No Cash for Conference

Thai lesbians won’t be attending a major international conference for Asian lesbians in the US in July due to lack of funding.

The Asian and Pacific-Islander Lesbian and Bisexual Network (APLBN) conference will take place at the UCLA campus in San Francisco from July 3-5.

But because the organisers have no budget to sponsor the airfares of delegates coming from overseas, only those women who can afford to pay their own way will be able to attend.

Anjarae organiser Anjana Suwannanond said that only one scholarship was available to Thai lesbians to cover the conference registration fee, but there was no money for travel to the US.

While expressing disappointment, the head of Thailand’s national lesbian group said she understood the difficulties of fundraising for lesbian events.

“We can’t really blame them, but it means we cannot participate,” she said.

APLBN is a US-based organisation.

Pattaya Crowns a Queen

The winner and runners-up in the Miss Thailand Transexual pageant held in Pattaya at the Tiffany Theatre pose on stage March 29. From left to right: 2nd runner-up Suchalai Chaklitsakul, Miss Thailand Transexual Thanaporn Wongprasert and 1st runner-up Yada Thawilsong.

Thanaporn, according to a report from Reuters, beat 69 other transvestites who paraded in show costumes, swimsuits and evening gowns during the two-day contest.

“Compared to real women, I am confident that many of us are even more beautiful because we can have plastic surgery to make us as beautiful as we like,” said Chatarika Issarapakdi, a 22-year-old police department accountant.

The winner walked away with a 50,000 baht prize. “I will spend this money for my beauty,” the winner is quoted by Reuters as saying. - AFP picture

dreaded ned's explore gay thailand

http://www.dreadedned.com
food
music
drinks

No Cash for Conference... from Page 1

organisation formed in 1987 that aims to bring together the Asian and Pacihc Islander lesbian, bisexual and transgender communities throughout the US and abroad.

But without sponsorship, many lesbians from poorer countries in the region won’t be going.

“The conference organizers try to be more inclusive but no funds are available,” said Ms Anjana. “It’s also difficult for lesbians in the US to mobilize funds as lesbian work is not recognized as being worth funding by mainstream organisations.”

Apart from money, visas and language also present a problem to Thai women wanting to attend the conference. To obtain a US visa, Thai nationals need to show proof of sufficient income or home ownership.

“Some of the more active members of Anjarro who wanted to attend may not have the language skills to participate or be able to meet the financial criteria to get the visa,” said Ms Anjana.

Titled “Building Bridges: Spanning Our Past to a Bright Future,” the conference workshops will include: HIV/AIDS; women’s health; financial empowerment; legal rights; same-sex marriage; website design; immigration; anti-Asian sentiment; sex and sexuality; internalised homophobia; the transgender movement; intra-Asian relations; youth; and spirituality.

For more information, check out their webpage at www.expex.com/page/apinh or email aphcon@aol.com.

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Tower of Babble
with Whirlybird

Hercules has opened its doors to one and all. This is a new sauna complex located by Siam Park (you can see the Disney-esque spires in the distance). It has all your usual sauna-stuff - a steam room, showers, dark room, even a VIP room for karaoke fans with a lovely couch and amenities, called the Private Eyes Karaoke Lounge. The top two floors open up to the night sky in a Beer Garden setting, sure to please nature buffs. Whirlybird was treated to some great food and a friendly atmosphere. Do drop by.

Babylon's 11th anniversary party will be on May 22 and all proceeds will be donated to a local AIDS hospice. Stop by to congratulate Khan Tae, who promises lots of games, fun and elegant surprises in the Babylon tradition.

Whirlybird encountered an enormous rumour about something humourous lurking about Mercury. Owner, Khan Ole, confirmed that something of record-breaking dimensions is currently enduring his establishment.

