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Arts & Entertainment

Urban 'Romeo' Shows Some Chops

By TRACY UBA
Writer/Reporter

Shakespeare gets a make-over — not to mention a swift kick to the head — in Jet Li's new martial arts action flick "Romeo Must Die" (Warner Bros.), a latter-day adaptation of the classic tragedy set in a world where organized crime syndicates, crime bounties and cultural conflict rule.

Here, Asians and blacks are the main players, two rival dynasties competing for, what else, money, and the name of the game has be-

comes only to meet O'Day's independent-minded, daughter Trish (Aaliyah), and sparks begin to fly when the two team up.

Combining Western and Asian film styles, there are some notable martial arts sequences enhanced by digital effects, courtesy of the people who made the Keanu Reeves blockbuster "The Matrix." But the real-life stunts are equally electrifying. Li even has a scene in which he uses Aaliyah as a human weapon against a female assassin (Francoise Yip), another Hong Kong martial arts star who previ-



PHOTO: KHAREN HILL

Russell Wong (left) and Jet Li (right) face off in the new action-packed martial arts flick "Romeo Must Die" (Warner Bros.), which is currently playing in theaters nationwide.

come revenge.

Fresh off the success of 1998's "Lethal Weapon 4" in which he had a supporting role, Hong Kong superstar Li makes a promising debut as the main character in "Romeo," his first starring role in an English-language film. He plays Han, a man whose father Chu Sing (Henry O) is involved in a shady deal to acquire property on the Oakland waterfront for a multi-million dollar football stadium.

Chu's rich adversary, businessman Issak O'Day (Delroy Lindo), is also in on the contract, along with his ambitious right-hand-man Mac (Isaiah Washington), but is struggling to go legit. When Han's younger brother Po (Jon Kit Lee) is killed after inciting a fight at a black dance club, where Chu's suave enforcer Kai (Russell Wong) promptly busts some heads, Chu suspects O'Day's camp is responsible.

Han, a former cop who has been in Hong Kong serving time for a crime his father committed, breaks out of a maximum security prison and heads for the States to uncover the person behind the murder. He

eventually faces off against Jet in "Black Mask."

Expect the standard fare: sleek car chases, explosions, shootings, guys getting thrown out of buildings. But also note the film's attempt to touch upon the family dynamics and cultural differences which distinguish Asians and blacks.

Han and Trish, for instance, are your prototypical star-crossed pair. Although they come from two distinct worlds, they actually have more in common than not, and an immediate affection begins to bloom in much to the dismay of their families. There are no scenes of intimacy between the would-be lovers, however, an omission which may be as tragic as if the two had committed suicide at the end. Yet, they nevertheless make an extremely likeable couple partly because they are so unlikely. Both are charming and sweet. Li, in particular, amply demonstrates his tough, resourceful side as the film's hero but also manages to evoke a refreshing sensitivity, which perfect-

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JACL Target of Hate E-mail

By MARTHA NAKAGAWA
Assistant Editor

As a sign of the times, the Japanese American community, like other minority groups, are now targets of hate messages through the latest technological wonder — the Internet.

On March 27, an individual or a group of individuals hacked into the Web sites of the national JACL and Los Angeles-based Japanese American Network and sent as many as 10 hate messages to various e-mail addresses, including three to the Pacific Citizen.

Some of the messages sent by the person(s) read: "Japan, filthy country, filthy people! BOYCOTT JAPANESE MADE PRODUCTS!!"; "Japan's a scummy country but not as scummy as the Japanese people!"; "How can you help not being prejudice against the savages that live in that filthy country called Japan?"; "Discrimination against that savage country called Japan should be applauded."

A few of the messages included visual attachments of a Japanese flag with a circle and a slash through it or a Japanese flag with the Olympic symbol and the message of "boycott Osaka," a reference to Osaka, Japan's bid as the site for the 2008 Olympics.

The e-mail address from which these messages originated was cosakaboycott@hotmail.com, an address which has since been deactivated by Hotmail, the Internet Service Provider.

Although the hate messages do not constitute a hate crime since there are no physical threats in-

volved, national JACL is urging all chapters and offices that received these messages to file the incident as hate mail with their local law enforcement authorities.

National Director John Tateishi believes the culprit(s) hacked into the national JACL Web site where a directory of e-mail addresses are stored and then sent the hate messages to various e-mail addresses.

"This is typical of hate mail type actions," said Tateishi. "They strike at night, covertly and do not want to debate the issue."

"This is Japan bashing at its finest," said Alan Mikuni, president of the Fremont JACL chapter, who was on the JACL list serve and a recipient of the hate e-mail. "It was frightening first of all because it came to my home e-mail address."

Mikuni immediately contacted the Fremont Police Department where he received a prompt response from the Chief of Police Craig Steckler who informed Mikuni that he was forwarding the messages to the department's hate crime investigator, Det. Dennis Madsen and to the high-tech unit in an effort to identify the sender(s).

Steckler said this was the first time he was made aware of hate e-mails sent to Japanese Americans but added that "last year, there was a flurry of e-mail attacking Chinese Americans but nothing which rose to the level of a hate crime."

Steckler said it was not always easy to determine when such material is no longer protected under the Freedom of Speech and crosses over to become a hate crime.

"If the language rises to the level of becoming a threat to an individual based on their race, sexual orientation, nationality, religious beliefs, etc., it could then rise to the level of a hate crime," said Steckler. "Simply expressing one's opinion about an individual or group of people, no matter how distasteful the language might be, generally does not rise to the level of a hate crime."

"Freedom of Speech is a very broad issue, and the courts have consistently ruled in favor of Freedom of Speech and the First Amendment. It is when the speech goes into being an actual physical threat that it could become a violation of law."

Madsen said every incident is handled on a case by case basis. "Each case must be reviewed and a determination made as to the content and intent of the e-mail," said Madsen. "To be a hate crime, particular elements of the Hate Crime law (California Penal Code 422.6) must be present to indicate a violation."

Among the flood of anonymous hate messages Mikuni received, one of them was signed, "John Green" whose e-mail address was englishtgreen@hotmail.com. Mikuni sent messages to the anonymous sender and to "John Green," pointing out the difference between Japanese nationals and Japanese Americans and warning the sender(s) that "your correspondence is indicative of feelings of which we all in our community need to be wary, as they sometimes lead to crimes based on hatred."

Although Mikuni never received

See HATE E-MAIL/ page 3

Clinton Attends Fund-Raiser, Calls on Support For Honda

By SAM CHU LIN
Special to the Pacific Citizen

Speaking in Silicon Valley, President Clinton told a large crowd Sunday night at a \$1 million fund-raiser for the Democratic Congressional Campaign Committee, it is time to elect Al Gore for president and fellow Democrats like San Jose state assemblyman Mike Honda to Congress.

"Don't look at this up-coming election as just another election," declared Clinton, in reference to the six seats the Democrats hope to win in the House to take back a majority. "There's a lot at stake."

"There's a distinction between the Democratic and the Republican Party," he continued. "We're about people. We look at the people as the bottom line, not profits or anything like that. Mike Honda and Adam Schiff [state senator from Pasadena] can help make that difference."

More than 200 people, including Asian Pacific American high-tech entrepreneurs, gathered at the Stanford home of Bridget and Jim Jorgensen, CEO of the online promotions company AllAdvantage.com, for what was billed as a "bar-

becue buffet." The guests, attired in traditional Silicon Valley dress — no neckties or suits — ate burgers and crab cakes, while former Grateful Dead veterans Mickey Hart and Bob Weir provided the music. Governor Gray Davis, House Minority Leader Dick Gephardt of Missouri, Democratic Congressional Campaign Committee Co-chair Patrick Kennedy, D-R.I., Rep. David Wu, D-Ore., and the president's daughter Chelsea, a Stanford student, were among the VIPs on hand.

"The President and Gephardt were in rare form," Honda exclaimed. "They spoke with a lot of passion. I was very impressed with their presentation."

During the evening, President Clinton and Honda conferred with one another for about five minutes. A White House photographer snapped pictures as the two men talked. Honda thanked him for phoning the voters in his district on election eve urging them to cast their votes for him.

"We had a little side conversation about why it was important that I ran [for Congress]," Honda reflected. "I was very appreciative of that. He reiterated why it was important, that it would continue the work that he has laid out and started and the direction that the country is going right now."

Honda's campaign staff and the White House are now trying to zero in on a date when the President will be the keynote speaker at one of his campaign fund-raising events.

"I'd like to do it in Monterey, and I'd like to do it at the end of May during Asian Pacific American Heritage Month," Honda stated. "If it's in June, I'd like to try to persuade the President to come and be a part of the JACL convention and have him piggy-back that with my event and kill two birds with one

stone. President Clinton will draw a big crowd and help us raise money. This will also be an opportunity for the Asian American community to rub elbows with him."

Honda is now in the process of raising \$2 million for the general election. Congressman Wu and Honda also conferred with one another, and the Portland, Ore., lawmaker volunteered to help him.

