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Arts & Entertainment

Talking Shop with **Hiroshima**



PHOTO: TONY DURAN

By **TRACY UBA**
Writer/Reporter

For something sure to whet the palate, take one part *taiko*, some smooth sax, a pinch of percussive funk, a dash of synth and mix with the melodious melodies of the *koto*.

Connoisseurs of fine music know it's the recipe Hiroshima has been cooking up for over 20 years; that distinctive cross-cultural jazz blend, which has made them the premier contemporary Asian American band.

Perfectly fitting, then, that the Los Angeles-based group made a recent trio of appearances on master chef Ming Tsai's popular Food Network show "East Meets West" to share *ozoni*, *okra maxann* and *ahi shiso poke* secrets. But while they only temporarily traded their instruments for kitchen utensils, Hiroshima was in the midst of a tour supporting the August 1999 release of their 11th album, "Between Black & White."

True to its title, their latest maintains the world vision of previous works, thematically questioning the marginalization of the AA experience, while musically exploring the dynamism between Eastern and Western cultural influences and between classical and experimental modes of expression.

Comprised of co-founding members June Kuramoto, a world-renowned *kotoist*, and Dan Kuramoto, saxophonist-flutist and composer/producer, the ensemble is rounded out by Johnny Mori (*taiko*), Kim Cornwell (keyboards, acoustic piano, synthesizer), Danny Yamamoto (drums, *taiko*, percussion) as well as Dean Cortez (bass) and Fred Schreuders (guitar).

Although the group has toured various parts of the world and worked with such legends as producer/musician Quincy Jones and jazz great Miles Davis, they remain

active members of the Japanese American and larger AA community. They were generous enough to donate music to JACL for a new video showcasing the National Youth/Student Conference, which is held every two years to promote youth activities and membership.

Pacific Citizen recently took a rainy afternoon to ask a few candid questions of Dan, June, Kim and Danny (while Johnny helped his mom fix a leaky roof) to get an inside glimpse of the personalities behind the sound.

P.C.: Can you share your most memorable tour stories, including your best and worst gigs?

Danny: I hate to think about ranking them because they're all so different. One of the best concerts we ever did was the first time we played the East Coast at Howard University. We didn't know if anybody was going to come see us, we didn't know what the response was going to be, and it was at a black college. But it was sold out, and we got standing ovations in the middle of songs. It was so loud you couldn't hear yourself play.

Dan: Yeah, I still think about that Washington, D.C., gig because it was about what the band represented spiritually. When people saw us, as they told us later, they had no idea in this predominantly black audience what Asians were like other than the stereotypes they saw in movies. They didn't realize until that moment that we cared and loved and had feelings and pain just like anybody else. In a small measure we created a space of humanity for other Asians by having done that show. The response was so overwhelmingly emotional from the audience that it's one of those things I'll never forget. That was 1980 or '81. I can still see it.

Kim: One of the [most memorable] for me was in New York at

the Bottom Line. We had to play two shows that night, so from one show to the next we had a two-hour wait. I don't know if it was the worst, but we were, uh, a little inebriated when we got to that second show. I don't even remember the second show!

Dan: One of the other best shows was at the Philadelphia Academy of Music with Miles Davis in 1981. In our world, it doesn't get any better than Miles Davis. And the fact that Miles liked us was a thrill that I'll never get over. [His] audience embraced us, and this was a very sophisticated jazz audience. They totally appreciated what [June] was doing. It's really gratifying when people get it.

June: The Newport Jazz Festival was amazing — 38,000 people, standing ovation and they usually don't allow encores, but we got one. It was like that movie "This Is Spinal Tap." But the next day, there was no review of us. They talked about every band but us, and we're the ones that got the biggest response. We found out that the guy who came to review it took a lunch break during our set. He missed the whole thing!

Dan: But that's our whole career. Nobody respects the Asian band.

P.C.: Aspiring artists often go through really awful or odd jobs just to support themselves financially. Before you became professional musicians, what was the worst job experience you ever had?

June: To get a job as a *kotoist*, you either [work at] restaurants, Japanese bars or pizzerias. All my other straight jobs were fine. I worked for attorneys, gift stores, as a dishwasher. I used to be a soda jerk. But the worst thing was playing at this bar. The owner wanted me to start wearing miniskirts and standing up and playing. I got sick to my stomach. I couldn't do that, no thank you.

Kim: My worst was working at a laundry. You'd wash the clothes on these big, gallon drums, take it out, put it under a press and squeeze it out. It was hard! There was a hy-

See **HIROSHIMA**/page 6

Exit Polls Show Support for Al Gore Among APAs

By **MARTHA NAKAGAWA**
Assistant Editor

If preliminary results from two exit polls conducted among Asian Pacific Americans in California are any indication, Vice President Al Gore is the favored presidential candidate among APAs over his Republican opponent Gov. George W. Bush.

A Southern California exit poll found that Gore received 43 percent of the APA votes, in contrast to Bush's 30 percent. Sen. John McCain followed with 19 percent and former Sen. Bill Bradley a mere 7 percent.

But Gore's standing does not indicate that he has a lock on APA voters in California's first presidential primary using the blanket ballot. "If votes for McCain went to Bush and votes for Bradley went to Gore, then it would be a dead heat," said Stewart Kwoh, executive director of the Asian Pacific American Legal Center of Southern California (APALC), a sponsor of the exit poll. "It would split 50/50."

The preliminary survey was released two days after Super Tuesday by APALC, Vision 21 and API Vote. The project involved more than 200 volunteers surveying about 3,000 voters at 50 poll sites in 14 cities in Los Angeles and Orange Counties. The cities included Los Angeles, Alhambra, Monterey Park, Rosemead, San Gabriel, San Marino, South Pasadena, Torrance, Gardena, Carson, Long Beach, Garden Grove, Santa Ana and Westminster. It was conducted in six languages, including Chinese, Japanese, Korean, Spanish, Tagalog and Vietnamese.

Broken down by partisan affilia-

tion, Gore received 64.0 percent of the APA Democratic vote and 12.8 percent of the APA Republican vote.

Bush received 55.5 percent of the APA Republican vote and 10.5 percent of the APA Democratic vote. In addition, a significant bloc of independent voters showed strong support for Gore. The survey found that 49.7 percent of APA voters affiliated with no party and 42.9 percent of APAs registered with other parties voted for Gore.

In contrast, Bush received only 21.2 percent of the votes from those with no party affiliation and 21.4 percent from those registered with other parties.

In referring to the large Gore support from voters with no party affiliation, Daniel Ichinose, APALC research coordinator, said most first-time voters or voters who have been in the country a relatively short time tended to have no party affiliation and that these voters were "ripe to please from one party or another to win their votes."

Broken down even further, Kathy Feng, APALC staff attorney, said one in three surveyed were first-time voters. "If I were a candidate, I'd do a lot more work and get a better handle on the Asian Pacific American vote because if you lose the Asian Pacific

vote, you'll be in trouble in California," said Kwoh. Another finding that the exit poll found was that more APA Democrats turned out to vote this year, 45.1 percent compared to a 34.9 percent Republican showing. In the previous presidential election four years ago, 36 percent of the APAs surveyed were Democrats. Kwoh attributed this shift to a backlash against a number of factors such as the campaign fundraising scandal, the Wen Ho Lee espionage allegations, McCain's use of the word "gook" and the passage of the 1996 welfare reform bill which restricted benefits to non-citizen immigrants.

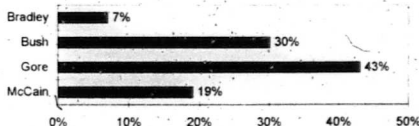
"In my opinion, Asian Pacific Americans are upset at the Democrats but blame the conservative Republicans even more," said Kwoh. Kwoh surmised that Korean Americans tended to vote the Democratic line due to the welfare reform bill, which affected their population the most, while Chinese Americans leaned towards the Democratic Party because much of the campaign fund-raising and the Wen Ho Lee scandals were led by Republicans.

Feng called this a "wake up call" to the Republican party, saying that APA voters were past the "threshold" of tolerating all the race baiting.

But the Japanese-American vote, was unique. Kwoh felt that while the various scandals affected the JA population, it was not as galvanizing to the JA community. In fact, the JA vote split evenly among all four presidential candidates.

"What the candidates have to do is figure out the concerns and needs of the Japanese American

APIA Vote in U.S. Presidential Primary



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voters," said Kwoh.

By ethnicity, Gore received the most votes from Korean Americans (54 percent), followed by Filipino Americans (50 percent), Chinese Americans (46 percent), Vietnamese Americans (31 percent) and JAs (27 percent).

Bush received the highest percentage from Filipino Americans (34 percent), followed by Chinese Americans (32 percent), Korean Americans (30 percent), JAs (26 percent) and Vietnamese Americans (23 percent).