Hilton International Hotel is reserving it's penises for guests only! The famous phallic shrine which sits at the end of their property, along the canal, and which is dedicated to the powerful river spirit which guards the Thai-owned property, has been closed to visitors and locals! Whirlybird thinks it's not a very smart move to turn away Mae Tubtim's fans. Assistant Manager K. Tuavorn, asks that anyone who is interested in viewing the hundreds of wedly shaped, colorful carved offerings, first contact General Manager L. Hurst at bkkhltw@loc2loxinfo.co.th or call the hotel directly at 253-0123 for case-by-case permission to view or worship at the shrine.

Construction continues on Sai 4 for the new venue to open across from Telephone. It's to be named Balcony, if the Whirlybird sources are correct. One hopes it will be open soon, if only so we can stop repeating ourselves.

Finally, from Whirlybird's Weird File: "Police in Wichita, Kansas arrested a 22-year-old man at the airport hotel after he tried to pass two (counterfeit) $16 bills."

Lesbofile
with Jennifer Bliss

The word of the month, girls, is networking. That means getting out and talking to as many other lesbians as possible. And I don't just mean chatting up women in bars or on the Internet. I mean forming friendships with other like-minded lesbians besides your girlfriend.

A great place to practice your networking skills is the APLBN conference in San Francisco in July. (See story page 1.) And if you see your ex-girlfriend there, please be nice to her.

If you do make it to San Francisco, check out the Castro Street Lesbo March on June 27, and the Gay Pride Parade on June 28. There's also an Asian gay and lesbian dance party called Jaded on June 26. Check out their groovy webpage at www.members.tripod.com/~nomsgjaded/index.html.

Closer to home, Anjaree members will be meeting for a bit of shopping and maybe a movie at Bangkok's Latphrao Mall on Saturday May 16 at 2pm.

Find the girls in front of KFC near Central Plaza. For the over 30's, there's a lunch date on Sunday May 24 from 12 noon to 2 pm at T-House Vietnamese restaurant on Ratchadaphisek Rd. Cost is around 250 baht. Call 477-1776 for details or email anjaree@hotmail.com. All welcome.

STOP PRESS!! Chiang Mai has a new women's venue on Friday and Saturday nights from 7-11pm. Run by long-time Anjaree member Thom, Gemini Cafe is located at 156/134 Rimdii Village, Klong Chonpratan Rd, Tambon Sutep. Tel (053) 810-704.

The first Saturday of the month will be a special lesbian night. You can also pick up your copy of Pink Ink there.

Lesbian heart throb Ellen DeGeneres is having hard a time of late. Chastity Bono, lesbian offspring of Cher and the late Sonny Bono, in a recent interview criticised Ellen's TV show as "too gay." Chastity is supposed to be the entertainment media director of GLAAD, a US organisation committed to positive portrayals of gays and lesbians in the media. So how can she say that a programme is "too gay"?"
About In & Out...

One of these days I would like to go to the local movie house, watch a gay-themed movie, and leave feeling proud of who and what I am. I had thought such an experience awaited me at the recent showing of "In & Out", a movie about a closeted gay teacher being outed by a famous Hollywood actor (and former student) during the Oscars. Instead, I left the movie house rather angry.

Why don't we just call this movie what it is: the heterosexual world patting itself on the back for being so "understanding" of gay and lesbian realities. As most other gay-themed movies are.

If you've ever lived in small-town America you would know that gay teachers are not wanted, that being openly gay is a one way ticket to unemployment. Hysterical parents would have their kids tested for Aids - since you're gay, you must have Aids, of course - and counsellors would probably be brought in to help the kids deal with their "trauma" of having had a gay teacher. You would not be named "Teacher of the Year" and your students - taught to be intensely homophbic from the day they were born - would not, as they do in this movie, come forward to support you.

Instead of calling this movie "comedy/drama" it should be called "complete fantasy".

