

Thailand's Gay & Lesbian Monthly

Pink Ink

Email: pinkmonthly@hotmail.com Web Site: www.khsnet.com/pinkink Vol 1, Issue 8

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.

Anjaree organiser Anjana Suwannanon 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 org-
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Pattaya Crowns a Queen

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

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No Cash for Conference... from Page 1

organisation formed in 1987 that aims to bring together the Asian and Pacific 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 organisers try to be more inclusive but no funds are available," said Ms Anjana. "It's also difficult for lesbians in the US to mobilise funds as lesbian work is not recognised 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 Anjaree 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.expage.com/page/aplbn or email aplconf@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 Khun Tac, who promises lots of games, fun and elegant surprises in the Babylon tradition.

Whirlybird encountered an enormous rumour about something humongous lurking about **Mercury**. Owner, Khun Ole, confirmed that something of record-breaking dimensions is currently endow-

ing his establishment.

Hilton International Hotel is reserving its permisses 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. Assitant Manager K. Tuavorn, asks that anyone who is interested in viewing the hundreds of wildly shaped, colorful carved offerings, first contact General Manager I. Hurst at bkkhitw@lox2loxinfo.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 Soi 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.*"

Find the girls in front of KFC near Central Plaza. For the over 30s, there's a lunch date on Sunday May 24 from 12 noon to 2 pm at T-House Vietnamese restaurant on Ratchadapisek Rd. Cost is about 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 Rimdoi 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"?

Are you



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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 lasses 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 Latprao Mall on Saturday May 16 at 2pm.

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Quotes

Wockner News

"As far as I am concerned, he looks like a 13-year-old lesbian." - *American feminist and academic, Camille Paglia describing film star Leonardo DiCaprio.*

"It's [my April 7 arrest in a Beverly Hills park men's room for alleged lewd conduct] been humiliating, embarrassing, funny to some degree, but I am reading reports from London that I was led away crying and devastated. The truth was I was led away quite angry - angry at myself, angry at the situation - and I did not, believe me, I did not try and convince the arresting officer that I was looking for my lottery ticket. I have been living in a circus. There have been helicopters around my house, literally hundreds of people outside my house waiting for something, I don't know what exactly. But I just want to tell my fans who I feel to some degree I have, apart from embarrassing myself, I have embarrassed them, and I just want to let them know I am OK." - *Pop singer George Michael to the Cable News Network, April 10.*

Pink Ink is edited by Nick Wilde and Jennifer Bliss.

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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 homophobic 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 jilted 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 altar 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 "outs" his teacher while accepting an Oscar on national television. He, of course, is never called to account for his part in this tragedy. Apparently, "outing" 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.

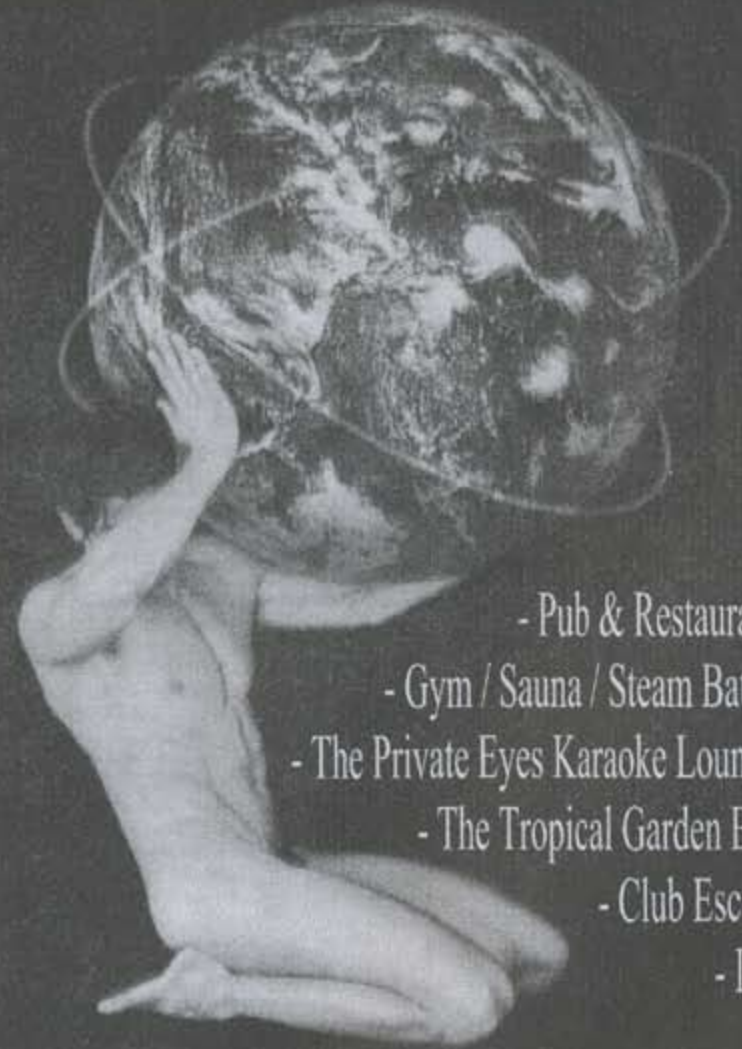
It's hard to imagine that a place like Hollywood, filled to the brim with gays and lesbians and queers of all kinds, finds it so hard to churn out even one mainstream film that rings true. At least the world of prime time television has Ellen - and is it any wonder that it takes a woman to lead the way?

