Gov. Davis Seeks Support of APA Community, Possible Swing Vote

By MARTHA NAKAGAWA
Assistant Editor

As Democratic incumbent Gov. Gray Davis' lead over Republican candidate Bill Simon Jr. narrowed in the California race for governor, Asian Pacific Americans in the Davis administration have begun drumming up support among APAs, a community which may included a Who's Who of California APA officials, starting with the highest-ranking APA appointee, Lon Hatamiya, secretary of the California Technology, Trade & Commerce Agency and the first APA to hold a cabinet-level position in California state history.

Joining Hatamiya was Nelson Chan, Hatamiya's deputy secre-

photo by MARTHA NAKAGAWA

PLAY BY THE RULES
From l-r: Nelson Chan, Davis Committee member, Timothy Daynot, Dennis Hayashi, Lon Hatamiya, Joseph Ahn and Mona Pasquil.

play a swing vote in the November election.

The latest Field poll showed that Davis' overall 14-point lead in April shrank to 7 points in July, but Davis still leads in the support among APAs (41 percent for Davis, 28 percent for Simon, 31 percent undecided/other); Latinos (54 percent for Davis, 16 percent for Simon, and 30 percent unde-

confirmed/almost); and African Americans (76 percent for Davis, less than 1/2 of one percent for Simon, and 24 percent unde-

cided/other).

Simon has a slight lead among white non-Hispanics (37 percent for Davis, 40 percent for Simon, 23 percent undecided/other).

To retain Davis' lead until the November election, the Governor Gray Davis Committee recently held a round-table discussion with the APA media. Participants
tary of the Technology, Trade & Commerce Agency; Dennis Hayashi, director of the Department of Fair Employment & Housing; Darryl Young, director of the Department of Conservation; Timothy Daynot, director of the Department of Community Services & Development; Margaret Kim, general counsel for the Resources Agency; Joseph Ahn, deputy director of the Los Angeles Regional Office's Division of Economic Development; and Mona Pasquil, political director of the Governor Gray Davis Committee.

Topics of discussion ranged from Davis' record on APA appointments to his support of anti-discrimination measures.

When questioned if California's increasing trade with Asia amid a weak U.S. economy is fueling Asia-bashing in such forms as scapegoating APA scientists.

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JACL Joins Groups Calling for Ouster of Conservative Civil Rights Commissioner

By Pacific Citizen Staff and Associated Press

DETROIT—The JACL joined various Arab American and civil rights groups calling for the ouster of a conservative member of the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights af

her. He made comments the groups say suggest tolerance for the the internment of Arab Americans in the country's fight against ter-

rorism.

At a monthly commission meeting on July 19, recently appointed commission member Peter Kirsanow responded to concerns from Arab Americans about recent civil rights violations by saying, "not too many people will be cry-

ing in their beer if there are more detentions, more steps, more pro-

filers.

He added, "There will be a groundswell of public opinion to banish civil rights. So the best thing we can do is to preserve them by keeping the country safe."

Kirsanow also said during the session that he could foresee a sce-

nario in which the public would demand internment camps for Arab Americans if Arab terrorists strike again in this country.

In various letters to the White House, the groups called for the imminent removal of Kirsanow from the commission.

It is indeed troubling when a member of the Commission on Civil Rights opens an avenue of discussion for mass detentions in a manner reminiscent of the World War II incarceration of Japanese Americans," said JACL Executive Director John Tateshiki in a letter to President Bush. "Our community has a clear recollection of the weeks following Pearl Harbor when initial calls for tolerance gave way to suggestions for mass internment which were followed by an insistence that all Japanese Americans be confined in concentra-

tion camps. It is a precarious slope made slippery by prejudice, intolerance and fear."

Tateshiki continued, "As an organization representing a group of Americans who were denied our rights because of our race and forced into American concentra-

tion camps, the Japanese American Citizens League strongly objects to Mr. Kirsanow's com-

ments and find them highly offen-

dive and irresponsible. We know from our own experience sixty years ago that it is in times like these when we are as a nation live with the sense that our security and safety are threatened, that the Constitution and our resolve to maintain the ideals of democracy are severely tested. This nation failed that test in 1942; we cannot repeat that failure today."

In a joint letter to the White House, the Leadership Conference on Civil Rights and the American-Arab Anti-Discrimination Committee wrote: "While we should take strong and appropriate steps to keep our country safe, it should not come at the expense of fundamental civil rights and civil liber-

ties. Mr. Kirsanow's favorable talk of mass internment and the sus-
pension of civil rights is shocking, irresponsible, outrageous, and should be unacceptable for a rep-

resentative of the United States Government."

In response to the criticism over his comments, Kirsanow later told the Detroit Free Press that he person-

ally doesn't support the idea of internment camps and the govern-

ment would never envision them. He said he was merely saying public opinion would so strongly favor the idea that it would be dif-

ficult to prevent. There would be a "groundswell of opinion" for the detainment, he said.

A White House spokesman told the newspaper that he could not respond specifically to Kirsanow's comments without seeing a full transcript of them, but said that the possibility of Arab internment camps has never been discussed at the White House.

