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July 28-Aug. 3, 2000

L.A. Kings' Jamie Storr Makes His Mark on the Ice

By **LYNDESEY SHINODA**
Written/Reporter

Growing up in Brampton, Ontario, Jamie Storr started playing ice hockey at the tender age of four. Now 24, Storr has been a professional hockey player for six years, and is the current goaltender for the Los Angeles Kings in the National Hockey League.

Born Dec. 28, 1975, in Brampton, Storr grew up with ice hockey on the brain. He knew that when he grew up, he wanted to

brother, Shannon, a full-time teacher in Ottawa, was going to play professional hockey, but opted to teach instead. Storr's only family in California is his wife of three years, Nicole.

When the Kings are in season, Storr and his wife live in Manhattan Beach, Calif., with their three dogs. Storr said that Nicole supports him at every home game, and watches the away games on television with all of the other Kings' wives.

Storr's hockey prowess has taken him all over the globe, from



Jamie Storr makes a save against the Montreal Canadiens' Patrick Poulin from point blank range as Sean O'Donnell defends.

be either a fireman or a pro hockey player.

"Everyone dreams of being in the NHL," said Storr. "Every step I took, I got closer, and I thought, I can do this."

The 6'2" Storr made his way through the ranks in Canadian hockey, eventually playing for Team Canada. His dreams came true when he was drafted into the NHL in the 1994 entry draft as the Kings' first-round choice and the seventh pick overall. Storr was the highest drafted goaltender in club history.

He earned a spot on the NHL all-rookie team in the 1997-98 season. He was also named to the OHL (Ontario Hockey League) all-star first team in 1993-94.

This season, he played in 42 games for the Kings, recording 18 wins. Overall, Storr had a 2.53 goals-against-average and a .908 save percentage.

Storr's father, James, is a Hungarian home renovator. His Japanese mother, Keiko, passed away four years ago. His older

Czechoslovakia to Japan, though he still lists Hawaii as his favorite vacation spot.

Storr talked about his favorite aspects of the game.

"I love the enjoyment that I get out of it and the teammates I play with," said Storr. "To play hockey, you have to be intense, wide-awake, and ready to go. You have to be able to control the motions and sacrifice for the team. I love being able to get out there and feel like I belong. When you win, nothing hurts."

In fact, Storr lists some current and former teammates as his role models. Storr was honored to play with Wayne Gretzky for one and a half seasons before he was traded to the St. Louis Blues.

"Gretzky, Rob Blake, those are my role models, for who they are as people, not just players," he said. "If I could be half the person any of them are, I'd be a very well-rounded person."

Although Storr is Hapa, he said that because he looks more North American, many people don't know about his other half. "In a lot of ways, my Japanese side is who I am. My mother will always be a huge part of my life," Storr explained. "When I was a kid, I was made fun of for it, but

Norman Mineta Confirmed as U.S. Secretary of Commerce, Sworn In

By **Pacific Citizen Staff**

Norman Mineta, who was confirmed unanimously by the Senate as U.S. secretary of commerce on July 20, was ceremoniously sworn in on July 25 by Vice President Al Gore at the Renaissance Hotel in Washington, D.C.

Mineta's appointment makes him the first Asian American to serve in a president's Cabinet.

Mineta's confirmation hearing before the Senate Committee on Commerce, Science and Transportation was held on July 20 before a standing-room-only crowd, and the committee recommended Mineta's confirmation by the full Senate.

Mineta, a former 21-year member of the House, would serve only six months as commerce secretary through the end of President Clinton's term. He succeeds William Daley, who left to run Vice President Al Gore's presidential campaign.

"Six months of opportunity and responsibility will demand greater focus to make a greater difference," Mineta, 68, told the committee at his confirmation hearing.

"We are very pleased with Norman Mineta's confirmation as the secretary of commerce," said JACL National President Floyd Mori. "Not only are we proud of

him as a Japanese American, but also as national leader who has always exemplified the best among those we look to as our nation's leaders."

"As the first Asian American appointed to the president's Cabinet, Mineta serves as a true model of excellence for young Japanese-Americans and to Asian Americans in general," Mori said. "We're grateful to President Clinton for the appointment and for recognizing the significance of Asian Americans in this country."

Mineta, who was the first JA to serve in the U.S. House of Representatives and a former chairman of the House Public Works and Transportation Committee, currently works for the biggest U.S. defense contractor as vice president for Special Business Initiatives at Lockheed Martin in Bethesda, Md.

As a JACL member for over five decades, Mineta has managed to sustain his active support of JA issues and his involvement in the JA community. He is credited with bringing the federal government to file charges of civil

rights violations against the two men responsible for killing Vincent Chin in Detroit in the early 1980s.

He also played a critical role in ensuring House passage of legislation providing redress to JAs who were interned by the U.S. government during World War II. As a child, Mineta himself was interned in Wyoming during the war.

"We are proud of Norman Mineta, who has been one of the most effective and caring leaders among Asian Americans for over two decades," said John Tateishi, JACL national executive director. "His appointment to the Cabinet is an important moment in the history of Asian Americans, for it sends a signal to the public that Asian Americans are in fact an important part of this nation's fabric."

During his term, Mineta said he intends to work on keeping the economy growing, developing new foreign markets for American business, helping develop technology, rebuilding fisheries and keeping the Commerce Department accessible and accountable.

He listed his priorities as "new markets, free and fair trade, research enabling the creation of



See MINETA/page 6

Judge Dismisses Denny's Lawsuit Filed by AA Students

By **Pacific Citizen Staff**

A federal judge dismissed a race discrimination lawsuit brought by seven Asian American and two African American students, who claimed they were thrown out of a Denny's restaurant in Syracuse, N.Y., and then assaulted by a group of white patrons as security guards watched.

Lawyers received notice July 17 that U.S. District Judge Frederick Scullin had dismissed the lawsuit, saying the former students failed to show they were denied seating or security services in the April 11, 1997, incident.

Last November, the U.S. Justice Department rejected the group's appeal to bring federal charges against the restaurant after determining there was no evidence to support their allegations.

"We still feel that there are facts in dispute here and that this case should go to the jury," said Ken Kimmerling, a spokesman for the Asian American Legal Defense & Education Fund (AALDEF), which is representing the seven AA students. "We are probably going to appeal. We have to talk it over with everyone, but that's our inclination."

Meanwhile, Denny's President and CEO James B. Anderson said, "We were confident that when all the facts were presented, Denny's would be vindicated. We have worked very hard to create an inclusive organization that embraces diversity in every aspect of our business."

The group—mostly former Syracuse University students—said they were denied service while other customers were seated ahead of them, and after they complained they were attacked in the restaurant's parking lot by several white patrons as two off-duty deputies looked on.

The lawsuit charged Onondaga County with negligence for not

properly training the security guards.

Local prosecutors initially investigated the case but did not file criminal charges. District Attorney William Fitzpatrick accused the students of being drunk, disorderly and "orchestrating" their claim, knowing the legal history of discrimination claims brought against Denny's.

The prosecutor's report said that according to restaurant employees and witnesses, the group became

rude and rowdy when they could not be immediately seated together in the busy restaurant. The group was asked to leave and then started a fight in the parking lot.

The report also said they left the scene before police arrived and did not seek medical treatment or report the fight until after they had gathered at one of the students' apartments.

The judge cited those portions of

See DENNY'S/page 6

Gov. Davis Signs Bill Allowing Filipino WWII Veterans Returning Home to Receive Benefits

California Gov. Gray Davis on July 20 signed AB 1978 by Assemblyman Gil Cedillo, D-Los Angeles, that will allow Filipino World War II veterans who were in the service of the United States to return to their homeland without forfeiting their state benefit payments.

"This bill does not give these men anything," Davis said. "They have earned it, with their sweat, courage, blood and sacrifice in freedom's cause."

At a signing ceremony near the War Memorial in Sacramento's Capitol Park with Filipino veterans in attendance, Davis, a veteran of the Vietnam War, said, "Our prosperity in peacetime has been built on acts of bravery and courage in wartime. During the dark days of World War II, nearly 100,000 soldiers of the Philippine Commonwealth Army provided a ray of hope in the Pacific. Side by side with U.S. soldiers, these heroic men turned back aggression, defended liberty and preserved democracy. For that, we owe them our undying gratitude."

The new law will allow Filipino veterans to return to the Philippines and continue to receive benefits under the State Supplement-

tary Program (SSP), which provides assistance to low-income blind, aged and disabled individuals. Under current law, veterans would surrender this state benefit if they returned to their native nation. The measure received unanimous legislative approval.

During WWII, former President Franklin D. Roosevelt conscripted Filipino soldiers serving the Commonwealth Army and other military units into the U.S. Army. Presidents Roosevelt and Harry S. Truman spoke of U.S. obligations to Filipino soldiers. However, the 1946 federal "Recession Act" prevented most Filipino veterans from ever receiving full benefits.

In December 1999, President Clinton approved a new federal law designed to address the needs of these aged Filipino veterans, many of whom would like to return to the Philippines for their final years of life. Davis' signing of AB 1978 conforms California law to the new federal policy.

Today, 17,000 Filipino WWII veterans live in the United States. Nearly half of these former soldiers live in California. The average age of Filipino WWII veterans is 70.

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JACL Calendar

Midwest

CINCINNATI

Sun., Aug. 13—Annual Potluck dinner; 1:30 p.m. board meeting; 4 p.m. social hour, silent auction; 5 p.m. potluck dinner; 6 p.m. entertainment; 7 p.m. door prizes; Hyde Park Bethlehem United Methodist Church, Madison Rd. and Hyde Park Ave.