Go figure. - *Nick Wilde*

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Queer Resources

Aids

BODANG DROP IN CENTRE: 830 Galaxy Lane, Rama 4, 236-8421, 236-8422. Provides services for people with HIV/Aids. F.A.C.T.: Aids Helpline 574-1100, 574-3461 9am-12am. Fraternity for Aids Cessation in Thailand.

HIV/AIDS LAW & POLICY: www.critpath.org/aidlaw
HOTLINE: Counselling Centre and HIV/Aids Clinic, 145-6 Hotline Villa, Viphavaddee Rangsit 20, BKK 10900, 276-2950, 277-7699, fax 691-4057.

LIFE & HOPE CLUB: Itirak Smithsuwan, 318-5600 or (152)-472-925.

MEDECINS SANS FRONTIERS (DOCTORS WITHOUT BORDERS) provides health care for people with AIDS in Bangkok. If you or your friend has HIV and is ill, please contact us. Our service is free, confidential and friendly. 375 6491.

SEA-AIDS MAILING LIST: South East Asia Aids mailing list aimed at bringing together those building and shaping the response to Aids in the region. Send a message to majordomo@lists.inet.co.th with the message "subscribe sea-aids Your Name <Your Email Address>" (without the apostrophes).

THAI RED CROSS: Anonymous Clinic, 1871 Rama 4, near the Snake Farm, Mon-Fri noon-7pm, Saturday 9-12pm, 256-4109.

WEDNESDAY FRIENDS CLUB: Hotline (66-2) 253-2666. Support and social organisation for people living with HIV/Aids in Bangkok.

Books

BOOKAZINE: Check various branches for their gay/lesbian section.

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

FLOATING LOTUS COMMUNICATIONS CO, PO Box 44, Ratchawithi Post Office, Bangkok, Thailand 10408. Also BUA LUANG BOOKS. Publisher of such books as Sex, Longing and Not Belonging, Dear Uncle Go, and The Men of Thailand.

GMP, P.O.Box 247, Swatham, Norkok PE 378PA, England. Publisher of Thai Scene and others.

KINO KINURIYA: 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!

Cyberspace

APLBN (Asian Pacific-Islander Lesbian and Bisexual Network): www.expage.com/page/aplbn. Email aplbnrequest@kwaj.engr.sgi.com Mail: PO Box 210598, San Francisco CA 94121 USA.

ASIAN COMPASS: www.asiancompass.com
COLONY SAUNA: www.utopia-asia.com/colony.shtml
CREPES & CO: www.sala.net/crepes

DJ STATION: http://dj-station.com
DREADED NED: Guide to all things gay in Thailand. Easy to navigate. www.dreadedned.com

FILIPINO QUEER DIRECTORY: www.tribo.org/bakla/bakla.html

GAY ASIAN LINKS: Lots of links to sites for Asian gays and their fans here. http://members.aol.com/APXRDS/gal.html

HEAVEN SAUNA: www.utopia-asia.com/heaven.shtml
LONG YANG CLUB: www.longyangclub.com/thailand

PINK INK: That's us! We're on the Web at www.khanet.com/

pinkink.