In the U.S. Senate race, Linh Dao, a lone APA Republican candidate from Fremont, made a strong showing within the Vietnamese American community in Southern California, receiving 39 percent of their votes and edging out Republican candidate Tom Campbell by a 25 percent margin and Democratic incumbent Diane Feinstein by a percentage point.

But in general, the APA respondents tended to vote Democratic in the senate race. Dao received 13.3 percent of the overall APA vote; Feinstein, 58.6 percent; and Campbell, 16.7 percent.

Feinstein was popular among all APAs, particularly with the Filipino Americans, 70 percent of

See **EXIT POLLS**/page 3

JACL NATIONAL CONVENTION 2000
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weeks

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7 Cupania Circle, Monterey Park, CA 91755
Tel: 323/725-0083, 800/966-6157, Fax: 323/725-0064
E-mail: Paccit@aol.com

Executive Editor: Caroline Y. Aoyagi
Assistant Editor: Martha Nakagawa
Editor Emeritus/Archivist: Harry K. Honda
Office Manager: Brian Tanaka
Production Assistant: Margot Brunswick
Writer/Reporter: Tracy Uba
Circulation: Eva Lau-Ting

Special contributors: Patricia Arra, Allan Beekman, Toko Fujii, S. Ruth Y. Hashimoto, Bob Hirata, Ada Honda, Mas Imon, Mike Iseri, Naomi Kashiwada, Bill Kashiwagi, William Marumoto, Etsu Masaoka, Bill Matsumoto, Fred Oshima, Ed Suguro, Mika Tanner, George Wakiji, Jem Lew

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JACL

Calendar

National

Sat., April 1—Deadline for students other than entering freshmen to submit applications to chapter scholarship committees for national JACL scholarships.

Mon., June 26-Sun., July 2—36th Biennial JACL National Convention; Doubletree Inn, Monterey, Calif.; special rate for JACL conventioners. Reservations: ASAP: 831/649-4511, <www.doubletreemonterey.com>.

Eastern

WASHINGTON, D.C.
Fri.-Tues., March 31-April 4—Washington, D.C., Leadership Conference; Doubletree Hotel. Info: Tom Ehrlie, 415/921-5225.

Sat., April 1—Second Annual Cherry Blossom Freedom Walk; see Community Calendar.

Midwest

DISTRICT COUNCIL

Sat.-Sun., March 18-19—District Council Meeting, Chicago.

WISCONSIN

Sat., March 25—Family Game Night and Potluck Dinner; 4:10 p.m., Zablocki Park Clubhouse. **RSVP by March 23:** Eddie Jonokuchi, 262/691-1404, Sheri Fujihira, 414/423-1408.

NC-WN-Pacific

CONTRA COSTA, DIABLO VALLEY, TRI-VALLEY

April 15—Teacher Education Workshop, "An American Story: From the Bill of Rights to Redress"; 8:30 a.m.-4 p.m., Pine Hollow Middle School, Concord; \$10 registration, lunch included. Info: Cheryl Yoshimura-Thompson, 925/939-2910, Eric Torngoe, 925/828-1076.

CONTRA COSTA

Sun., March 19—Senior Appreciation/Scholarship Awards luncheon potluck; 2-5 p.m., Maple Hill, Y

Alvarado Square, San Pablo; karaoke by Mokyo-Kai. Info: Esther Takeuchi. **SAN MATEO**
Sat., March 25—NCJASC 20th Annual Shinnen En Kai: see Community Calendar at Hayward.
WATSONVILLE
Mon.-Thurs., April 24-27—Senior Center Tour to Japanese American National Museum in Los Angeles, etc. Info: Carmel Kamigawachi, 831/722-1930; Shig Kizuka, 831/724-0116.

Pacific Southwest

LOS ANGELES

Sat., March 25—Singles trip to Death Valley. Info: Rhea Fujimoto, 254-8060.
Sat., April 8—Friendship Potluck Picnic; see Community Calendar. ■

DEADLINE for Calendar is the Friday before date of issue, on a space-available basis.

Please provide the time and place of the event, and name and phone number (including area code) of a contact person.

COMMUNITY Calendar

East Coast

BELLEVILLE/NEWARK, N.J.

Sun., April 9—Essex County Cherry Blossom Festival; noon-5 p.m.; classical dancing, ikebana, origami, story time, antique shows, kendo, bonsai, etc. Info: Lillian Kimura, 973/680-1441.

WASHINGTON, D.C.

Sat., April 1—Second Annual Cherry Blossom Freedom Walk; 9:30 a.m. check-in, 10:30 a.m. ceremony, National Mall at 4th & Jefferson Drive, SW; George Takei, keynote speaker. Pre-registration is required by the Parks Dept.; **Register now to receive T-shirt:** NJAMF-301/530-0048.

Sat., April 15—Conference, "The Politics of Culture" 8:30 a.m.-4 p.m., Luna I. Mishoe Science Center, Delaware State University, Dover; also featuring "A College of Cultures" Millennium Exhibition. \$10 registration covers bus lunch and beverages. **Register by April 1:** 302/674-0402, e-mail: DoverArt@EZOL.com.

The Midwest

CHICAGO

Tues., March 28 & Thurs., March 30—AARP-55 Alive driver's ed class; 9 a.m.-5 p.m., Japanese American Service Committee, 4427 N. Clark St.; Stanley Fukai, instructor. **RSVP:** 773/725-7212.

Pacific Northwest

PORTLAND

Sun., March 26—Annual Spring Mini-Bazaar; noon-3 p.m., Nichiren Buddhist Church, 2025 S.E. Yamhill St.

Through May 20—Exhibit, "The Heart Mountain Story," photos by Hansel Mieth and Otto Hagel taken for Life magazine; Oregon Nikkei Legacy Center, 117 NW 2nd Ave.
Fri.-Sun., Aug. 11-13—Greater Portland Reunion, "Nikkei Futures 2000; Doubletree Lloyd Center Hotel; mixer, banquet, tours, golf tournament, picnic, etc. Info: Kennie Namba, 503/258-0848; Kurtis Iriyoye 503/682-3238.

Northern California

BAY AREA

Sat.-Tues., July 1-4—Tulelake Pilgrimage; bus provided from the

Bay Area. **Registration by April 1.** Forms, info: Las Vegas JACL, 702/381-4443.

Sat., March 18—Omatsuri Culture Night presented by UC Berkeley Tomodachi Club; 6-10 p.m., Pauley Ball Room, Martin Luther King Student Union Building. Free. Info: Shizu, 510/649-8251, e-mail: ccn2000chair@hotmail.com.

EL CERRITO

Fri., March 31—Haiku demonstration by Hidemi Nomura from Shimada, Japan; 7:30 p.m., East Bay Free Methodist Church, 5395 Potrero Ave.

HAYWARD

Sat., March 25—20th Annual Shinnen En Kai by the Northern California Japanese American Senior Centers; luncheon, entertainment, arts, crafts food items. **RSVP** to your local Senior Center.

SACRAMENTO

Fri.-Sat., Sept. 8-9—Tulelake Reunion; Doubletree Hotel and Resort; Friday registration and gala mixer; Saturday sayonara banquet; details to follow.

Sun., Sept. 10—Greater Sacramento Valley Region-wide Reunion; Doubletree Hotel; unveiling of the historical book of the Sacramento region; details to follow.

SAN FRANCISCO

Fri., March 31—Asian Law Caucus 28th anniversary celebration; 6 p.m. cocktails, 7 p.m. dinner, 8 p.m. program, 9:30 reception; Grand Hyatt on Union Square, 345 Stockton St.; keynote speaker Mari Matsuda; emcees Tamlyn Tomita and Victor Hwang; Peggy Saika, honoree. Info: 415/391-1655 ext 13.

Sun., April 9—Annual Morgan Hill Haru Matsuri & NorCal Taiko Expo 2000; Morgan Hill Buddhist Community Center, 16450 Murphy Ave.; Asian Bone Marrow Registry booth; obento lunch, traditional foods, festival 2000 shirts, traditional teriyaki sauce, Asian artisans, pokémon items, Japanese kites, fresh produce and flowers, etc.; Taiko Expo begins at 11 a.m. Info: 408/779-9009.

Thurs.-Sun., April 27-30—Nikkei 2000 Conference; Radisson Miyako Hotel, Japantown; join students, professionals, community organizers, politicians, others, to make a difference. **Registration \$65 before March 24**, \$100 after; students, low-income \$40. Info: JACCC, 415/567-5505, e-mail: nikkei2000@jaccn.org.

SAN JOSE

Fri.-Sat., April 7-8—Play, "Paper Son" by Byron Yee; 8 p.m., at The San Jose Stage. Info: Contemporary Asian Theatre Scene (CATS), 408/298-2287, e-mail: catsonline@yahoo.com.

Southern California

LOS ANGELES

Sat., March 18—"Capturing Stories: An Oral History Workshop"; 1 p.m., JANM, 369 E. First St., Little Tokyo; for beginners. Info: 213/625-0414; 800/461-5266.