DETROIT

Sun., Aug. 6—Detroit JACL Picnic; Parkland Shelter, Hines Park.

Intermountain

MOUNT OLYMPUS

Sat., Aug. 5—Annual August Outing; 6:00 p.m., Evergreen Park, 2230 E. Evergreen Ave. Info: Jeff Nakashima, 957-1107.

Pacific Northwest

COMMUNITY Calendar

East Coast

PHILADELPHIA

Through Oct. 29—Exhibit: "The Arts of Hon'am, Koetsu, Japanese Renaissance Master"; Philadelphia Museum of Art, Benjamin Franklin Pkwy. at 26th St. Info: 215/684-7860.

WASHINGTON, D.C.

Through Sept. 4—Exhibit, "An American Diary and Memories of Childhood" by Roger Shimomura; National Museum of American History, 12th & Constitution NW. Free. Info: 202/357-2700.

Thurs.-Sat., Nov. 9-11—National Memorial to Patriotism Dedication Ceremony. Pre-registration required: NJAVE, 800/607-8550. (Hotel reservations accepted up to Oct. 15.)

The Northwest

OLYMPIA

Sat., Aug. 19—Olympia Obon; 6-9 p.m., Water St. at the Capitol Lake; for obon dance practice on Aug. 18, call Reiko Calliner, 360/866-7709. Info: Bob Nakamura, <sgmlitehob@buswest.net>.

PORTLAND

Sat., Aug. 5—Obonfest 2000: A Gathering of Joy; 2-9 p.m.; Oregon Buddhist Temple; 3720 SE 34th Ave. and Powell; ethnic foods and gifts, dance, taiko, martial arts, children's activities, raffle, etc. Info: 503/234-9456, 503/254-9536.

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, 503/253-0848; Kurtis Inouye 503/682-3238.

Sun., Aug. 20—Nikkei Community Picnic; noon-5 p.m., Oaks Park. RSVP: Connie Masuoka, 243-3291.

Northern California

2001: Wed.-Thurs., April 4-5—Mitsudoka Reunion; Caesars Palace. Info: Tak (Yokoyama) Todo, 15537 - 32nd Ave. N.E., Seattle, WA 98155 6530; e-mail: kmkawachi@hotmail.com.

APTOS

Sun., Aug. 13—Annual Community Picnic; 11 a.m., Aptos Village Park; races, senior Bingo, BBQ steak, chicken, hot dogs, chili beans, raffle, taiko, karate-do, etc. Info: Marcia Hashimoto, 722-6859.

BAY AREA

Sun., Aug. 6—Nikkei Widowed Group Meeting; new members, both men and women are welcome. For time and place call: M. Kusabe, 415/333-5190, or Kay Yamamoto, 510/444-3911.

SAN JOSE

Sat., Aug. 19—Daruuma 2000 23rd Daruma festival; Saratoga Lanes park.

OLYMPIA

Sat., Aug. 19—Olympia Obon; see Community Calendar.
PORTLAND
Sun., Aug. 20—Nikkei Community Picnic; see Community Calendar.

NC-WN-Pacific

SAN MATEO

Sat., July 29—Community Potluck; see Community Calendar.

WATSONVILLE-SANTA CRUZ

Sun., Aug. 13—Annual Community Picnic; see Community Calendar at Aptos.

WEST VALLEY/Next Generation

Sat., Aug. 19—Daruuma 2000 23rd Daruma festival; see Community Calendar, San Jose.

Central California

DISTRICT COUNCIL

Sat., Aug. 19—CCDC Third Quarter Meeting; Fresno.

FRESNO

Sun., Sept. 17—15th Annual Shinzen

ing lot; 9 a.m.-4 p.m., children's games 10 a.m.-4 p.m.; taiko, koto, food, farmer's market, crafts, dance, entertainment. Free admission. Info: <www.pgbgroup.com/darumafestival>.

SAN MATEO

Sat., July 29—Community Potluck; 5-8 p.m., San Mateo Senior Center, 2645 Alameda de las Pulgas; food, games, prizes, door prizes, songfest, raffles; scholarship winners will be introduced. Info: 650/243-2793.

Central California

FRESNO

Fri.-Sat., Oct. 13-14—Fifth Jerome Reunion; bus available to Los Angeles. Info: Hiro bogawa, 559/222-7083, Shig. Rosie Okajima 559/875-7878.

Southern California

SALABASAS

Sat., Aug. 5—Beginner's Bird Walk; 9:10-10:30 a.m., Soka University, 26800 W. Mulholland Hwy. Info: 818/878-3741.

LOS ANGELES

Sat., July 29—Sun., Aug. 6—Nisei Week JACC Plaza, 244 S. San Pedro St., Little Tokyo; queen's coronation, food booths, arts and crafts, entertainment; street arts fair, taiko gathering, Grand Parade, Car Show, etc. Info, schedules: Nisei Week Office, 213/687-7193.

Sat., July 29-Sun., Aug. 6—Nisei Week Japanese Festival Exhibition, works by community artists: Doizaki Gallery, JACC, 244 S. San Pedro St., Little Tokyo. Free. Info: Nisei Week office, 213/687-7193.

Sun., July 30—Courtney Kids Festival, 11 a.m.-4 p.m.; JANMA, 369 E. First St., Little Tokyo; musical performances, storytelling, hands-on workshops, sports-related activities. Info: 213/625-0414.

Sun., July 30—Origami Workshop, noon-3 p.m., Earl Burns Miller Japanese Garden, Call State Long Beach; open to children and adults; Free. Info: 562-985-8885.

Sun., July 30—Benefit Concert, "Mori Shinichi in Los Angeles"; 8 p.m., Dorothy Chandler Pavilion, 135 N. Grand Ave. Tickets: 213/620-1500, 213/680-3700.

Sun., Aug. 6—Exhibit Opening and Artists' Reception with Stone Ishi-mura, photographer, and Ichiro Uehara, painter; 3-5 p.m., LA Artcore Center, 120 Judge John Aiso St., Little Tokyo; Exhibit runs through Aug. 30. Info: 213/617-3274, fax 617-0303, <www.laartcore.org>.

Sun., Aug. 6—Nisei Week Film Festival: "Snow Falling on Cedars," 11 a.m. & 4 p.m.; "The Flintstones in Viva Rock Vegas," 1:30 p.m.; Japan American Theatre, 244 S. San Pedro St., Little Tokyo. Special group rates available. Info: 213/680-3700.

Sat.-Sun., Aug. 12-13—5th Annual

Run and Walk; 6 a.m. registration, Woodward Park; to benefit the Friendship Garden and Nikkei Service Center. Info: Randy Aoki, 559/278-0415, or Bobbi Hanada, 559/434-1692.

Pacific Southwest

GREATER LA SINGLES

Fri., Aug. 11—Meeting/program, "Asians for Miracle Marrow Matches: Learn How You Can Save a Life"; 8 p.m., Gardena Valley YWCA, 1341 W. Gardena Blvd; speaker Elsie Akita Myers, whose daughter will need bone marrow transplant. Info: Louise Sakamoto, 310/327-3169. ■

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.

L.A. Tofu Festival; Joe's Auto Parks & Second St., Little Tokyo. Info: Little Tokyo Service Center, 213/473-1601, www.tofufest.org.

Sun., Sept. 24—63rd L.A. Roosevelt High School Class of 1937-38 Reunion; Montebello Country Club, 901 Via San Clemente; music by "The Time Machine," mariachi, Aztec dancers, TV coverage; cost \$50; send checks to Dave Brenner, 1700 Bagley, Los Angeles, CA 90035. Reserve early: 310/873-6582.

Mon.-Wed., Sept. 25-27—Manzanar H.S. Reunion; Fremont Hotel, downtown Las Vegas. RSVP by July 31: Sam Ono, 310/327-5568; Ray Onodera, 626/573-5279; Arnold Maeda, 310/398-5157; Kunio Maeda, 562/493-1838; Kazie Nagai, 213/360-2611.

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.

RIVERSIDE COUNTY

Mon., Sept. 11—8th annual Japan America Golf Classic; Yorba Linda Country Club, 19400 E. Mountain View Ave. RSVP by Aug. 25: 213/627-627 ext. 207.

SOUTH BAY

Sat., Aug. 5—Exhibit Opening and Reception: "Travels" (travel photography by Setsuko Owan (Seiko)); 1-4 p.m., Malaga Cove Library Art Gallery, 2400 Via Campesina, Palos Verdes Estates. Info: 310/515-1935.

SAN DIEGO COUNTY

Sat.-Sun., July 29-30—Obon Festival; 12 noon-8 p.m., bon odori at 7:30 p.m.; Vista Buddhist Temple, 150-B Cedar Rd., Hwy 78, off Vista Way between College & Emerald exits; food, produce, plants & flowers, games, taiko, silent auction. Info: 760/941-8800.

Sat., Aug. 5—Obon Odori, A Gathering of Joy; 6:30-8:30 p.m., Buddhist Temple of San Diego, 29 State Market St.; refreshments and clothing for sale at 5:30. Info: 619/239-0896.

Arizona - Nevada

LAS VEGAS

Sat., Aug. 12—Obon Festival; 12 noon-5 p.m., Cimarron-Memorial High School, 2301 N. Tenaya Way; pre-paid bento lunches, sushi, desserts, bon odori, raffle, etc. Info: Dale to, 702/869-0557.

Mon., Aug. 28—Memorial Service at the Poston Relocation Camp by Nichiren Buddhist priests from Japan; 11 a.m. Info: Nichiren Buddhist Temple, 323/262-7886.