Although Honda led the field over both his Democratic and Republican opponents in the March 7 primary election for the 15th congressional district (Norman Mineta's former congressional seat), he is organizing his campaign as if he is coming from behind.

"Based upon the primary numbers that came out, one of the things that concerned me the most," Honda stated, "people would say, 'Mike Honda has it made! And everybody would drop their guard and be too confident.'"

"I feel being that confident because of those numbers makes me the most vulnerable candidate. There should be more impetus to work harder, look smarter, be more focused and determined on winning the general."

There is good reason why Honda is not overly confident. Some local political analysts describe Honda as the candidate with the "best name recognition," but they depict Jim Cuneen, his Republican opponent, as the candidate with close alliances with Silicon Valley high-tech entrepreneurs and "the man who can deliver."

"At Sunday night's fund-raising event, Honda used the opportunity to erase any such potential doubt and connected with many Democratic high-tech leaders. "I'll be following up with those contacts and sit down with them to get their perception of the internet world, government and policy," added Honda. ■

JACL NATIONAL CONVENTION 2000
AN ENDLESS WAVE OF LEADERSHIP

Monterey, California
June 27-July 2, 2000

1-2 weeks

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JACL Calendar

National Board
Fri.-Sun., April 14-16—National Board Meeting: San Francisco.
Mon., June 26-Sun., July 2-3—6th 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.
Sat., May 20—Fifth Annual APA Spring Benefit; see Community Calendar.

Midwest
CLEVELAND
Sat., April 8—Day of Remembrance Program; see Community Calendar.
Sun., May 7 (tentative)—JACL installation dinner.
Sun., May 21—Cherry Blossom Festival; see Community Calendar.

NC-WN-Pacific
DISTRICT COUNCIL

COMMUNITY Calendar

East Coast

NEW YORK CITY
Tues., April 18—"An Evening With David Mura," poet, writer, critic, performance artist; 6 p.m., Friends Seminary Meeting House, 222 E. 16th St.; Info: Julie Azuma, 212/807-8104.
WASHINGTON, D.C.
Tues., April 18—Washington Toho Koto Society performance; 12 noon, Church of the Epiphany, 13th & G St. NW; free. Info: 301/434-4487.
Sat., May 20—Fifth Annual APA Spring Benefit; Omni Shoreham (Woodley park Metro); info, tickets: 703/522-4231 or chieko@aol.com.

The Midwest

CHICAGO
Sun., April 16—Caring Is Preparing workshop: "Gift and Estate Planning, Taxes, Wills/Living Trusts and Power of Attorney"; 2-4 p.m., Japanese American Service Committee; 4427 N. Clark St. RSVP: 773/275-7212.

CLEVELAND
Sat., April 8—Day of Remembrance program: Documentary film premiere of "An American History: Resettlement of Japanese Americans in Greater Cleveland"; sharing of interment camp experiences; by Speakers Bureau with Q&A session; 2-4 p.m., Cleveland Museum of Natural History, Murch Auditorium, 1 Wade Oval Dr.; University Circle; Info: 216/623-0822, <www.mdil-film.com>.
Sat., April 22—"How to Appreciate, Know, and Taste Saké"; 7 p.m., Asia Plaza; Japan Society, sponsors; Info: Kei McMillan, 216/795-1604.
Sun., May 21—Cherry Blossom Festival; MetroParks Zoo.

Pacific Northwest
KLAMATH FALLS, ORE.
Sat.-Tues., July 1-4—Tulelake Pilgrimage; accommodations at Oregon

Sun., May 7—District Meeting and Oratorical Competition; Salinas.
CONTRA COSTA, DIABLO VALLEY, TRI-VALLEY
Sat., 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 Torigoe, 925/828-1076.

TRI-VALLEY
Sun., April 9—Annual Teriyaki Chicken Dinner; see Community Calendar.

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

GREATER L.A. SINGLES
Fri., April 14—Meeting/program; 8 p.m., Gardena Valley YWCA, 1341 W. Gardena Blvd.; "Okinawa: Current, Issues and Challenges," speaker, Martha Matsuoka, Okinawa Peace Network of L.A. Info: Louise Sakamoto, 310/327-3169.

Institute of Technology; buses from Seattle, Portland and Eugene. Info: Janie Matsushima, 503/643-3007.

PORTLAND

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: Kenzie Namba, 503/253-0848; Kurtis Inouye, 503/683-3238.

SEATTLE

Through April—Exhibit, "A Different Battle: Stories of Asian Pacific American Veterans"; Wing Luke Asian Museum, 407 Seventh Ave. S. Info: 206/623-5124.
Sat.-Tues., July 1-4—Tulelake Pilgrimage; accommodations at Oregon Institute of Technology. Info: Stan Shikuma, 206/725-1676, e-mail: SHShikuma@aol.com.

SEATTLE

April or May, 2001—Minidoka Reunion at Las Vegas; if interested, forward name and address by **April 30** to Minidoka Reunion Committee, c/o Tak (Yokoyama) Tado, 15537 32nd Ave. N.E., Seattle, WA 98155-6530.

Northern California

ALAMEDA COUNTY
Sun., April 9—Annual Tri-Valley JACL Teriyaki Chicken Dinner Sale; 11 a.m.-2 p.m., Alameda County Fairgrounds Cafeteria (Pleasanton Ave. entrance); kempo and taiko demonstration, noon-1 p.m. Tickets: Dean Suzuki, 820-1454.

MONTEREY

Sat., April 22—VFW Annual Easter Egg Hunt; Del Rey Oaks Park.
Sun., April 30—Satsuma Bonsai; Monterey Buddhist Temple.

SAN FRANCISCO

Sat., April 8—Booksigning reception: Dr. Clifford Uyeda's memoir, "Suspended: Growing Up Asian in America"; 1 p.m., National Japanese

SELANO CO

Sat., May 13—Guided tour of exhibit, "More Than a Game: Sport in the Japanese American Community"; 12 noon lunch, 1 p.m. tour, Japanese American National Museum. RSVP by May 9: B J Watanabe, 714/779-4140.

Reminder

Credential Guidelines
Chapters in "Good Standing" are required to have the following: A minimum of 25 members; an elected set of officers and the 2000 Chapter Board Roster; paid all National and District dues, fees and assessments. For assistance, call Tracie Uchino, membership coordinator, at 415/921-5225.

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.

American Historical Society, 1684 Post St.; moderator Kenji Taguma of the *Nichi Bei* Times. Free. Info: 415/921-5007, www.njhs.org.
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, festival teriyaki sauce, Asian artisans, Pokemon 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 after March 24, \$100; students, low-income \$40. Info: JACCC, 415/567-5505, e-mail: nikkei2000@jaccn.org.
Thurs., April 27—Exhibit opening, "The Fabric of Strength & Diversity"; dessert reception 8-9 p.m., National Japanese American Historical Society, 1684 Post St.; featuring the Threads of Remembrance quilt. Free. Info: 415/921-5007, www.njhs.org.
Sat.-Tues., July 1-4—Tulelake Pilgrimage; bus provided from the Bay Area. Info: Stephanie Miyashiro, 510/524-2624; Fran Ellis, 408/730-9974; Jimi Yamachi, 408/26909458; Lori Tomita, 916/455-3120.

SAN JOSE

Sat., April 22—Nikkei Matsuri luncheon, to honor local centenarians, "Our Living Treasures"; 11:30 a.m., DoubleTree Hotel, Info. tickets: Warren Hayashi, 408/241-0900, or www.pggroup.com/NikkeiMatsuri.
SEBASTOPOLE
Sat., April 15—Fashion fund-raising event by Asian Accents; Memorial Hall at Ermanji, 1200 Garvenstein Hwy. So.; Info: Marie Totman, 707/829-7982, Sydney Yamashita, 415/883-4572.

Central California

FRESNO
Fri.-Sat., Oct. 13-14—Fifth Jerome Reunion; New Otani Hotel, Los Angeles. Info: Masuda Okajima, 559/875-3878.

Southern California

LOS ANGELES
Fri.-Sun., April 14-16—Performance, Fresh Tracks 00; 8 p.m., David Henry Hwang Theatre, 244 S. San Pedro St., Little Tokyo. Tickets: JACCC, 213/680-3700.

Sat., April 22—Inaugural NAU (Nisei Athletic Union) Reunion; reception 2-5 p.m., Japanese American National Museum, 369 E. First St., Little Tokyo; light refreshments, Ali Koral Memorial Awards. Info: 213/625-0414.

Sun., Sept. 24—63rd L.A. Roosevelt High School Reunion; Montebello Country Club, 901 Via San Clemente; Music by "The Time Machine"; cost \$50; send checks to Dave Brenner, 1700 Bagley, Los Angeles, CA 90035. Info: 310/837-6582.

Fri.-Sat., Oct. 13-14—Fifth Jerome Reunion; New Otani Hotel, Los Angeles. Info: Helen Yoshimura Takata, 626/968-2966; Miyo Kunikata Kawamura, 714/961-1249; Dollie Nagai Fukawa, 310/323-9615; Rose Masuda Okajima, 559/875-3878.