Kirsanow, who was appointed to the commission last year by President George W. Bush, is the former head of the conservative Center for New Black Leadership.

Media Coalition Gains TV Networks Low Grades for Ethnic Diversity

By TRACY UBA
Writer/Reporter

Asian Americans and other ethnic minorities will once again be largely absent from the small screen come fall when TV net-

works unveil their new show line-

ups, according to a watchdog media coalition.

The coalition, which includes the Asian Pacific American Media Coalition, American Indians in Film and Television, National Latino Media Coalition and the National Association, for the Advancement of Colored People, criticized several major TV net-

works July 17 for failing to increase diversity in programming and is now asking advertisers and corporate sponsors to withdraw support.

It also issued its third annual "report card" grading the four major networks — ABC, NBC, CBS and Fox — on improvement in diversity.

CBS drew the lowest overall grades with a D-. NBC followed with a D+, while ABC had a C- and Fox earned a C.

"When you talk to the networks, they might talk in terms of the per-

centages and say, "well, we had a 200 percent improvement." But 200 percent improvement might mean taking from one to two. We're really talking numbers that small. That's why the grades are so low," said Karen Narasaki, chair of the APA Media Coalition and executive director of the National Asian Pacific American Legal Consortium in Washington, D.C.

Individually, the groups issued their own sets of grades, which were then compiled together. The ratings took into account the presence of prime-time actors (regular and recurring), prime-time writers and producers, prime-time directors, entertainment executives, procurement and network commit-

tment to diversity initiatives.

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Karen Narasaki presents the media coalition's third annual report card on diversity along with Sonny Skyhawk (left) and Esteban Torres.

PHOTO: TRACY UBA

"We don't have a 200 percent improvement." But 200 percent improvement might mean taking from one to two. We're really talking numbers that small. That's why the grades are so low," said Karen Narasaki, chair of the APA Media Coalition and executive director of the National Asian Pacific American Legal Consortium in Washington, D.C.
API Groups Oppose California Initiative to Ban Racial and Ethnic Data

In a setback for the campaign to eliminate the collection of racial and ethnic data across the state, the so-called “Racial Privacy Initiative” failed to qualify for the November 2002 elections and instead will most likely appear on the March 2004 ballot. The initiative seeks to amend the California Constitution to ban the collection and use of racial and ethnic data by state and local governmental or including such entities as school districts and health departments.

Asian and Pacific Islanders’ groups across the state decried the initiative as a threat to the health and civil rights of all California residents, with especially serious repercussions for API communities.

“Stepping the collection of race and ethnicity-specific information makes no sense,” said Ignatia Bau, deputy director of Policy and Programs at the Asian & Pacific Islander American Health Forum. “The type of data that this initiative seeks to eliminate has helped us identify critical health disparities such as the fact that Korean Americans are more likely to be uninsured than any other group in the state, or that Vietnamese American women have the highest cervical cancer incidence rates of all women. In the absence of such data, we are ill equipped to understand and solve health issues that affect our diverse communities.”

Members of the civil rights community have also raised concerns about the manner in which the loss of ethnic and race specific data will hinder efforts to track hate crimes, contest racial profiling, and enforce civil rights laws pertaining to such issues as employment discrimination and educational inequality.

“Almost a result of hate violence, 13 APIs have been killed across the nation over the last three years, and in just the first week following the attacks of September 11th, the media reported 81 bias-related incidents against South Asians alone,” said Stewart Kwoh, executive director of the Asian Pacific American Legal Center. “This initiative would prevent the state attorney general and public agencies from gathering and reporting on hate crimes trends, thus limiting their ability to track hate crime trends and to provide resources to stop them.”

With the temporary reprieve that the initiative’s delay gives APIs, many API groups throughout the state have committed themselves to combating the initiative up through March 2004, with future plans to organize additional groups to oppose the initiative.

API groups that have already opposed the initiative include: PAPIHR (People of Asian Pacific Islander Heritage), a coalition of community organizations; Asian Pacific Islanders for Social Justice; API Health Benefits Trust of America; API Fund; API en Acción; API Voices; APIVARS (Asian Pacific Islanders Virginia Resources); APIA (Asian Pacific Islander American Health Forum); API-CA (Asian Pacific Islander Coalition of California); APIVOC (Asian Pacific Islander Vote).
WOODLAND, Calif.—A trial date was set for a University of California student who was charged with sending a plot of 20 million protein gel for use in ‘sports enhancement’.

Bin Han, 40, a naturalized U.S. citizen, will be tried on one manslaughter and one count of attempted murder, Aug. 13 in Yolo County Superior Court. He originally faced charges of felony embezzlement, theft of trade secrets, and promoting drug use. Prosecutors dropped the second charge.

A judge released Han on $200,000 bail to a bondsman after he ruled that the value of the gel, being crucial to research, is worth $600,000.

Last year marked the first time the Attorney General’s office pursued separate cases, but neither defendant will face the state’s enhanced penalty.

Charles Punnam, with Justice Works at the University of New Hampshire, says the state may have set the bar too high. He says lawmakers may have to ask if a person being charged with a felony is motivated rather than “substantial” motivated.