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

SPHINX: www.khsnet.com/sphinx
SYDNEY GAY & LESBIAN MARDI GRAS: www.mardigras.com.au

TELEPHONE: www.telephonepub.com
THAILAND GAY HOME PAGE: www.geocities.com/WestHollywood/Village/2288/

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

Organisations/S.E.Asia

ANJAREE is 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 Ratchadamngoen, BKK 10200, 477-1776. Email anjaree@hotmail.com

CLIC (Can't Live in the Closet): Filipino Lesbian group. P.O.Box 2356, CPO Quezon City, 1163 Philippines. Email clic@phil.gn.apc.org

GAYA NUSANTARA: Indonesian gays and lesbians. Jalan Mulyosari Timur 46, Surabaya, East Java, 60112 Indonesia. Tel: 593-4924. Email gayanus@silga.org

JOINT COLLEGE QUEER UNION: Hong Kong gay, lesbian or bi-sexual students. www.asiaonline.net.hk/~skjliu

LONGYANG CLUB: East meets West in Bangkok for weekly outings and more. Membership fee. PO Box 1077, Silom, Bangkok, 10504. Phone/fax 679-7760.

MITRAS: Indonesian lesbian group, publish LaMitraS newsletter. Kotak Pos 3308/JKP, Jakarta Pusat 10038, Indonesia. E-mail blue_blue@rocketmail.com

PEOPLE LIKE US: Singaporean gay and lesbian group. P.O.Box 299, Raffles City, Singapore 911710.

PINK TRIANGLE GROUP: Malaysian gay and lesbian group. 23 Jalan Jati Kuala Lumpur, 55100 or P.O.Box 11859 Kuala Lumpur Malaysia 50760.

10 PERCENT CLUB: Hong Kong gay and lesbian group. P.O.Box 72207 Central Post Office, Hong Kong, 2692-7506.

Pattaya

(Visit www.dreadedned.com for a complete Pattaya listing.)

ADAM & EVE COCKTAIL LOUNGE & MASSAGE: Soi 2, North Pattaya. (038) 4246723. Cabaret at 24.00. Live show (Weekends).

BOYS BOYS BOYS: 325/91 Pattayaland Soi 3, South Pattaya. (038) 424099, 425145. Candle/Shower Show 24.30. Cabaret 01.00.

CHARLIE'S BOYS: 325/44 Pattayaland Soi 1, South Pattaya. (038) 429569, 428457.

CRAZY PUB & DISCO: 273/66 Soi Sunee Plaza, South Pattaya. (038) 410445. Exotic shows.

LE CAFE ROYAL HOTEL: 325/1025 Pattayaland Soi 3, South Pattaya. (038) 423515, 428303. Restaurant/Piano bar and terrace bar. Book well in advance, especially during the high season from November through February.

MOONLIGHT HOUSE: 325/120121 Thanon Pattaya 2. (038) 423595. Massage available.

NOBODY BODY CENTER: 151151/1 Soi Anan Thakun, North Pattaya. (038) 370170. Massage. Traditional Thai skin cleansing massage.

STAR BOYS BOYS: 194/2324 Thanon Pattaya 2, South

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TOY BOYS NIGHT CLUB: 325/100 Pattayaland Soi 3, South Pattaya. (038) 423304, 422952, 428737.

WHY NOT: 325/25 Pattayaland Soi 1, South Pattaya. (038) 424049.

Venues/Bangkok

AQUARIUS GENTLEMEN'S HOUSE (gay): 243 Hutyana Soi Suanplu 286-0217. Guest house with hosts.

ALBURY (gay): 71/1 Sukhumvit 11, 255-8920. NEW! Posh Men's Club on Sukhumvit with massage, gym, good food, steam room, 3pm to midnight daily. Elegant, private, parking.

ANGELO SAUNA (gay): 1025/1011 Thanon Ploenchit, 2529176, 2516291. Gym, private room, video room and more.

