

LAAPIS

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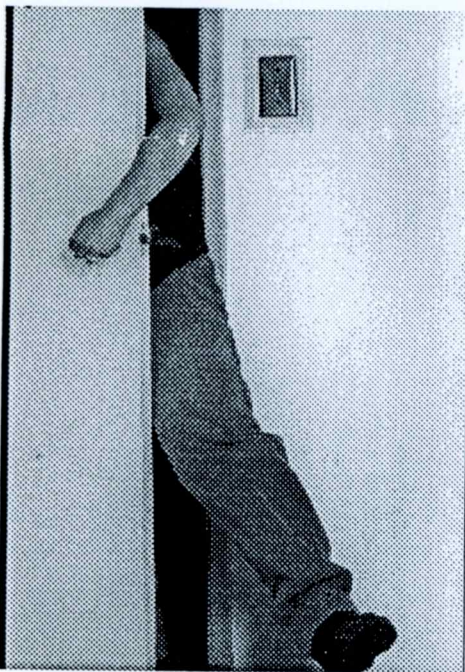
October 11th is National Coming Out Day

Special
Edition

From All Walks of Life

Jn 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.

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