

What's Wrong with this Picture?

Details Magazine's "Gay or Asian?" feature is racist, homophobic, and classist

Writer Whitney McNally revives a history of stereotypical images of lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender (LGBT) and Asian Pacific American (APA) peoples to deliver this appalling satirical feature "Gay or Asian?"

By denigrating working class Asians – "One orders take-out sushi, the other delivers it" – and exoticizing Asian male bodies – "Ladyboy fingers," "sashimi-smooth chest" – McNally dehumanizes people of color, hypersexualizes gay men, and caricatures the working class and immigrants.

The title "Gay or Asian?" itself suggests you can be either "gay" or "Asian" but not both. This perpetuates the invisibility of LGBT APAs who live at the intersections of race, sexuality, class, and nationality. We face both homophobia in mainstream APA communities and racism in white-dominated gay communities. As LGBT APAs, we're proud to say we're both gay and Asian, and much more.

■ What you don't see in this picture: the real lives of LGBT and APA peoples

Details says it published this offensive feature with tongue-in-cheek humor. But we argue representations like this don't bring us any closer to knowing the real, complex lives of LGBT and APA peoples.

LGBT APAs face challenging times. We're fighting for our communities on a wide range of issues. We're fighting for the rights of immigrants, and the right for same-sex marriage. We're fighting against profiling, harassment, and violence. And now we must also fight this offensive attempt at humor by Details.

■ We demand...

- A real apology from Details Editors and writer Whitney McNally
- A retraction of the "Gay or Asian?" feature
- Positive and diverse representations of LGBT APAs in Details
- Diversity sensitivity training for all editors and writers



▶ TELL DETAILS you oppose their racist, homophobic, and classist representations:

CALL: (212) 630-3820
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▶ PROTEST DETAILS, Fri. April 16 co-sponsored by Asian Media Watchdog

WHEN: 12:00 noon to 1:00 pm
 WHERE: In front of Condé Nast building
 7 West 34th Street (at Fifth Ave)



GAPIMNY

Gay Asian & Pacific Islander Men of New York
 (212) 802-7423 . www.gapimny.org