

point PACIFIC is a publication of the Asian Pacific AIDS Intervention Team and aims to provide Asia-specific HIV/AIDS-related news summaries, in addition to client narratives.



WORLD UPDATES

June >> The *New York Times* reports on China's improved AIDS prevention strategies. In Yunnan Province, a region rife with intravenous drug use due to drug trafficking with Burma, Laos, and Vietnam, foreign-funded AIDS prevention programs include needle exchanges, a methadone program, education services for prostitutes, HIV testing, and condom distribution. These programs sharply contrast with official party policies that had forbidden condom advertising as late as 2002. The *Times* reports that after the SARS outbreak, the government recognized the politically destabilizing effect epidemics could have on their constituencies.

July >> The National Bureau of Asian Research releases one of the most comprehensive reports detailing HIV/AIDS in the Muslim world. From Albania to Bangladesh, the report emphasizes that most governments ignore the



Addicts gather at Persepolis

surge of AIDS cases. Surprisingly, theocratic Iran is one of the more active governments in prevention. In a country where heroin users were automatically thrown in prison, its prevention tactics have dramatically changed course, with a needle exchange and methadone program

opening in November 2004. (*Agence France Presse/Washington Post*)

The seventh annual International Congress on AIDS in Asia and the Pacific commences in early July in Kobe, Japan. Major announcements include that Papua New Guinea could experience African-level stages of HIV infections, and that Burma and Vietnam also top the list for Asian regions at risk for high infection levels. Burma's risk stems from its extreme isolationism, and Vietnam's criminalization of sex workers and drug users pre-empt treatment and education.



(Associated Press)

CLIENT COMMENTARY

Untitled By Anonymous

Where does your heart lay? When the sun sits tired And your shadow once dark	Where does your heart lay? Among the memory of faded stars Long gone
Slowly fades	Whose only memory is there light? Shining in the night sky And with eyes closed trying to navigate
Where does your heart lay? In the arms of vivid memories When the moon is a half winked eye Stars shine	hearts that are not your own By sight or maybe memory Forgetting that with moments like these
Tossing and turning trying to catch the best light	You still are unwilling to see
Where does your heart lay? Bittersweet With the knowledge of the earth Heavy on your feet	What does your heart say? To those who take time Standing still Head tilted to one side Ears cocked
Does it lay loved or forgotten? Heavy sheets constantly tossed aside When it gets too hot in the middle of the night	And you Trying to hold back laughter that is folded within a cry Tears falling to the earth Has your laugh reaches towards the sky
Where does your heart lay? Nuzzled in the neck of love that was forced Or the love that was to be known with eyes closed	getting caught up in stars tripping angels has they pass by
With each breath reinforced When your eyes freshly wiped Begin to dry And you try to force the emo- tions Of that first cry	Where does your heart lay? In the middle or to the side Constantly dodging possibilities Of life and love Just missed hope Always wondering next time will I or maybe you get it right

Would you like to share your experiences or knowledge about Asia and HIV-related information in Asia? Contact Marie Auyong at mariea@apaitonline.org for submission guidelines.