AT THE TIME (mixed/lesbian): 81 Phahon Yolthin Soi 7 (Aree), 617-1133. Pub and restaurant, live music, young crowd

BABYLON (gay): 50 Soi Athakarn Prasit, (near Malaysia Hotel), 213-2108. World class men's complex, one of the finest in Asia.

BARBERY (gay): 35345 Thanon Surawong, 2351078. Favourite from days gone by, still drawing patrons.

BELAMI MEN CLUB (gay): 971/29 Phayothin Rd, Samsennai, Phayothai, 01-934-0047, 02-279-1434. Hots, pub and karaoke from 8pm to 230am daily.

BIG BOY COCKTAIL LOUNGE (gay): 1/34 Sukhumvit Soi 11 (Soi Chai Yot), 2533727, 2519582. Popular with ex-pats.

BLUE STAR (gay): 338/56 Soi Pratochai, Surawong, 233-2121. Second floor. Popular, naughty, slightly sleazy.

BY HEART PUB (mixed/lesbian): 117/697 Soi Sena Nikom 1 (Phahon Yolthin 32), Bangkok, 570-1841.

CAT (gay): 450-452 Sukhumvit 22 (in Washington Theatre parking lot), 663-4031, 663-4098. Cozy sauna, massage. 3pm -

midnight.

CHARLIES HIDEAWAY (gay): 8/5 Silom Road Soi 2. Quiet bar next to DJ Station. Classical music.

CITY MEN PUB (gay): 45 Thanon Sukhumvit 251-3262. Hots. Popular with ex-pats.

COLONY (gay): 117 Soi Charoensuk (off Sukhumvit Soi 55), 391-4393, 7114507. Restaurant/Sauna. Young crowd, pool, gym in a charming setting. Massage. Younger visitors get discount. Open late.

COLOUR BAR (gay): 645/2526 Petchburi Soi 14, Petchburi, 2529221, 6536853. Hots. Small bar.

CREPES & CO. (crepes and salads): 18/1 Sukhumvit Soi 12. Reservations: 251-2895, 653-3990. Gay-friendly hangout.

DAVID de BANGKOK (gay): 1 Chao Pha Rd, Pranakorn, BKK, near Kao San Road, 629-0429-31. Sauna for me by men, as they say themselves!

DISCO DISCO (gay/mixed): Silom Soi 2, 234-6151. Trendy disco popular with Thais, great music and atmosphere.

DJ STATION (gay): Silom Soi 2, 266-4029, 235-1227. Super-packed dance club. Cabaret at 12:15am daily.

GOLDEN COCK (gay): 39/27 Anuman Rajdhon, Surawong Road, BKK, 236-3859. Go-go, hots. Noon - 1am.

G PLACE (gay): 1/2 Soi Sukhumvit 51, 258-0600. Food, drink and karaoke in a warm setting.

HEAVEN SAUNA (gay): 4/F Warner Tower, 119 Soi Mahesak, Silom (Soi opposite Holiday Inn, take right hand elevator as you enter the building), 266-9092. Those 18-21 yrs get in for 120 baht only.

HENRY CLUB (gay): Silom Soi 2. Hots. Used to be called Harries. Pleasant, redecorated, some go-go.

HERCULES HEALTH CLUB (gay): 91/194 Siam Park

City, Sukhapiban 2 Road, Siam Park Ave, 919-9609. NEW! Huge sauna with gym, steam baths, pub, restaurant, karaoke, Tropical Beer Garden, inn, lots more. English-speaking owner, near Fashion Island.

INTER MUSTACHE'S HOUSE (gay): 23/12 Sukhumvit 10, 250-1721-2, 01-356-1571, 6pm to 3am daily. Go go and hosts.

J PARK (gay): 8-3 Silom Road Soi 2, 233-3247, 235-1227. Popular with older Thai crowd, this pub features singers from 11pm onwards doing pop and Thai folk songs. Sanuk!

JUPITER (gay): 31/1-33 Surawong Road (next to Bangkok Bank), 237-4050 ext "Jupiter". Popular go-go, naughty, elegant, one of the best.

KHUN (gay): 39/2 Soi Anuman Ratchathon, Soi Thantawan, Surawong, Hosts. Small bar, hosts approach. English spoken.

KHRUA MAMA (gay): 39/1416 Silom Soi 6, 2354934. After-hours hangout.