Sun., March 26—Workshop on growing orchids, with Walter Imai; 9-11:30 a.m., Cal State Long Beach, Earl Burns Miller Japanese Garden, Earl Warren Dr. near Bellflower Blvd. entrance to campus. **RSVP:** info: 562/985-8885.

Through March 28—Exhibit, Edo Masterpieces "never before seen in the United States"; Los Angeles County Museum of Art, 5905 Wilshire Blvd.; closed Wednesdays. Info: 323/857-6000.

RIVERSIDE

Sat., April 8—Annual Easter Egg Hunt and Potluck; 11 a.m., Canyon Crest Park, UCR campus on Cherry St.; hot dogs, chili, table service will be provided. Info: Helen Yoshikawa, 909/735-8441.

WEST COVINA

Sat., March 25—"Oldies Part VIII" dance; 8 p.m.-12:30 p.m., West Covina Buddhist Temple; music by High Resolution. Info: **RSVP:** etc.: Joanie, 626/284-8192; Frank, 714/890-1776; Roy, 909/595-6183.

Arizona - Nevada

LAS VEGAS

Sat., April 8—Friendship Potluck Picnic; 10 a.m.-3 p.m., Floyd Lamb State Park, Picnic Area #5; hot dogs, hamburgers, soft drinks, paper goods provided; fishing, games, prizes. Please **RSVP** number in your party to: 382-4443.

Sat.-Tues., July 1-4—Tulelake Pilgrimage; accommodations at Oregon Institute of Technology. **Registration by April 1.** Forms, info: Las Vegas JACL, 702/381-4443.

PHOENIX

Thurs., March 23—Film screening, "The Picture Bride"; 7:15 p.m., ASU Agriculture Bldg., Rm250. Free. Info: 480/965-7184.

Fri., March 24—Annual Japan Business Luncheon; 11:30 a.m., Hyatt Regency at Gateway Ranch; Japan Airlines ticket raffle. **RSVP ASAP:** 623/915-0900, e-mail: cjas-phx@geocities.com. ■

P.C. non-member rates will increase in April 2000



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EXIT POLL

(Continued from page 1)

whom voted for her. Next were Korean Americans (68 percent), JAs (63 percent), Chinese Americans (56 percent) and Vietnamese Americans (38 percent).

Campbell received the most votes from JAs (21 percent), followed by Filipino-Americans (18 percent), Chinese Americans (16 percent), and both the Korean and Vietnamese Americans giving him 14 percent of the votes.

Dao supporters broke down as follows: Vietnamese Americans (39 percent); Chinese Americans (13 percent); Korean Americans (7 percent); Filipino Americans (4 percent); and JAs (2 percent).

In the California state Assembly race for the 53rd District, Democratic incumbent George Nakano received 86.2 percent of the APA vote, in contrast to his Republican opponent Gerald Felando who received 12.3 percent of the APA vote. A more detailed profile showed that 91.1 percent of JAs voted for Nakano and 8.9 percent for Felando.

Further analysis showed that many Republican APAs crossed over to vote for Nakano. The survey found that 77.3 percent of APA Republicans voted for Nakano and only 18.2 percent for Felando. Among APA Democrats, 92.1 percent supported Nakano and 7.9 percent Felando. The results indicated that Nakano's popularity was up from his 1998 standing when he received 85.3 percent of the overall APA votes and 88.3 percent of the JA votes.

Feng pointed out that this does not mean APAs will blindly vote for candidates with Asian names. She noted that the race for a U.S. Representative seat in the 31st District

found that Democratic incumbent Hilda Solis garnered the most APA votes despite running against a Caucasian Green Party candidate with an Asian name, K. Lieber-Wong. A focus on the Chinese American voting pattern in that district found that 52.9 percent voted for Solis and only 24.9 percent for Lieber-Wong.

"This shows that Asian Pacific American voters are more issue sensitive," said Feng. "One cannot say Asians vote only for Asians."

Feng noted that both Nakano and Solis were examples of candidates who are sensitive to the issues relevant to APAs.

"This is a lesson for future candidates to respond to and be able to garner support within the Asian Pacific American community," said Feng.

In Northern California, a smaller scale exit poll conducted by the Chinese American Voters' Education Committee (CAVEC) found that of the 196 Chinese Americans polled, 67 percent voted for Gore and only 18 percent for Bush. McCain trailed with 6 percent, Bradley 5 percent and other candidates 4 percent.

David Lee, CAVEC executive director, pointed out that the results fell short of the 80/20 initiative, a movement started in 1998 by Chinese American leaders who are attempting to persuade 80 percent of APAs to vote and financially support the presidential candidate who pledges to support the group's mission.

"But the results are impressive given that they have no office set up and no field operation," said Lee. "One in 10 voters knew about 80/20."

As in Southern California, more Democrats turned out to vote in Northern California. It found that 50 percent were registered Democrats; 17 percent Republicans; 28

percent no party affiliation; and 5 percent other parties.

Northern California had a higher percentage of immigrant voters, three-fourths of whom indicated that their country of origin was from abroad. This new voter base may shift the traditionally liberal Democratic city of San Francisco to the center or right within the next 10 years, according to Lee.

Lee noted that although the general population of San Francisco voted overwhelmingly against Proposition 21, which would allow youths as young as 14 to be tried as adults, and Proposition 22, which prohibits the state from recognizing same-sex marriages performed in other states, the Chinese American respondents voted in favor of both measures. This came despite the fact that many APA leaders had urged APA voters to vote against both propositions.

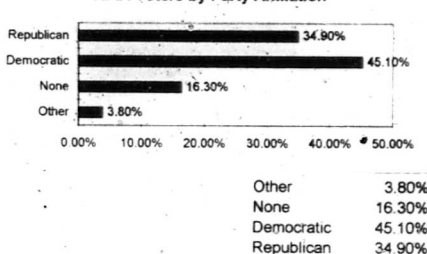
Lee felt that the disparity resulted because the American-born APA leaders were failing to reach out to the emerging new voters, many of whom indicated that they received their news from non-English newspapers and TV broadcasts.

"These voters are overwhelming immigrants and newly naturalized," said Lee. "They are socially conservative and not as loyal to the parties as the leadership who are American-born and who came up through the civil rights movement."

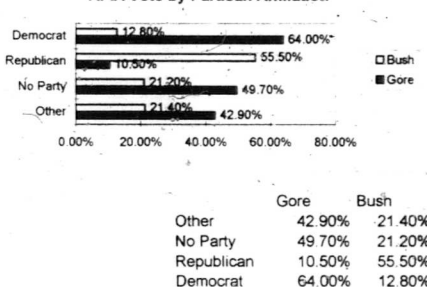
To remedy this situation, Lee urged APA leaders and candidates to "work more to educate the newly naturalized" and to "reconnect with them in their own language," so that there will be "no surprises" come election day.

A similar poll was conducted in Silicon Valley but Lee said results were not available by press time. But he said similar trends were emerging in that area as well. ■

APIA Voters by Party Affiliation



APIA Vote by Partisan Affiliation



	Gore	Bush
Other	42.90%	21.40%
No Party	49.70%	21.20%
Republican	10.50%	55.50%
Democrat	64.00%	12.80%

National Newsbytes

By Pacific Citizen Staff and Associated Press

Police Agencies to Track Racial Profiling

NEW YORK—As Congress and the states continue to debate how to root out racial profiling, at least 100 law enforcement departments across the nation have begun taking a proactive, first step to gauge how widespread racial bias is among police by requiring officers to record the race of all drivers they stop.

Two years ago, many police officials dismissed allegations of racial profiling. Last year, President Clinton ordered federal agencies to develop a plan to collect data on the race and gender of people that officers stop to question or arrest.

North Carolina and Connecticut are the only states that currently require police to keep track of motorists' race at traffic stops. At least 18 other states are considering similar legislation.

On March 1, the House Judiciary Committee approved legislation for a federal study of police statistics to further investigate racial profiling. But some believe that statistics won't solve the problem. Requiring police to check race can create even more tension, said Arlington, Va., Police Chief Ed Flynn. "I think it distracts us. All it does is give us ammunition to throw at each other." Instead, he said, police need to focus on better relations with the communities they protect.

Meanwhile, John Crew, head of the American Civil Liberties Union's racial profiling project, expects data on profiling will help expose a problem to those still unwilling to acknowledge it. "It's that we live in a society—and police are part of a society—where there's a lot of unconscious racism," he said. "People aren't even aware they're doing it."

Governor's Affirmative Action Ban Protested

TALLAHASSEE, Fla.—Thousands of chanting and sign-waving protesters jammed a plaza outside the state capital March 7, demanding Gov. Jeb Bush back

off his plan to ban racial and gender preferences in university admissions and state contracting.

Demonstrators from around the country said they feared Bush's proposal would erase the gains blacks and other minorities have made since the Civil Rights movement.

Tallahassee police estimated between 9,000 and 11,000 people participated, including the Rev. Jesse Jackson, NAACP President Kweisi Mfume, the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. members of Congress and state legislators.

