The JACL has joined the National Asian Pacific American Legal Consortium, its affiliates, and 24 other APA organizations in filing a "friend of the court" amicus curiae brief in support of the University of Michigan in the affirmative action cases before the Supreme Court — Grutter v. Bollinger (which challenges the Law School's admissions policies) and Gratz v. Bollinger (challenging the undergraduate admissions policies).

At issue is the university's admissions programs, which are being challenged under the Constitution and federal law by a white applicant who contends that the university, in balancing a number of criteria to determine admission — including scholastic achievement, test scores, extra-curricular activities, race and diversity factors — employs policies which effectively discriminate against her.

By JOHN TATEISHI
JACL Executive Director

Last month, I consulted with JACL National President Floyd Mori and suggested that we take a hard look at the U.S. PATRIOTS Act, passed by the Congress shortly after the Sept. 11th terrorist attacks almost a year and a half ago. It's my belief that the JACL should consider filing a legal challenge of the Act to test whether the courts will allow the government's law enforcement agencies to continue to exercise the right to infringe on the civil liberties of American citizens and legal resident aliens.

In the aftermath of Sept. 11th, the country was gripped by the lingering horror of that day and by the fear of future terrorist threats in this country. The nation was also swept up with the fervor of nationalism, and in that fervor, the Congress passed one of the most extreme statutes ever enacted in the history of this nation. The U.S. PATRIOTS Act was authored by Attorney General John Ashcroft's senior staff and was kept under wraps until it was almost up for a vote by the House and Senate.

No one could fault the passage of that legislation. Not even the ACLU, the only public group allowed to comment on the bill in closed briefings; they expressed concerns about the bill but didn't see it as being as extreme as it felt the crisis in a very visceral way in those days after Sept. 11th. It's been over a year since that tragic September day we'll always remember.

By CAROLINE AYOAGI
Executive Editor

As Japanese Americans across the country held Day of Remembrance events commemorating the 65th anniversary of the signing of Executive Order 9066, the community continues to press for an apology and resignation of a North Carolina congressman who said the World War II internment of JAs was appropriate.

Within two weeks after Republican Rep. Howard Coble made his controversial comments, Becerra introduced a bill calling for an apology and resignation of a North Carolina congressman who said the World War II internment of JAs was appropriate.

During a Feb. 4 WKZL-FM radio call-in show in Greensboro, N.C., Coble disagreed with a caller who said Arab Americans should be put in internment camps for national security but said he agreed with President Franklin D. Roosevelt's decision to intern JAs during WWII.

"We were at war, they (Japanese Americans) were an endangered species," said Coble. "For many of these Japanese Americans, it wasn't safe for them to be on the street." He then added, "Some (Japanese Americans) probably were intent on doing harm to us, just as some of these Arab Americans are probably intent on doing harm to us."

Coble's comments sparked an immediate deluge of angry responses from civil rights groups and community members, and various online petitions calling for his resignation and apology began to be circulated.

A few days later on Feb. 7 Coble refused to apologize outright for his comments saying, "I was just stating historical fact. If those comments were offensive to anyone, I apologize for that. I did not intend to be insensitive or uncaring."

By Feb. 10 Coble released another statement of clarification saying the internment was "the wrong decision and an action that should never be repeated." The congressman said he had no intention of resigning as chair of the subcommittee. He added that many Japanese and Arab Americans found my choice of words offensive because that was certainly not my intent. But Coble's response to the situation so far has done nothing to calm down the ire of the Asian Pacific American community. Two online petitions, yellowworld.org and PetitionOnline.com, calling for his resignation and apology had collected close to 6,000 signatures by Feb. 10.

By MARTHA NAKAGAWA
Editor-at-Large

This year's Day of Remembrance (DOR) received renewed interest as Xavier Becerra, D-Calif., announced the introduction of a new redress bill and a broad coalition of Asian American and Muslim American organizations and Congressman Mike Honda, D-Calif., gathered at the Japanese American National Museum in Los Angeles on Feb. 15 to voice their outrage over remarks made by Congressman Howard Coble, R.N.C.

Coble, who chairs the House Judiciary Subcommittee on Crime, Terrorism, Homeland Security and Civil Rights, touched off a firestorm Feb. 4 when he said over the radio that he supported the World War II internment of Japanese Americans.

From left to right: Robin Toma, JACL PSW Community Achievement Award recipient; Congressman Mike Honda; and Janice Harumi Yen, NCPR Fighting Spirit Award recipient at the Los Angeles DOR.

$45 million in public education monies and address unresolved redress cases, particularly those affecting the Japanese Latin Americans.

"Clearly, what happened more than 60 years ago was wrong," said Becerra. "I don't believe a nation founded on the principles of justice can stop until it secures justice for everyone. All of our colleagues must be bound to help us, including Howard Coble."