KHRUA SILOM (mixed): 10/20 Silom Road (Silom alley near Soi 2), 2382967. Young Thai gay and lesbian scene. Jammed and hopping until late. Karaoke upstairs.

KITCHENETTE (mixed/lesbian): 1st Floor, Dutchess Plaza, 289 Sukhumvit Soi 55, 381-0861. Cafe, live music Fri, Sat nights. Older crowd.

LIDO CABARET (gay): 82/9 Thanon Ratchaprarop, Pratumam, 2450014. Three shows nightly.

MAMBO (mixed): Sukhumvit Soi 31, 66204413. Cabaret. Reservations suggested, classy, professional cabaret.

MASK (gay): 5 Patpong Soi 2, 2nd Floor, 2365004. Naughty show about 12:00am.

MASTER CLUB (HARRIE'S GYM) (gay): Silom Soi 2. Upstairs on the third floor above the Henry Club. Workouts.

MERCURY (gay): 116/1 Sukhumvit 23, 2nd floor. NEW!

Gay pub with massage. Above Utopia.

MY WAY (gay): 944/4 Thanon Rama 4, 2339567, 2351868. Ranked as having the best go go in the city.

NEW MAN (gay): Soi Pratoochai, Surawong, 2361616. Classy interior, pricey drinks, good show, attentive staff.

NO BODY CENTRE FOR MEN (gay): Sukhumvit Plaza, 4th Fl. (near Soi 12), 251-4367. Massage.

OBELISKS (gay): 39/3 Sukhumvit Soi 53, 662-4377-9. Elegant 11-storey sauna complex.

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

ROME CLUB (mixed) Silom Soi 4. Great music, dancing, drinks. Cabaret at 1am daily.

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

SUPER LEX MATSUDA (gay): 39/1416 Silom Road Soi Tantanwan, 2361633. Thai-oriented, subtle, shower shows.

STUDIO 982 (gay): 982 Thanon Sukhumvit, Prakanong, 3916545. Friendly, quiet, just pass the bus station.

TAWAN (gay): 2/2 Soi Tantanwan, off Surawong, 234-5506. Hosts with Go Go. Popular with Muscle Marys.

TELEPHONE (gay): 114/11 Silom Soi 4, 234-3279. World-famous gay pub, 2 floors plus popular outside patio.

THUMB UP (mixed/lesbian): Sukhumvit Soi 31. Cooking on Friday evenings. Karaoke.

TOP MAN (gay): 8/9 Silom Soi 2, 2nd Floor, 6328934. Hosts. Cabaret show every Friday and Saturday night at 11:30pm. Friendly.

TURNING POINT MEN CLUB (gay): 120-19-20 Sukhumvit Soi 23, Klong Toey, 01-658-1105, 662-1103-4. Popular late-night place with pub, karaoke and hosts.

TWILIGHT (gay): 3840 Thanon Surawong, 2353876. Live sex and cabaret shows, the first gay go go bar in Bangkok. Sleaze is the word, and hosts are aggressive.

UTOPIA (gay & lesbian): 116/1 Sukhumvit 23 (enter Sukhumvit Soi 23 and take first right turn), 259-9619, email utopia@best.com. Shop, gallery and cafe. Open daily from noon until midnight. General information on the gay scene. Cafe Night on Fridays (occasionally).

V CLUB (gay): 52/1 Soi Aree Phalonn Yolthin 7 (Aree), (on right side), 279-3322. Massage, friendly staff, cafe and gym. Enjoyable atmosphere.

ZOOM (gay): Silom Soi 2, 2333247. Karaoke in the heart of Soi 2.

(Complete listings can be found at the Pink Ink Web site www.khsnet.com/pinkink or at Utopia www.utopia-asia.com and DreadedNed at www.dreadedned.com. Visit these for complete listings, maps, and comments on the venues, plus lots more. Also see "Men of Thailand" guide book.)

Queer Talk

Straightening Up the House: Practice of removing all signs of homosexuality from your 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.

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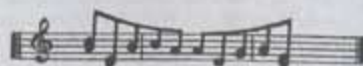
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Queer of the Month

Paula Vogel

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

"You 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 Pulitzer 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 Pulitzer 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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