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HATE E-MAIL

(Continued from page 1)

a response from "John Green," the anonymous sender replied with the following: "I'm also, part Japanese with a Japanese family living in Japan. I'm boycotting Japan as a country and has nothing to do with America. You're not Japanese if you live in America, you're American. Japan's a filthy country with no respect for foreigners. Try fighting the discrimination in Japan. Japanese people are the most prodigious (sic) race of people in the world. Even against their own kind, including me. The only word that comes to mind is 'Savages!'"

Mikuni sent a second reply to <osakaboycott@hotmail.com>, telling the sender(s) in part that "it might be more productive for all concerned if you worked with an organization like the JACL to help us understand your feelings."

"The message never reached the culprit(s) since by then this particular e-mail address was dismantled."

"If in fact, this person is of Japanese ancestry, I really pity the person," said Tateishi. "I haven't heard this kind of self loathing in a long, long time. On the one hand, I'm angry, but on the other hand, I think this person is really pathetic."

Wataru Ebihara, Little Tokyo Service Center's information systems manager who runs the Japanese American Network on a volunteer basis, estimated that their bulletin board receives numerous hits and among them are hate messages posted about once every month.

"This is a reality check," said Ebihara. "The cranks are out there, and e-mail is an anonymous medium so people are more open to this kind of stuff."

Among the many hate groups lurking on the Internet, Ebihara said he has seen the Ku Klux Klan recruiting newcomers with rhetoric that "sounds rational," to Lillian Baker-type revisionists who claim the evacuation and detention of Japanese Americans during World War II were justified.

Responses to the hate messages posted on the JANet bulletin board were lively. Crystal Arashiro on

March 28 posted the message: "How does this hate Japan crap affect me? Too bad but it doesn't. I am a Sansei, third generation Japanese American. The only language that I speak is English. I can speak a little Spanish and a few words in Japanese but that is about it. World War II is over, people. I think that it is time for those who cannot get over it to get some professional help. Japan has been rebuilt. It is now a first world country like Germany, our other wartime foe. We have (to) put aside the past and have the new millennium upon us."

An anonymous respondent wrote in part: "...Mr. boycott japan, this is a message forum for JAPANESE AMERICANS, got it?... If you have a problem with Japanese people, then go the heck to Japan and bitch to the government, fool. Don't come in here."

Since the 1990s, the proliferation of hate messages on the Internet has been discussed on an international level. In European countries such as Sweden, the Internet Service Providers are held responsible for any material posted. But it is a different story in America.

A 1997 United Nations meeting found that most of the messages from hate-based groups such as the Ku Klux Klan, the Aryan Nations and skinheads, originate from the United States where the Freedom of Speech as guaranteed under the U.S. Constitution protects many forms of hate messages, which now can be accessed through the Internet by people overseas. Although officials from different countries are exploring ways to limit computerized hate, binding global control seems unlikely since technological changes are evolving faster than rules can be made.

But in a landmark federal case in February 1998, Richard Machado, whose e-mail alias was "Asian Hater," became the first person ever convicted for sending racially-targeted death threats through the Internet. Machado had sent death threats to 59 Asian American students at the University of California at Irvine, where Machado had been dismissed due to poor grades. During the trial, Machado said he had threatened Asian American

students to "find," "hunt down" and "kill" them because he resented their academic success.

Following two trials after the first ended in a deadlocked jury, Machado was sentenced to one year in jail, an additional year of supervised release and to undergo psychiatric counseling and tolerance training.

The Associated Press contributed to this story. ■

ROMEO

(Continued from page 1)

ly matches Trish's sincerity and nicely offsets the overblown masculinity of both Kai and Mac.

Har and Trish's respective fathers, though at times ruthless, are eventually forced to face how they've affected their children's destinies, each in his own way. O'Day shows a semblance of compassion and repentance. Ch'u is a bit too stereotypically stoic for my taste, and the moment of truth he experiences at the end is high on *hara-kiri* adrenaline. Of course, with its slick urban backdrop and a hip-hop soundtrack the kids are sure to love, it doesn't take long to tell that the film's interest is vested less in emotional depth than in entertainment value.

My real complaint has less to do with the content of "Romeo" than with the context of what it was produced. While some may gauge it as a sign that Hollywood is starting to "accept" Asian Americans, specifically men, as viable leading characters, I am more disturbed by the idea that Asian-born action stars-turned-actors like Jet Li, Jackie Chan or Chow Yun-Fat, for example, are being fashioned into Tinseltown's hot new commodity — just something to be marketed and capitalized on. Sure, they're making loads of money, they're becoming American celebrities, but will AAs reap the benefits of more multi-dimensional representation as a result? Probably not.

As for the movie itself, be forewarned: it isn't for everyone, especially if you don't like violence. There are thrills, chills and plenty of spills, and with all the adrenaline and testosterone pumped into it, you might call it a "rui" flick. It doesn't do much for the image of AA women though, who are, once again, sexualized and one even gets her ass kicked. Jet Li and Aaliyah are really the redeeming factors. Both are fresh and unaffected, perhaps because of their relative inexperience as actors, and infuse their characters with a sensitivity which nicely defies the norms of the action genre. ■

COMMENTARY

Southern California Chapters Hit With Bashing E-mails

By LORI FUJIMOTO
National V.P. Public Affairs

Last week, the Venice-Culver chapter was hit with a disturbing incident. Out of the blue, four e-mail messages containing Japan-bashing messages from two different senders were delivered to the Venice-Culver chapter e-mail address.

The four individual messages stated:
"Boycott filthy Japan and those filthy Japanese savages."
"Japan, filthy country, filthy people! BOYCOTT JAPANESE!"
"Japanese people are complete SCUMM!"

"Japan's a scummy country but not as scummy as the Jap."

To determine the extent of the e-mail messages, Karen-Liane Shiba, SELANOCO chapter and national V.P. for membership, and Venice-Culver chapter board member Kerry Kaneichi inquired with neighboring chap-

ter chapters to see if there was a threat to your life or to the chapter, immediately file a police report. If there is no immediate threat to life, a chapter or individual may file a police incident report to monitor these incidents

or establish a pattern from the senders.

3. Report the incident to your local Human Rights Commission. This will enable this body to monitor such incidents in your local community.

4. Report the offensive e-mail to your Internet Service Provider or e-mail provider, as well as the sender's service, if identifiable. Each provider maintains policies against hate speech, offensive, unwanted, or "spam" e-mail and will conduct an investigation.



Karen-Liane Shiba
National V.P. Membership

"What a shock to receive this type of message in this day and age!"

ters in Southern California. Shiba indicated that the Torrance and SELANOCO chapters and the Pacific Southwest regional office e-mail addresses received the same messages last week.

"What a shock to receive this type of message in this day and age!" said Shiba.

Swift action should be taken to demonstrate that the JACL will not tolerate these type of messages or anti-Asian sentiment. If you or your chapter has received these same messages or other offensive or hate speech e-mail messages, please take the following steps:

1. Print hard copies of the offensive or hate speech e-mail messages for evidence. In addition, save the messages to three floppy diskettes, one for your regional office, one for national headquarters and one for your chapter files.
2. File a police report with your

Most service providers also provide a "spam" filter service for your e-mail box. The filter will reject any messages containing certain key words or that are delivered from certain e-mail addresses that you have identified.

5. Report the incidents to your regional director or Bill Yoshino, JACL Hate Crimes Program Coordinator, 773/728-7231 or e-mail at midwest@jacl.org. We would like to monitor the incidents and the responsiveness of your local law enforcement and Internet Service Providers.

With the quick action of Karen-Liane Shiba and Kerry Kaneichi following these steps, Kaneichi received responsive action from hotmail.com, a national e-mail provider.

"After completing an immediate investigation, hotmail.com cancelled the e-mail accounts of the two senders within 48 hours," commented Shiba. ■

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SUNY Binghamton Criticized Over Anti-Asian Assault

NEW YORK—Administrators at the State University of New York at Binghamton are being criticized for their delayed response to what police say are bias attacks on four Asian American students by three white members of the school's wrestling team, according to the *New York Times*.

In the Feb. 27 assault, one injured AA student, John E. Lee, from the Bronx, suffered a fractured skull and internal hemorrhaging. The three other AA students suffered minor to no injuries. The white wrestlers were charged on March 6 by university police with a felony second-degree gang assault.

Louis B. DeFleur, the university president, issued a statement three days later, condemning the attack and saying, "Violence and bigotry have no place on campus."

The Federal Bureau of Investigation is also investigating the case to determine whether federal civil rights laws were violated.

The accused students have pleaded not guilty, and a lawyer representing one of the wrestlers claimed that the attack was initiated by the AA students.

At a rally held at the end of March, more than a hundred students and several faculty members protested the assault and criticized the university's slow response. Reports that the university police were investigating a bias attack have been published in *The Press and Sun-Bulletin* of Binghamton

as early as March 1.

