



The mission of the Asian Pacific AIDS Intervention Team (APAIT) is to influence Asian and Pacific Islander beliefs and values concerning HIV/AIDS and to provide hope and support to the community.

**Los Angeles Office**

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**Orange County Office**

12900 Garden Grove Blvd., Ste. 214A  
Garden Grove, CA 92843  
Phone: (714) 636-1349  
Fax: (714) 636-8828

**Psychosocial Services**

Case Management: (213) 553-1835  
Counseling (213) 553-1836  
Emotional Support: (213) 553-1837  
Prevention Case Mgmt. (213) 553-1840  
Self-Help (213) 553-1829  
Treatment Education (213) 553-1838

**Intervention Services**

HIV Counseling/Testing (213) 553-1848  
Men's: (213) 553-1843  
OC Men's: (714) 636-1349  
Prevention for Positives (213) 553-1839  
Swinger's (213) 895-7708  
Transgender (213) 895-7715  
Women's/Youth (213) 553-1849

**Community Development**

Multilingual Hotline (213) 553-1830  
Volunteers (213) 553-1844  
Cross-Training (213) 553-1847

(Continued from PROP 54 on page 1)

demographic picture of the communities they serve. According to an August 15<sup>th</sup> *Los Angeles Times* article, health care providers, despite provisions made in the initiative to allow tracking racial data for "medical research subjects and patients," proclaim this exemption too narrow and worry that it will affect preventative health care programs. For example, various ethnicities suffer from disproportionately high rates of particular diseases; an open letter to Ward Connerly by opponents list that suicide is one of the top ten killers of Asian women. Education and law enforcement officials also say that racial data is critical for tracking student performance, prosecuting hate crimes, and measuring disparities between service provision between ethnic groups.

Proposition 54 is known also as the "Racial

**FREE HIV TESTING**  
Walk-in testing on:  
**Tuesday: 10am-1pm**  
**Wednesday: 10am-1pm**  
**Thursday: 11am-2pm**  
Call 213-553-1848 for appointments at other times.

**Stay tuned for the next issue. Updates on**

- ◆ World AIDS Day
- ◆ United States Conference on AIDS
- ◆ World HIV news summaries from the past year

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Privacy Initiative," "Information Ban," or CRECNO (Classification by Race, Ethnicity, Color, and National Origin).

The initiative was introduced by Ward Connerly, the UC Regent and Sacramento businessman famous for underwriting 1996's Proposition 209, which dismantled affirmative action in the state's college system and agencies.

Please contact Manjuri Chawla from the Asian Pacific American Legal Center for more information at 213-977-7500.



Excerpt from open letter to Ward Connerly by opponents, including Asian Pacific Islander American Health Forum :

*You pose the question: "Why should it [race] matter to the government?" For us, the answer is simple. Disease is not colorblind. It affects people of different races and ethnicities in a multitude of ways, for a multitude of reasons....*

*There are numerous well-documented differences in health status between racial groups. Indeed, the Institute of Medicine commissioned by the U.S. Congress recently released a 400-page report entitled "Unequal Treatment: Racial and Ethnic Differences in Health Status," which details hundreds of studies that document inequitable treatment due to race.*

*From AIDS and lung cancer to adolescent weight problems and childhood diabetes, the most effective prevention programs carefully target the communities that are the most at risk. Your initiative would turn prevention into a guessing game rather than a knowledge-driven science, forcing us to take a one-size-fits-all approach to public health.*



Fall 2003

# apait PULSE

The newsletter of the Asian Pacific AIDS Intervention Team

**UPCOMING EVENTS**

The **Chinese-speaking support group** has started up again. If you know anyone who might still want a Mandarin or Cantonese speaker to help cope with HIV, please call Ruth at 213-895-7715 for more information.

**Support the proposed AIDS monument** in Lincoln Heights by attending the September 12th rally sponsored by The Wall-Las Memorias. APAIT's Tim Young has been collaborating with The Wall to organize the community in showing its support for the monument . The rally and candlelight vigil starts at 6:30pm in Lincoln Park; call 323-257-1056 for more information.