Inside the capitol, Bush defended the plan during his State of the State address which kicked off the 2000 Legislature.

Supporters say the plan, called "One Florida," would boost minority enrollment in state universities and minority participation in contracting jobs because its aim is to expand outreach efforts. That includes streamlining the application process for minority and woman contractors, and guaranteeing admission to a state university for the top 20 percent of each high school graduating class.

Census Workers Struggle to Count Hmong

DETROIT—Some say recording an accurate count of Hmong in Michigan during this year's census could be difficult.

Immigrants from the mountains of Laos in southeast Asia, many Hmong have trouble trusting the government's motives for counting the U.S. population, said Malay Lo Thao, a Census Bureau liaison to the Hmong community in Detroit. "Usually, what they ask about is the confidentiality, not so much because of the IRS," said Thao. "It's a general distrust of government."

In the last 20 years, large numbers of Hmong, many of whom are political refugees, have emigrated to states like Minnesota, Wisconsin and California. There are an estimated 10,000 Hmong living in Michigan, almost double the number who lived here a decade ago, *The Detroit News* reported March 6.

Thao said other states rely on a few established Hmong community organizations and ethnic media outlets to get the word out. However, the language barrier makes it

difficult, added George Yang, co-owner of S.E. Asia Trading Co.

Census workers in the Detroit area are posting Hmong-language fliers in concentrated neighborhoods, attending meetings at churches, community centers and schools, and working with the two Hmong groups in the state, Hmong Communities Inc. and Hmong Women United of Michigan.

Six Companies Added to Sweatshop Lawsuit

HONOLULU—Six American clothing manufacturers were added on March 3 to a class-action lawsuit alleging sweatshop conditions at factories in the U.S. territory of Saipan.

Levi Strauss and Co., Calvin Klein Inc., Brooks Brothers Inc., Abercrombie and Fitch Co., The Talbots Inc. and Woolrich Inc. were added to the lawsuit filed on behalf of 30,000 current and former garment workers employed in factories there. The six companies join The Gap, Tommy Hilfinger, Wal-Mart and J.C. Penney, all accused of violating U.S. labor laws in conspiracy with foreign-owned subcontractors. Nine companies, including Ralph Lauren, Nordstrom and J. Crew, agreed to settle last year.

"We'll fight it," said Levi Strauss spokesperson Linda Butler, who added that her company stopped manufacturing garments in the islands in January. "During the time we were there, we rigorously applied our code of conduct to the contractors that we used. We believe they were in full compliance with our workplace standards and with applicable laws."

Michael Rubin, an attorney representing the workers, disagreed. "Our information from talking to workers who manufactured garments for Levi's is that their rights have been violated repeatedly over the last 10 years."

The lawsuit filed in January 1999 seeks an undisclosed amount of money to start a factory monitoring program and to compensate the workers, most of whom have gone back to China. The trial is scheduled to begin Feb. 27, 2001. ■

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JACL NATIONAL CONVENTION

Next Generation Club to Host Tour of Monterey County Wineries During National Convention



Next Generation, an organization affiliated with the West Valley JACL chapter in San Jose, Calif., will host a tour of various wineries in the Monterey County area during the JACL national convention this coming June. The tour will be open to Next Generation members, JACL convention delegates, guests, and anyone else interested in the tour.

"Many people have expressed interest in taking a tour of the award-winning wineries in the Monterey County region. Next Generation is extremely pleased to have been asked by the JACL national convention committee to host the wine tour for the many JACL delegates, guests, families, NG members, etc., that will be traveling to Monterey," said Todd Yoshida of Next Generation.

The area throughout Monterey

County holds the distinction of being one of the largest fine wine regions in the United States, with more than 40,000 acres planted in vineyards. The region is particularly renowned for its world-class chardonnay grapes. Franciscan friars at the mission in Soledad were the first to plant wine grapes here. That was more than 200 years ago. But the potential of this area as a wine-producing region wasn't realized until the early 1960s. It was during that time that a viticultural authority published a report classifying the area as a grape-growing region comparable to Napa, Sonoma, Burgundy, and Bordeaux. The timing happened to coincide with an increasing demand for table wines, and forward-thinking vintners such as Wente, Mirassou, Paul Masson, and Chalone became some of the first to plant vineyards here.

The tour takes place on July 1 (Saturday), will start late morning, and will finish up sometime

after 5 p.m. Some of the wineries to be visited during the tour will be Bernardus Winery in the Carmel Valley, Chateau Julien Wine Estate in Carmel, Ventana Vineyards in Monterey, and others.

The Next Generation of the West Valley JACL was formed in 1991 to provide a forum for South Bay young adults to gather and organize for social, cultural, and service activities benefiting the Japanese American community. NG has grown to over 200 members throughout the Bay Area. Activities include a weekly volleyball league, volleyball tournaments, as well as hosting events such as golf socials and a summer concert series. One of their signature activities, the cultural series, features events such as movie nights and trips to local Asian American performing art events.

For more information on the winery tour or the Next Generation group, contact Roger Minami at rminami@ix.netcom.com. ■

Committee Introduces Clothing Products to Benefit Convention

The JACL national convention committee has announced that it has developed a line of T-shirts and sweatshirts to benefit the 2000 JACL national convention this year in Monterey. Both the T-shirt and sweatshirt are ready for immediate delivery.

The T-shirt contains a Japanese-style wave and incorporates the convention's theme of an "Endless Wave of Leadership." The theme was developed for this year's convention to commemorate the new generation of leaders within JACL. The sweatshirt also contains the convention's logo of a Japanese-

style wave and has a backdrop of the beautiful Monterey coastline.

"We had asked a local Japanese American artist, Jerry Takigawa, to assist the convention in developing a logo that would recognize a new generation of leadership within JACL while honoring our Nisei and Issei leaders for whom we owe so much," said national convention co-chairperson Larry Oda. "Jerry did a wonderful job. We invite everyone to pick up their sweatshirt or T-shirt today to show their support for all of the hard work of JACL in developing a new generation of leaders to carry the Japan-

ese American community forward into the future."

The T-shirt is \$12 per shirt and the sweatshirt is \$20 per sweatshirt. All proceeds from the sale of both items will be earmarked to cover the costs associated with the convention.

The T-shirt comes in both black and white colors. For mail orders, please add \$1.50 per item to cover shipping costs. If you would like to place an order or would like further information, contact Larry at: Larry Oda, 859 Feam St., Monterey, CA 93940. <lruneo1@msn.com> ■

Utah Japanese American Veterans: A Proud Legacy

The three local Utah JACL chapters (Mount Olympus, Salt Lake, Wasatch Front) and the Intermountain District Council commemorated Day of Remembrance on Feb. 15. The theme of the event was "Utah Japanese American Veterans: A Proud Legacy," honoring veterans of the U.S. Military with ties to the state of Utah.

The event was held at the Salt Lake Art Center, where watercolor or paintings by local artist Lily Havey, art from the Topaz Museum, and photographs from the last millennium of the local JA

community were displayed. Over 230 guests attended the program featuring a welcome from Salt Lake City Mayor Rocky Anderson and a segment from the video "Honor Bound."

Roger Tabei, Salt Lake chapter president, honored the veterans with a plaque presented to his father, Joe, a World War II veteran. It was a symbolic thank you from the present to the preceding generation for their sacrifices.

Congressman Robert Matsui was slated to be the guest speaker, but fell ill and was not able to attend. He was replaced by

Mitchell Maki, associate professor at UCLA. Professor Maki emphasized the importance the veterans played in the redress movement.

"No vets, no redress. That if it weren't for you veterans, we would not have won redress."

A committee, comprised of members of the three local chapters, had taken on the task of gathering the veterans' names. A questionnaire was sent out in February and over 740 veterans' names were compiled. The names were inscribed on the veteran's plaque and will be recorded in a database for historic purposes. ■

'DOR' and Senior Appreciation Dinner Draws Large Crowd

The Year 2000 "Day of Remembrance" and "Senior Appreciation" dinner on Feb. 26 at the Sacramento Japanese United Methodist Church was attended by some 200 JACL members and friends. Jerry Enomoto, two times national JACL president and longtime head of JACL's Legislative Education Committee, was the

keynote speaker. He traced the history of the redress effort from its early days to the final signing of the Civil Liberties Act of 1988.

As part of his message, Enomoto, who is currently serving as U.S. Marshal of California's Eastern District, also defended the actions of many of the JACL leaders of 50 years ago, including Mike Masao-

ka.

He credited Masaoaka, as an extremely young man, with stepping up to speak for the Nikkei when there was a void in the perceived leadership ranks of the Nisei in general. The "Japanese American Creed" is a statement that he would proudly stand behind, even today, Enomoto declared.

A letter from Congressman Robert T. Matsui was read by Reiko Kawakami, a longtime staffer. He encouraged continuing education in the story of the evacuation and the redress and reparation efforts.