TEMPE

Permanent Exhibit—About Arizona during WWII, includes internment camps; Arizona Historical Society, Marley Center Museum, 1300 N. College, Tempe. Info: 480/929-0292. Tour info: Mike Steinberg, ext. 137. ■

JACL CHAPTERS!

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JACL, Together With UnitedAgainstHate.org, Pushes House to Approve Hate Crimes Legislation

Having reaffirmed its commitment to pressing for stronger hate crime prevention legislation at its biennial national convention in early July this year, the JACL, along with the other 175-plus national organizations supporting UnitedAgainstHate.org, urges the House of Representatives to ratify hate crimes legislation passed by the Senate last month.

"Hate crimes are particularly insidious because they deliver a message of intolerance to an entire community. As a country that embraces diversity and believes in justice, we cannot allow bigots to wield such power. We call on Congress to pass the Hate Crimes Prevention Act and deliver the moral response such violence will not be tolerated," said John Tateishi, JACL national executive director.

"While states will continue to handle the prosecution in most hate crime cases, the federal government must have the power to address the instances where local authorities do not have the resources to fully investigate and prosecute hate crimes," said Kristine Minami, JACL's Washington, D.C., representative. This legislation will give federal authorities the ability to assist local law enforcement agencies.

Under current law, the federal government must demonstrate that the victim was selected because of his/her membership in a designated group and because he/she was participating in a federally protected activity. The pro-

posed legislation would eliminate this overly restrictive jurisdictional clause requiring the victim's participation in a federally protected activity. The legislation would also expand the protected groups to include gender, sexual orientation, and disability.

"The JACL commends the Senate for its leadership in passing these important protections against hate-motivated violence," stated Floyd Mori, JACL national president. "We urge the House to follow the Senate's lead and take action on this issue before the end of the 106th Congress."

The JACL's statement was issued at the press conference announcing the launch of UnitedAgainstHate.org, where families rallied with advocates to launch a Web-based campaign aimed at securing House passage of the Hate Crimes Prevention Act (HR 1082).

The Web site, www.UnitedAgainstHate.org, will help mobilize support for the Senate-passed bipartisan legislation and is the first time a comprehensive Internet advocacy effort has been initiated by the civil rights community to promote passage of specific legislation. The site is a project of the Leadership Conference on Civil Rights, the oldest, largest and most diverse coalition of organizations committed to the protection of civil and human rights in the United States. ■



By the Board

By Ryan Chin
National V.P. Public Affairs

No Excuses

One of the first things I am working on as the vice president of public affairs is developing clearer communication channels within the JACL. In order for us to become one of the most powerful civil rights groups, we must be able to mobilize as quickly as possible. The ability to mobilize membership is clearly contingent on how effectively and efficiently we communicate.

I believe we owe it to membership to keep them informed of what is going on within the JACL. Members need to know that their dollars are being well spent and that the JACL is truly representative of their interests.

In order to develop the most effective and efficient communication channels, I am working on developing an e-mail and fax list of people who would like to receive JACL news and action alerts. It is important to me that we develop a communications infrastructure that will last long after my years of service on the national board. I firmly believe that taking the effort to do this properly now will pay dividends in the future.

I have heard the concern from some members that whenever the

national board turns over, some "recreating of the wheel" occurs. Building solid communication channels will ensure that there is one less thing that must be recreated with new board members.

The majority of people will probably elect to receive this information via e-mail, since this generally is quicker than faxing and also accessible from almost anywhere. However, I am aware of the fact that many of our members do not have access to e-mail, therefore I have also started a fax list.

If you would like to be on either the e-mail or fax list, please do not hesitate to let me know. The greater the number of people on these lists, the more powerful JACL becomes. Please do not ask to be on both the fax and e-mail lists, as they will contain the same information.

To subscribe to the e-mail list, drop me an e-mail at ryan.chin@excite.com with "JACL e-mail list" as the subject. No need to write anything in the body of the e-mail or even mention your name. I will leverage our current resources by adding to Washington, D.C., Representative Kristine Minami's current e-mail list.

If you do not have access to e-

mail and would like to be a recipient of JACL news via fax, please send a note to the address below telling me what your fax number is. It will be much easier for me to keep track of fax numbers this way (with a paper trail), as opposed to calling me. Once again, I do not need an extensive note, all I need is the fax number you would like to receive the JACL news at.

There is no excuse for members not being aware of issues, news and legislation in a timely manner. JACL members deserve to know about things that affect them in the community and in the nation.

However, communication is a "two-way street." Members must not only be the recipients of news, they must also be the initiators of news.

I would like to hear about issues, news and legislation that are important to you. I cannot promise that I will always agree with your stance on an issue. However, I can promise I will always listen to your position. ■

Members can contact Ryan Chin, v.p. of public affairs, at 10337 Midvale Ave. North, #203, Seattle, WA 98133, 206/527-5564, vppa@jacl.org.

Asian Pacific Americans to Take Part in GOP National Convention

By Pacific Citizen Contributors and Associated Press

The growing influence of Asian Pacific Americans in the political arena will be evident during the Republican National Convention (RNC) in Philadelphia (July 31 to Aug. 3).

Elaine Chao will be one of the most visible APAs at the convention, after the Bush campaign announced on July 19 that Chao, former head of the United Way of America and the Peace Corps, will be a featured speaker. Chao, who is married to Sen. Mitch McConnell, R-Ky, immigrated from Taiwan at age eight and earned her M.B.A. from Harvard. She served as deputy secretary of the Department of Transportation under President Bush and is currently a distinguished fellow at The Heritage Foundation, a Washington-based conservative think tank.

She also chairs the Kentucky Victory 2000 program, a state Republican effort to get out the GOP vote. She is scheduled to speak July 31, the first night of the convention, along with Bush's wife, Laura, and Gen. Colin Powell.

Meanwhile, among the APA delegates selected to attend the convention will be Kinji Yamasaki from Fremont, Calif.; Yamasaki, an executive with Internet company PhatPipe, Inc., also serves on the board of the Japanese American Chamber of Commerce in Silicon Valley.

"Through his community involvement over the years, he is most qualified to address the concerns of Japanese Americans to the Republican party," said Gary Hayakawa, president of the Japanese American Republican (JAR) club. To date, the club has raised more than \$40,000 for Bush's campaign.

Roger Minami from Santa Maria,

Calif., who sits on the committee organizing the RNC/Victory 2000 Convention Gala, expects the event to raise more than \$5 million to go towards Bush's campaign.

Prior to the convention, the National Republican Asian Assembly (NRAA) held a National Asian American Republican Convention in Philadelphia. Speakers included Pennsylvania Gov. Tom Ridge and U.S. Sen. Rick Santorum, R-Pa. The NRAA was established to provide input to the RNC's platform committee and to unite APA Republicans to elect the GOP presidential nominee.

"As president of the United States, George W. Bush's spirit of inclusiveness will not only serve to benefit Japanese Americans, but all Americans," said Hayakawa.

For information on JAR or Bush's campaign, contact Hayakawa at threestart@aol.com. ■

Community Gym Group Seeks Contested Site in Little Tokyo

In the heart of downtown Los Angeles' Little Tokyo, proponents of a community gymnasium were forced to resume efforts to secure a site after the city recently decided to give a coveted area of land to the Children's Museum.

Plans for a gym to help revitalize the Japanese American enclave and sustain youth participation in activities such as basketball and martial arts have been in the works since the 1970s, but were continually set back by location disputes and other city developments.

Led by community leader Bill Watanabe, executive director of the Little Tokyo Service Center, gym organizers appealed to the Central Avenue Art Park Steering Committee during a meeting at the Japanese American National Museum on July 17.

The Little Tokyo Community Gymnasium Group is seeking a site on the southeast corner of Temple and Judge John Aiso streets, next to the Union Center for the Arts. Currently, the space is occupied by a parking structure.

After having sought and failed to acquire several different Little Tokyo sites, raising about \$1 million and getting grassroots support, Watanabe said this site is their only remaining alternative.

Five years ago, the group proposed building the gym along the northeast corner of Temple and Alameda streets, adjacent to the Museum of Contemporary Art's Geffen Contemporary and in close proximity to JANM.

While Councilwoman Rita Walters, who represents Little Tokyo, said she supported the idea of a community gym at the time, she did not want it at that location because the city planned to use it for green park space.

But in a move that has bewildered and frustrated gym organizers, Walters recently approved the Children's Museum to be built on that site, saying it was an appropriate fit with the other museums and restaurants in the area.

She also maintains her vision of a green area on that block, which she wants to redevelop at the same corner the gym is now seeking. In-

stead of the gym, Walters wants the garage to be converted into a subterranean parking lot with grass and trees planted on ground level.

She said the open space would allow a nice ambience for businesses and shoppers.

Meanwhile, gym supporters urged the executive directors of JANM and MOCA to recommend their proposal to help change Walters' mind, but remain skeptical as to whether they will get support from the two institutions which have considerable political clout and their own plans for development. ■

Senate Approves \$4 million for Manzanar Historic Site

The Manzanar National Historical Site in Inyo County will receive \$4.179 million to construct an interpretive center and headquarters. Sen. Barbara Boxer announced on July 18. Boxer voted in favor of the bill, which passed the Senate on a roll-call vote of 97-2.

"Today's Senate action is a major step toward building an appropriate and permanent historical reminder of what happened at Manzanar," Boxer said. "By remembering the injustices of the past, we work to ensure they are never repeated."

Funding for the project was included in the Fiscal Year 2001 De-

partment of Interior Appropriations Act. Boxer requested funds for this project from the Senate Appropriations Committee in March. She also helped obtain funding for Manzanar in previous years and has long advocated building an appropriate memorial at the site.