**Wet and Wild, Slick and Styled Okay**, so maybe we're not those kinds of hosts... but we still know how to throw a party. Join us on Saturday, September 27 for a cross-programmatic pool party; this means that all men, women, and transgenders should attend. Call Jimmy at 213-553-1841 for more info, as location is still to be determined.

**Move over, Oprah!** as the Positive Images program hosts a talk show revolving around HIV+ people and substance use. PI Coordinator Dani Mejia will direct the show at the L.A. Gay and Lesbian Center in Hollywood. Read all about it on page 2!

And on a more somber note, be sure to save the date for World AIDS Day, on December 1. This year's theme addresses "Stigma and Discrimination," and will entail a memorial event for the first week December.



Assemblywoman Judy Chu, who represents Alhambra, El Monte, Monterey Park, Rosemead, San Gabriel, and San Marino. Photo courtesy of <http://democrats.assembly.ca.gov/members/a49/default.htm>

## APAIT Against Proposition 54

By Marie Auyong

APAIT has officially declared its position on Proposition 54, an initiative on the October ballot. Along with numerous other Los Angeles Asian and Pacific Islander-affiliated agencies—among them the Asian Pacific Policy & Planning Council (A3PCON)—APAIT perceives the measure as a direct threat to providing preventative health programming.

The measure would amend the California Constitution to prohibit the state and other public entities, including local governments and colleges, from classifying individuals by race, ethnicity, color or national origin.

Although the proposition's backers say that opponents' fears are unjustified, opponents to Proposition 54 assert that it would seriously hamper their efforts to gather an accurate

(Continued on PROP 54 on page 4)

## Building Bridges of Understanding

By Noel Alumit and Marie Auyong

APAIT will sponsor "Embraceable You," a conference dedicated to building alliances between the straight and gay Asian and Pacific Islander communities. The conference will take place on Saturday, September 13, from 9:30am-2:30pm at the Union Church of Los Angeles, 401 East Third Street in Little Tokyo.

Assemblywoman Judy Chu, who represents areas in eastern Los Angeles county predominantly populated by Asians and Pacific Islanders, will provide the keynote speech.

In development since February, the conference will consist of a panel discussing youth, family, and transgender issues.

Other organizations helping to plan this event include the Asian Pacific Islander Chapter of Parents and Friends of Lesbians and Gays, Gay Asian Pacific Support Network, Trikone, O-moi, and the Chinese Rainbow Association. Although past conferences had similar objectives, attendees comprised of mostly gay and lesbian-identified individuals.

Noel Alumit, Event Co-Chair, says that "We are trying to sensitize straight API's to the plight of other API's who are gay; to let them know that those issues should also be their concern. Ultimately, we must complement our

*"We are trying to sensitize straight API's to the plight of other API's who are gay. . . Ultimately, we must complement our communities." — Noel Alumit*

communities. Straight API's can make some very important decisions about gay peoples' lives; in turn, gay API's must work in the gay community to influence perceptions of how gay people see Asians." For information, call 213-553-1847. Register by e-mailing [noela@apaitonline.org](mailto:noela@apaitonline.org), as there is limited seating. The event is free.

agency news

Wilkommen, bienvenidos, welcome!

As we unfortunately bid adieu to Shannon Abero, Michelle Le, Roberto Rivera, Alex Hoa, and Nolan Same, we have decided to break in some brand new Intervention Specialists, including the OC office's Billy Phuung Peter Cruz, and LA's George Liou. Here's George.



He speaks Taiwanese Chinese and listens to J-POP.

And we also start Michelle Morales. She claims she doesn't drive a low-rider but I think we should put down a speed bump and see how her car does.

Patrick Sullivan starts a new position as the Prevention Case Manager for O.C., and in the Community Development and Research Department in L.A., Maria Pena comes from Asian Youth Center as our Coordinator.