Illa Collin, county supervisor, gave an impassioned message on redress and the recent actions of the Sacramento JACL with regard to the three arson attacks against Jewish temples. She credited the Sacramento JA community and the local JACL in galvanizing the general Sacramento population in support of the victims of the hate crimes.

Wayne Maeda, instructor at CSUS, gave a progress report on the writing of the Sacramento JACL-sponsored book, "History of Japanese Americans in the Greater Sacramento Valley." All group interviews have been completed, but more photos of historical importance are needed. Contact Toko Fujii at 916/421-6968 for information about the book. ■

Nikkei 2000 Conference Set for April 27-30

Individuals representing California, Washington, D.C., Hawaii, Seattle, Denver, Canada and Peru will be among those convening in San Francisco's Japantown this spring to discuss and plan the state of the Japanese American community.

Organized by the California Japanese American Community Leadership Council, "Nikkei 2000: Empowering Our Community in the 21st Century" brings a broad cross-section of our diverse community for a highly interactive, community-building conference. The four-day conference will be held Thursday, April 27, through Sunday, April 30, at the Radisson Miyako Hotel in San Francisco.

Not just lectures and speakers, this working conference will utilize workshops, round table dialogues, and small group discussions to assess the sustainability of JA institutions and organizations. Scheduled participants include U.S. Senator Daniel Inouye and former U.S. Congressman Norman Mineta. Special community networking receptions and activities have been planned for attending youth students.

Discussion topics include: "Using Technology and Mass Communication as Community Building Tools," "Serving Nikkei Children and Youth," and "J-Towns in the New Century."

The Nikkei 2000 Conference will also advocate for affinity groups to form out of shared interests and is-

ses. For example, "The Common Good: The Meeting Place of Religions" brings together leaders from Buddhist, Christian, and other religions to deal with issues of compassion, human suffering, and human welfare. And, "Raising Children in American Society" will allow Japanese members of the community to come together to share experiences and ideas in Japanese.

Young professionals will also find that the Nikkei 2000 Conference has a lot to offer. The Japanese American Chamber of Commerce of Silicon Valley is conducting a full-day symposium on entrepreneurship and "creating a formula for success." Asian Americans in philanthropy will also lead a workshop on giving, and the California Japanese American Community Leadership Council will be hosting a workshop on "Leadership in the New Millennium."

The Nikkei 2000 Conference will also showcase work from contemporary artists including Grammy-nominated musician/composer Dr. Anthony Brown, Johnny Mori of "Hiroshima," Brenda Wong Akoi, Judy Kajiura, and Suz Takada.

The registration fee for the four-day conference is \$100, with early-bird registration (before March 24) at \$65. Student and low-income rates are \$40. Many volunteer opportunities are also available.

To receive more information, visit the Nikkei 2000 conference Web site at www.nikkei2000.org or call 415/567-5505. ■

Holiday Cheer Thanks All Its 1999 Donors

Dear Friends:

Your contributions to the PSWDC JACL Holiday Cheer Project made the 1999 Holiday Season a more joyous time for many of the less fortunate members of the Japanese American community. Your generous donations totaled \$15,079 of which 88% was distributed to 490 individuals or families and 12% was for printing, postage, advertising in December 1999.

Thank you for your continued support to these often times forgotten Japanese Americans.

Amy Tambara
Chairperson

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San Mateo JACL Community Center Selected as QAC

San Mateo JACL Community Center has been designated as a Census 2000 Questionnaire Assistance Center (QAC) by the Peninsula Community Foundation. Funding was provided by the California Complete Count Committee. The primary purpose of QACs is to educate and motivate community members to participate in the Census 2000, and to ensure a complete and accurate count of all Californians.

Census 2000 has sent out advance letters to all households explaining that the actual question-

naire (in English) will be mailed shortly. Requests for questionnaires written in Japanese may be made by returning the request form promptly in the envelope provided in the advance letter.

San Mateo QAC will be open from now until April 14, Monday through Friday, from 12 to 4 p.m. The public may walk in or call for appointments. A bilingual staff is available.

San Mateo JACL Community Center is located at 415 S. Claremont St., San Mateo, phone 650/343-2793. ■

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COMMENTARY

Masaoka Will Cause Rift Says Former CLPEF Board

(The following letter was sent by former CLPEF board members to John G. Parsons of the National Parks Service and J. Carter Brown of the Commission on Fine Arts via fax on March 8, regarding the National Japanese American Memorial Foundation controversy.)

"We are former members of the board of the Civil Liberties Public Education Fund (CLPEF). This agency was authorized by the Civil Liberties Act of 1988 and was dissolved by operation of law in 1998. We are therefore writing to you as individuals to express our feelings about the NJAMP. We no longer have an official capacity since the Board has expired. Nevertheless, our work with the Board between 1996 and 1998 in distributing almost \$4 million to projects concerning the incarceration of Japanese Americans during World War II brought us into close contact with many people in the Japanese American community. We also had reviewed the proposal of the NJAMP and made a grant to them of \$50,000.

"Our mission, as defined by legislation, was as follows:

"To sponsor research and public educational activities and to publish and distribute the hearings, findings, and recommendations of the Commission on Wartime Relocation and Internment of Civilians (CWRIC) so that the events surrounding the evacuation, relocation, and internment of civilians and permanent resident aliens of Japanese ancestry will be remembered, and so that the causes and circumstances of this and similar events may be illuminated and understood.

"The persons whose names appear below constitute the entire Board of the Civil Liberties Education Fund. They were unable to personally sign the letter but expressed their concurrence with the contents of this letter and authorized the use of their respective names.

"Our unanimous position regarding the controversy involving the NJAMP is as follows:

"1. We support the concept of the Japanese American Memorial to Patriotism During World War II. Indeed, we provided the NJAMP with a grant.

"2. We are very concerned about the highly controversial and divisive debate dealing with the proposed inscriptions for the monument.

"3. In our work with the CLPEF, we strove for historical accuracy. We understand that questions have been raised about the accuracy of some of the proposed inscriptions. We also understand that several experts like Aiko and Jack Herzig of Washington, D.C., with whom we have worked closely and whose efforts, integrity and competence are unquestioned in our minds, have suggested changes to the NJAMP to ensure full, accurate, and unbiased descriptions, and we hope they will continue to be consulted.

"4. In the CLPEF, we also tried to ensure that the diversity of responses to the unjust removal and imprisonment of 120,000 Japanese Americans would be documented and shared with the American public for generations to come. The patriotism of Japanese-Americans, which is the theme of the proposed monument, was exhibited in many

ways from the thousands of Japanese American men and women who served in the military to courageous individuals like Fred Korematsu (the only Japanese American to become a recipient of the Presidential Medal of Freedom) and the Heart Mountain resisters, who sought to have our government and our court system live up to our Democratic ideals and constitutional rights. We strove for an inclusive perspective on patriotism that allowed for different responses to the incarceration and we had hoped that the NJAMP would share that perspective. This is one reason why we object to inscriptions by individuals like Mike Masaoka, which represent one point of view and one organization.

"5. It was our hope that the CLPEF would help to further promote the healing process within our community and serve as a basis for bridging significant chasms in our community that resulted from the chaos and madness of the wartime tragedy. The controversy over the proposed inscription by Mike Masaoka pains us deeply because it is polarizing our community, and will likely do so in the future.

"We therefore urge you and National Park Service to consider our views in making your decisions. Thank you for your attention." ■

Dale Minami, Former Chair
Susan Hayase, Former Vice-Chair
Kelly Kuwayama
Elsa Kudo
Leo Goto
Father Robert Drinan
Peggy Nagai
Prof. Don Nakanishi

COMMENTARY

Defending Mike Masaoka, Japanese American Creed

By SCOTT YAMAZAKI
President, Detroit JACL

The people who have criticized Mike Masaoka's actions during World War II and have labeled him as "not a worthy representative of the Japanese American community" are sadly mistaken, not only about Mike, but about the purpose of the Japanese American Memorial and why it was approved by the U.S. government.

The purpose of the memorial is to say "thank you" to the JA soldiers who fought and died in defense of the United States during WWII, despite having parents and other relatives who were imprisoned simply due to their race. It is for the Issei, for their courage, sacrifice and determination to build a life for their children in the United States, although being denied the citizenship status and rights that they desperately wanted. It is to honor the courage, sacrifice, suffering and patriotism of the thousands of men, women and children who endured the internment camps, and yet, while their rights as U.S. citizens were taken from them, nevertheless, did not abandon their loyalty to the United States and their faith that their rights would someday be fully restored to them. And lastly, it is to honor the JA's in Hawaii, who endured prejudice and suspicion throughout WWII, but who demonstrated extraordinary loyalty to the United States, particularly through the heroism of the 100th Battalion, who fought with distinction in Italy even before being attached to the 442nd Regimental Combat Team. Together with the 442nd Regiment, they compiled one of the most remarkable combat records in the history of the U.S. Armed Services.