The interpretive center will feature exhibits and other historical information about Manzanar, one of 10 relocation camps used during World War II to intern tens of thousands of Americans of Japanese ancestry. Manzanar was designated a historic site in 1992 and was acquired by the National Park Service in 1997. ■

Blue Shield health plans for California JACL members

Blue Shield of California offers group health care coverage to current JACL members age 18 and over who reside in California. Plans may include a wide range of benefits, including vision care, worldwide emergency coverage, dental care, prescription drug benefits and more. For more information about these plans, call the JACL Health Benefits Trust today at 1-800-400-6633.

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Chicago JACL Hosts Teacher Training Workshop

By JODY KOIZUMI

The Chicago chapter of JACL sponsored an all-day teacher training workshop recently at Northwestern Illinois University. Twenty-six teachers from the Chicago area attended the workshop titled "A Lesson in American History: The Japanese American Experience."

The workshop was led by Sharon Ishii-Jordan and Greg Marutani, both members of the JACL national education committee. They began the session by distinguishing between the study of Asian Americans and the study of Asian history and culture.

Ishii-Jordan provided demographic, cultural and educational rationales for studying the internment, and emphasized the need to integrate the Japanese American experience into the curriculum, rather than to segregate it into a unit that does not connect with other events in history. Marutani provided a rich historical background of AAs coupled with critical commentary on examples of discriminatory policy and legislation.

Several former internees provided a firsthand account of their concentration camp experiences. Mol-



The Chicago JACL's teacher panel of personal experiences included (l-r): Sam Ozaki, Yoji Ozaki and Mollie Ozaki.

lie Ozaki told about the emotional impact of the internment on her teenage years. She described the Santa Anita Assembly Center and the Gila River camp in Arizona and its effect on her family and her education.

Sam Ozaki, a retired Chicago public school principal, related his experiences in Jerome, and the way in which his father was taken by the FBI. He also spoke about his service in the 442nd Central Postal Directory in Manzanar, Calif., and the resettlement movement in Chicago.

adding a local perspective to the workshop.

A unique feature of this teacher workshop was that the participants were given the opportunity to examine some of the materials in the Northeastern Illinois University archive, the location of the 1981 redress commission hearing in Chicago.

The teacher workshop was the second held in Chicago in the last three years. The organizing committee members were Bill Yoshino, Sam Ozaki, Jody Koizumi and Kevin Kosobayashi. ■

Fremont JACL Hosts Graduation/Scholarship Luncheon

Fremont JACL held its graduation/scholarship luncheon recently at Sushi Yoshi's Restaurant in Newark. This annual event honors high school graduates from public high schools in Fremont, Newark and Union City, and included graduates from Moreau Catholic High School in Hayward.

Five scholarship recipients honored this year were:

Austin Ozawa, son of Mr. and Mrs. Irving and Marilyn Ozawa, received the Masutaro Kitani Scholarship; Kevin Futagaki, son of Mr. and Mrs. Sam and Darlene Futagaki, received the Private First Class Joseph H. Kato Scholarship; Richard Iijima, son of Mr. and Mrs. Mike and Betty Iijima, received the Frank Kasama Scholarship; Emi Yokomizu, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Hideki and Keiko Yokomizu, received the Union Bank of California



Fremont JACL scholarship winners (l-r): Christine Catabay, Emi Yokomizu, Austin Ozawa, Richard Iijima, Kevin Futagaki.

Scholarship; and Christine Catabay, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Peter and Linda Catabay, received the Tom Katsuyama Jr. Scholarship. The luncheon was organized by Gail Tomita (director, scholarships) and chaired by Ted Inouye.

Guest speaker for the luncheon was Marshall Hattori (Gail's son), former graduate of Mission San Jose High School and 1983 Fremont JACL Scholarship recipient. Hattori is owner of Kozo Productions, producer of surfing videos. ■

East Wind



East Wind

By Bill Marutani

The Last Hurrah: Part II

PREVIOUSLY under the title "The Last Hurrah," I addressed the matter of the controversy surrounding the Nikkei Memorial being erected in Washington, D.C. The focus was upon the "Japanese American Creed," authored by Mike M. Masaka in 1940, some contending that neither the creed nor Mike's name should appear on the memorial. This question is closed: an abbreviated version of the creed, along with Mike's name, is to appear on the granite walls of the memorial. That column ended expressing the intent "to discuss Mike's expression of what he conceived to be the message of the memorial."

But; first, a bit of background.

IN WASHINGTON, D.C., there was established a nucleus of workers with a proven record of performance who met with Mike on a regular basis, planning strategy and taking on assignments. At that stage, in addition to the ambitious goal of a Nikkei memorial, the issuance of a commemorative postage stamp, marking the unique contributions of Nisei service-people during World War II, was also under study. This hand-picked group included folks such as Toro Hirose, Joe Ichijima, Key Kobayashi, Ben Ohta, Kaz Oishi, and Orville Shiroe. Orville, a local officer with the 442nd Regiment, had been involved in writing the military history of the 100th Battalion/442nd Regiment. Meetings were held at the Masaka res-

idence in Chevy Chase, Md. During such meetings, I recall on two occasions Mike articulating his depiction of the proposed memorial: namely, a Nisei soldier, having completed his furlough visit preparatory to being shipped overseas, waving last farewells to his mother through the barbed-wire fence separating them.

This word-imagery has remained embedded in my mind.

SOME CRITICS CHARGE Mike and his cohorts with assuming leadership of the Nikkei resident community and "collaborating" with the governmental authorities in effecting the "evacuation" in 1942 of some 120,000 Nikkei. As for the "leadership" issue, the Nikkei communities had been swiftly and summarily decapitated of their established leaders: prominent businessmen, heads of prefectural associations, teachers, men-of-the-cloth — Christians as well as Buddhists. This was not the time to be ensnared in the niceties of arranging for a plebiscite of a headless constituency frozen in shock. There was an immediate urgency to have someone who might speak with the non-friendly entities arrayed against them. What is it that today's critics say that the Nikkei should have done under the circumstances confronting us? Should the Nisei leadership have been organizing a protest of overt physical resistance? Civil disobedience? "Non-violent" resistance? And what about the aged, the infirm, the children in our commu-

ties? (Don't look now, but truckloads of soldiers with bayonets affixed have arrived. And around the corner there await armed personnel carriers equipped with machine guns. Behind them Army tanks.) Now, what do we do?

MIKE'S TRACK RECORD familiar to me includes: getting Congress to enact the 1948 Evacuation Claims Act; in 1952 removing the citizenship barrier for our Issei parents under the Walter-McCarran immigration act (thereby knocking the underpinnings of the anti-alien land laws extant in the various states); promoting, organizing and participating in the August 1963 "March on Washington" in which JACL members marched; in 1966 having JACL's national legal counsel participate in civil rights matters in the Deep South including a trial (in Belzoni, Miss.) defending a local African American, active in voter registration, who had been charged with grand larceny; in 1967 arranging to have JACL participate as *amicus curiae* before the landmark case of *Loving v. Virginia* which held that anti-miscegenation laws were unconstitutional; in the early 1980s an adviser-consultant leading to the establishment of the Commission on Wartime Relocation and Internment of Civilians, after which the Civil Liberties Act of 1988 followed. Then, in his last illness, he doggedly kept the hope alive for the Nikkei memorial in our nation's capital.

As he characterized it, "Our Last Hurrah." ■

Ueyehara and Yasuhara Honored with Ruby Pins

Gracye K. Ueyehara and Denny Yasuhara were recognized with the Ruby Pin, JACL's highest honor, at the 36th biennial national convention in Monterey.

Ueyehara, a resident of Medford, NJ, was nominated by the Philadelphia chapter, a chapter which she helped to found. A member since 1946, she has served JACL in many ways as chapter president, membership chair, national vice president, JACL Legacy Fund campaign chair and as initiator of the annual giving program. She has also been active in the Eastern District Council, serving as governor and events chair for the 1998 national convention in Philadelphia. During the 1990s, Ueyehara took an early retirement from her job with the Lower Merion School District to work as

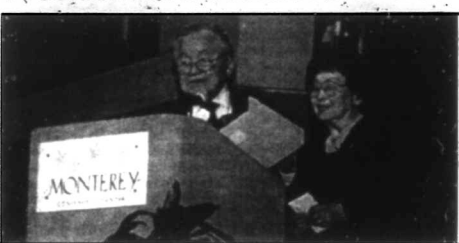


executive director and lobbyist for JACL's legislative education committee.

Yasuhara, a resident of Spokane, Wash., was nominated by the Spokane chapter. As a JACL member for the past 40 years, Yasuhara has served JACL in numerous positions, from chapter president, board member, a three-term district governor and national president from 1994-1996. During his tenure as national president, Yasuhara was instrumental in bringing the organization back on solid financial footing. On a local level, Yasuhara is known as "Mr. JACL" in his hometown, and has spearheaded various projects such as establishing a home for the elderly and fighting for Asian American studies at the state university. ■



Presidential Awardees Honored



Several longtime JACL supporters were recognized with a presidential award during the JACL national convention's Sayonara Banquet. Among the honorees were Pete Hironaka, *Pacific Citizen* cartoonist; Hany Honda, P.C. editor emeritus (above); and P.C. columnists Bill Hosokawa and Bill Marutani.

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From the Midwest



By William Yoshino
MDC Regional Director

The Face of Hate

It's been a little over a year since Benjamin Smith went on a hate-filled shooting spree in Illinois and Indiana which claimed the lives of Won Joon Yoon and Ricky Byrdson and wounded nine others.