Progga Choudhury comes to



the Resource De-

# Talking About the Real World

By Marie Auyong

Dani Mejia, Positive Images Coordinator for APAIT, has developed and will direct the October 27<sup>th</sup> "The Real World," a talk show-formatted community forum addressing all individuals and substance abuse. We sat down for a few minutes to discuss his role in the Positive Images program.

**Could you explain what the Positive Images program is?** Positive Images is a program that reaches out to people living with HIV/AIDS. Our program is a joint effort between 11 organizations who serve the HIV-infected and affected community. Positive Im-



Dani Mejia holds up a flyer for "The Real World"

age aims to reduce the social stigma related to

HIV and to increase self-advocacy among participants. All of the services offered through Positive Images are provided in a culturally sensitive manner, often by people who are HIV+ themselves. We sponsor free services like: educational forums, skills building workshops, leadership trainings, a telephone/Internet chat line, and social events.

**How did Positive Images come to decide on talking about party drugs for two hours?** I was watching TV at home one afternoon and the Jerry Springer show was talking about some silly, stupid things. I thought to myself, it's such a shame that they couldn't use this kind of media to talk about something significant and educational. And then, I realized, since I need to develop one last community forum for APAIT Positive Images, why not do something real fun, enjoyable and significant? People are tired of community forums, lectures and speeches. We decided to call it "The Real World."

**Who will be speaking on the panel? What are the speakers' areas of expertise?** Dr. Neva Chaupette will present on the psychosocial aspects of HIV in relation to drug use. Dr. David Anderson will talk about HIV+ people who are also dealing with active addiction.

There will be at least five speakers who are experts about

By Jury Candelario

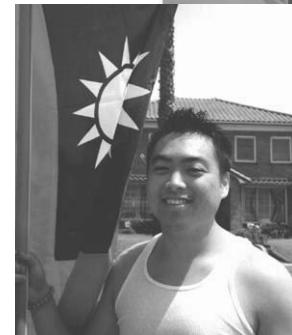
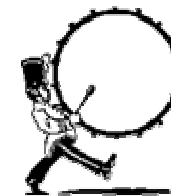
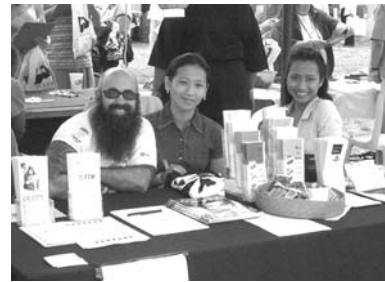
Asian Pacific AIDS Intervention Team is proud to be one of the beneficiaries of Macy's Passport 2003, an all day shopping extravaganza at the

# Macy's Passport



# Summer Photo Pages

We've had a lot of events this summer, and if you weren't able to make some of them, here are some choice pictorial excerpts from the Long Beach Pride Parade on May 18th. Thanks to all of our volunteers who helped make it happen!



Clockwise from top left: Boothing with member of Female-to-Male Alliance; Brian waves his big stick; Linda gets a nice surprise; Jordan struggles with her shoes; Rosalinda prances down the street; Albert foments revolution with the Taiwanese flag; and John gets caught in a nice shot with JAF Torres.



development position after extensive career experience with violence (preventing, not committing).

agency news

Now move your stuff to the next cubicle...

Change is good for you. So remember that as Noel Alunit has become the new Cross-Trainer, Linda Akatsu gets promoted to Women's Program Coordinator, Brian Nagami moves to Men's Program Coordinator, Francis Ocon becomes Prevention Case Manager, Ruth Pichatwattana starts as full-time Case Manager, and Jimmy Kosol wears a new track suit brought last week.



Nancy Sekizawa joins APAIT as the new Administrative Assistant following Sylvia Becerra's departure. She's in charge of the main office, including the bathroom key, so if you lose it, you have to deal with her. (A hint for those concerned with bodily safety issues: Don't lose the key. Just kidding!)

Farewell to Development Director Lalee Vicedo, and JAF Torres.