The key to the significance and meaning of the memorial is: all ethnic and racial groups have made great contributions to the United States, and all have made sacrifices while coming to the defense of this country. Nearly all ethnic and racial groups have endured discrimination and suspicion as

immigrants. However, none except the JAs have been incarcerated en masse and denied their rights based solely upon their race, and more importantly, no other group has tried so hard to demonstrate its loyalty to, and its faith in, America under such adverse conditions.

Some of the politically correct pundits of today have called the JA Creed "obsequious," and that it shows that we have a "plantation mentality." They don't understand that the real and practical road to our being accepted as Americans was not through confrontation and violence, but through a demonstration of super loyalty and patriotism.

Yes, the creed does exemplify a heady amount of patriotism, but it exactly portrays the spirit of JAs during WWII, as well as the period before WWII and during the rebuilding years following WWII, and is thus not at all out of place on the memorial.

Mike Masaoka is criticized as being a "pro-government concentration camp collaborator" because he was not incarcerated during WWII and "spent the war years in comfort at the expense of those who were incarcerated." This is utter nonsense. The machinery for putting JAs into camps was underway as early as 1936. The hatred against the Japanese on the West Coast was so great that, once the Japanese bombed Pearl Harbor, no amount of protesting by the Japanese community could have prevented the incarceration.

There was very strong sentiment among the general population and also a proposal by some California state legislators, to send JAs "back to Japan, where they belong." Mike realized that resistance to the incarceration movement would be futile and dangerous for JAs on the West Coast, and he did not encourage it.

442nd Regiment and its subsequent glorious war record. Their actions could have resulted in the forced shipment of thousands of the dissenters, as well as the Issei, to Japan.


Why wasn't Mike in the camps? First of all, he was a Utah resident. Except from the West Coast, and other selected areas, JAs were not evacuated. Secondly, he was the first to volunteer for the 442nd Regiment from the mainland, and he was instrumental in having the Selective Service System reopened during WWII to accept JAs.

It's true that Mike admits he had an easy non-combat assignment as a news correspondent attached to the 442nd Regiment during WWII, but you have to remember that Mike's older brother was killed in action in France while fighting with the 442nd, another brother was badly wounded, and all five of the Masaoka brothers served in the U.S. Military Forces during WWII. Mike's life was never "cushy," either before, during, or immediately after WWII.

Mike's news dispatches to the United States and to the camps concerning the victories of the 442nd and the glorious combat record that they were compiling did a lot to convince Congress and the American public that JAs were loyal to the United States, and not to Japan, as their detractors had claimed. Mike's news dispatches were also a great morale booster in the camps.

Both of my parents worked for Mike Masaoka in his Washington, D.C., office following WWII during the "glory days" of JACL when Mike was the Washington representative. Both of my parents have repeatedly said that Mike did more to upgrade the status and the acceptance of JAs as being fully American citizens than any other person or persons that they have ever known.

So let's give some recognition to Mike Masaoka in the National Japanese American Memorial. Without Mike, it's entirely possible that there would not be a memorial, nor even a reason for one. ■

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HIROSHIMA

(Continued from page 1)

drastic machine, where it would compress the clothes and squeeze all the water out. But you had to do everything manually. Nowadays, you've got machines doing that. I was 19 or 18, I just got out of high school. But I'll never forget that experience. That's why I turned to music.

Dan: The worst job I ever had without a doubt was working at my dad's gas station in Little Tokyo on 2nd and San Pedro. Working for my father, it was like slave labor, 12 hours a day, 6 days a week, and all my summers as a kid I had to work pumping gas. But the funniest job was at Whittier College one summer. They hired me as a gardener on campus, and in fact I became the head gardener just because it was a white school and they assumed Japanese, gardener. But I had never gardened in my life and I'm allergic to plants. So I went and planted almost \$4,000 worth of African violets, and they died in a week! But they offered me the job again the following summer.

Danny: I was going to UCLA, trying to do music, so I had to find a job that wouldn't conflict. I took this bank courier job from then California First Bank, now Union Bank. It was from 6 a.m. to noon, which is not good for musicians. I'd have to get up at 5 and drive to Gardena then to Irvine and back again. At the time, we were doing shows from 9 p.m. to 1 a.m., and then I'd have to get up to go to work the next day at 5 and also go to school in the afternoon. I mean, that's the kind of schedule you can only do when you're 20.

P.C.: If you were not a musician, what line of work would you be in? Dan: I think I could go back to coaching. I was a tennis teacher in

L.A. County, and I used to coach basketball. I might do that because I like sports, but I don't like the win-at-all-cost mentality.

Kimo: After I graduated, I was going to join the Army at first. That was back in 1969 during Vietnam. But my friends told me there was a good music program at the community college, so I went into that. I've been into music my whole life, but I guess because of family pressure, if anything else, I probably would've become a fireman.

June: I think I'd be a professional writer and get paid.

Kimo: She wants to marry a millionaire!

June: No, I think I'd probably be in some kind of social service. I've always been involved in some aspect of social service, and community and family have always been important to me.

Danny: This is totally pie in the sky because I don't do it, but I love literature and I've often fantasized about being a writer. Most people who think about being writers, write, but I don't even write. I just read. But I love what literature's capable of doing.

P.C.: Being musicians, "groupies" must come with the territory. What's the craziest thing an overzealous fan has ever done?

Dan: I got called about four years ago to do the Jenny Jones show. They had a "Rise in the Celebrity of Your Dreams" kind of thing. We're on the road and [our manager] calls me up and says, "Hey they want you on the Jenny Jones show." Some fan of ours in Florida, a female fan, I should point out, had called the show's phone line. I said to our manager, "Look, do we need the publicity that best?" He goes, "No." And I said, "Then I ain't doing it." That would have been so embarrassing!

June: When we go to our gigs and mingle with our crowds, we don't

stand out that much: I was invited to go up north to see Will Downing, this great R&B singer. Anyway, as I was coming out of the restroom, this girl says, "You're a musician, huh?" I thought, oh, we're finally getting recognized. I went, "Yeah!" And she goes, "You play keyboards, huh?" I went, "Oh, no, I think you're talking about Keiko Matsui." So she goes, "Oh, well, what do you play?" I said, "I play koto. It's a Japanese harp-like instrument." And she goes, "Oh, like that girl from Hiroshima?" I didn't know what to say!

Kimo: Somebody wrote us from prison once and said thank you for saving me. Some really heavy stories.

Dan: There was this guy who approached our bass player Dean Cortez and told him he was a Vietnam vet, and the night he was going to commit suicide he had a gun to his head. On the radio, a song of ours came on, "Do What You Can," kind of a reggae tune. So he went out and bought the record and everyday just listened to that song. It saved his life. He said he would be dead today without a doubt.

P.C.: If you could name one role model, who would you say has been the biggest influence in your life?

Dan: My biggest musical influence would be June. She taught me about music, and I got to be around someone whose musicianship I really appreciate. All the really great players don't get their due till later. And there's a guy named Gerald Oshita from the Bay Area. What he taught us I'm only starting to understand now. He was the most amazing artist, musician, philosopher, raconteur. The last guy would be James Moody, this great black jazz musician who played with Dizzy Gillespie. Moody's always been an inspiration to me. If I call him up today, he'll give me a lesson over the phone. He'll go, "I just learned something, I gotta play this for you." And he's 70-something years old.

June: For me, it's my mother. Her strength, her honesty and her giving have given me the guts to do what I've done all these years because I think what I've done wasn't the ordinary. You're up against a lot

of criticism and skepticism.

Danny: Obviously, Dan has been a real major influence. He might be the deciding factor of why I got into music or at least decided to commit to it. I was into it, but I was very insecure. I didn't know if I had the stuff, and he convinced me to give it a go. The other one would be my last drum teacher, Freddie Gruber. I was kind of in a funk with my drumming. I didn't think I could take it any further, but I was very fortunate to hook up with him. He opened my eyes and made me grow tremendously and told me I was musical. He hung out in New York with all the greatest jazz drummers of the day.

Kimo: This band as a whole has been inspirational just because of what it does. It opens up new musical borders for me from what I came from, which is more of an R&B/jazz background. The other person would be a guy by the name of Ernie Washington, who was a piano player in Dizzy Gillespie's band. He was on his way to do a tour with Dizzy in Japan but somehow got stuck in Hawaii and couldn't get a visa. My friend and I went to see him at this little hole-in-the-wall restaurant, and that was my first real live taste of a real jazz player. I was sitting three feet away from this guy, and he was amazing. He kind of became a second father figure to me. My third choice would be Jimi Hendrix.

Dan: Oh yeah, the most played CD in the tour bus always.

P.C.: Where do you hope your lives will be ten years from now?

Kimo: A nursing home! No, no. June: Communal living Hippiess! Dan: I'd like to see my third choice would be Jimi Hendrix. Dan: Oh yeah, the most played CD in the tour bus always.

ever met. To do what we do, people have no idea what it's like to be the only [professional] Asian American band in America. The shit we see, the headway we have to make even with our own management. They try and support us, but they're not Asian, they're not minorities... All we really have is each other, so I would just like to see the people in this room dream their dreams and live them out. That's what I make ten more years, drinking the level of cognac we do!