Smith claimed membership in the World Church of the Creator (WCOTC), a Peoria, Illinois-based hate group with an avowed mission to make the United States an all-white nation. The WCOTC leader is Matt Hale, a 28-year-old law school graduate who was denied a law license by the Illinois State Bar last year. The U.S. Supreme Court rejected his appeal earlier this month.

Last week, Hale appeared as an unexpected witness at a Chicago hearing of the Illinois Commission on Discrimination and Hate Crimes, a panel on which I'm privileged to serve. It was interesting literally to see the face of hatred.

Hale claimed that the commission was unduly imposing its will on the people of the state and "brainwashing" the youth. He said that he was speaking the truth for white people. He characterized himself as a lone voice speaking for many who are silent. In Hale's view, Jews are responsible for subverting the world's economic and political systems and he believes blacks and other "mud races" should be deported.

Even though it's difficult to listen to the views of Hale, it pointedly reminds us that we need to redouble our efforts to respond in kind by condemning his prejudice and bigotry to our children, our neighbors and our colleagues. In the exchange of ideas and values, it's important to put Hale's brand of hate-filled

ideas outside the bounds of acceptability.

Since early April, a serial rapist has been targeting Asian women in Chicago and its northern suburbs. There have been nine known attacks and two attempts that have been reported to the police, the most recent being a Japanese woman in Arlington Heights, Ill. The Asian Pacific American community in Chicago has been very active in urging the aggressive investigation by law enforcement and in educating the community about safety prevention measures.

In mid-May, the Illinois Asian American Hate Crimes Network contacted the police departments in all the suburbs where the rapist had struck, asking that they heighten patrols and distribute safety prevention materials in various Asian languages.

Since the most recent attacks in late May, the Hate Crimes Network has organized press conferences and done numerous media interviews; distributed thousands of information flyers in nine languages to Asian organizations and churches; convened a meeting of police from multiple jurisdictions and met with individual police departments and prosecutors from Cook County; and staged crime prevention workshops in the community.

The offender remains at large, and unless he has left the area, there is every reason to believe that he will strike again. The latest victim was able to provide police with a description of the assailant's car and a partial license plate number. Hopefully, this new information will lead to an arrest to end this prolonged nightmare. ■

From the PSWD



By Beth Au
PSW Regional Director

A Chilling Revelation

In the Internet age, racial stereotypes are not confined to print or broadcast media. A company called Icebox, Inc. provides a good example. For some time, they have been running an animation series with an Asian male, Mr. Wong, as its main character. In fact, the series is titled "Mr. Wong" and according to Icebox, Inc., it is "the touching and heartwarming story of a girl and her eighty-five year old Chinese houseboy. Love and loss abound." Mr. Wong just happens to be a stereotypical Asian with buckteeth, slanted eyes, exaggerated accent, slight stature and submissive personality.

At the time that this was brought to my attention, I was reluctant to even look at www.icebox.com, but in the best interest of fair reporting I brought myself to review it. You know something is wrong when a warning is posted: "The following may contain some or all of the below: Racially inflammatory material, graphic violence, live sex acts with animals, ..." The warning goes on like this for several more sentences.

To make things even worse, there is a picture of Mr. Wong holding up recipe cards for some "clever" recipe like "Mr. Wong's No Bake Boozie Pie." The recipe can be reviewed while the animation series is "rroadring," rather than "loading." How much more blatant could racism be than this? The recipe is no standard fare; they have snippets of "tricks of the trade," capitalizing on Mr. Wong's Chinese style of cooking. It really is abhorrent to say the least. Once the program has completed "rroadring," the episode begins. There have been several episodes and they usually are two-part series with titles like "Urine Trouble," "Yellow Fever" and "Meet the Creep." The theme song, although not totally discernible, even says "He (Mr. Wong) came with the estate. Is it love or is it hate, Mr. Wong?"

As George Ong, president of Organization of Chinese Americans (OCA), has said, "This reference to Mr. Wong as being less of a man and actually a piece of property is troubling and disturbing."

It conjures up the days of old when Asians were indentured servants, as in the most recent case in Dover, England, where 58 Chinese immigrants perished on their way to "planned" positions of work.

Such a Web site only perpetuates and enhances bad feelings towards others for little reason other than the color of one's skin. Racial stereotypes encourage hate crimes and racial profiling. As we continue to combat hate crimes against Asian Americans as well as racial profiling in America, this is yet one more call we should heed, as so many of you did by signing the petition on behalf of Wen Ho Lee. We need to give this company a cold blast by sending in letters of protest — obviously, Mr. Wong is "rotting" in their icebox.

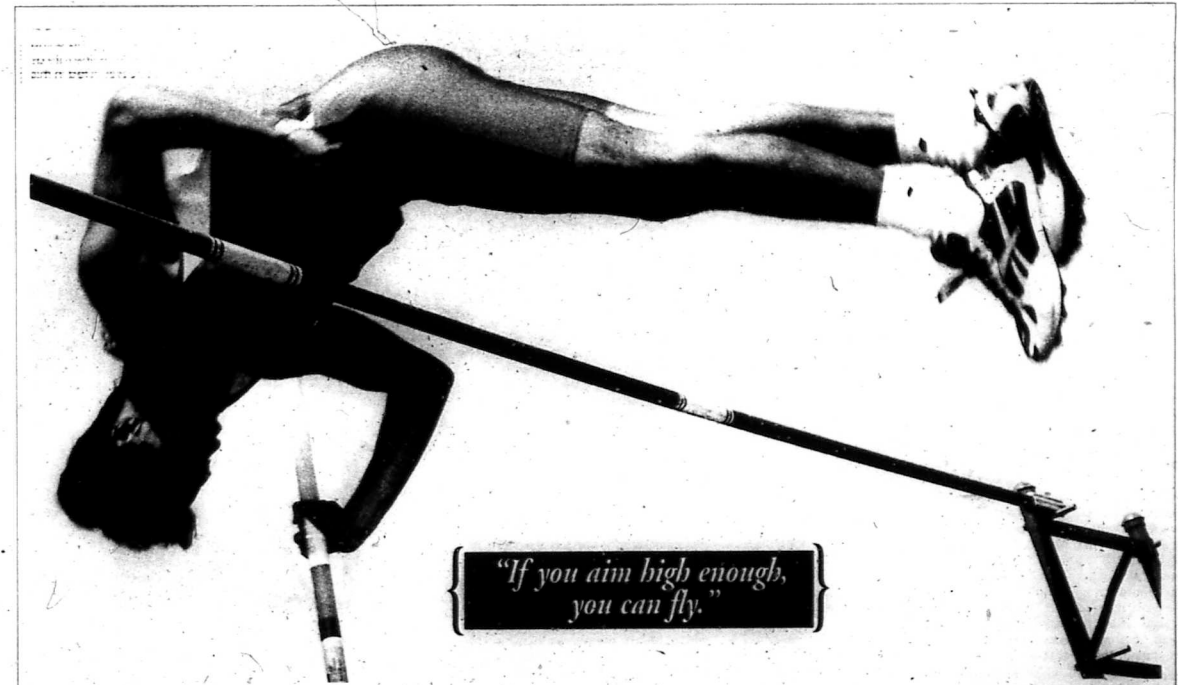
I urge you to write letters protesting the blatant racism and insensitivity to the following: Steve Stanford, CEO and co-founder, Icebox, Inc.; Jonathan Collier, co-founder and co-president of production, Icebox, Inc.; Howard Gordon, co-founder and co-president of production, Icebox, Inc.; Rob LaZebnik, co-founder and co-president of production, Icebox, Inc.; Gary Levine, President, Icebox, Inc.; Pam Brady, creator, Mr. Wong; Kyle McCulloch, creator, Mr. Wong.

Send all correspondence to: Icebox, Inc., 3453 S. La Cienega Blvd., Los Angeles, CA 90016.

I highly encourage participation from the local chapters, especially individual members. It is important for us to band together as one voice and lodge our protests by writing today. If you are interested in a sample letter I would be happy to send you a copy I sent Icebox, Inc. if you call the Pacific Southwest District Office at 213/626-4471.

Otherwise, your letter should certainly include references to the following: the blatant use of racism by the stereotypical characterization of Mr. Wong's buckteeth, slanted eyes, exaggerated accent, slight stature, and submissive personality, which is offensive to people of Asian ancestry. It should demand the immediate removal of the series from the Web site and explain the need for cultural sensitivity.

Let's leave Icebox, Inc. out in the cold! Your letter does count, and now is the perfect opportunity to make a difference. ■



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A Bridge Across the Pacific

By Emily Moto Murase

Asian Pacific American Women and Leadership

"Sisters, let us gather at the river." With these words from poet Puanani Burgess, so began the day-long intensive leadership workshop organized by the Asian Pacific American Women's Leadership Institute (APAWLI) held in San Francisco on July 15.

As an early supporter of the institute, I was especially gratified to see the 100-plus Asian Pacific American women from all walks of life gather to participate in the workshop.

It was in 1994 that I was a member of a similar group of women, later to be known as the Founding Sisters, who met in Washington, D.C., to lay the foundation for a new, groundbreaking organization designed to help APA women effect institutional change in their communities. Lillian Kimura was also a Founding Sister and now serves on the APAWLI board of trustees.

The brainchild of founding president Martha Lee who is currently chief executive officer, APAWLI sponsors three unique programs. The APAWLI Fellows Program identifies up to 20 outstanding community leaders to undergo a year-long leadership training curriculum. As part of the program, the fellows participate in three

week-long retreats in different parts of the country where they are guided through intense leadership training exercises.