The jihed would-be wife of our closeted gay teacher turns in a stellar performance; her part is the only one that rings true. She displays the angst of having fallen in love with a gay man with fine form. But she doesn't, of course, address the reasons why a gay man would feel the need to remain closeted, to "pretend" he's heterosexual, the pressures put on him to get married and be "normal". She is only concerned with herself, and with the unfairness of being left standing at the alter by a man who suddenly realises he cannot go through with the marriage.

In all of her intense self-pity, she never once stumbles upon the thought that she herself is partially responsible for her predicament, that if she had helped to create a society where gays and lesbians could live and breath and feel good about it, she would have never gotten into the situation she did.

And then there's the ridiculous actor, who "cuts" his teacher while accepting an Oscar on national television. He, of course, is never called to account for his part in this tragedy. Apparently, "cutting" a closeted gay or lesbian person is just fine and dandy - no matter what sort of destruction it wreaks in the life of the outed person.

It's hard to imagine that a place like Hollywood, filled to the brim with gays and lesbians and queers of all kinds, finds it so hard to churn out even one mainstream film that rings true. At least the world of prime time television has Ellen - and is it any wonder that it takes a woman to lead the way?

Go figure. - Nick Wilde
Queer Resources

Aids
BODAN DROP IN CENTRE: 830 Galaxy Lane, Ram 4, 216-8421, 236-4422. Provides services for people with HIV/AIDS.


HIV/AIDS LAW & POLICY: www.crispath.org/aidlaw

HOTLINE: Counselling Centre and HIV/AIDS Clinic, 1455 Sivatini Villa, Phraecharong 36, Bangkok 1000, 2762920, 2776990, fax: 261-4857.

LIFE & HOPE CLUB: Ittirat Smithswant, 318-5000 or (152) 472-922.

MEDECSN SANS FRONTIERS (DOCTORS WITHOUT BORDERS) provides health care for people with AIDS in Bangkok. If you or your friends have HIV and is ill, please contact us. Our services are free, confidential and friendly, 375 649.

SEA-AIDS MAILING LIST: South East Asia AIDS mailing list aimed at bringing together those building and sharing the response to AIDS in the region. Send a message to mail@sea-aids.org with the subject "subscribe sea-aids Your Name Your Email Address" (without the apostrophes).

THAI RED CROSS: Anonymous Clinic, 1878 Ram 4, near the Snake Farm, Mon-Fri noon-7pm, Saturday 12-5pm, 256-4105.


Books
BOOKCASE: Stock various branches for their gay/lesbian section.

D BK HOUSE: On Sukhumvit near Soi 12, this book shop has a few gay titles.

FLOATING LOTUS COMMUNICATIONS CO, PO Box 44, Ratvibhav Post Office, Bangkok, Thailand 10408. Also BUAN LUANG BOOKS, Publisher of such books as Sea, Longing and Belonging, Dear Uncle Go, and The Men of Thailand.

GMP, PO Box 247, Swatbath, Norfolk, FE 378PA, England. Publisher of Thai Scene and others.

KING KURIA: In the new Grand Emporium just opened on Sukhumvit 24 near the Queen's Park Hotel, this shop has a tremendous selection of gay and lesbian literature and we do mean tremendous. Worth a visit!

Cyberlane

APLIN (Asian Pacific- Islander Lesbian and Bisexual Network): www.aplin.org/page/3. Email aplin@kaj.mang.sri.org. Mail: PO Box 210598, San Francisco CA, 94121 USA.

ASIAN COMPASS: www.asiancompass.com

COLONY SABA: www.colony-bisexual.com/colony.shtml

CREPES & CO: www.sla.net/crepes

DJ STATION: http://dj-station.com


FILOPHILE QUEER DIRECTORY: www.trioby.org/bakla/bakla.html


HEAVEN SAUSA: www.thatpicasa.com/harven.shtml

LONG YANG CLUB: www.longyanglees.com/thailand

PINK INK: That's us! We're on the Web at www.klcom.net

Pinkink.

QUEER MASJID: Good site for gay Muslims at www.geocities.com/Wealthbollywood/Heights/8977.