In 2000, Becerra had introduced a similar bill, getting more than 40 co-sponsors, before it was struck down.

Becerra's 2003 bill would authorize $45 million to replenish the Civil Liberties Public Education Fund (CLPEF). The redress bill — the Civil Liberties Act of 1988 — had originally mandated $50 million to be set aside for educational programs through CLPEF but only $5 million had been funded. Becerra's bill would fulfill the original mandates of the 1988 law.


See DOR/page 6
Arab & Muslim Americans at Risk?
Congressman Cobble's Defense of Intemperance: Ignorant, Racist or Dangerous?

In U.S. Congressman Howard Cobble, R-North Carolina, ignorant, racist or dangerous? That's the question that went through my head when I read how this week he defended the internment of Japanese Americans during World War II saying "some—probably were intent on doing harm to us ... just as some of these Arab Americans are probably on doing harm to us."

Doesn't he know that not one JA ever was proven to be a spy or saboteur? Doesn't he care that the military intelligence services and the FBI saw JAs as a loyal immigrant community? Doesn't he realize that heroic Nisei soldiers fought fascism and sacrificed their lives in record numbers to prove their loyalty? Doesn't he know how hundreds of Nisean draft resisters stood up for America's Bill of Rights, going to prison in protest of their families being locked up? I guess not.

Maybe that's why he doesn't object to men, women, children, and the elderly being rounded up on the basis of their race, instead of anyone wronging. Maybe that's why he voices no objection to Italian and German Americans, "some intent on doing harm," left free of internment.

Today, Arab, Muslim and Sikh Americans face increasing prejudice during rising threat of war. Today, Middle Eastern men face selective registration, arrest, and deportation based on their race, religion, and national origin. Therefore the non-Western American Patriot Act splatters mud on Americans' civil liberties.

Congressman Howard Cobble (chair of the Judiciary Subcommittee on Crime, Terrorism and Homeland Security) stands in a powerful position to help decide the fate of Arab and Muslim Americans. I'm grateful that most Americans today believe in tolerance, fair treatment — and learning from past mistakes like internment.

In this time of crisis, it's vital that JA's and other decent Americans have the courage to stand up for our Arab, Muslim and Sikh neighbors. Is Congressman Cobble ignorant, racist or dangerous? Unfortunately for America, he's all three.

Andy Nagashii
Fiorin JACL
Civil Rights Co-chair

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Then complain that the police are not doing their jobs. Whenever a person behaves irrationally, it doesn't matter whether or not they are Asian, Latino, African, or white. Ignorant and racist behavior creates danger to the public or any person, then, the police must take action. It's easy to criticize the police, but I as an Asian American, who served in the police am disheartened by the fact that Asians to participate in pro-social activities that support the police. Also, while police officers are not supposed to support the police in this case, as the case itself indicates that they support the good public self-defense shooting.

Re: JACL Passed Over for Donation

To clarify the so-called controversy of the letter to the editor in the Feb. 7-20 issue, the San Mateo Gardeners Association’s transfer of assets is known to the San Mateo Japanese American Community Center instead of to the San Mateo JACL. JACL does not and was not meant to undermine the JACL.

The fact that the San Mateo Community Center is part of the San Mateo JACL but in the future will become an independent non-profit organization does not mean the San Mateo JACL will be left out. The San Mateo JACL will benefit with all its affiliated organizations that serve the community to use the facilities as one big family. There will be a greater chance to utilize this property once the new center organization becomes final. The primary objective of this transfer is that of the disbanding of the San Mateo Gardeners Association. Many other members helped build the San Mateo Central Park Japanese Garden in 1966 and has been an important part of the City of San Mateo. We feel the community center will have the support of every one in San Mateo.

Roy Kato
San Mateo, Calif.

Letters to the Editor
April 1 Deadline Set for JACL's Masaoka Fellowship Program

The JACL is currently seeking candidates for its 14th Mike M. Masaoka Fellowship, an annual program which places extraneous students in congressional offices to learn about public policy-making firsthand. Dr. H. Tom Tamaki, chair of the Mike M. Masaoka Fellowship Fund, announced that this year's application deadline is April 1.

All students who are in at least their third year of college or in graduate/professional programs and who are American citizens are encouraged to apply. Preference will be given to those with a demonstrated commitment to Asian Pacific American issues, particularly those affecting the Japanese American community.

The successful candidate will serve his or her fellowship in the office of a U.S. senator or member of the U.S. House of Representatives for three and a half months and receive a stipend of $8,500 and round trip airfare from the fellow's home to Washington, D.C. The fellowship period may be the fall term (September through December 2003) or the spring term (February through May 2004) and will be arranged with the congressional office and the fellow.