Last week, the impending trial of Richard Labbe, who faced a hate crime charge in the death of a bisexual man in December 2018, is set for a trial.

John Koskinen, the new president of the University of California, has been named a prosecutor since he was certified in 2017.

Florida Hires Files Nomination Papers for Governor.


She bowed out of the race for the Democratic nomination in November to run for mayor of Honolulu after Mayor Jeremy Harris said he would be running mid-term to run for governor.

But Harris made a surprise announcement in August that he wouldn’t run for governor.

Hirono, who has served two terms as lieutenant governor after 14 years in the state House, will face businessman and former state Sen. D.D. "Andy" Anderson and state Rep. Ed Case in the Democratic primary.

Hirono said in contrast to Gov. Ben Cayetano, her running mate in the last two general elections, her leadership approach was more collaborative. "It’s not a style of leadership that says: my way or the highway," she said, "It is a collaborative approach."

There has been a continuing support for tourism and diversifying the state’s economy through development in biotechnology, ocean sciences, astronomy and health and wellness, she said.

In education, Hirono said she would be a top priority for the next administration, Hirono said, noting that the Senate has a key policy group on teacher quality that includes representation from the unions, Department of Education and the University of Hawaii.

The leading candidates for lieutenant governor, state Sen. Matt Matsunaga and Board of Education member and former Sen. Donna Baa, also filed nomination papers earlier this week.

Census: New Jersey Major Destination for Immigrants

TRENTON, N.J.—According to the 2020 Census, New Jersey and Hawaii have the highest percentage of foreign-born residents, 17.5 percent, trailing only California and New York.

Census experts say immigrants are drawn to New Jersey because of its proximity to prime real estate along the Atlantic coast.

In 2000, about 43 percent of the state’s 1,476,237 foreign-born residents were Latin American, while nearly 28 percent were Asian.

James Hughes of Rutgers University notes the influx is also due to immigration law reforms enacted in the 1960s, which made it easier for Latin Americans and Europeans to enter the United States.

While most immigrants live in northern and central New Jersey, revenue from residential real estate in Atlantic City and Ventnor — have the largest percentage of foreign-born residents.

About 35 percent of the housing market in Atlantic City, and many of them work in the gaming industry.

Ford, SBA to Join Assistance Minority-Owned Dealers

CLERMONT, Fla.—Ford Motor Co. and the Small Business Administration are combining their efforts to help minority-owned dealerships access to more capital and other resources, they announced July 24.

Although the federal agency has worked with them in the past, three automakers to assist minority contractors, said the SBA Administrator. SBA Administrator Hector Barreto said.

The program, expected to be in place nationally by the fall, will provide dealers with technical and business-development assistance. Currently, about 5,100 dealerships are owned by minorities.

In addition, Ford and the National Association for Minority Automotive Dealers are joining forces to focus on the growing number of minority-owned dealerships.

Admission of Non-Hawaiian Student Sparks Outrage

HONOLULU—The admission of a non-Hawaiian student to a high school for an otherwise all-Hawaiian private school has sparked an angry debate in a state which prides itself on multiculturalism.

The action by Kamakeha School for Girls, a private school on the island of Oahu that is seeking to expand its student body, has caused a local political firestorm.

On Monday, a number of students who might be eligible for admission were angry that the school appears to have admitted one student more than one more than the last, which was the first day of school.

While 42 percent identified themselves as Asian, 24 percent white, 9 percent Native Hawaiian or other Pacific Islander and 1 percent black.

The admission has prompted criticism that Kamakeha was "diversifying" its student body by not offering the spot to a student who may have been close to the admission of another student.

School officials say the admission will not be rescinded, but Hamilton McCubbin, Kamakeha’s chief executive officer, has apologized to the Hawaiian community and said the board new realizes its admissions policy, crafted in 1992, should be revised.
Topaz Monument Dedication, 60th Anniversary Event for Aug. 10

A monument dedication at the Topaz War Relocation Authority camp site will take place in conjunction with a 60th anniversary commemoration program on Aug. 10. The monument will be dedicated at the same site where an earlier monument, placed in 1976 by JACL groups from Salt Lake City, was vandalized beyond repair by gunfire last October.

Floyd Mori, national JACL president and JACL Topaz Monument Committee chair, said he would like to send out a big thank you to everyone who responded to the request for donations to help fund the new monument.

The new monument was designed by Ted Nagata and set into place with the assistance of Harry Saeki. The JACL Topaz Monument Committee was comprised of Mori, Nagata, Suekawa, Stuart Shimizu, Derek Omori, Carolyn Valentine, Kevin Aoyagi, Jane Sakasita and Yoko Nagata.

Monument dedication and a reception will be held at the Topaz Museum with help from local civic clubs. All events are free and open to the public.

For more information, contact Mori at 801-577-2287 or Jane Beckwith at 435-864-2098.

Go For Broke Hosts Workshop With Teacher Who Inspired 20,000 Tassel Tapestry

The Go For Broke Educational Foundation is hosting a free teacher-training workshop on Aug. 9 from 9 a.m. to 12 noon in the Central Hall of the Japanese American National Museum. Special guest speakers at the workshop will be teacher Leiya Megurotani who inspired her eighth-grade students to create the giant "20,000 Tassel Tapestry" quilt. Two of the quilt project students will be with her.