The fact that it took them two weeks to issue a statement to the student body was "ridiculous," said Peter Van Do, president of the university's Asian Student Union.

Sin Yen Ling, a legal fellow at the Asian American Legal Defense Fund in Manhattan, is monitoring the proceedings. "I have to agree with the student union that the response was rather slow," said Ling.

But university officials said they withheld immediate public comment for fear of jeopardizing the police investigation.

"One thing I told a group of students was that if we had compromised the investigation, then we'd have no case, and then you really would have been angry at us," said Roger Summers, Vice President for Student Affairs.

AAAs make up 20 percent of the 12,000-member student body where there has been no history of overt tensions between AAs and whites.

The Feb. 27 incident involved four Korean American students, two of whom were visiting from other universities, and three white wrestlers — Nicholas W. Richetti, 19; Christopher M. Taylor, 20; and an 18-year-old whose name is being withheld due to his age.

Police say two of the Korean American students were standing outside a campus dormitory shortly before dawn when the wrestlers approached. There was an exchange of words, including racial slurs directed at the AA students.

Two other Korean Americans raced outside the dorm to investigate the commotion, and a fight ensued.

Although police officials say the wrestlers, none of whom were injured in the melee, initiated the attack, the wrestlers' lawyers claim that their clients are innocent.

"The only gang was four Asian youths who instigated the incident," said Terence P. O'Leary, who is representing the 18-year-old. "The charge of gang assault against him is hogwash."

Prior to this incident, this same 18-year-old wrestler had been charged with disorderly conduct for his role in a fight with AA students at a Denny's restaurant near campus on Feb. 11.

Although Richetti's attorney Robert Miller could not be reached by press time, Richetti is also no stranger to the Binghamton police, who filed a misdemeanor assault charge against him for assaulting a white student earlier on Feb. 27.

Thomas A. Saitta, an attorney representing Taylor, said his client happened upon the fight on his way back to his dormitory and "got hit in the side of the head."

The university has suspended the wrestlers pending further disciplinary action. The Asian Student Union want the wrestlers expelled immediately.

De said they are also demanding that the university hire more AA instructors and counselors. The university has agreed to hire one AA counselor. ■

JACL NATIONAL CONVENTION

Local JACL Groups Invite You to Explore the Rich History of JAs in the Monterey Area During Convention



According to retired Monterey Peninsula College professor and author David Yamada, if you ever walk into a maritime museum and come across an exhibit of abalone named hattori or sorensoni, you can trace their discovery to Monterey abalone diver Roy Hattori.

Hattori will be on hand to share his exciting life's stories with convention visitors during a strolling dinner on June 28 at the Monterey Bay Aquarium.

According to Yamada in his book, "The Japanese of the Monterey Peninsula," Hattori discovered the new types of abalone while diving off the coast of Santa Barbara in 1938.

"Roy came across the beds containing two kinds of abalone that looked different to him," said Ya-

mada. "The larger kind had a deep, thin shell and the mantle was described by Roy as 'mottled, grayish, black and white. Really mottled.' A smaller shell, a white abalone type, was found in much deeper water."

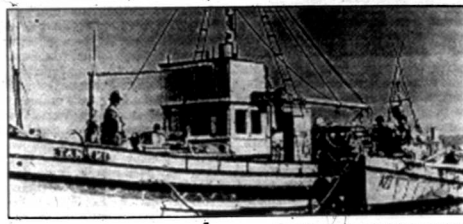
Sensing a new discovery, Hattori brought back several specimens and checked them out with a shell collector named Sorenson, who later donated them to Stanford University in Palo Alto, Calif. The specimens were later sent to the Smithsonian Institution in Washington, D.C., for identification. One of the specimens (the larger shell) was verified as new and named sorensoni. The other specimen (the smaller shell) was named hattori. Later, the hattori was deemed a hybrid species of the larger find and was eliminated. Today, only the sorensoni remains.

"Japanese Americans of the

Monterey Peninsula have such a rich and colorful history," said Kaz Matsuyama, co-chairperson of the JACL national convention. "We certainly hope conventioners will enjoy the wonderful program that our national convention committee has put together for the welcome mixer at the Monterey Bay Aquarium."

In addition, the national convention will be holding a discussion workshop on the passage of the Civil Liberties Act of 1988.

The workshop will follow the development of the redress movement from its earliest discussions during the camp years and right after the closure of the camps, to the presentation of the apology and checks to the first recipients in 1990. The roles of the JACL, National Coalition for Redress & Reparations, National Council for Japanese American Redress and the coram nobis teams will be discussed.



ROY HATTORI PHOTO COLLECTION

The Hattori family's abalone mother ship, a 50-footer called the "Tanami."

The presenter will be Mitchell Maki, assistant professor in the UCLA School of Public Policy and Social Research and co-author of "Achieving the Impossible Dream: How Japanese Americans Obtained Redress." Greg Marutani will be moderator.

During the JACL national convention, there will be a dinner event with General Eric Shinseki, who serves as chief of staff of the U.S. Army, to honor JAs of all wars and conflicts.

As part of the dinner program, the veterans tribute committee plans to prepare a slide show to be dedicated to JAs who have

served in all branches of the military from the Spanish American War to the modern day.

The veterans tribute event committee is asking the JA community to submit any photos of veterans to be used during the slide show presentation. All photos must be carefully identified with name, location, and approximate year taken. All photos will be returned after the dinner.

Submit your photos by April 30, 2000, to: Judy Niizawa, 834 Gary Avenue, Sunnyvale, CA 94086. For further information, please contact Roger Minami at rminami@ix.netcom.com. ■

A Unique Educational Partnership Between JACL and EGUSD

Since 1984, the Elk Grove School Unified School District (EGUSD) has partnered with the Florin JACL to incorporate the Japanese American internment experience during World War II into the fifth-grade curriculum. Beginning two weeks prior to the chapter's Time of Remembrance program, an exhibit is set up in the EGUSD board chambers, Robert Trigg Education Center.

The educational partnership was originated between Mary Tsukamoto, retired EGUSD teacher, then superintendent Glenn Houde and the school board. Successive EGUSD boards and superintendents Robert Trigg and Dave Gordon have annually adopted a resolution endorsing the Time of Remembrance program and presentation. Through Ceyla Moore, director of curriculum development, workshops are organized to train teachers to teach this chapter in history and to help prepare for the visit. The class sets of "Journey to Topaz" by Yoshiko Uchida have been purchased by the district and are



Bob Uyeyama speaks with Elk Grove fifth-graders inside the barrack replica.

read by the fifth-graders in preparation for their visit to the exhibit.

Former internees and veterans use historical photographs, artifacts and their personal experience, to interact with the students, teachers and parent chaperones. Twice daily, more than 100 students and adults gather for an introduction and overview of the conditions before the war

and the responsibilities of citizenship, followed by group discussion and questions.

In groups of eight, the students rotate to the following stations: 1) pre-WWII life (2) "The Price is Right" (the costs of things in 1941 vs 2000) 3) packing your suitcase 4) pets 5) barrack 6) camp activities and daily life 7) military services, the 442nd and MIS, and 8) the United States Constitution,

redress and social responsibility.

There are 29 volunteers who participate in the program. They are: Vi Hatano, Gloria Imagire, Jeanette Inouye, Joanne Iritani, Chewy Ito, Marion Kanemoto, Sam Kashiwagi, Walter Kawamoto, Joyce Kimura, Utako Kimura, Dorie Kobayashi, Hiroko Kowta, Lorraine Kubocha, Nami Kubota, Merry Kurosaki, Yo Morita, Heidi Sakazaki, Sus Satow, Carol Seo, Hiroko Tsuda, May Ukita, Christine and Stan Umeda, Bob Uyeyama, Mickey Yamadera, Etsu and Henry Yui.

This partnership between Florin JACL and EGUSD is believed to be the only one of its kind. Approximately 24,352 students, an entire generation of Elk Grove students, have been exposed to the JA's loss of freedom during WWII.

Planning is underway for 2001 with hopes of extending the experience to middle and/or high school students.

More participants are needed to fill the many requests. Call 916/685-6747 for more information. ■

Hawaii Senate Committee Rejects Grants for Films

HONOLULU—A Senate committee rejected a proposal to provide state grants to Hawaii film and television productions, in favor of one that would allow state-backed loans instead.

A bill sent from the House to the Senate would create a special fund to provide both grants and loans to locally produced movies and shows.

But the Senate Economic Development Committee rejected the grant aspect of the measure on March 24. Committee chairwoman Lorraine Inouye (D-North Hilo-Hamakua-South Kohala) cited budget considerations and said there are already avenues allowing productions to request help from the state.