Kimo: I hope there's more acceptance among the public and the way music is promoted on the radio. Maybe the Internet will help because right now the music you hear is kind of formulaic. People are trying, and we're trying in our own way. But hopefully the minds of people will be more open to music they've never heard before.

June: I feel the door is just opening. I'm hearing things I've never heard before, I'm seeing things I've never seen before, and I'm doing things I've never done before. In that way, I think the next ten years will be very rewarding. We're just grateful that we've pursued our dreams. Even if I did not have ten more years, I did pretty much what I wanted to do. Whether anyone liked it or not, I did it with true love and commitment, and at least I can rest on that peacefully.

Danny: I just hope I can personally, that I'm living closer to my potential. That might be egotistical, but most of us put a lot of self-limitations on what we can really do.

Dan: Right on, that's zen!

June is currently preparing to record her first solo album, while the band is planning a new show scheduled in Hawaii and Shanghai. To find out more about Hiroshima or when and where they will be touring, visit their Web site at www.hiroshimamusic.com.

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Nov 8 National Japanese American Memorial Dedication-WashingtonDC \$945+Reception & Banquet \$175. DC Tour-Smithsonian-Arlington Cem., Mt. Vernon & Dedication. 7-Day Ext. Tours-Williamsburg, Monticello-Gettysburg-Penn.Dutch-Philadelphia-NYC - \$1099. OR Raleigh-Myrtle Beach-Savannah-Charlotte-Jekyll Island - \$999.

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Letters to the Editor

Re: Memorial Inscriptions

Being a subscriber to the *Pacific Citizen*, I usually do not have much to comment about, but the article regarding the National Japanese American Memorial Fund proposed engraved inscriptions left me with a bad taste in my mouth.

"Panel 2": The term "I" has a tone of a very large ego and I have never heard my husband use the term "I," only the word "We" when we speak of his time during World War II. I interpret Mr. Masuoka saying it was only "He" who was defamed during this time when in reality it was "All American Japanese."

"Panel 34": It is a moving and eloquent inscription and should be left as it is.

"Panel 52": Uses the term "We" and does not give the connotation of many egos that need to be fed.

I have been involved in the American Japanese communities for a very long time and not once did I meet an individual who felt they needed to have their egos enlarged and cast into a stone monument.

I do admit I was never exposed or subjected to the kind of indignities that my husband and his family had to endure but I do feel that when the final vote comes to engrave the NJAM, all the inscriptions should not have the word "I" but the word "We."

Sandra Diani-Kawashima
Morgansville, Ga.

China Peak

A few years back, at the urging of George Shiozawa (a chapter member and past county commissioner), I joined a committee composed of a local news reporter, a Chinese American Idaho State University prof, and a Chinese lo-

cal restaurant owner, to request a name change for Chinks Peak, and we received scary hate letters after the local media covered the application. It was sobering, but with the chapter behind me, I gathered support from the ISU Diversity Committee, the Pocatello Human Relations Advisory Committee, the city mayor and council, the county commissioner, several ISU student minority organizations and several individuals.

The application was filed in West Virginia, since dissent was recorded in letters to the editor of the local paper; all this was noted by the board on Geological Names.

This board is now processing the application, and Jeff Ford, the chair of the Idaho Geographic Names Advisory Council, has come out an advocate of NOT changing the name, citing the slow erasing of Idaho's history — and opening the door for public discussion again.

It has been documented that Chinks does refer to the Chinese immigrants who did the hard labor for gold miners on the mountain, performing tasks no one else would, carrying supplies and equipment up the hill. It was meant to recognize and compliment their contribution. We question whether using a racial slur can be proper recognition, and simply ask to rename it China Peak or any nonracial name which might reflect the compliment more truly.

Your letters and calls of support would be welcome. Please direct them to: Roger L. Payne, Executive Secretary, U.S. Geological Survey, 523 National Center, Reston, VA 20192-0523

Michi Kawashima
Pocatello-Blackfoot chapter
Via e-mail

Re: George Igawa

A recent issue of the P.C. (Jan.

21-27, 2000) had George Igawa's name among the obituaries. (Fowler-Brown Igawa, 91, Marina Del Rey, died Dec. 28.) He was the leader of the Los Angeles (jazz) band that came to Japan in 1937. There were 10 members in the band, including the girl singer. The band included two Filipinos and a Mexican American boy. The rest were us Nisei. And now I guess I'm the only one left.

Mas Manbo
Tokyo

Editor Emeritus Note—When the band broke up, Mas Manbo, a prewar Hollywood resident who was born in Riverside and a childhood playmate of the Haradas, was a proofreader with the U.S.-owned *Japan Advertiser* in Tokyo before it was absorbed by the *Japan Times* in 1940. Stranded during World War II, he joined the *Japan Times* sports staff in 1952, served as a P.C. columnist in the 1970-80s and retired in Japan.

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* Except for the National Director's Report, news and the views expressed by columnists do not necessarily reflect JACL policy. The columns are the personal opinion of the writers.

* "Voices" reflect the active, public discussion within JACL of a wide range of ideas and issues, though they may not reflect the viewpoint of the editorial board of the *Pacific Citizen*.

* "Short expressions" on public issues, usually one or two paragraphs, should include signature, address and daytime phone number. Because of space limitations, letters are subject to abridgement. Although we are unable to print all the letters we receive, we appreciate the interest and views of those who take the time to send us their comments.

Obituaries

All the towns are in California except as noted.

Bohn, Yoshiko R., 67, Monterey Park, Feb. 11; Los Angeles-born; survived by brother-in-law Ken Kawa; 2 nephews and 1 niece; 2 grandnephews and 1 grandniece.

Hashimoto, Hisao "Shorty," 73, Bellflower, Feb. 18; survived by wife Mary Michiko; son Ken and wife Barb; daughter Joyce Barriett and husband Mark, Jane Moore and husband Aaron, Lori Moran and husband Bill; 10 g.c.; sister Itoyo Sumita and husband Robert; brother-in-law Roy Muto and wife Sets; sisters-in-law Shirley Kosaka and husband Mits, Fusaye Hashimoto.

This compilation appears on a space-available basis at no cost. Printed obituaries from our newspaper are welcome. "Death Notices," which appear in a timely manner at request of the family or funeral director, are published at the rate of \$19 per column inch. Text is rewarded as needed.

Hatashita, Shizumi, 76, Los Angeles, Feb. 17; Wakayama-ken-born; survived by husband Kaname; sister Sayumi Mayeda; sister-in-law Hamayo Hatashita.

Ito, Aiko, 85, Los Angeles, Feb. 15; Irvine-born; survived by sons Oki and wife Jean, Ken; daughters Kimiko McCown and husband Bob, Yoko Murata and husband Henry (Orange County); 8 g.c.; sister Mitsuye Nakao.

Kawagoe, Shigenori, 80, Los Angeles, Feb. 15; survived by wife Sakaye Masuda; son-in-law Allen Ono; 3 g.c.; brothers Mitsunori and wife Florence, Mutsuo; sister Choko Yamanoha and husband Robert.

Kizuka, Albert T., 84, Westminster, Feb. 12; Los Angeles resident; survived by brother Dick I. and wife Jean; sister Masano Holt and husband Earle.

Minamide, Koma, Sacramento, Feb. 20 service; Wakayama-ken-born resident of Los Angeles; survived by sons Akira and wife Takako, Ben and wife Mae, Tatsuo Nakatani and wife Kazue (Japan); daughter Helen Okazaki and husband Lita; 12 g.c., 22 g.c.; sister Hisako Fukushima.

Nishikawa, Masato, 84, North Hollywood, Feb. 10; Brawley-born; survived by wife Mary Yoshiko; sons Ron and wife Kathy, Ed and wife Lani; daughter Janet Tomomitsu; 8 g.c., 3 g.c.; brother Saburo and wife Makiko; sister Tomiko Kakita; brother-in-law George Nishikawa; sisters-in-law Hisako Nakata and Yukiye Matsuda.

Oshiro, Kame, 96, Los Angeles, Feb. 6; Japan-born; survived by children Haruko Arakaki and husband George, Hideo and wife Kazuko, Yoshie Sakai and husband Hideo, Kei; 12 g.c., 17 g.c.

Oshita, Saburo, 79, Sacramento, Feb. 20; Bryon-born; WWII MIS veteran; survived by wife Fusae; daughter Emily Withers and husband Richard; sisters Setsuko Miyamoto and husband Isamu, Fumiko Sugihara; sister-in-law May Oshita.

Shohara, Hatsuomi, 90, Berkeley, Feb. 14; Waikapa, Maui, Hawaii-born Fresno resident; survived by sons Sei and Yasuko, Aki and wife Yoko; daughters Janet McCutcheon and husband Michael, Jessie; 7 g.c., 3 g.c.