The purpose of the workshop is to help other educators understand how Megurotani was able to get her students' opinions on Japan history by making slant eyes and saying "We nuked 'em!"

A year later, those same students were putting the finishing touches on the giant quilt that honored the memory of the JA World War II veterans and internment camp survivors.

The quilt, which hangs 19 feet tall and 41 feet wide, consists of 12 sections telling stories and representing the years and events during WWII. The quilt is personalized by actual artifacts donated by veterans, such as clothing, photos and medals.

Five hundred eighth-graders from Sunnyside and Tecumseh Middle Schools in Indiana volunteered their after-school time, weekends and summers to complete it. The attention to detail and use of symbolism testify to the enthusiasm with which the quilt was constructed.

The quilt debuted in Washington, D.C. at the Japanese American National Memorial's dedication June 29, 2001. It has since been displayed in its home-town of Lafayette and in Honolulu. The quilt will also be on display during Nisei Week at JANM, Aug. 10-11.

Advance reservations for the workshop are required as seating is limited. For more information, contact Helen Ota at the Go For Broke Educational Foundation, 310/222-5711.

JA History Art Project Opens at Portland Art Museum

A hundred and twenty years of Japanese American history in Oregon is currently being showcased in a new art and history exhibit at the Portland Art Museum. The exhibit shows the rich heritage of Japanese and JA life which began in Oregon in the 1880s when Japanese citizens came to Oregon to work on the railroads, in the mills and ports. Created by the Oregon Nikkei Legacy Center (www.onlc.org), the exhibit features over 30 panels of art and history that span the JA experience from business and agriculture to culture and arts. The panels, created with photographs and written and oral histories of prominent Oregon JAs, were designed by Scott Sakamop of Ronin Studios.

"This is the first time the 120-year history of Japanese Americans in Oregon (from 1880-2000) has been told in Portland," said Jane Atima Schuman, executive director of the Oregon Nikkei Legacy Center. "It's a personal glimpse. It's a way to tell history by telling stories. Japanese Americans as a group have a history unique in the United States." The exhibit runs through Sept. 22 in the North Wing of the Portland Art Museum (www.portlandartmuseum.org), 1219 SW Park Ave. It is running in conjunction with the museum's "Splendors of Imperial Japan: Arts of the Meiji Period" from the Khalili Collection. Both exhibits are part of the Portland area Japan Summerfest (www.japansummerfest.org) Admission to the exhibit is free but has limited hours. For times and dates call the museum at 503/226-2811. The exhibit is presented by the center with the support of the Oregon Nikkei Endowment, Japanese American Society, JACL, Japan America Society of Oregon and Shikoku-kai. Corporate sponsors include: Spirit Mountain Community Fund of the Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde, Wells Fargo, Portland General Electric, PacificCorp, NW Natural Gas, Regence Blue Cross of Oregon, Bank of America and Standard Insurance.

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PHOTO MARTHA NAKAGAWA
Jane Beckwith details the history of the Topaz War Relocation Authority camp at the Topaz Museum in Delta, Utah.

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CCLEPE Director Matsuda to Speak at Topaz 2002 Reunion

Reservations are almost at capacity for the Topaz 2002 Reunion Luncheon, scheduled for Aug. 31 at the Radisson Miyako Hotel in Oklahoma City. The keynote speaker for the luncheon banquet will be Diane Matsuda, author of the book *The California Civil Liberties Education Program (CCLEPE)*. The luncheon is being held to inform the California community of the Japanese American experience during World War II and to rekindle the interest and support of educational and other materials on this period of history.

CCLEPE also seeks to fund projects that link the JA incarceration experience with the experiences of other populations so that such acts of injustice can be understood and corrected. Matsuda oversees the program, which is administered by the California State Library in Sacramento and provides $1 million annually in competitive grants.

Matsuda received her under-graduate degree in government and sociology from the University of San Francisco and her JD from the Hastings College of the Law, also San Francisco. She has served as a California congressional assistant, law clerk for Minami, Lew and Tamaki; clerk for U.S. District Court Judge Robert Takasugi in Los Angeles; and attorney with Nihonmachi Legal Outreach. She is currently very active in many organizations in San Francisco's Nihonmachi and is associated with the Nikkei Traditions bouquet. Matsuda's mother, Noriko Yoshifuji Matsuda, was a junior high student at Topaz, and her father, Anthony Matsuda, was incarcerated at the Poston, Ariz., internment camp.

Tourmaster for the luncheon will be Glenn "Rosie" Kume- kawa, a pre-war resident of San Francisco. He was a student body president at Topaz High and a member of the last graduating class in 1945. He has served as executive assistant to the governor of Rhode Island and was professor of the Intergovernmental Policy Analysis Program at the University of Rhode Island. Members of the reunion committee include: Fumi Manabe Hayashi, Mas Kagawuchi, Chuck Kubokawa, Daisy Uyeda Satoda, Anah Yamashita Sugiyama, Paul Takata, and Bob Usumi, chair, assisted by Helen Yamashibi Kato, Alice Mori Shibata and Takiko Nonaka Shimoda. For registration information, contact Yone Ikbo at 510-783-0478: e-mail: baachyon@cs.com.
FOOTBALL
Wong to Make Debut With Houston

Linebacker Kaliee Wong, 26, will make his preseason debut with Houston when the Texans take on the New York Giants at the annual Pro Football Hall of Fame Game in Canton, Ohio.