The bill now heads to the Senate Ways and Means Committee. The measure was first proposed after producers of the "Baywatch Hawaii" TV series said it could not continue without \$2.5 million in state aid. One of the show's owners later called the request inappropriate. Filming will begin in June for the series' second season in Hawaii. ■

REGISTRATION FORM

SUMMARY OF FEES

Name: Last First MI
Address: _____
City: _____
State & Zip Code: _____
Telephone: _____
Day: _____ Evening: _____
e-mail: _____
Chapter: _____
Category:
☐ Delegate ☐ 1000 Club
☐ Alternate ☐ 1000 Club Life
☐ Youth ☐ Masaoka Fellow
☐ Booster ☐ National Board/Staff
☐ Other (Specify) _____

Register early to save money!
"Early Bird" postmark deadline April 30, 2000

PACKAGE REGISTRATION (includes Individual Events listed below)

	Before	After 4/30
<input type="checkbox"/> Regular Package	\$195	\$245
<input type="checkbox"/> Regular with Youth Luncheon	\$220	\$280
<input type="checkbox"/> Youth Package	\$100	\$125

INDIVIDUAL EVENTS (included in Package Registration)

<input type="checkbox"/> All Meetings	\$40	\$45	\$
<input type="checkbox"/> One Day Meeting	\$20ea	\$25ea	\$
Day of Attendance (Circle day)	Tu	We	Th
<input type="checkbox"/> Workshops	\$20	\$25	\$
Complete separate Workshop Registration Form			
<input type="checkbox"/> Monterey Bay Aquarium Welcome Mixer	\$60	\$75	\$
<input type="checkbox"/> Awards Luncheon	\$45	\$50	\$
<input type="checkbox"/> Savonara Banquet	\$65	\$75	\$

SPECIAL EVENTS

<input type="checkbox"/> Youth Luncheon	\$25	\$35
(included in Youth Package) Delegates are encouraged to attend		
<input type="checkbox"/> Golf Tournament	\$75	\$100
<input type="checkbox"/> Veterans' Tribute Dinner	\$75	\$75

Convention Package: \$ _____
Individual Events: \$ _____
Special Events: \$ _____
TOTAL: \$ _____
Make check payable to JACL 2000
MAIL CHECK and FORM together
To pay by charge card
Print Legibly
Cardholder's Name: _____
MasterCard or Visa (circle one)
Account Number: _____
Expiration Date: _____
Signature: _____

SEND FORM TO: JACL 2000 - REGISTRATION
P.O. BOX 1996
MONTEREY, CA 93942-1996

NOTE: No registration will be processed without accompanying payment (check or charge card). This form is for convention registration only and NOT for hotel reservations, which should be made directly with the DoubleTree Hotel at Fisherman's Wharf, Monterey. If you are registering for more than one person, please use additional forms or copies.

For officer use only:

Date Received	Check Number	Charge Card	Amount
		Yes/No	\$

REGISTRATION INFORMATION

Register before APRIL 30, 2000 to take advantage of reduced registration fees and discounts on special events. Please indicate your choice of package and/or individual and special events. Amounts listed will be available during the convention at the registration and hospitality tables.

Package Registration

The Regular Convention Package admits registered badge holders to all National Council business sessions, workshops, oratorical competition, Welcome Mixer, Awards Luncheon and Seyonara Banquet. The Youth Package includes the above plus the Youth Luncheon. The Regular & Youth Luncheon Package is the Regular Package plus the Youth Luncheon.

Individual Event Registration

Registration is available for those interested in attending only specific convention events. A registration fee of \$20 is required for admission to exhibits, business sessions or workshops on a per-day basis. Badges must be worn.

Cancellation Policy

Written cancellation requests received by May 31 will be refunded in full. Cancellations received after that date will be denied and residual amount will become a charitable contribution to JACL. There will be no partial refunds if a registrant does not attend all functions.

Hotel Registration

A block of rooms have been reserved for the convention. Reserve early to ensure a room and the convention rates. Call the DoubleTree Hotel directly at (831) 649-4511 for reservations. Be sure to mention that you are attending the JACL National Convention. Reservations must be made by May 31, 2000 to reserve the rates. Convention room

rates are:

Single/Double Occupancy \$109
Additional occupancy/beds \$20

DoubleTree Hotel at Fisherman's Wharf

Two Portola Plaza
Monterey, CA 93940
(831) 649-4511
Fax (831) 649-4115
www.doubletreemonterey.com

Air Travel

United Airlines is the official airline of the 2000 JACL National Convention. Receive a 5% discount on the lowest published airfare. Make your reservations at least 60 days in advance to receive an additional 5% discount. When you make your reservations with the airline or your travel agent, please refer to United Airlines meeting ID number 594LS.

United Airlines (800) 521-4041

Rental Cars

Rental cars are available at airports. Use your JACL Hertz Car Rental card for a discount.

Transportation

Taxi service is available for transportation from the Monterey Peninsula Airport to the hotel. Transportation from San Francisco Airport or San Jose Airport is available through Monterey-Salinas Airport, at a cost of about \$30 per person, lower for large groups. Call (831) 863-2871 for details and scheduled times.

For further information call:

Larry Oda (831) 758-7107 Days
(831) 375-3314 Eve.
e-mail: loda@msn.com
Kaz Matsuyama (831) 649-0704
e-mail: KAZM@N@aol.com

COMMENTARY

University of Washington to Honor Gordon Hirabayashi

By KAREN YOSHITOMI
PNW Regional Director

Social scientist, humanist and human rights activist Gordon Hirabayashi will be honored by his alma mater, the University of Washington College of Arts and Sciences, at its tenth annual Celebration of Distinction dinner. The college will confer on Dr. Hirabayashi its Distinguished

YOSHITOMI

Alumnus Award, in recognition of exceptional lifetime achievement. The dinner will be held on May 9 at the University of Washington's Seattle campus.

The evening will begin with a reception and special performance by the Kokoro Dance Company, who will perform "The Believer." Choreographed by Jay Hirabayashi, Gordon's son, "The Believer" is a multidisciplinary performance that combines dance, taped music and text, live taiko drumming, lighting and slide projections. The images are taken from the family albums of Jay Hirabayashi and include actual newspaper headlines stemming from his father's decision to fight government relocation and curfew orders. The dinner and awards ceremony will immediately follow the performance.

Proceeds from the event as well as individual contributions will be used to establish a professorship in Dr. Hirabayashi's honor at the College of Arts and Sciences. The college's efforts were recently advanced by an announcement by University of Washington Provost Lee Huntsman conferring a state matching grant totaling \$250,000 in support of this effort. The college will have until Sept. 2, 2000, to secure enough contributions in order to receive the full amount of the grant.

Hirabayashi began his studies at the University of Washington in 1937. On May 16, 1942, his academic career was overshadowed by turmoil as hundreds of Seattle-area Japanese Americans were forced to leave their homes and board buses bound for a temporary detention center euphemistically named "Camp Harmony" by the War Relocation Authority. Hirabayashi, who was in his senior year, refused to go.

The first signs of trouble came a month earlier, when all JAs and other "enemy aliens" were given a curfew. Hirabayashi was living in a YMCA dormitory in the University District at the time. "When the curfew came, all my dorm

mates were sympathetic to me," he recalled. "Each day, as it neared 8:00 p.m., they would find me wherever I was on campus, and made sure I made curfew. They didn't want me to get in trouble."

Most days Hirabayashi dashed home. Then came his epiphany. "One day I was rushing back to the dorm, I thought, 'Why am I dashing back and my roommates are not?' As soon as the question came up, I knew I couldn't accept the curfew. I turned around and went back to the library. Nobody turned me in."

When the order for forced removal came, Hirabayashi once again intended to follow the rules — at first. "But then I thought, 'If I couldn't accept curfew, how can I accept [forced evacuation]? It's even worse. I'm not going to allow my citizenship to be usurped without my protest. I'm going to stand up for my rights. Immediately I knew I couldn't board the bus," he said.

For his actions, Hirabayashi was tried and convicted in the Federal District Court of Seattle. In October 1942, he was sentenced to 90 days for curfew violation and refusal to evacuate. Pending appeal he was given the



GORDON HIRABAYASHI

option to post bail and go to an internment camp. He chose to remain in jail. After ninety months behind bars, Hirabayashi was released on bail and allowed to live in Spokane outside the prescribed military zone pending his appeal to the Supreme Court. On June 21, 1943, the Supreme Court unanimously upheld his conviction, ruling only on the narrow issue of curfew and ignoring the broader issue of the evacuation, and he was ordered to report to a prison work camp in Arizona.

After completing his prison term, Hirabayashi headed back to Seattle and looked for a job in the bakery. When he couldn't find one, he figured that was a message to get a degree, so he returned to the University of Washington, eventually earning a bachelor's degree, master's degree and a doctorate in sociology in 1952. Then he headed abroad, teaching at American University in Beirut and later in Cairo. In a career that spanned 32 years, Hirabayashi served as department chair at three Universities, including the University of Alberta, where he spent 24 years before retiring in 1983.