The most recently selected Masaoka fellow was Erin Water of Trousdale, Ore., who will be serving in the office of Rep. Mike Honda, D-Calif., during the spring of 2003. The JACL established the Mike M. Masaoka Fellowship Fund in 1988 to honor Masaoka (1915-1991) for a lifetime of outstanding public service in promoting justice, civil rights and human dignity. The major purpose of the fund is to develop leaders for public service by providing opportunities for college seniors or students in graduate or professional programs to work for a member of Congress or a senator. The fellows' assignments include a variety of tasks where they will be exposed to all facets of the work of the representative or senator and his/her staff.

For more information or a fellowship application, visit the JACL website at www.jacl.org/masaoka.html or contact the Washington, D.C. JACL office at 202/737-1240 or e-mail: dc@jacl.org.

Hate Crime Victim Wins Maximum Penalty in Civil Suit

By TRACY YUBA Writer/Reporter

Ismael Ileto, the brother of slain hate crime victim Joseph Santos Ileto, fought back tears Feb. 6 as he praised an unprecedented civil rights ruling recently made by the California Department of Fair Employment and Housing (DFEH) Commission.

"It has been very hard to believe it's been three and half years since the murder of my brother," Ismael Ileto said. "There's not a single day where the family has forgot­ten any time we hear news of a hate crime incident or a shoot­ing, it always brings us back to that afternoon that he was shot by a white supremacist in 1999."

The state civil rights commis­sion awarded Ileto, the 39-year-old Filipino American postal worker who was killed by a white supremacist in 1999, the maximum compensation of $175,000 for emotional distress and violations of his civil rights.

The Jan. 28 ruling represents the first time the maximum penalty has been awarded in a hate crime case under the Civil Rights Act, according to...
The Bush Administration says the point system is skewed toward minorities, noting that a perfect SAT score is worth just 12 points and an outstanding essay gets three points.

The Supreme Court has scheduled back-to-back arguments on the two lawsuits for April 1.

**U.S.-Philippines Caucus Launched to Address Filipino American Issues**

WASHINGTON—A new U.S.-Philippines Caucus was launched Feb. 12 by Congressmen Bob Filner, D-Calif., and Darrell Issa, R-Calif., who will co-chair the caucus, announced Congressman David Wu, chair of the Congressional Asian Pacific American Caucus.

The caucus is composed of members interested in both U.S.-Philippines bilateral relations and the domestic needs and concerns of Filipino Americans.

"I am honored to be a part of this caucus, which will help serve the Filipino American community," Wu said. "I have long advocated for issues important to Filipino Americans, such as supporting Filipino airport security screeners who are working to secure veteran's benefits for Filipino World War II veterans."

"This caucus will improve the dissemination of information about Philippines issues and allow members to more easily pursue issues of mutual interest to the United States, the Philippines and Filipino American constituencies," Wu said.

**Aung San Suu Kyi Wins $1 Million Freedom Forum Award**

WASHINGTON—Myanmar's renowned democracy leader Aung San Suu Kyi, has been awarded the Freedom Forum's 2002 Al Neuharth Free Spirit of the Year Award, which carries a $1 million prize.

Suu Kyi received the award for her "free-spirited, non-violent struggle for human rights and democracy," according to the award's sponsor, also known as Burma, the forum said. A military dictatorship has ruled over Burma since Feb. 3, 1962. Aung San, the current head of genera family of generals came to power in 1988.

Throughout the 1990s, Suu Kyi was sporadically held under house arrest by the military in 1989. In 1990, her party, the National League for Democracy, won an overwhelming election victory for power. A military government refused to recognize the results.

If the current prelacy believes federal authorities are pursuing an "overaggressive, perhaps wrongful" investigation in part because of the scientist's race, it may also offer financial or legal support to the scientist.

**Hawaiian Recognition Bill Introduced to Congress Again**

HONOLULU—For the third straight congressional session, Hawaii lawmakers on Feb. 11 introduced legislation to grant native Hawaiians federal recognition on par with American Indian or Alaska tribes. Sen. Daniel Akaka, its sponsor, has pushed for passage of a bill allowing the establishment of a Native Hawaiian government similar to those on American Indian reservations since 1999. Sen. Daniel Inouye is a co-sponsor, while Reps. Neil Abercrombie and Ed Case introduced a companion measure in the House. All are Hawaii Democrats.

The legislation would define the political status of those descended from the island's original inhabitants, affecting about 200,000 people.

The bill would create an office within the Interior Department to focus on issues affecting the descendants and serve as a liaison between them and the federal government. An interagency coordinating group to monitor native Hawaiian policies would also be formed.

Critics have expressed concerns about how the legislation would affect American Indian programs. Some native Hawaiians said the measure gives the federal government too much of a role in their affairs.

