

Come out, come out wherever you are! Would you like to spend the "National Coming Out" Day with other APIs? Come out to the LAAPIS Coming Out Discussion on Tuesday, October 11, 8:00 - 9:30 pm, Los Angeles Gay and Lesbian Community Services Center, 1625 N. Schrader Avenue (formerly Hudson Avenue), Room 109, Hollywood. The meetings are designed to provide a "safe space" for support and affirmation for API women to bond with other API women who are also exploring their identities. Free parking is available behind the building after 5 p.m. A \$2.00 donation is requested but no one will be turned away for lack of funds. These raps will be conducted in English but translation services may be arranged. For directions and more information, contact Kathryn White at (213) 993-7433 or Shella M. Aguilar at (310) 353-2944. Please mention if you need translation services.

TOPIC DISCUSSION: DOMESTIC VIOLENCE IN THE LESBIAN & BISEXUAL COMMUNITY

Would you like to know more about the devastating impact of domestic violence? From the physical to emotional impact! What ways you can stop it? On Wednesday, October 19, 8:00-9:30 pm, LAAPIS will host a workshop discussing domestic violence in the lesbian and bisexual community. A \$2.00 donation, or better yet, a potluck donation is requested but no one will be turned away for lack of funds or food!. Translation services can be arranged if needed (please call at least one week before the discussion.) This is a closed discussion for lesbian & bisexual

women of API descent. For more information and location, please contact Shella M. Aguilar at (310) 353 - 2944.

GENDER & SEXUALITY WORKSHOP

UCLA's Samahang, a Pilipino Organization, will host a panel discussion on Gender and Sexuality in the Pilipino American Community. The event will be held on October 11, from 6 to 8 pm at the Anderson Graduate School of Management, Room 2214. Confirmed speaker's include: Shella Aguilar, co chair of LAAPIS who will discuss the resources available for lesbian and bisexual women; Gil Manoang, a queer Pilipino Activist who will provide a historical review from the 1960's to the 1980's; Emily Lawsins, a lecturer with the UCLA Asian American Studies Center who will examine women's issues; and Suny Vajrabukka, with Kabalikat (Samahang's gay lesbian & bisexual component) will offer a college student's perspective. For more information, contact (310) 825-2727 or (310) 206-6949.

LAAPIS HALLOWEEN PARTY!

Who is that masked woman? Only one way to find out! Members, supporters and friends, come help celebrate LAAPIS's 1st Annual Halloween Party on Saturday, October 29, from 8 p.m. to 1 a.m. Dress up coz there will be prizes for Best Costume. Music, dancing, hey, there's even a swimming pool (bring your own towel.) Join us in the queer version of the *Newlywed Game* and *Bachelorette Auction*. We have selected some hot single women to treat some lucky high bidders to an enchanting evening (subject to the auctioneer's discretion. Remember ladies, this is a fundraising event.) If you'd like to volunteer for any of these events or set-up etc., please call Cypress at (213) 935-1979 by October 14th. *This is a women's only event.*

Please note that we will strictly enforce our NO illegal substances or alcoholic beverages house rule.

Directions: Heading South -Take 5 Fwy, exit Artesia (Left), Beach Blvd. (Left), Imperial Hwy. (Right), Sandalwood (Left), Pinewood (Right). House is on the right: 1521 Pinewood Place, La Habra.



We were deep in the throes of passion. Rolling naked on my well-worn rug, completely lip-locked when the door knob silently turned and my mother walked in on us. She made an odd choking sound, turned on her heels as if she had seen nothing and quietly left us.

S.A.
*Pilipino-American
25 years, Lesbian*

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Newsletter is published monthly. If you have any submissions or would like to be included on our mailing list, please write to:

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We do respectfully request that all subscribers pay an annual fee of \$20 (\$10 for students) to assist with all our printing and mailing costs.

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LAAPIS seeks to provide an environment of support and affirmation for API/mixed heritage women who identify as lesbian, queer, bisexual, women loving women, or gay. LAAPIS recognizes the ethnic and sexual diversity within the API communities and the co-existent need to form common bonds. LAAPIS also serves as a resource for the community-at-large. We promote non-racist, non-judgemental, non-ageist, non-sexist attitudes.