The former Minnesota Viking and free agent signed the expansion Houston team back in March, inking a four-year, $12 million contract. He will play the rush linebacker in head coach Dom Capers’ 3-4 defense.

The 6-foot-2, 250-pound Wong was a second-round draft pick out of Stanford in 1998. The Eugene, Ore.-native played defensive end in college and switched between end and linebacker in his first two years with the Vikings. Last season, he started 16 games for Minnesota and led the team with 116 tackles.

Morton, Fujita Join Kansas City

Former Detroit Lion Johnnie Morton, 32, and fifth-round draft pick out of UC Berkeley Scott Fujita, 23, joined the Kansas City Chiefs for the team’s first training camp practice July 26 in River Falls, Wis. They will participate in the 2002 preseason game Aug. 10 against the 49ers in San Francisco.

Morton, a free agent wide receiver who spent eight seasons with Detroit, is one of Kansas City’s biggest free-agent acquisitions. In late March, he signed a seven-year contract worth a reported $25.7 million.

A first-round NFL draft pick in 1994, he has 469 receptions for 6,499 yards and 35 touchdowns with Detroit. Last season he had 77 catches, a career-high 1,154 yards and four touchdowns.

Morton, an All-American and All Pac-10 Conference first team selection in his senior year at USC, is expected to be Kansas City’s No. 1 receiver.

Fujita, a 6-foot-5, 248-pound rookie from Carollton, Calif., will fill an outside linebacker spot for the Chiefs.

In 2001, he started for Cal at weak side outside linebacker, recording 60 tackles with 2.5 sacks for minus 23 yards and seven stops for losses of 35 yards. He also earned Pac-10 All-Conference first team honors and received the Frank Sturmont Award as the most outstanding student-athlete.

Graduating with a B.A. in political science last year, Fujita is now a student at Kansas State University.

Morton, whose mother is Japanese-American, is from Torrance, Calif. Younger brother Chad is a running back for the New York Jets.

The Kansas City Chiefs are expected to be a pass-happy team in 2002.

BASEBALL
Irabu Released From Hospital

ARLINGTON, Texas—Texas Rangers closer Hideto Irabu was released from a Kansas City hospital five days after being diagnosed with a series of small blood clots in his lungs.

Irabu, who was released July 19, was hospitalized at St. Luke’s Hospital after complaining of chest pains and shortness of breath. Irabu, who led the Rangers with 16 saves, will return to Japan because of his struggling performance. Irabu had been on the roster because her parents died in an automobile accident on the way home from a state tournament in California.

Tangipahoa Parish, who struggled with putting in the final three years on the 14th, cut PArk’s lead to 3-2.

After Tangipahoa Parish sent her approach 12 feet past the hole at No. 15, Park made an 8-foot birdie putt to clinch the victory.

The 17-year-old Tangipahoa Parish, from Long Beach, Calif., was the crowd favorite.

SCORER
Makino Selected Preseason All League

RENO, Nev.—A defensive soccer standout at Nevada has been named to the Western Athletic Conference’s pre-season women’s all-league team, Leilah Makino, a junior at UNR from Honolulu, was a second-team all-WAC selection last season. She has been named to the first team in this year’s pre-season survey of the league coaches.

She said she’s excited to make the team. SMU senior forward Tara Comfort was named preseason WAC player of the year.

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BASKETBALL
Yamasaki Scores Seven in Sol Loss

PORTLAND, Ore.—Miami Sol guard Lindsey Yamasaki scored nine points and played 14 minutes on the bench as the Sol was defeated by Portland, 71-61, on July 27 at the Rose Garden.

The Sol’s Sheri Sam had a team-high 15 points and Betty Lennox chipped in 12, but it wasn’t enough to overcome the Firm’s Tamika Jackson, who tallied 14 points, and Stacey Thomas, with 11.

Portland has won six of its last seven games and remains two-and-a-half games ahead of Seattle for the final Western Conference playoff spot. Miami has lost four of its last six games and is tied with Orlando for the final playoff berth in the East. The Sol has lost four of its last five meetings with Portland.

NBA Star Predicts Yao’s Success in Pros

BEIJING—The Toronto Raptors’ Vince Carter faced off against Houston Rockets top draft choice Yao Ming July 24 and predicted that his new NBA teammate would be successful in the pros “because he’s high and he has skills.”

Carter, visiting Beijing, joined Yao to play on a two-on-two half-court game at the Chinese National TV 24 studio earlier this month. Each had a child as a teammate. The 7-foot-4 Yao was the No. 1 overall NBA draft pick last month.


SWIMMING
Imai Takes 200 Breaststroke

RYOKUE Imai, of USC, took first place in the men’s 200 breaststroke at the Janet Evans Invitational at USC’s McDonald’s Swim Stadium July 20.