A key component of the program is the requirement that, once the training is concluded, each fellow commits to designing and implementing a leadership impact project that will change the lives of at least 25 people in their home communities. This year's class of fellows includes JACLI's own Patty Wada, regional director of the Northern California-Western Nevada-Pacific region.

The second program that APAWLI sponsors is the "Hear Our Voices" national summit of APA women leaders held annually. The summit features inspiring speakers from the Asian Pacific American community, various skills-building workshops, and tremendous networking opportunities. The next summit will be held in Seattle, Washington, April 6-8, 2001.

The third program involves leadership training workshops. The one on July 15 in San Francisco was the fourth of five workshops held nationally — last year in Houston, Denver, and New York, with another one scheduled for October 13, 2000, in Los Angeles.

These workshops are designed to spread leadership training into the grassroots of key communities. Offering keynote remarks in San Francisco was renowned author Helen Zia who recently published "Asian American Dreams: The Emergence of An American People." She discussed the disjunction between the tremendous growth in the population and diversity of APAs but the static view that many other Americans had of us.

Citing her own experiences working to seek justice for the racially-motivated murder of Vincent Chin, Zia emphasized the importance of our "breaking through the shadows to become visible." She stated that opportunities to speak up are all around us. Indeed, without the efforts of community activists like Zia who raised her voice in the fight for our civil rights, hate crimes legislation would not have been enacted.

Following the keynote remarks, participants attended one of five different workshops. A key theme was to identify our own strengths and power to influence others. Dr. Jean Kim, a noted organizational development and diversity consultant based in Denver, convened the workshop entitled "Owning Your Own Power From Inside Out" in which participants were

guided through self-reflection exercises to identify inner strengths.

The workshop "Your Personal Economic Power" participants explored their financial resources. The facilitators were Linda C.Y. Pei, co-founder of the Women's Equity Mutual Fund and fund board member Dorothy Chung Yung. The innovative fund, started in 1993, invests in companies dedicated to promoting the status of women.

Multicultural trainer Elizabeth Miu-Lan Young of the New York-based Inter-Change Consultants facilitated the workshop entitled "Fending Off Culture Clash" in which participants learned how to navigate a challenging work place while preserving cultural identity and integrity.

The workshop I attended was called "Claiming Your Passion." Facilitator Juliet Arboleda Bezeley, principal of the San Diego-based Training and Development Resources, shared with us the story of how she rose from a single mother forced to take a job as a cook at a restaurant to make ends meet to becoming a highly-sought training consultant for

such organizations as Texaco and the U.S. Navy. Her unwavering passion to succeed in her work was the key to her remarkable career.

The day concluded with a session in which participants shared their experiences with those who attended different workshops. The day's activities were exhausting, but it was clear that all of us had undergone a transformation since we had arrived at the conference site that morning.

By "gathering at the river," my sisters and I nourished our spirits and gained renewed energy to tackle the many challenges we face.

For further information about any of the above programs, see the APAWLI website at www.apawli.org or contact Martha Lee at 303/399-8899 or e-mail at apawli@apawli.org.

In addition to APAWLI, Murase gained important leadership skills through the JACL Leadership Programs in Washington, D.C., and Sacramento. She welcomes your comments at emurase@stanford.edu.

Gov. Locke May be on Short List for Gore's Running Mate

By ASSOCIATED PRESS

OLYMPIA—Party operatives have named Washington Gov. Gary Locke, an Asian American, as a potential running mate in Vice President Al Gore's presidential campaign.

He is one of five Democratic governors on the short list. The others are Gray Davis of California, Jeanne Shaheen of New Hampshire, James B. Hunt Jr. of North Carolina and Tom Vilsack of Iowa.

Although political analysts say Locke will not likely be picked or even accept the position if he was

picked, the fact that his name is being mentioned boosts his stocks back home as he continues to focus on re-election as governor.

Locke became the nation's first Chinese American governor and Washington's first minority chief executive when he was elected in 1997.

Ken Hoover, a political scientist at Western Washington University, said, "It's prestigious. Locke has demonstrated leadership in the Pacific Northwest and represents the arrival of Asian Americans at a major level in domestic politics."



Stranger Than Fiction

By Christina Shigemura

Headlines from the Edge

I'm not sure if it's a consequence of the rapid pace of life here in L.A., or if I'm just losing it, but lately I've been seeing headlines in my mind. Every time I close my eyes, words flash in front of me, sort of like those light-up billboards on the freeway which warn, "Construction on 5N," or "10E closed."

••Blink••

CHUPACABRA STRIKES LAUSD, ROBBS CHILDREN

That's how it all started, when I returned home after a long Fourth of July weekend and picked up my mail. My union, United Teachers of Los Angeles (UTLA) sent a notice to inform me that the superintendent and about 100 other high-level bureaucrats in the L.A. Unified School District (LAUSD) had awarded themselves 30 percent raises of up to \$50,000 apiece as of July 1.

So I was reading about this egregious waste and thinking about how my students never get to take field trips because there is no money for them. Then I started thinking about the water stains on the ceiling at my school and how we can't afford enough janitors to have the floors mopped more than twice a year. Then I started thinking about how many computers and art supplies and text books we could buy with that money and my hands started tingling like I wanted to go and slap that superintendent silly for stealing from children. Except that two wrongs don't make a right, and it's wrong to hit people, and what kind of example would that be for my students? So I took a deep breath, closed my eyes, and counted to ten...

LAUSD BUREAUCRATS PAT SELVES ON BACK IN WAKE OF BELMONT SCANDAL

So here's the funny thing. The district bigwigs keep threatening teachers with so-called "merit pay," but they gave themselves huge raises despite their failure to provide adequate leadership. Several years ago, LAUSD's fearless leaders decided to build a state-of-the-art high school which would help alleviate some of the overcrowding at the old Belmont High School.

After LAUSD leaders had sunk millions of dollars into construction of the new Belmont High School, the public became aware of the fact that the construction was taking place on a toxic waste site and that it would be too expensive to clean up the land to make it usable. Long story short, the project was scrapped and the district has no plans to build a new high school despite the fact that kids are packed in like sardines at many middle and high schools. In fact, overcrowding and a lack of adequate classrooms prompted the American Civil Liberties Union to file a lawsuit against the district earlier this year.

UPSIDE-DOWN PRIORITIES PUNISH STUDENTS

Ever hear that expression, "You get what you pay for?" I have only been teaching for three years, and already I have seen many good teachers leave the profession because they were mentally and physically exhausted from trying to teach in a substandard working environment. Many people who might have been excellent teachers will never enter the profession because the wages are simply not competitive with other professions.

The classroom teacher has more impact on student learning than any administrator or bureaucrat, yet LAUSD is only offering a 3 percent raise to teachers this year. Ironically, Gov. Davis awarded an extra \$1.8 billion to California's

school districts with the intention of raising teachers' salaries. LAUSD's \$225 million share of this money is enough for a 10 percent salary increase for all teachers and health and human services personnel (such as nurses, counselors, etc.).

Unfortunately, district bureaucrats seem more interested in giving themselves 30 percent raises than in improving pay and working conditions for teachers. LAUSD teachers' contract expired on July 1, and with each passing day it seems more and more likely that we will be on strike in the fall. I have already written to LAUSD's school board members (who ultimately have the power to approve or deny any budget decisions) to express my disapproval of these upside-down priorities, and I hope that you will too.

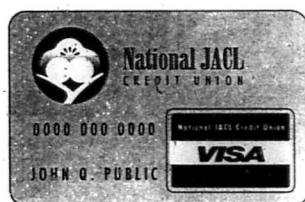
LAUSD is the second-largest school district in the nation, so even if you don't live in L.A. county, it would be a mistake to think that these decisions will not affect you. If the bureaucrats in LAUSD can give themselves 30 percent raises while ignoring the needs of the children whom they are supposed to serve, what's to stop the bureaucrats in your district from doing the same?

You can fax letters to LAUSD school board members Victoria Castro, Valerie Fields, Genethia Hayes, Julie Korenstein, Mike Lansing, David Tokofsky and Caprice Young at 213/626-2815 or 213/485-0220. For more information about the district's upside-down priorities, call UTLA at 800/556-8852.

As for me, I'm just hoping that the next headline I see is, "LEARNING AND WORKING CONDITIONS IMPROVE FOR STUDENTS, TEACHERS."

Christina Shigemura is a Hapa Yonsei and a member of UTLA.

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Letters to the Editor

Re: Apology to Resisters

Resolution #3, which was passed at the recent JACL national convention, calls for an official apology from JACL for not supporting the draft resisters of Heart Mountain and a public function honoring the resisters.

Our stand was, and still is, that no apology is called for and that there should be no JACL public function to honor the resisters.

The stand of the resisters is that because their constitutional rights were violated, they had the right to refuse to be drafted for military service. There is no question that the resisters had the right to refuse to be drafted and that their constitutional rights were violated. But we all had our constitutional rights violated. These rights were violated from the time the Issei came to our shores, not only for alien Issei, but also for Japanese American citizens.

There was no question that all Nikkei, aliens and citizens alike, were going to be evacuated and interned. This had already been determined when Roosevelt issued E.O. 9066 on February 19, 1942.

The resisters had ample opportunity to protest the violation of their constitutional rights but they did not choose to do so until they were faced with the draft. In stark contrast, JAs, fully aware that their constitutional rights had been violated, nevertheless chose to enter the U.S. military service. Their war record has never been equaled in U.S. military history with more than 18,000 medals and awards and our present place in American society is largely due to them.