Spiegel, Motoko Ikeda, 72, New York, Feb. 15; Los Angeles-born artist, Heart Mountain internee; survived by husband Si, children Tamio, Ray, Kazuko Ono; 5 g.c.

Taketa, Fumiko, Cleveland, Jan. 30; survived by brothers Harry and George Taketa; sisters Alice Nakao, June Maki; many nieces and nephews, grandnieces

and grandnephews.

Tanabe, Shiruz Morimoto, 76, San Lorenzo, Feb. 13; survived by husband Harry H., daughters Christine Tanabe, Elaine Yamamoto, Kathleen Tanabe; sons Dave, Brian, Andrew; 10 g.c.

Tsuchimoto, Harushi, 85, Sunnyvale, Feb. 19; Honolulu-born; survived by wife Fumio; 3 daughters; 7 g.c., 4 g.c.

Williams, Nellie Fumakoshi, Denver, Jan. 24; survived by daughter Carol Takeshita and husband Mickey; sons Laurence Yano and wife Danielle, Ronald Yano and wife Julia; 4 g.c.; sisters Gladys Nishimura, Margaret Masuoka and husband Dr. David, Marion Masaka and husband Tim; sister-in-law Kinu Fumakoshi.

Yamamoto, George "Jalage" Shigeo, 84, Cypress, Feb. 16; Los Angeles-born; survived by wife Okuni Helen; sons Dr. Mark and wife Leta (Huntington Beach), Geoffrey and wife Denise (Rowland Heights); daughters Patricia Nakata and husband Fred (Placentia), JoAnn Naka (Thurstone), Beatrice McCallison and husband John (Cypress); 16 g.c., 11 g.c.; brothers Yoshiharu and wife Chiyo (Fountain Valley), Harry and wife Yone Betty (Fullerton), Dr. Joe and wife Maria (Brentwood).

Yonekawa, Cleo, 80, San Gabriel, Feb. 10; Wyoming-born; survived by daughters Laraine Matsuyama, Joanne Zapata, Kathryn Purisima and husband Ernest; 3 g.c.; brothers George Matsumura, Roy Matsumura and wife Shizu, Yas Ishihara; sisters Susan Sunada and husband George, Bunyo Ogimachi and husband Mas; predeceased by brother Clarence Matsumura.

Yoshida, Masako Uyeda, 88, Albany, Jan. 29; Courtland-born; survived by daughters Sachi Cho and husband Kenji, Shizu Okino and husband Harry, Doris Yoshihara and husband Ben, June Inouye and husband Tom, Yuki Santos; sons Kenji and wife Sharon, Hideo Chester; 13 g.c., 12 g.c.; sister Kimiko Iwamoto; brother Tadao and wife Shizuka Uyeda; predeceased by husband Toshio.

Yoshimura, Sunao, 89, Berkeley, Feb. 13; survived by son Douglas; daughter Judy Yoshimura; 2 g.c. ■

DEATH NOTICE

GEORGE Y. SUZUKI
CHICAGO, Ill.—George Y. Suzuki, passed away March 4, was the beloved husband of the late Patricia; fond father of Tracy and Steven (Lori); fond grandfather of Corie and Andy. In lieu of flowers memorials to the American Cancer Society, 77 E. Monroe, Chicago, IL 60603 is appreciated.

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Wash., D.C., Leadership Conference

Survival Tips for Navigating Washington, D.C.

By CHRISTINE MINAMI
JACL Wash., D.C. Representative

1. Avoid D.C. in July and August at all costs. The locals do, and there's a reason why. The humidity is so thick that you can swim wherever you're going.

2. Learn the metro. It's not the "subway" or the "train" as in New York vernacular.

On the escalators, always stand to the right and walk on the left. Not obeying this rule of etiquette is grounds for assault by acronym (see tip #7). Also, know that you will need your fare card to enter AND exit the system — don't put it away, throw it away or plan to keep it as a souvenir.

3. Know that cabs run on a zone system, not a meter. There are additional charges for extra passengers, rush hour traffic, trips outside the district and emergency weather. Determining a fare takes either an advanced degree in mathematics or a laptop with the right algorithms programmed into it.

4. The "Mall" isn't a place to shop. Pentagon City is.

5. Numbered avenues go North-South; lettered streets (and named streets) run East-West.

6. One of the most dangerous places in town is the Washington Monument grounds during the summer. You should also know that a softball that bounces off the Washington Monument isn't considered vandalism; it's a ground-rule double.

7. Learn to speak acronym. It is no accident that Washington is called "DC" and that the district is divided into four sections — NW,

SW, NE and SE. Inside the Beltway-types actually understand this jargon. "I heard from the ED over at TAF that the new RFP from USAID for the WID program closes at COB."

8. Don't be surprised when someone tells you that s/he works either for an acronym (DOJ, JACL, etc.) or for a location (the Hill, the Pentagon, the White House) rather than a person.

9. Recognize the Washington institutions, such as the Smithsonian, the Post and the Redskins.

10. Know that being in "the loop" isn't necessarily a good thing.

For the average tourist, familiarity with tips 1-6 are enough to survive a few days sight-seeing; the rest are for those with more serious intentions when arriving in DC — like the 30 JACL and OCA (Organization of Chinese Americans) members who will be spending five days in town from March 31st to April 4th to learn about issues facing the APA community and how policy is shaped in our nation's capital at the seventh annual JACL/OCA leadership conference.

Every year this conference attracts a very dedicated group of APA leaders from around the country to participate in seminars, to attend meetings on the Hill and at the White House, and to gain leadership skills to take back and use in their respective communities.

This conference is an important tool through which JACL seeks to develop new leaders — for the organization, specifically

and for the next generation more broadly — by providing participants with the opportunity to learn first-hand how public policy makers and advocates do their work in D.C. and how ordinary citizens can effectively exercise their civic freedoms to influence the public dialogue on issues of concern.

This year's program includes sessions on the Department of Energy's response to racial profiling; legislative machinations in Congress; lobbying rules for non-profit organizations; the process of being nominated and confirmed as a Presidential appointee; the White House budget request to preserve the WWII internment camps; civil rights enforcement; coalition-building across ethnic communities; the census and its implications on the Asian Pacific American community; media training and diversity issues; and the White House Initiative on Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders, to name a few.

I am very pleased that this year's group was chosen through a competitive application process and represents the following districts: IDC, CDC, PSW, PNW, EDC, NCWNP, MDC and the youth council. I look forward to meeting everyone at the end of the month and working with participants (past, present and future) on current and upcoming programs and issues. For more information about this annual conference and the application procedure, please contact your district governor or the D.C. office at <dc@jACL.org>. ■

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- college students living away while attending college
- people in a correctional facility, nursing home, or mental hospital on April 1, 2000
- Armed Forces personnel living somewhere else
- people who live or stay at another place most of the time

2. Is this house, apartment, or mobile home Mark ONE box.

☐ Owned by you or someone in this household with a mortgage or loan?

☐ Owned by you or someone in the household free and clear (without a mortgage or loan)?

☐ Rented for long term?

☐ Occupied without payment of cash rent?

3. Please answer the following questions for each person living in this house, apartment, or mobile home. Start with the name of one of the people living here who owns, is buying, or rents this house, apartment, or mobile home. If there is no such person, start with any adult living or staying here. We will refer to this person as Person 1.

What is this person's name? Print name below.

Last Name _____

First Name _____ MI _____

4. What is Person 1's telephone number? We may call this person if we don't understand an answer.

Area Code + Number _____

5. What is Person 1's sex? Mark ONE box.

☐ Male ☐ Female

6. What is Person 1's age and what is Person 1's date of birth? Age on April 1, 2000.

Print numbers in boxes.

Month _____ Day _____ Year of birth _____

NOTE: Please answer BOTH Questions 7 and 8.

7. Is Person 1 Spanish/Hispanic/Latino? Mark ONE box. If not Spanish/Hispanic/Latino, mark "No".

☐ Yes, Puerto Rican ☐ Yes, Mexican, Mexican Am., Chicano ☐ Yes, Cuban ☐ Yes, other Spanish/Hispanic/Latino — Print group _____

8. What is Person 1's race? Mark ONE or more races to indicate what this person considers himself/herself to be.

☐ White ☐ Black, African Am., or Negro ☐ American Indian or Alaska Native — Print name of enrolled or principal tribe _____

☐ Asian Indian ☐ Japanese ☐ Native Hawaiian ☐ Chinese ☐ Korean ☐ Guamanian or Chamorro ☐ Filipino ☐ Vietnamese ☐ Samoan ☐ Other Asian — Print race _____ ☐ Other Pacific Islander — Print race _____

9. Does Person 1 live in a mobile home?

☐ Yes ☐ No

10. If more people live here, continue with Person 2.

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Form D-1

When you don't fill out Census 2000, your community could miss out on billions of dollars in federal funds. Your answers help determine how communities will share over \$185 billion each year. That public money will help provide the things your community needs — like schools, day care centers and hospitals.

United States Census 2000

This is your future. Don't leave it blank.