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The Trilogy: Part Three

In Hirabayashi, 320 US 81 (June 21, 1943), the U.S. Supreme Court upheld the criminal conviction of a U.S. citizen who chose to comply with a 1942 curfew restriction imposed only on individuals of the Japanese race. In his opinion, authored by Chief Justice Stone, there was articulation of the core concern that "allowing [that] attack on our shores was threatened by Japan set these curfew lines. They were to prevent any aggression that might have parochial citizenship who have no particular association with Japan." (320 US at 101; emphasis added.) It is both startling and profoundly troubling that such raw articulation of "racial profiling" emanated from, of all places, the apex of our American system of justice.

There are yet other disconcerting aspects of the Supreme Court's management of the issues surrounding the 1942 uprooting, exclusion and confinement of the Nisei and Issei then residing in the Pacific Coast states.

In addition to its curfew convictions, the Court had previously been convicted and sentenced for refusal to follow the exclusion orders (also called "orders of enforcement") to the Nisei individuals of the Japanese race. On both convictions, the trial court had sentenced the defendants to 6 months confinement, the sentences to run concurrently. However, the government had appealed both convictions but the Supreme Court considered only the curfew case and upheld the conviction thereon. Now, since Hirabayshi [sic] would have had to serve his full sentence on the curfew conviction, this decision mandated that he no longer need to review the exclusion conviction which carried the same sentence.

At this point, it's a "freeze-frame" moment and so far there can more readily perceive the operative components underlying the curfew and exclusion impact on its decision in Korematsu, 323 US 214 (Dec. 18, 1943).

First, although the court decided Hirabayshi on the curfew conviction, it just as easily could have decided the case upon the exclusion conviction. There was no obstacle standing in the court's way to doing so.

Second, the curfew was no longer impinging upon Hirabayshi's freedom; it was a "fair accomplishment," an event in the past tense. Ours, by marked contrast, the exclusion order was very much operative, daily inflicting loss and irreparable harm upon Hirabayshi. Of course, in the immediate background were those 155,000 hapless souls, excluded from their homes and places of business and in some cases evacuated to "relocation camps, doved to serve, as it were, an indeterminate sentence, having committed no offense.

EIGHTEEN MONTHS

LATER, in Korematsu, 323 US 214 (Dec. 18, 1943), by a majority decision of 6-3, the Court upheld Justice Black, in writing the majority opinion, quoting extensively from his dissent in Hirabayshi (upholding curfew restrictions), now upheld the exclusion. The exclusion of those of Japanese origin was deemed necessary because "the presence of an unascertained number of disloyal members of the group ... In the event of military emergency the entire group of the rest was ended on the same ground." (323 US at 218-219)

The U.S. Supreme Court could have ruled, but did not, upon the legality of the (traumatically, irreparably and continuously operative) exclusion order directed at a racial group, including American citizens thereof. Instead it addressed to assess the gravity of the legal issues presented, in the context of less intrusive curfew restrictions. In so doing, the way was facilitated for a "whorl of confusion, to uphold and an egregious blot upon our American system of justice.

So as to make an appeal to touch upon the dissenting opinions in Korematsu: whether these opinions as such appeals which took place some 60 years ago, should be of any concern to us; shouldn't we be concerned as of today? Isn't this needless "rocking the boat"; and a few other thoughts that may come to mind.

COMMENTARY

An American Buddist's Take on "Under God" in the Pledge of Allegiance

By MAS HASHimoto

When the phrase "under God" was added to the Pledge of Allegiance to an "nation, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all." My Conversion American teachers had to look away for we, American citizens, were in prison.

At the Poston, Ariz., concentration camp, I recited the Pledge of Allegiance with its "liberty and justice for all." My Conversion American teachers had to look away for we, American citizens, were in prison.

The Constitution and the Bill of Rights did not fail us. The leaders of our country, both in the judicial branches, those who took a pledge to support the Constitution, the Bill of Rights, failed us.

American Buddists adhere to the belief that "under God" make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof. It implies "separation of church and state concept, freedom of religion movement.

When Michael A. Newdow sued his daughter's Elk Grove, Calif., school district, Congress and President Clinton in 2000, he was trying to remove the pledge to its pre-1954 version. The phrase "under God" in the Pledge of Allegiance was declared unconstitutional by a 2-1 margin in the 9th Circuit Court of Appeals. The majority opinion was written by Judge Alfred T. Goodwin.

The original 1892 pledge read: "I pledge allegiance to the flag and to the Republic for which it stands: one nation, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all." It is attributed to socialist editor and clergyman Franklin Blumly and has undergone several changes. In place of "fly flag," the pledge "flag of the United States of America" was added for Flag Day in 1924. During the Korean War, in 1954, "under God" was added by President Dwight D. Eisenhower and Congress.

Many were committed with the 1954 amended pledge. They cite our founding forefathers' religious beliefs as the reason for the Declaration of Independence.