Soon after retiring, Hirabayashi received a phone call that would prove consequential. Peter Irons, a political science professor from the University of California, San Diego, had uncovered documents that clearly showed evidence of government misconduct in 1942 — evidence that the government knew there was no military justification for the exclusion order but withheld that information from the Supreme Court. On Feb. 19, 1986, Federal Judge Donald Voorhes declared Hirabayashi innocent because the government had misled the courts, and overturned his conviction.

"It was quite a strong victory — so strong that the other side did

not appeal," said Hirabayashi. "It was a vindication of all the effort people had put in for the rights of citizens during crisis periods."

Did the reversal change his view of the United States? According to Hirabayashi, "there was a time when I felt that the Constitution had failed me. But with the reversal in the courts and in public statements from the government, I feel that our country had proven that the Constitution is worth upholding. The United States government admitted it made a mistake. A country that can do that is a strong country. I have more faith and allegiance to the Constitution than I ever had before."

The Pacific Northwest district council of JACL has endorsed the efforts of the University of Washington, and hopes that others will also support the event and fund-raising efforts. Donors who send in their contributions towards

the professorship prior to April 28 will be listed in the Scroll of Honor in the Celebration of Distinction's commemorative program. Contributions received after that date will continue to be matched by the state grant until Sept. 1, 2000.

If you wish to contribute to the professorship, please send your check (made payable to the University of Washington Foundation) to: Hirabayashi Professorship, c/o UWAA, Box 354860, Seattle, WA 98105.

If you have questions or would like more information about the dinner or the professorship, please contact the Pacific Northwest regional office at 206/623-5088. ■

Portions of this article were reprinted with permission from the University of Washington, Arts and Sciences "Perspectives" Winter 2000 newsletter.

Ko Nishimura, Helen Zia to Speak at Nikkei 2000 Pre-conference Symposia

Information workshop or round table discussion, the Nikkei 2000 Conference's pre-conference symposiums offer a diverse combination of presentations for everyone in the community. The optional pre-conference symposiums comprise the April 27 day program, and begin the national four-day conference which will be held Thursday, April 27, through Sunday, April 30, at the Radisson Miyako Hotel, San Francisco.

Pre-conference symposium topics include: "Entrepreneurs in the Japanese American Community: Creating a Formula for Success" with panelists Ko Nishimura, chairman, president and CEO of Soletron Corp., Kinji Yamasaki, chief financial officer for Phatpie, and others, who will discuss the development, funding and IPO process of start-up companies.

Dr. Dennis Ogawa, Dr. Elaine Kim and Helen Zia lead a presentation on "Diversity and the Japanese American Community." And in "Using Technology and Mass Communication as Community Building Tools," Steven Chin of AMedia, David Chu of Grassroots.com, Audrey Iwata of RemitNet, and Kenji Taguma of the *Nichi Bei Times* will be the speakers. Nikkei community can apply the tools currently used by nonprofit organizations,

information technology companies and mass media organizations to build community.

Two of the symposiums will be conducted in Japanese, "Raising Children in American Society," and "Senior Care for the Japanese Speaking Population." Each will allow participants to dialogue about how these issues impact their lives and share strategies and practical solutions for dealing with these dynamics.

As a follow-up to the Ties That Bind conference which took place in Los Angeles in April 1998, the Nikkei 2000 Conference expects to involve more participants and has been organized with the intent that participants have the opportunity to network with colleagues in similar fields of work to share ideas, questions, and solutions. With participants flying in from Japan and Peru, the Nikkei 2000 Conference will bring together a broad cross-section of Nikkei for a highly interactive community-building conference.

The registration fee for the four-day conference is \$100. Student and low-income rates are \$40. The pre-conference symposium fee is \$15. Many volunteer opportunities are also available.

For a complete listing of pre-conference symposiums, please visit the Nikkei 2000 Conference Web site at www.nikkei2000.org or call 415/567-5505. ■

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Suite 250 (626) 795-6205
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J. Morey Company, Inc.
One Centerville Drive, La Palma 90623
Suite 260 (714) 562-5910
Lic# 0655907

Ogino-Aizumi Insurance Agency
1618 W. Beverly Bl., Montebello 90640
Suite 210 (323) 728-7488
Lic# 0606452

Iso-Tsuneishi Ins. Agency, Inc.
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Lic# 0599528

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Suite 700 (213) 680-4190
Lic# 0441090

T. Roy Iwami & Associates
T. Roy Iwami Ins. Service, Inc.
241 E. Pomona Blvd., Monterey Park 91754
(323) 727-7755
Lic# 0638513

Charles M. Kamiya & Sons, Inc.
c/o Kenneth M. Kamiya Ins.
373 Van Ness Ave., Torrance 90501
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Friday, April 14, 2000

www.nikkei2000.orgRegister online
today!

NIKKEI

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CONFERENCE

April 27-30

Radisson Miyako Hotel, S.F.

Very Truly Yours

By Harry Honda

Telling Tidbits to the Japanese American Story

Two Saturdays ago, the 442nd RCT Association in Hawaii celebrated its 57th anniversary with Ben Kuroki as its main speaker. Well-known on the mainland as a Nebraska-born World War II Air Force tail gunner, he is now a Californian and a retired journalist-publisher.

"Not many of us were aware there was a Japanese American in the Air Force during World War II who flew over both Europe and the Pacific," Hawaiian veteran Ed Ichiyama (522nd) confessed.

While mainland old-timers well remember the exploits of the Nisei generation in the 100th, 442nd, MIS and Kuroki, as well, the book that Ed sent me and signed, *Aloha pumehana* — warm-hearted aloha, adds some telling tidbits to the JA story.

Here are some from that book, *Japanese Eyes ... American Heart*, a 400-page collection of reflections of Hawaii's WWII Nisei soldiers, compiled by the Hawaii Nikkei History Editorial Board and underwritten by Tendai Educational Foundation (1998).

"Camarderie between those whose friendship was forged in the white-hot crucible of combat is a 'forever' relationship. We may not see each other for years, but when we do meet, it is as though we saw each other yesterday. We pick up from where we left off." — Samuel Sasaki (442).

For University of Hawaii freshman Sasaki whose draft status was changed overnight in 1942 from 1A to enemy alien 4C, it was electrifying news when he heard the Army was organizing the 442nd and re-evaluating the 4C status in February 1943. "Unless we Nisei showed our

true colors then by volunteering en masse and subsequently performing in outstanding fashion, we would have no hope, no future in the United States for our parents, ourselves, and our posterity."

The editors of the book add a nice touch with post-WWII vignettes of the contributors. Sasaki, a Wharton School of Finance graduate, retired from the Bank of Hawaii after 32 years in 1983.

Next one's from a 23-year-old pre-war draftee who in his opening page describes close-up the attack on Pearl Harbor. But his first moments on the mainland are "telling."

"Camp McCoy was hot, one hundred-something in the shade.... We were well-received in Wisconsin. Speaking with the locals, our good English came out automatically.... In the nearby town of La Crosse, there were plenty of fights with other outcasts, especially if they called us names like, *Japs*, *Oriental Creeps* or said how proud they had been of their uniform but now 'even *Japs* are wearing it'.... A big fight started because we did not stand up for their Texas anthem, 'Deep in the Heart of Texas.' Sometimes, in town, the soldiers prodded the Mexicans in their outfit to start a fight with us.... At Camp Savage, Minnesota, the MIS was having a hard time because they were all scholars. When we first went in a bar there, the bartender would not come when we called him. After more noise on our part, he finally came over and said, 'We don't serve *Japs*.' There were a lot of Seabees there, snickering. So whatever was on the counter, we threw against the mirror. Busted it all and took off before the MP or SP (shore patrol) showed up.... We were taking a stroll [at Shelby] when a second lieutenant, just graduated from officer's candi-

date school run across the street to us, said, 'Don't you recognize an officer when you see one?' I told him we do not go 'round looking for officers to salute. He said something about a court-martial. We smashed him old and continued our stroll. Ninety days of school and arrogant already...." — Jessie M. Hirata (100).

Jessie fills 10 more pages of his actions in Europe, where one of them might just account for the Distinguished Service Cross he merited.

Of the time (at Naples waiting to return home) when promotions were being doled out: "A haole who could not read real good got stripes and I received a cluster on my Good Conduct Ribbon. To receive it, I had to go into the office to accept it like it was big deal. At the front, they used to toss them in the foxhole, even the Purple Heart. I should not have done it, but after the captain read me the citation and handed me the papers, I ripped them up, and after throwing them in the waste basket, saluted him smartly and walked out."

Dropping names of the contributors here may stir further interest.

100 — Stanley M. Akita (a Sansei), Warren Iwai, Seiso Kamishita, Dr. Katsunori Komatani (d. 1978), Walter "Biff" Moriguchi, Tsutomu Tom Nagata, Tokiyo Ono (retired educator), Robert T. Sato, Major Sakae Takahashi, Ben Tamashiro, Mike Tokunaga, 1st Lt. Conrad Takahara, Albert Turner for his father Lt. Col. Farrant Turner (first commanding officer), Kaoru Yonezawa, Chaplain Israel Yost.