SPHINX: www.khunet.com/spinx


UTOPIA: Booking mark this! You'll find lots of information about the scene in Thailand, as well as other countries in the region, personal, shopping and lots more at www.utopia-asia.com

Organisations SE Asia

ANJARI: In Thailand's lesbian organization. Their limited resources are aimed at Thai speakers, but they occasionally plan social, educational, or travel events that welcome visiting women.

They also put out a Thai language newsletter. Contact them at PO Box 322 Rachadamnern, Bangkok 10200, 4777, 1777, Email anjar@hotmail.com.

CLIC (Can't Live in the Closet): Filipino Lesbian group.

P.O. Box 2356, QPO Quezon City, 1163 Philippines. www.clic.org.ph

GAY NAJARANT: Indonesian gay and lesbian males. Jalan Mulyosari Timur 46, Sambaya, East Java, 60112 Indonesia. Tel: 593-4924. Email gaynasara@sga.org

JOINT COLLEGE QUEER UNION: Hong Kong gay, lesbian & sexual-identity students. www.asianline.net/hk/queer

LONGYANG CLUB: East meets West in Bangkok for weekly outings and more. Membership fee: PO Box 1077, Siam, Bangkok, 10504, Phone: 697-776

MITRAS: Indonesian lesbian group, publish a Newsletter, Kukat Pox 3308/KJP, Jakarta Pusat 10078, Indonesia. Email mailblue@rocketmail.com.

PEOPLE TAKE US: Singaporean gay and lesbian group.

P.O. Box 299, Raffles City, Singapore 91710

PINK TRIANGLE GROUP: Malaysian gay and lesbian group. 23 Jalan Jati Kuala Lumpur, 5500 or PO Box 1185 Kualalumpur Malaysia.

10 PERCENT CLUB: Hong Kong gay and lesbian group.

P.O. Box 72270 Central Post Office, Hong Kong, 2692-7300.

Pattaya

(Visit www.dressedas.com/ancompletepattaya.listing.html)

BOYS BOYS BOYS: 32591 Pattaya Soi 3, South Pattaya.

(038) 4246009, 251415. Candle/Shower Show 24:00. Live show (Weekends).

CHARLIE'S BOYS: 32544 Pattaya Soi 1, South Pattaya.

(038) 4245693, 428857.

CRAZY PUB & DISCO: 273/86 Soi Simee Plaza, South Pattaya.

(038) 42418642, 4241889.

LE CAFE ROYAL: HOTEL: 325/1025 Pattaya Soi 3, South Pattaya. (038) 423512, 4253003. Restaurant/Piano bar and terrace bar. Book well in advance, especially during the high season from November through February.

MEMENTO LIGHTHOUSE: 325/1201 Maitoon Pattaya North.

(038) 4235255 Massage available.

NOBODY BODY CENTER: 15115/1 Soi Anan Thaun, North Pattaya. (038) 370170. Massage. Traditional Thai skin cleansing massage.

STARRY BOYS: 652/1234 Maitoon Pattaya 2, South Pattaya.
Pink Ink, May 1998

City, Sukhumvit 2 Road, Siam Park Ave, 010-0600. NEW! Huge sauna with gym, steam baths, pub, restaurant, karaoke, Tropical Beach Garden, inn, lots more. English-speaking owner, open 8am to 3am daily.


37 PARK (gay): 8.5 Sukhumvit Soi 23, 235-2327, 235-1227. Popular with older Thai crowd, this pub features singers from 11pm onwards doing pop and 'Thai folk songs'. Samui!

JUPITER (gay): 11/3-13 Sualawong Road (next to Bangkok Bank), 237-4056 ext 'Jupiter'. Popular go-go, naughty, elegant show one of the best.


KIRIGA MAMA (gay): 39/4 Sukhumvit Soi 6, 2354934. After-show hangout.