It is interesting to note that The Constitution's responsibility as the author of the Declaration of Independence was to legitimize an assembly by rebel: "higher source of authority, one higher than the King and Parliament. He appealing to the Laws of Nature and of Nature's God." For those who don't believe in God, Natural Law would suffice.

Some point out that the term "separation of church and state" is nowhere to be found in either the "Constitution" or the Bill of Rights. "U.S. Air Force" is not mentioned in these 16th century documents either. Is the Air Force "necessary and proper" for a free state? Yes. Is separation of church and state "necessary and proper" for a free state? Yes. Again.

What if the first ten amendments in the Bill of Rights is the most important? The first amendment that "Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof ... is what sets us apart from all other civilizations.

Other rights in the Bill of Rights are dependent upon the concept of religious freedom — the right of free speech and of the right of assembly: trial by fair and impartial jury; freedom from cruel and unusual punishment; right to be deprived of life, liberty or property without due process, etc. can be traced back to the freedom of religion. Separation of church and state provides us with the freedoms and rights we enjoy today. If those who insist on the phrase "under God" in the pledge are allowed to continue, then America will lose its appeal and its purpose. If America is free of religious persecution is the dream of so many who live in fear for their lives. The right not to have religious beliefs forced upon Americans the envy of the world.
COMMENTARY
Calif.'s Imperial County
Ordinance No. 15

By Ike Hatchimoni

(This commentary refers to a government report titled "Community Analysis Notes, No. 12," published by the War Relocation Authority, April 9, 1945.)

The Pioneers Museum & Cultural Center in the Imperial County, at the southern tip of California, is a gallery devoted to the contributions of Japanese Americans to the Imperial Valley and the nation. It is the story of the struggles of the Nikkei pioneers who achieved success in a hostile environment, the establishment of a "veterans' museum" and, in the World War II section, the 442nd Regimental Combat Team's Honorable 1st Advance along with Nisei killed in action.

But Imperial County wasn't always so welcoming to the JAs. Prior to WWII, Imperial County had over 1,500 persons of Japanese ancestry. Most were vegetable farmers, who had arrived as early as 1904. As pioneers to the valley, they were an important part of the area's economic development and produced many new crops, among them, a major cash crop today. After the bombing of Pearl Harbor, the Imperial Valley Nikkei community became the target of Ordinance No. 15, which was passed by the Imperial County Board of Supervisors on February 19, 1942. This is, ironically, the date on which President Franklin D. Roosevelt signed Executive Order 9066. Whether the date is a coincidence or occurred by design is unknown.

Ordinance No. 15 states in part that: "It requires registration of, and regulation and control of alien enemy (Japanese) aliens living in the County Imperial Agricultural Commission, and of any family, of any one of our agricultural lands located in the county, and of one's business if engaged in handling, harvesting, processing, or shipping of agricultural products."

It goes on to state: "It shall be unlawful for any alien enemy, whether principal, sub-leaser, sub-crop... to have or direct any interest whatsoever in agricultural land within the county."

The ordinance also applied to American citizens (Nisei) as well as declaring it "unlawful to assist, encourage or compile in any way the activities of alien enemies or to transport, carry, haul in any manner whatsoever to transport farm products."

It also became "unlawful for any citizen Japanese Americans to acquire, control or in any degree, benefit directly or indirectly, financially through sales or operated through a native born, or a naturalized citizen."

The county district attorney was to enforce the ordinance. Also, "it was the legal and patriotic duty of all citizens to report any apparent or actual violations of this order."

The reason given for the ordinance was: "Alien enemies have children and families in the counties with which we are at war;" the presence of such alien enemies "is a serious menace to the peace, health and safety of our people and our property and their unrestricted activities constitute manifest and dangerous iniquities which must be suppressed."

Violations of the ordinance would result in imprisonment for not more than six months or a fine of $500 or both. The ordinance, which basically allowed the Imperial County Agricultural Commissioner and each of his deputies, immigration agents, employees and all peace officers of said county to enter all agricultural lands to make sure no violations existed.

All of the "alien enemy" farmers, since 210 were ordered by the district attorney to surrender land leases which ended all Nikkei farming activities. Crop mortgages to obtain loans were nullified and the crops taken people were dispossessed by the Caucasian landlords or lease holders who kept the sale of the harvest while leaving the responsibility of paying off the loans to the Nikkei farm operators.

Other problems plagued the aliens. Once the major crop producers, industry leaders, were picked up by the Machine and interest in Department of Justice camps following the attack on Pearl Harbor. Their families were left destitute. The county judge, an elderly man of household at a critical time. The JACL sought to demonstrate the loyalty of the Nikkei community by urging the JACL to buy war bonds being issued by the government to aid in the war effort. However, there were people among the Issei that they were "being put on the spot" and that they "were being reported to the FBI if we did not sign". This led to 100 percent. Due to these and other reasons, many Nikkei moved. Other acts of violence directed at the Nikkei community included a vigilante group which burned down the farm owned by the mother and father of four Chinese American boys.