100MIS — Hoichi Kubo with a DSC (d. 1998), Sen. Spark Matsunaga (d. 1990), Ben I. Yamamoto.

442 — Chaplain Hiro Higuchi (d. 1981), Ed Ichiyama (coordinating military updates for DSC recipients), Kenji Inada (retired SUNY professor in Indian and Buddhist philoso-

phy), Sen. Daniel Inouye, Joseph Itagaki, Robert Katayama, Minoru Kishaba (of La Mirada, Calif.), Hideto Kono, Don Seki (of Long Beach, Calif.), Joe Shimamura, Chaplain Masao Yamada (d. 1984).

442/100 — John Tsukamoto (published "Bridge of Love").

442MIS — Michael Miyatake, Ted Tsukiyama (historian for Victory Variety Volunteers, 442nd Veterans Club and MIS Veterans Club).

MIS — George Akita (professor emeritus of Japanese history at UH Manoa), former Gov. George R. Ariyoshi, Yoshiaki Fujitani (retired bishop of Honoa Hanganji Mission of Hawaii), Takejiro Higa, Robert K. Sakai (taught history at Univ. of Nebraska-Lincoln, professor emeritus in history, UH Manoa), Richard M. Sakakida (d. 1998), Kan Tagami (personal interpreter with General MacArthur in Tokyo), Fujio Takaki (23-year CIC veteran).

Contributors — journalist-author Lyn Crost (d. 1997), Mrs. Kikuyo Fujimoto (her husband Hikokusei worked as a steward to Hawaii's last reigning monarch, Queen Lili'uokalani), A.A. "Bud" Smyser (Hawaii Star-Bulletin editorial page editor).

Inaugural NAU Reunion Will Honor Seven

The Southern California Nisei Athletic Union's (NAU) inaugural reunion will take place on Saturday, April 22, from 2 - 5 p.m., at the Japanese American National Museum, 369 E. First St., in Los Angeles Little Tokyo.

Seven people will be honored with the inaugural Akira Komai Memorial Award, created in memory of the late Komai who was the founder of NAU and World War II publisher of the *Rafu Shimpu* newspaper.

The honorees will be: Dave Komatsu (Tigers, Community Youth Council); Mits Sakaiwa (Wanettes, Southern California Women's Athletic Union); Kenji Taniguchi (Japanese American Opti-

An anthology of American history (1773-1999) filled with excerpts from documents, accounts and books comprises the 600-page \$40 tome, "Witness to America," edited by Stephen Ambrose and Douglas Brinkley. One reviewer was moved: "If you came from a distant planet and could have one book to tell what America is all about, you could not do better than this."

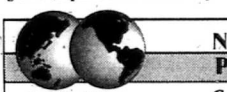
That said — the index on "Japan" has three events (Pearl Harbor, Guadalcanal, atomic bombings — all within WWII); nothing else. Though we're not from another planet, we expected better but newcomers to the United States will be well served.

But, at the same time, we were elated by a 600-page find at the Los Altos Antiquarian Shop, "Everyman's Eden, a History of California: Pre-history to the present" (1968), by Ralph J. Roekle, Humboldt State College department chair, who devotes 10 pages to the plight of JAs during and after WWII. What was totally unexpected was that Honda, Harry is indexed but not DeWitt, General nor Bendetsen, Karl. ■

mists, CYC), Mas Fukai (Friends of Richard Club), the late Seiji Isomoto (Lakers), Sam Adachi (NAU) and Duke Llewellyn (Los Angeles Athletic Club).

Komai initially formed NAU in 1947 as a basketball league for young males. Later it expanded to include softball and baseball. Komai reported the game results under a pen name of "The Maestro" in a *Rafu* column title, "Dis 'N Dat!"

Those interested in attending the event are asked to pay a donation of \$10 per person. For tickets, call Yoichi Hosoawa 562/695-6294; Yosh Arima 323/723-5818; Bob Umemoto 323/6261-8769; Florence Ochi 213/830-5652; or Chris Komai 213/830-5648. ■



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Letters to the Editor

Seabrook JACL Supports Inclusion of Masaoka Quote

The officers and a representative number of members of the Seabrook chapter JACL have signed a letter in support of the inclusion of the excerpt from the JACL Creed to be included on the Memorial To Patriotism Monument. We send you a copy of it to record our belief it states the views of patriotic Americans. The JACL Creed has been recited by a high school graduate at our installation banquet annually ever since our chapter was formed 50 years ago.

Ted Oye

Seabrook Chapter Chairman
NJAMP Drive

*Ms. Cherry Y. Tsutsumida
*Executive Director

*National Japanese American Memorial Foundation
*1920 N Street NW, Suite 660
*Washington D.C. 20036

*Dear Cherry:

"We, who were interned or are children of those incarcerated during World War II, write in support of the inscription which is a part of the JACL Creed authored by the great American Mike Masaoka to be placed on the national monument. Mr. Masaoka's many accomplishments on behalf of Americans of Japanese ancestry should be recognized and immortalized."

JACL Seabrook Chapter

Monument Should Not Honor Individuals

Reading about the controversy over the inclusion of Mike Masaoka's name/creed on the National Japanese American Memorial has caused me to think about how I feel. It would violate my sense of integrity as a person of Japanese ancestry if Mr. Masaoka's quotation were to be immortalized on the memorial. However, I object not only to Mr. Masaoka's, but also to quotations from the Honorable Daniel Inouye, Sparky Matsunaga, Robert Matsui, Norman Mineta, or from any other individual. Although all are honorable men whom I admire (though I may not always agree with their views), and who have contributed greatly to the Japanese American cause, this is not the memorial for their affirmations.

This is a memorial for all Americans of Japanese ancestry, from the earliest pioneers to the countless future generations. Perhaps certain events or aspects of our history can be memorialized, such as the ill-fated Wakamatsu Colony; the courage of the thousands of Issei men of the 1880s, 1890s and early 1900s who sought their freedom and fortunes in Hawaii and on the mainland; the fortitude of the Issei women who came mainly between 1907 and 1924.

Or perhaps our leaders could propose a simple statement that expresses the aspirations, successes, failures and loyalty of the JAs to the traditions and ideals of the United States. This is my hope.

Abi Yoneda,
San Jose, Calif.

A Failure of the Democratic Process

Although it has been said a number of times that the inscriptions proposed by the National Japanese American Memorial Foundation (NJAMP) were selected through a democratic process, in reality, the NJAMP leadership took a number of questionable and improper actions.

The inclusion of the controversial figure of Mike Masaoka, JACL's wartime national director

who has been known to be a government informant, for the second time resulted in a public outcry.

It is this public outcry and the need for historical accuracy that has prompted me, as a not insubstantial contributor and a member of the board of NJAMP from New York City, to announce at the February 2000 NJAMP board meeting that the time may have come to transfer the matter to a more level playing field where a fair and just determination can be expected of this contentious issue.

At the May 1998 board meeting, there were two drafts of the inscriptions. One by Bill Hosokawa and a second draft by Kelley Kuwayama. The board authorized Kuwayama, Hosokawa and Chigioji to consolidate the two drafts, neither of which included Masaoka's name nor his Japanese American Creed since they had been deleted from a previous draft.

Grant Ujifusa received approval of the executive committee of the board and was permitted to add four additional names, including Masaoka whose name had been dropped from the inscriptions.

The bylaws provide that the action of the executive committee must be approved by the board at its subsequent meeting, but this procedure was not followed.

To justify the inclusion of Masaoka in the inscriptions again, Ujifusa represented Masaoka as the Father of the 442nd regimental combat team, but a check later with the 442nd Veterans Club of Hawaii produced an article on the "Origin of the 442nd RCT," which based on archival records, clearly proved that Masaoka was not the "Father of the 442nd."

The board, which at the time did not have accurate information on Masaoka, acted upon Ujifusa's motion by authorizing the chairman and two others to draft quotations for the additional individuals and to submit them to the National Park Service. By an additional motion, the inscriptions were approved only in principle. This was just a carte blanche authorization as the minutes of the board meeting clearly reflect.

By the latter half of 1999, people all across the nation, who read about the inscriptions through newspaper accounts, began sending in letters, voicing their concerns over the proposed text, particularly the inclusion of Masaoka. Several historians and researchers also pointed out historical errors in the inscriptions.

We are looking for ways to right the wrong that has been committed in connection with the inscriptions that will become a part of the monument to patriotism of all JAs during World War II.

Francis Y. Sogi
New York City

Who is Speaking for JAs?

We have been having individuals, or small groups, who have taken it upon themselves to speak for Japanese Americans with no regard for the thinking of these other JAs.

Who chose Fred Korematsu to be the recipient of the Freedom Medal? This considering the bizarre subterfuges employed by Korematsu to avoid evacuation: cosmetic surgery, claiming to be Spanish-Hawaiian, changing his name to Clyde Sarah. He thought that he could conceal his Japanese ancestry and avoid being picked up for evacuation. If he had been successful, he would have remained in hiding for the duration and never thought about publicly challenging evacuation. To select him for the Freedom Medal was to ignore the forthrightness and the courage of Minoru Yasui and Gordon Hirabayashi who publicly violated evacuation notices and invited public prosecution.

