

BAGMAL NEWSLETTER

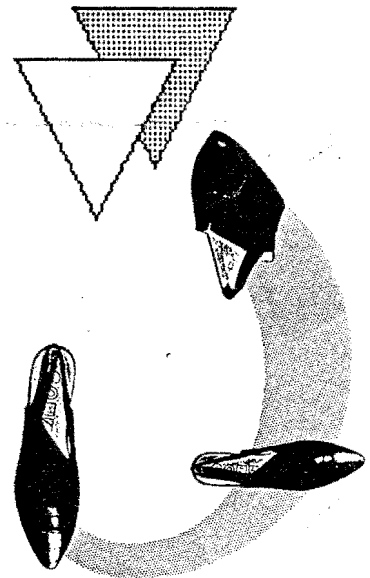
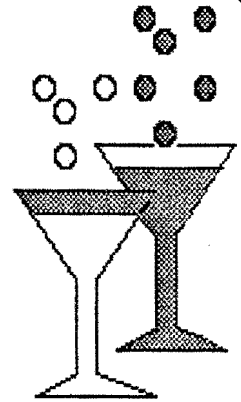
May 1987

GAY PRIDE MARCH June 13 Saturday

Meet with friends old and new
to sing, dance, march and CELEBRATE our
PRIDE in being GAY/LESBIAN and ASIAN
Join the biggest outdoor party of the year



11:00 - meet at City Hall Plaza
12:00 noon - March begins (Don't be late)
8:00 p.m. - Celebration Party at
147 W. Concord St. Boston



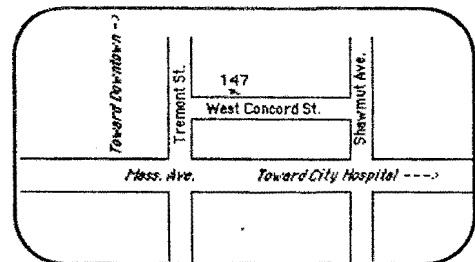
BAGMAL CALENDAR

June 7 Sunday 1 p.m. Discussion meeting at Jing's 147
W. Concord St. Boston. Topic Our Parents. Bring food
to share.

June 13 Saturday Mark your calendars - Gay Pride March
11 a.m. - Meet at City Hall Plaza.
12 Noon - March leaves City Hall Plaza
8:00 p.m. - Party at Jing Achacoso's 147 W.
Concord St. Boston 262-1997

June 16 Tuesday 7 p.m. at Andrew Li's 32 Lincoln Parkway #2 Somerville (623-1129). Asian members only.

July 6 Monday Discussion Meeting Place and Topic to be announced.



BAGMAL EDITORIAL TRUTH AND ITS DEFENDERS

by S. H.

Mommy loves Daddy who loves their little children, who follow the word of God, who watches over all the freedom fighters for democracy and justice throughout the world. This picture of Main Street U.S.A. grows ever more fragile daily as recent events have emphasized. The Iran-contra hearings, the Gary Hart/Donna Rice hullabaloo and the Tammy and Jim Bakker affair have all gone to reveal the putrid sores - the lies, deceit, hypocrisy - festering behind the rosy facade of Normal America. The truth when it is revealed always hurts those whose duty is to defend and maintain the myth of Straight, Normal, Patriotic

America. For them the truth is subversive because it reveals that what is supposedly natural, just and normal requires grand schemes of deceit and lies to maintain, massive infusions of arms and violence to defend.

Gay and lesbian people on the other hand work hard at revealing the truths about ourselves. The defendant in the Georgia sodomy case for example was prepared to bare his most intimate sexual activity to the Supreme Court in order to defend the truth about homosexual activity. Congressman Frank just recently took the step that many of us have taken in small and large increments most of our lives. We call this coming out - revealing who we are - telling the truth about our lives. Gay men and lesbians gain through this revelation. Our truth

when revealed is truly subversive; it undermines the power of those who rule through sowing fear and ignorance and who market a vision of normalcy and straightness even they themselves do not attain.

Gay liberation once touted coming out - to one's friends, co-workers, family - as that most important weapon we have of destroying the myths about homosexuality, of affecting real change at the grass-roots level among those around us.

In this month of Lesbian and Gay Pride Celebration it may be worth our while to consider once more how this truth about our lives can change those we share it with. With the myths crumbling around us there is every reason to press our vision of fairness, of justice, of truth.

DID YOU SEE?