In Brian Niiy's book, "Encyclopedia of Japanese American History: An A-to-Z Reference Guide," there is reference to writer Mary McWilliams, who was at first anti-Japanese but after visiting the assembly centers changed his view. In 1944 published in the book, "Prejudice: Japanese Americans in Symbolic Subjugation," Mary McWilliams is mentioned in the book and described as the book "Hi there has never been a tradition of war and order and is the home of virility in California, and, on more than one occasion, the valley has been atenciónalized. McWilliams' view may have been influenced by a statement held by Dem. Dec. 7, 1944, by Brawley Mayor Elmer Ears. At that meeting, Ears said "I know organizations in the valley banded together to oppose the return of the attorneys to the valley. In this array is the need for legal protection from local police or from other local officials."

A similar gathering took place at the Brawley High School Athletic Field sponsored by the Imperial County Base spoken with John B. Leech, supposedly an authority on Japanese activities in California. The book states: "There were near theneck of the attack on the Jews on Pearl Harbor... that infamous time we will never forget. Do we forget the Imperial Valley want the return of the Jews?" In its report unfounded in Imperial Valley had a devastating effect on the post-war Imperial Valley Nisei residents, most of whom were now incarcerated at the Poston camp.

A Community Analysis report dated Dec. 31, 1944, stated that "concerns about return or relocation is largely500 because of the loss of evacuation and the anti-evacuee agencies in Brawley and elsewhere in the valley. Many relocat- ed Nisei, however, and probably many more will follow their foot-

steps."

In this way, the Imperial Valley Nikkei population is, understandably, small compared to other farming communities where Nikkei were able to return. Resettlement of JA's after leaving the camps was a difficult period, especially for the aging Issei, who faced many difficulties such as learning the new language or job skills, being aliens unable for U.S. citizenship, Japanese-American discrimination and re-establishing a new life for themselves and their families.

On April 20, 1945, they took steps to regain their former status. For oth- ers, they passed on before they could achieve this. With no assistance from the government that interned them, their struggle to re-integrate back into society was the greatest challenge.

Wayne T. Yoshikoa, O.D.
Doctor of Optometry
13902 Marshall Ave.
Gardena, CA

(310) 249-3462

www.myspace.com/yoshikoa
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Memorial Research Medical Clinic in Long Beach, CA
Book Review
Book on Redress Campaign Focuses on Seattle Activists
By MAKO NAKAGAWA
Special to the Pacific Citizen

In his book, "Born in Seattle: The Campaign for Japanese American Redress," writer Robert Shimabukuro presents a unique perspective on the struggle for redress. Seattle Nisei engineers at Boeing, convinced that the expansion of Japanese Americans in the 1950s meant mistakes in their work, made it a book which should interest scholars, laymen, and those who are just looking for a good story to read. And yes, even those who are tired of redress and World War II incarceration stories.

In "Born in Seattle" traces the evolution of redress, from the beginning

planning stages of redress in the late 1930s to the legislative triumph and payments in the mid 1990s, with an emphasis on the Seattle activists, who included engineers, teachers, business owners, writers, journalists and artists - grassroots folks. They developed a plan for reparation and worked to make it happen and encouraged others to do the same. The book is dedicated to the memory of J. Herman Shimabukuro, who passed away in 2017. Shimabukuro's account is very informative, and no one who does not have the book should think that they are not looking for a good story to read. And yes, even those who are tired of redress and World War II incarceration stories.

The book is

a passionate telling of the Seattle story of Japanese American activists from the late 1960s to 1990.

The Seattle Redress Committee, composed of some of the Seattle activists, oversaw the production of "Born in Seattle." The book was funded by the Civil Liberties Public Education Fund, the National JACL Legacy Fund, the Seattle chapter of the JACL, the Minoru Yasuda Memorial Fund and the Washington Coalition on Redress.

"Born in Seattle" was selected as a Scott and Laurie Otis Senior in Asian American Studies book published by the University of Washington Press. The book is available at most book sites on the web, or by contacting the author at shima@u.washington.edu.

Call for Submissions: Women's Anthology
Anthology of Women in the United States
Deadline: August 30, 2002

Submissions are now being taken for a new anthology about Asian American women. Deadline is August 30. The publisher will be the Feminist Press, CUNY. Contributions by Asian American feminist authors, theory and practice, this anthology will draw from scholarly research and community sources in order to provide information and discussion about Asian American women across the United States, national and global cultures.

The objectives of the anthology are:

• to provide an overview of topics and issues in contemporary AAW (Asian American Women) studies in the United States;
• to provide concrete, new and specific knowledge of Asian women in the United States in the context of global restructuring;
• to be published in AAW studies course and resource books for students, scholars and the general public.

Editors will be: Seung Hye Suh, associate professor, Department of Women's Studies, Hunter College; Riva Chang, assistant professor at Scripps College; Ali Jin-Woo with Women Workers Project of CAAAV; and Robert Ji-Song Ku, acting director of the Asian American Studies Center and assistant professor in the Department of English at Hunter College, CUNY.

Submissions should be 3,500 words or less and sent as a Word attachment or in an HTML file. Tables, graphics and other specific references for all works cited and include your name, title, institutional affiliation or organization, full address, e-mail, telephone and fax. Submit to: Jw2@hunter.cuny.edu. Potential contributors are strongly encouraged to contact them and send abstracts prior to submission.