Who named James Omura influential journalist of the past century? Omura opposed evacuation with words. He did not challenge

evacuation by physically resisting evacuation. He avoided evacuation by leaving the area in March of 1942. His main claim to fame seems to be that he supported the Heart Mountain draft resisters and castigated the JACL for not doing the same.

His record pales when compared with that of Bill Hosokawa, Larry Tajiri or Harry Honda. If any one person deserves the title of leading journalist, my choice would be Bill Hosokawa, and he would be the choice of the majority of JAs who actually experienced the evacuation and internment.

In his column, "Finale," Bill related the preemptory notice given about the rotation planned for P.C. columnist. The P.C. has been so fortunate that such a highly qualified person contributed his talents to the P.C. Many times his column was the only part worth reading. Certainly, the P.C. owes Bill a public apology for their action in not addressing a personal note to Bill about their change of program.

We join Bill Marutani in asking Bill to continue his column for the edification of the younger generations who do not know the history of JACL and its pioneers: Dr. Thomas Yatabe, Saburo Kido, Jimmy Sakamoto, Tokio Slocum, Walter Tsukamoto, Mas Satow, George Inagaki, Bill Hosokawa, and many others who made so many personal sacrifices for the Nikkei in America.

The P.C. may not be a JACL house organ, but its readers expect to see news about JAs and their activities, news that they cannot obtain from other newspapers.

Fred Y. Hirasuna
Fresno, Calif.

Confinement and Ethnicity

I received an e-mail from my friend Jack Herzog, urging me to request a copy of a book called "Confinement and Ethnicity: An Overview of the 10 WWII Relocation Sites." This book was published in 1999 by the Government and is free for the asking.

I am urging every person of Japanese ancestry to request a copy of this very informative book. It is 460 pages and contains pictures and statistics of all the camps. A simple letter or post card with a request is all that is necessary. It takes approximately three weeks for them to mail it to you.

I'm sure that everyone who takes advantage of this free offer will be glad they did. Order a copy for your kids also!

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* "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 abridgment. 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.

Abe, Toshiaki, 76, Hayward, March 20; Marysville-born; survived by wife Toshi; sons Gordon and wife Sally, David and wife Alice; brothers Tom and wife Kiyo, Joe and wife Mitsy; 3 g. sister-in-law Miyeko Abe; sisters Frances Sakai and husband Howard, June Omori and husband Shig, Mary Shimazu and husband Shig, Michiko Ikenoyama and husband Hideo.

Dote, Shinji, 76, San Francisco, March 12; Placeville-born; survived by wife Satoko; brother Shingo and wife Nobuko (Japan); sisters Yaeko Yamada and husband Haruhisa, Grace Dote; 6 nephews, 1 niece.

Fujii, Kushino, 95, Sebastopol, Feb. 1; Hiroshima-born; survived by son Tetsuro Fujii, M.D., and wife Rose; 6 g., 9 g.; predeceased by husband Ryuchi.

Hosaka, Nobushige, 81, Los Angeles, March 12; Hawaii-born, Fukuoka-raised; survived by wife Hanayo; brother Teruo and wife Yuko; stepbrothers Masao and wife Annie, Takashige and wife Jerry, Takaji, Shigeo and wife Judy Nabeta; stepson Yoshiko Hirota and husband Manji; brothers-in-law and sisters-in-law in Japan: Yasutaro and wife Akiko, Yasuji Kashima and wife Misao, Eiko Sasaki and husband Uchihiko, Kazuko Suzuki.

Iwana, Charlie Horumi, 82, Gardena, Feb. 27; Stockton-born, WWII veteran; survived by sister Yoshie Nakayama and brother-in-law Jiro Nakayama (both Japan); niece Hiroko Nakayama.

Iwata, Dr. Richard H., 82, Monterey Park, March 15; Los Angeles-born; survived by wife Victoria Katsuko; sons Luke, Burt and wife Roni, Grant and wife Vicki; daughters Elizabeth Morinaka and husband Glen, Peggy Matsura and husband Ken; 10 g.; sister-in-law Yoneko Iwata.

Kazahaya, Kiichi Robert, 85, South Pasadena, March 15; El Monte-born, Los Angeles resident; survived by wife Masako; son Robert; 6 g., 5 g.

Kyono, William Yutaka, 73, San Francisco, Dec. 17; Hood River, Ore.-born; survived by wife Mary; sons Douglas, Brian; daughter Kelly Anne; brothers Mas and wife Pat, Sus and wife Marcia, Ray and wife Yuki; brother-in-law Joe Ariki.

Maruyama, Jimmy Ikuro, 81, Novato, March 18; survived by sister Michiko Sato (Japan).

Miyazaki, Hiroko, 80, San Gabriel, March 13; survived by husband Masayoshi; daughters Jean Yoshiko Kitamura and husband George, Sheila Keiko Miyazaki; son Dr. William Tsuru and wife Lynn; 3 g.

Mimura, Kiyoshi, 83, Anaheim, March 11; Pasadena-born; survived by wife Masako; son Tadamasu and wife Kiyomi; daughter Akiko Yamaguchi and husband Shiro; 4 g.; brother Hiroshi and wife Kiyoko; sister Masako Okada and husband Yoshiharu, brother-in-law Masao Kawamura and wife Katsuko, and sister-in-law Sumiko Mimura (all Japan).

Miyauchi, Hatsuue (Hotay), 88, Glendale, Ariz., Feb. 12; survived by daughters Linda K. Fjeld, Diane Miyauchi-Eliot; 5 g.; brothers Ben Kumagai and Sam; sisters Eunice Watanabe, Toshiko Takaoka; predeceased by husband Dr. Yukio, brothers Kikuro Kumagai and Dr. Tom Kumagai.

Morita, Tommy, 80, Honolulu, Feb. 10; Hawaii-born; named Big Island Outstanding Bearer of 1941; founder of Nuuuua YMCA Karate Club with branches in Los Angeles, San Francisco,

Washington state, Kansas, Pennsylvania and Canada; survived by wife Mildred; daughter Karen Fujimoto; sons Gerald, Charles (Honolulu).

Nakamura, Joe Minoru, 88, Marysville, March 17; Marysville-born; survived by brother Frank.

Ozeki, Kenji K. (Kenneth), 81, N. Myrtle Beach, S.C., March 10; Hollywood-born former resident of Los Angeles and Chicago, Manzanar internee; survived by wife Joyce; son Ronald and wife Pamela (Birmingham, Ala.); daughters Karen Jorm and husband Joseph (Villa Park, Ill.), Terri Barden and husband Fred (Longs, S.C.); sister Lillian Dobashi (Yorba Linda); 3 g., 2 g.

Sakamoto, Noriko, 69, Palo Alto, March 15; survived by husband Kenji; daughter Linda Yumi Jahnke and husband Steve; 2 g.; sisters Emiko Sadotomi and Fumiko Kitaoka (Japan); brothers-in-law Fred Fusao and wife Chikako, Tom Tsutomu Sakamoto and wife Etsuko.

Sakamoto, Roy, 89, Seattle, March 14; Minidoka internee; organized the King County Little League; survived by his wife; sons Dennis and Kent, daughters Eileen Okada and Sharon Sakamoto (all of Seattle); 15 g., 21 g.; 2 sisters.

Takahashi, Ellen Shiruko, 68, Birmingham, Ala., March 4; Berkeley-born pianist, scientist, artist; survived by husband Clyde W. Oyster, sister Joyce Takahashi; brother-in-law Marshall Litman (Davis); niece Kathryn Dou (San Francisco); nephew Douglas Doi (Canton, Mich.); sisters-in-law Bonnie Miller and husband Richard, Jerrie Berenzt and husband Bill.

Uragami, Yoshiko A., Chicago, survived by husband Thomas; son John and wife Debbie; 2 g.; dear friend Chris Ishii; predeceased by daughter Nancy.

Yamasaki, Shiori, 86, Chicago, March 12; Vallejo, Calif.-born; survived by husband George; son Steven and wife June; 2 g. ■

Whereabouts

Items listed without charge on a space-available basis.

EMIKO YOSHIMOTO
Charlotte (Reynolds) Hamilton is looking for EMIKO. They attended Redondo Union High School in Redondo Beach, Calif. They were in the same graduating class — January 1942. Charlotte heard from EMIKO in a camp in the midwest and the last contact was from a university in Wisconsin. Please call Charlotte at 626/282-7724 or write to 211 6th St., #112, Alhambra, CA 91801.

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- armed forces personnel living somewhere else
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What is this person's name? Print name below.

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First Name: _____ MI: _____

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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.

☐ No, not Spanish/Hispanic/Latino ☐ 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 state of origin 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: _____

☐ State territory — Print race: _____

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Form D-1

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

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.