We also criticize the manner that the hearing on the resolution was handled. As important as this item was on the agenda and as long as the lineup for those testifying for and against the resolution, time was cut short and a vote called for.

We believe that the large number who voted for the resolution were the younger generation. They were in diapers in 1942, or not yet born. They had not experienced the prejudice and the discrimination faced by the Issei and the Nisei, prior to 1940. They did not face the reality of the times in 1942. For many of them, the issue was very simple: JACL is a civil rights organization. The resisters were upholding their civil rights. Therefore, JACL should support them. Remember, the NAACP and ACLU are two of the largest civil rights organizations in our country and even their own members do not always agree with the policies followed in their programs.

In addition, Assemblyman Mike Honda was selected as one of the JA of the Biennium awardees. We question this choice. Honda is noted for pushing through the California State Assembly and the California Senate, a resolution condemning Japan for its military atrocities in WWII. We do not condone the actions of Japan, but we believe that this was beyond the purview of the two houses of the California legislature.

We feel that Honda should have followed up with condemnations of China for the massacre of political activists in Tiananmen Square and the expulsion of Tibetans from their homes and monasteries. Even more so, it should have been followed by the condemnation of our United States for the massacre of My Lai, the atomic bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki and the carpet bombings of large civilian areas of Dresden and Tokyo.

J.Y. Hirasuna
Fresno, Calif.

tions removed from those who actually experienced the demeaning, humiliating experience of the evacuation and internment.

The subject of an apology to the resisters opened up old wounds and drew a lot of fresh raw blood. Now it NEVER will heal.

If you wish to do something worthwhile, nurse a sick cow back to health. You will have at least contributed something to the world.

In Bill Hosokawa's article dated July 14-16, 2000, six different presidents of the United States have admitted wrongdoing, made gratuity amendments, and have apologized. What else is needed?

I am one of the very few charter members left of the Farther JACL chapter in the Central California District, circa 1932. We are getting tired of this picaresque, nit-picking agenda. With the words of war veterans, "It's time to leave and get on with life."

The saddest part of this whole barnacle is that the resisters did not ask for an apology. The JACL did.

Harry Nakata
Kingsburg, Calif.

Re: NJAMF Monument

This is to inform you that the 442nd Veterans Club of Honolulu has taken a position for the removal of all personal quotations and names except those by President Harry Truman and President Ronald Reagan from the subject monument.

It is the considered feeling of the 442nd that the monument should not have quotations by individuals who do not have the full support of the AJA community and/or the AJA veterans of WWII. After all, it is a monument for all the AJAs in perpetuity, not just for the current majority of NJAMF's board of directors. Any inscription that is a cause of current tensions and contentions, and a seed that will perpetuate them should be removed.

In taking our position on Mr. Mike Masaoka, it was with the full knowledge of the many good things he has done but tempered also by the illuminating research contributions of people like Professor Ritu Takahashi and Mr. William Hohri of which we were previously unaware. Mr. Masaoka's removal would fall in the same category as the rejection of President Franklin D. Roosevelt's quotation on "Americanism as being a matter of heart and not race" because he is the one who signed Executive Order 9066.

The 28 officers and directors of the 442nd board of directors voted 27 to 1 for the removals as stated above at its last meeting on July 5.

We recommend in the strongest terms that corrective steps for removals be initiated immediately.

S. Don Shimazu
President,
442nd Veterans Club

The overwhelming response to the Vietnam Memorial in our nation's capital shows how we can transcend the bitter controversy of the Vietnam period to honor the 58,000 who went, fought, and gave their lives for our country.

The Japanese American memorial can also be a source of gratitude and inspiration to all Americans.

Let the decision stand as is.

Kathy Reyes
San Francisco

We Must Remember

Good grief. Doesn't Mr. Hosokawa (P.C. July 14-20) realize we've been "getting on with life" since the end of World War II while "bitching about the injustice of the evacuation."

As a journalist and historian he should know that to live in the pre-

sent and into the future, one must remember the past. Furthermore it is an imperative for a racial minority. Who else will remember? I would doubt that it will be the citizen majority, government, or even the Supreme Court. Can it happen again? Don't bet against it.

A possible answer is in Supreme Court Chief Justice Rehnquist's 1998 book "All the Law But One," in which he examines the suspensions of certain civil liberties during wartime and particularly the Civil War and WWII Japanese American war cases.

It is his conclusion (pp. 244) that is chilling and appalling: "It is neither desirable nor is it remotely likely that civil liberties will occupy as favored a position in wartime as it does in peacetime." Yes, it can happen again if you don't remember and act.

Eji Suyama, M.D.
Meade, S.D.

Re: Vote Count

Can't throw a brick without also sending bouquets.

I really enjoyed reading the P.C. issue on convention activities (July 7-13). Having had to count the ballots, some of us were not able to attend the council session dealing with the resolutions. Your reportage was excellent in helping us to get a sense of the floor debate. Thanks!

One small correction on the voting — there was a possibility of 110 votes to be cast for officers (102 chapters/proxies and eight youth reps). To win, it was required that a candidate have 50 percent plus one, or 56 votes. In reading that there were 103 votes, one may wonder why a run-off was necessary. The outcome was dependent not on the number of votes cast but on the number of the total votes there were. Hope this clarifies the count.

Lillian Kimura
Chair, 2000 Nominating Committee

A Message From the Credit Union

We have a list of members who have balances on their share accounts. We do not have an address in order to contact them to see what they want to do with their shares. The reason for the urgency is that these monies could be escheated after a number of months. I was wondering if we could use the P.C. to try and contact the missing people. The following is the list:

Robert E. Ross, Michael Fuchigami, Donna Ikeda, Catherine Nakamura, George J. Minami, Mari Honjo, and Ellen Kawata.

Not a substantial amount involved, however it is more than a cup of coffee.

S. John Kikuchi
Nat'l JACL Credit Union

Pacific Citizen

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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 writer.

* "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.

OBITUARY

Togo, Former President of Toyota, Passes at 75

Yukiyasu "Yuki" Togo, former president and chairman of Southern California-based Toyota Motor Sales U.S.A., passed away on July 22 in Yokohama, Japan, following a brief undisclosed illness, the company announced on July 24. He was 75.

Togo had retired from Toyota in 1993 but continued to serve the company as an advisor. Under his guidance, new vehicle car and truck sales reached the million mark, and he is also credited with introducing the successful luxury Lexus division.

Togo began his association with Toyota during the late 1950s as a rally driver of a Toyota Crown. In 1961, he joined Toyota Motor Sales Co. Ltd. in Japan, and held a number of sales positions until he was given his first overseas assignment in 1971 as

president of the Toyota Thailand Co.

In 1976, Togo joined Toyota Canada Inc., eventually becoming president of operations in 1980. From 1983 to 1992, Togo served as president and chief executive officer of Toyota Motor Sales, U.S.A.

In addition to expanding Toyota's operations, Togo was sensitive to corporate responsibility in the community and under his leadership, the company made significant contributions to organizations in Southern California. One of the largest donations was a \$1 million grant in 1990 which was shared by the Little Company of Mary Hospital, Torrance Memorial Medical Center, the Torrance YMCA, the Volunteer Center and the Cultural Arts Center in Torrance, Calif. ■

Obituaries

All the towns are in California except as noted.

Endo, Chieko Joan, 86, La Habra, July 9; Vancouver, Canada-born; survived by sons Howard and wife Sandy, Kenny and wife Chizuko; daughters Doris, Aileen Connell and husband Richard, Sharon Uyeda and husband Jim; 7 gc.; sister Kazuko Kobayashi and husband Tomoyoshi (Japan).

Furukawa, Shigenobu, 86, Huntington Beach, July 8; survived by wife Mary; sons Roger Tadanori, Neil; daughters Roslyn Furukawa-Salt, Sharon Kumiko; sisters Yoshiko Tominaga, Hiroko Tamura.

Hayashi, Tom Katsumi, 80, Gardena, July 7; World War, Wyoborn; survived by wife Miyuki; son Toshio and wife Catherine; daughter Nancy Masumi Terasaki and husband Stan; 6 gc.; brother Nobuo and wife Yoshiko (Japan); sister Michiko Wada (Japan).

Iwata, Dorothy Teruya, 78, Pasadena, July 15; Colo.-born; survived by husband Frank Tshiro; daughter Cindee Hande; 1 gc.; brothers Morio Takemoto, Ugi Takemoto and wife Ruby, Noboru Takemoto and wife Kazuko; sister Betty Kawano.

This compilation appears on a space-available basis at no cost. Printed obituaries from your 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 reworded as needed.

Kame, Dr. Rodger Toshio, 61, Los Angeles, July 11; survived by wife Kazumi "Kazie" Kame; sons Bradford T., Dr. Gregory Y. and wife Dr. Anna, Russell Y.; brothers Robert S., Don E., Ralph M.; sister Michiko Furuta and husband Peter.

Kasai, Florence Emiko, 71, Rancho Palos Verdes, July 12; Los Angeles-born; survived by husband George; son Bob and wife Kelly; daughter Janice; 2 gc.; brother Roger Kozuma and wife Doris (Norwalk); sisters Kathleen Hira and husband Richard, Lillian Kozuma (both of Maryland).

Kagiya, Elsie Noriko, 71, Los Angeles, July 7; Honolulu, Hawaii-born; survived by husband Mineo; son Eric and wife Wendy; 2 gc.; brother Edward Ishida and wife Fujiko (Hawaii).

Miyakawa, Wayne Wataru, 49, Los Angeles, July 6; survived by parents Walter Wataru and Yumiko Miyakawa; brothers Howard and wife Karen, Dale and wife Lorraine; sister Patty Shimizu and husband Craig.