Gay Life in China Voices from Behind the Great Wall of Silence

This article appeared in the Advocate Issue #470 of April 14 1987 (Andy Warhol Soup Can Cover). Written by Fang-fu Ruan and Key Ray Chong, the article excerpts a series of letters written by Chinese homosexuals in response to a letter by a Beijing university professor calling for liberal attitudes towards gay people. Unlike other articles on

China which have appeared in the American gay press we have here the authentic voices of Chinese gay people speaking for themselves. A companion piece in the same issue by a Chinese journalist stationed in Hong Kong surveys the gay street scene in some of China's larger cities.

A Gay Filipino speaks

Bay Windows April 30 ran a cover story on John Silva, a gay Filipino

man who lives and works in Boston. Silva who directs the fundraising efforts of OXFAM America expresses his views on a range of subjects and gives a historical perspective on Filipino homosexuality. The article is entitled Nurturers not Power Brokers: a gay Filipino perspective. BAGMAL is in touch with Silva who will be attending our functions soon.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

DUES: This will be the last newsletter for those who have not paid up their \$5. Please send checks to our Mailing Address to keep this newsletter coming.

PARTY SET-UP. Jack and Jing needs help to setup for our Gay Pride Celebration Party. If you can help on the evening of June 12 please call Jing. (262-1997).

MANDARIN CLASS. Wen-chi would like to teach Mandarin to interested BAGMALites. Please call Vickie (787-4213) to register.

REPORTS

MINUTES OF DISCUSSION MEETING

recorded by Jin Gui

Date: May 3 1987

Venue: Jing Achacoso's.

147 W. Concord St. Boston

Attended by: Andrew Li, Jing Achacoso, Ray Wong, Lester Wong, Jack Lo, Takeo, Jin Gui

Refreshments were served. "The Snow Queen Interview" which appeared in the last newsletter raised some controversial responses. Some members think the article is "derogatory" to Asians and "insulting" to their Caucasian counterparts, and should not be printed since the article reflects on the organization. Others think the article reflects the anti-thesis of the "Rice Queen"; whereas some express hilarity and/or neutrality about the article.

This led to the subject of stereotyping, specifically the stereotyping of the gay Asian; the "qualities" being one of subservient, servile and low-toned. The members agreed that such stereotyping is insulting, and unjust. A question was brought up on the issue of inviting friends that like Asian men to BAGMAL socials, and if that should be avoided, for fear of "stereotyping" tendencies. The general agreement was for confronting such persons if he or she displays such condescending attitudes during the parties. BAGMAL socials are open to everyone.

"Coming out" was the next discussion topic. The responses were varied, interesting and eye-opening. Some members treated the topic as coming out to their parents, and told of hilarious and heart-warming stories. Others were chilling and saddening. One member told of a gradual edging into homosexuality,

having had the opportunity to decide through his various encounters with both sexes. Another told of sexual encounters since 4 years of age.

In general, the sharing of coming-out stories provided an understanding among the members present.

Volunteers were asked to be peace-keepers during the Gay Parade. A strong showing by BAGMAL is called for.

Added to the list of possible activities for BAGMAL meetings were a discussion on AIDS with speakers from the AIDS Action Committee, and a "Rubberware" party again with a speaker from the AAC on techniques of safe sex.

Slide Show on China

Have you ever been to a sit-down dinner for 3000? Andrew Li has and lived to talk about it. It was a celebration of Chinese-Japanese friendship, and he wrangled an invitation to this exclusive event at the Great Hall of the People in Beijing by posing as a Japanese student. Andrew lived in China for two years while he studied Chinese architectural history and came back with a few thousand slides. On Saturday 9 May he showed a small fraction of these at Henry Tate's in the Fenway, and the twenty-three of us who were there got a glimpse of this singular event. We also saw 50 cent hotel rooms; the border region near Burma, where not even Chinese are allowed to travel without a permit; the ice festival and Russian architecture in Harbin. Not your

typical Lindblad tour, although there were token shots of the Great Wall, a panda, and a factory. The China we saw is one that most of us will never see as tourists. After the slides there was time for questions and socializing. Thanks to Andrew for his beautiful slides and to Wen-chi Chou and Henry Tate for being the gracious hosts.

Reporter: Jin Gui

Steering Committee Meeting May 15 1987

The following events were planned: Discussion meeting on June 7, 1 p.m. Topic: Our Parents. Gay Pride March June 13 and Party in the evening. Steering Committee Meeting June 16. Next steering committee meeting July 6. Place to be announced. Steering committee members resolved to try to get as many members to march on June 13. Original plans for pre-March breakfast meeting and rally site table were abandoned because not enough people were available to organize these events. Interested marchers should watch out for the BAGMAL banner. For more information call Vickie (787-4213). Volunteers to help set up before party should contact Jing at (262-1997).

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