KIRIGA SILOM (mixed): 10/2 Sukhumvit Road (Sukhumvit Soi 23), 2382979, Young Thai gay and lesbian scene. Jammed and hopping until late. Kamote upstairs.


LIDO CABARET (gay): 8/9 Thanon Rachapruek, Popstano, 2350014. Three shows nightly.


MIXTO (gay): 57/1 Soi Tone Soi 2, 2nd Floor, 2350004. Naughty show about 12.00am.

MASTER CLUB (HARRIE'S GYM) (gay): Soi Silom 2. Upstairs on the third floor above the Heavy Club. Workouts. MERCURY (gay): 116/1 Sukhumvit 23, 2nd floor. NEW!

Gay pub with massage. Above Utopia.


NEW MAN (gay): Soi Phruen Phoow, Sukhumvit, 2361616. Classic interior, priced drinks, good show, arsive staff.

NO BODY CENTRE FOR MEN (gay): Sukhumvit Plaza, 4th Fl. (near Soi 12), 251-6367. Massage.


RELAX (mixed): Sukhumvit 23 (Next to Jet Set). Karaoke and restaurant.


SPHINX (gay): 98-104 Sukhumvit Soi 4, 234-7249. Cozy, romantic atmosphere, and attentive service has turned many visitors into regulars. Huge list of cocktails, great food.


STUDIO 902 (gay): 902 Thanon Sukhumvit, Prakanong, 3916545. Friendly, quiet, just pass the bus station.


TELEPHONE (gay): 114/1 Sukhumvit Soi 4, 234-3279. World-famous gay pub, 2 floors plus popular outside patio.


TOP MAN (gay): 8/9 Sukhumvit Soi 4, 2nd Floor, 6329934. Hosts. Cabaret show every Friday and Saturday night at 11.30pm. Friendly.


TWILIGHT (gay): 38/4 Thanon Sukhumvit, 2338767. Live sex and cabaret shows, the first gay go-go bar in Bangkok. Sleazy is the word, and hosts are aggressive.


V CLUB (gay): 52/1 Soi Ari Phahon Yothin 7 (Area), (on right side), 279-3322-5. Massage, friendly staff, sale and gym. Enjoyable atmosphere.

ZOOM (gay): Silom Soi 2, 2332974. Kamote in the heart of Soi 2. (Complete listings can be found at the Pink Ink website www.kink.com pinkink or at Utopia www.utoopia-ariva.com and Dreaded.net at www.dreaded.com. Visit these for complete listings, maps, and comments on the venues. Plus lots more. Also see Men of Thailand (pub book).

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Pink Ink, May 1998

Queer Talk

Straitening Up the House: Practice of removing all signs of homosexuality from one's abode in preparation for a visit from straight people with whom your sexuality is a secret. Coined by recording artists Romanovsky and Phillips in the song of the same name. - When Drag is Not a Car Race, Jeff Fessler and Karen Rauch.
Queer of the Month
Paula Vogel

Very few female dramatists have ever won the Pulizer Prize, but Paula Vogel has done just that for her play *How I Learned To Drive*.

“Hold your breath and try not to think about it,” she told *The Washington Blade*. “At this point, after spending more than 20 years writing for the theatre, I’ve learned that everything is arbitrary.”

Vogel goes down in history as being one of a handful of women to win the coveted prize for drama, as well as the first openly lesbian woman to do so. Not only that, she becomes the only openly lesbian woman to ever win a Pulizer Prize in any category throughout the Prize’s 80-year history.

*How I Learned To Drive*, which opened at New York’s Vineyard Theater just over a year ago, garnered an Obie Award, a Drama Desk Award and many, many others. The subject matter was controversial - a young woman looking back on her relationship with an uncle who had sexually abused her.

Vogel joins gay Pulizer Prize winners Tennessee Williams, Edward Albee, Lanford Wilson and Tony Kushner. She grew up in Maryland, just outside of Baltimore, and has taught playwriting at Brown University in Providence, RI, since 1985.

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