Mori, Hiroyuki, 36, Reseda, July 13; Tokyo-born; survived by parents Yukio and Kumiko Mori; sister Keiko Murakami and husband Dr. Mitsuru; aunt Akiko Kato.

Muramatsu, George Risuko, 94, Inglewood, July 13; Nagano-

born; survived by wife Doris Yoshiye; sons Gilbert Nobuo, Richard Isamu and wife Bonnie, David Yoshio and wife Amy; 1 gc.

Nakada, Morimatsu, 76, Torrance, July 8; Hawaii-born; survived by wife Grace; sons Steven and wife Valerie, Kenneth and wife Nanette; daughters Sandra Nakada and husband Peter (Clovis), Eileen; 3 gc.; mother Kamada Nakata; brother James Nakata and wife Ellie; sisters Doris Higa, Elsie Nakata, Hideo Nakata Peshkin and husband Nate, Shinae Nakata.

Nakamura, Gwen Natsuye, Los Angeles, July 8 service; survived by husband Isami; sons Robert, Michael and wife Khrys; brother Tom Fujimoto; sisters Marian Fujimoto, Sumiyo Katano.

Sagawa, Raymond Nobuhiro, 85, Gardena, July 9; Wyoborn; survived by wife Emiko Amy; son Norman and wife Nancy; daughter Teri St. Jacques; 2 gc.; sisters Matsumi Nagamura, Michi Tanaka and husband Henry (Hawaii), Shizue Kato (Japan).

Shikada, Michiko "Joyce," 74, July 11; Ariz.-born; survived by husband Tamio William; daughters Joann Gapol and husband Jerry (Hawaii), Reiko "Eileen"; 3 gc.; 1 gc.; brother Ken Kuroiwa and wife Pat (Ariz.); sisters Masuko Hirose, Sumi Sagawa and husband Sam, Masako Sagawa and husband Atsushi.

Togashi, Naoye, 81, Clovis, May 31; Modesto-born; Amache interned; F Co. 442RIC volunteer; survived by wife Marian; sisters Kumiko Suzuki, Kiyome and husband James Shiizu, Dr. Sakiko and husband Milton Ladinsky; brothers Hachiro John and wife Yoshiko, Takashi.

Umade, Ray Kikumi, 81, Los Angeles, July 13; Fowler-born; WWII veteran; survived by companion Kay Kawata; son Dennis James; daughters Janice Hurtado and husband Michael, Lauren Wright and husband Mark; 3 gc.; brother Sam and wife Frances (Honolulu); sister Eujeanne Kawasaki (Fresno). ■

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JACL was not directly involved in the decision of the resisters, the decision of the "no-no" boys, nor in the decision of those who chose to serve in the armed services. The nucleus of individuals that activated, nurtured, aggravated, and snowballed the apology to the resisters are one or two genera-

Diablo Valley Awards Scholarships

The Diablo Valley JACL chapter held their annual scholarship luncheon on June 25 at Tony Roma's restaurant in Danville. Guest speaker Shoshana Arai, last year's Dr. Yoshiye Terasaki Scholarship recipient, spoke on her research of early mortality patterns of Southeast Asians. The following scholarship recipients were recognized:

Aileen Chang, recipient of the George S. Fujioka Memorial Scholarship, has completed associate degrees in liberal studies, mathematics and chemistry, earning a 3.91 GPA at Contra Costa College. She plans to major in physics at UC Berkeley and pursue post-graduate studies in either engineering or astrophysics.

Nicholas Chan, winner of the Diablo Valley JACL Chapter Scholarship, graduated from Miramonte High School in Orinda, excelling in academics as well as sports and the fine arts. He has received awards in poetry, speech, language and literature, as well as high honors in chemistry. Chan has been active in Boy Scouts and in his church choir. Chan will be attending Stanford University.

The Diablo Valley JACL established the Dr. Yoshiye Terasaki Scholarship Endowment Fund in 1993 to honor Dr. Terasaki's life and accomplishments as an advocate for civil rights and for improving the public health and welfare of all people. It is awarded to a resident of Alameda or Contra Costa county who is planning a career in health services and has demonstrated involvement in community services.

The \$1,000 Terasaki scholarship for 2000 was awarded to Laurie Lee Warren, a graduate cum laude of Samuel Merritt College, a registered nurse and member of Sigma Theta Au, the nursing honor society. She has worked with the emotionally disturbed and also cared for postnatal mothers and infants.



(From left): Chapter Scholarship Awardee Nicholas Chan and Dr. Yoshiye Terasaki Scholarship recipient Laurie Lee Warren.

As a volunteer, she has provided birth control education and HIV and AIDS counseling.

Warren's goal is to earn a master's degree in nursing at the University of California,

San Francisco, towards certification as a nurse practitioner in midwifery, obstetrics and gynecology; she desires to work with underserved women and their families. ■

MINETA

(Continued from page 1)

advanced American products and services, e-commerce, a policy of digital inclusion for people left out of the technology boom, and the best scientific data.

"My whole being is about dealing with the issues of the underserved and underprotected," Mineta said. Bringing technology to low-income, inner-city and rural areas "is where I think the public and the private sectors can really shine," he said.

OCA national president George Ong further voiced the AA community's approval of Mineta's appointment, saying, "The Organization of Chinese

Americans commends President Clinton for nominating Secretary Mineta, who brings to the position superb qualifications and a record of public service that [is] stellar.

"The Asian Pacific American community is elated with the president's fine selection of a member of our community who represents the best of the best," Ong said. "President Clinton's Cabinet has become even more reflective of America."

Sen. John McCain, R-Ariz., chairman of the Senate Commerce Committee, has been credited with moving Mineta's nomination so swiftly through the Senate. ■

The Associated Press contributed to this story.

DENNY'S

(Continued from page 1)

the prosecutor's report in making his decision, but AALDEF executive director Margaret Fung said there are different versions of what happened and a jury needs to hear that.

"If there are facts in dispute, it's not for this judge to decide," Fung said. "There were lots of inconsistencies in the decision."

For example, she said, the judge claimed the plaintiffs made no statements to the employees at the time they felt they were being discriminated against. But the students have maintained they complained to the restaurant manager, which is why they got kicked out.

"We've informed the seven students to find out if they want to appeal," said Fung, who men-

tioned not all have made a decision yet. "We think there are good grounds for appeal... and that [the decision] will get reversed."

Denny's Inc. said it was not responsible for the incident at the Syracuse restaurant because it was franchised to an independent company, NDI Foods Inc.

Syracuse-based NDI Foods also denied any discrimination occurred. It has since entered bankruptcy proceedings and turned its seven upstate New York Denny's franchises back over to Denny's parent company, Advantica Restaurant Group in Spartanburg, S.C., which has nearly 1,800 company and franchise restaurants worldwide.

The Associated Press contributed to this story. ■

STORR

(Continued from page 1)

showing people your heritage is very important."

Storr shows his Japanese side very prominently on his goateading mask. In lettering he got from his uncle, "Storr" is painted in kanji on the bottom of his helmet. On the top it has Japanese dragons, and the back has a Japanese flag with his mother's initials.

He said that this has prompted Asian fans to make signs for him and attend Kings games. "Realistically, I'm a nobody," said Storr. "If I can bring out any fans, it's great."

The Kings travel to 30 cities in the United States, but Storr maintains that his favorite arena is the Kings home ice, the

Staples Center. But he says that a good team should be able to win anywhere.

This summer, Storr is at home with his wife in Brampton. He said that he enjoys being back in Canada for the summers, where he can spend time with his family and friends. In his spare time he also enjoys golfing. He'll go back to Los Angeles for training in mid-August.

As he enters his seventh season with the Kings, Storr hopes to continue playing hockey, and have a long and healthy career. He also remarked that winning a Stanley Cup is at the top of his wish list.

"I'll play hockey till my legs fall off," said Storr. Hopefully he can win a Stanley Cup before that happens. ■

29th Annual Nisei Week
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Snow Falling on Cedars
First loves lasts forever. Contrasting seasons and cultures heighten the drama of two childhood sweethearts (Ethel Hawke and Yuki Kudo). Following her internment, the Japanese American woman faces trials of justice and love. PG-13.
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The 29th Annual Nisei Week
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家紋と苗字展
* 東京町田市芳文館より、苗字家紋鑑に必要なる書籍類がJ.A.家紋文庫に寄贈されました。Our J.A. Kamon library has received a generous donation of books & publications invaluable to the research of Myoji (= Japanese surnames) & their histories from Houbunkan Publishers in Machida-city, Tokyo.
* 芳文館コーナーを設け、岸芳男社長の俳句で綴った自分史と、自作の詩に曲をつけたテープ等も展示。These resources will be on display at our exhibit's special "Houbunkan Corner," and will also feature original poetry by Houbunkan's president, Mr. Yoshio Kishi, including a 17-syllable Haiku conveying his personal history & tapes of his poems which have been set to music.
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BEST OF HOKKAIDO plus TOHOKU (12 days) SEPT 23
TENNESSEE / BRANSON / KENTUCKY (Snoo Tachis Show, 9 days) SEPT 30
EAST COAST & FALL FOLIAGE (11 days) OCT 1
JAPAN AUTUMN ADVENTURE (12 days) OCT 12
TREASURES OF VIETNAM (13 days) NOV 4
2001 ESCORTED TANAKA TOURS
ENCHANTING ITALY (12 days) MAR 30
JAPAN SPRING ADVENTURE (w/ Takayama Festival, 12 days) APR 10
SPECTACULAR SCANDINAVIA (12 days) SEPT 6
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