

just out

volume 8 number 9

FREE

july 1991

INSIDE:
Lesbian and Gay Pride
March and Rally Photos
pages 8 and 9

Asian activists challenge double myths of invisibility

by Anndee Hochman

The racist Skinheads who attacked Scot Nakagawa didn't know he was gay. They just looked at his face—an Asian man, alone, riding a bicycle—and unleashed their anger.

Chee bristles when people—straight or gay—tell him how well he's mastered the language. It's true that he moved here from Malaysia six years ago, and his words carry a distinctive, musical accent. But Chee, whose parents were educated in British missionary schools, grew up speaking English.

Kim, born in Korea, was adopted by an American couple when she was nine months old. She grew up in California and Southern Oregon. But even in Portland, where she came to "find a future," she often feels an uneasy distance. "No matter where you go, you don't feel part of the crowd. . . You wonder what the other person is thinking of you."

They are Asians or Pacific Islanders. They are lesbian and gay. Some non-Asians despise them; others dismiss them as a "model minority." Their own families may reject their sexual orientation. They live behind a double-thick screen of invisibility—one that recent activism and organizing are just beginning to pierce.

(Continued on page 15)

PHOTO BY CATHERINE STAUFFER