**Hawaii's Oldest Known Resident Dies**

HONOLULU—Kinase, a Japanese woman who immigrated to the United States during World War II and became Hawaii's oldest known resident, died Jan. 24 at the age of 113.

Kinase was born in Japan on Dec. 31, 1889, and arrived in San Francisco in 1916 at the age of 27. She married a railroad worker after refusing to be a picture bride and insisted on seeing the man she would marry.

Kinase operated a truck farm and raised five children in Redmond, Ore., before moving to Hawaii in 1961 with her second husband to help care for one of her grandchildren.

Daughter Joyce Iwumoto once said her mother adopted the American lifestyle, although she never learned to speak English.

The Gerontology Research Group, which registers seniors over 110 years old, had listed Kinase as the sixth-oldest person in the United States.

**APAs in the News**

**Awards, Appointments, Announcements**

Nina Mitsuori, 81, will be one of 11 women honored at the National Women's 18th Annual „Women of the Year Awards Luncheon” March 10 at the Biltmore Hotel in Los Angeles. The „Women of the Year” awards are given to nominees whose work helps bring about social and economic change and promotes women's equality and rights. Mitsuori served as director of the six years on the national board of directors of the Older Woman's League, but the military government refuses to recognize the results.

Kent Nagano, currently the principal conductor at the German Symphony Orchestra in Berlin as well as the Los Angeles Opera, will take over as music director of the Bavarian State Opera in 2005, the Associated Press reported Feb. 13. Nagano, the current upcoming winner, will have a five-year contract after his current contract in Berlin expires at the end of the 2005-2006 season. Nagano will replace Israel Zabar, who steps down.

APAs in the News
100th/442nd Soldiers to Be Featured in Fourth of July Exhibit

The stories of two members of the 100th Infantry Battalion and 442nd Regimental Combat Team will be featured in a new exhibit July 4 in conjunction with the opening of the National Constitution Center, an institution dedicated to honoring and explaining the U.S. Constitution.

The museum will open on Philadelphia’s historic Independence Hall and will feature soldiers William Nakamura and George Sato in the military portion of the exhibit.

The National Constitution Center recently honored the Go For Broke Educational Foundation and Nisei World War II veterans with the “We the People Award.” Go For Broke Executive Director Christine Sato-Yamazaki accepted the award along with Dom Seki (442nd) and retired Col. Harry Fukuhara (MIS). More than 25 other Nisei veterans from across the nation also attended the Veteran’s Day event in Camden, N.J. It was a privilege to accept the “We the People Award” on behalf of the Nisei World War II veterans,” said Sato-Yamazaki. “Through this award, the foundation forged a working relationship with the National Constitution Center, and we hope to continue this affiliation in the future.”

The “We the People Award” is given to a person or group that exemplifies the qualities of active citizenship envisioned by our nation’s founders and has made a noteworthy contribution to constitutional principles.

Previous awards have gone to Senators Robert C. Byrd and Mark D. Hatfield, publisher Benjamin C. Bradlee, Ambassador Walter Annenberg and Rep. John R. Lewis. For more information about the center or its opening, call 215/923-0004 or visit wwwconstitutioncenter.org.

34th Annual Manzanar Pilgrimage Set for April 26

Position, Arizona, and Jerome, Arizona, internes will be remembered at the 34th Annual Pilgrimage to Manzanar scheduled for April 26, the Manzanar Committee announced. This year’s theme is “Call to Action: End Racial Profiling. Stop the War.”

In 1999, the committee began a tradition when it requested camp reunion and pilgrimage committee’s to design banners for their respective camps and donate them to the committee. Each year, the committee has honored two of the War Relocation Authority camps by raising the banners and positioning them around the cemetery monument at the annual pilgrimages. The banners will be donated to the National Park Service to be displayed in the permanent exhibit when the Visitor’s Center and buckle Headquarters open in the restored auditorium in the fall of 2003.

The pilgrimage program will feature Taiko Center of Los Angeles and other musical guests. A Buddhist and Christian interfaith service organized by Rev. Paul Nakamura of the Oriental Churches will take place in front of the cemetery monument. Additional speakers will be announced at a later date.

The committee also announced that it has received a California Civil Liberties Public Education Program grant to create a booklet of poetry and expand the Saturday night Manzanar After Dark (MAD-ness) program to a full weekend of programming on Friday night, April 25. The Manzanar National Historic Site is approximately 200 miles north of Los Angeles on Highway 395. During World War II, more than 10,000 persons of Japanese ancestry were incarcerated at the camp.

The annual pilgrimage is free and open to the public. No registration is required. The committee welcomes volunteers to assist with the pilgrimage. For further information about the committee, please visit the website at www.manzanarcommittee.org or e-mail suekake@msn.com or call 323/662-5102.

Deadline for Terminal Island Memorial Monument Inscriptions Set for March 31

Those who missed the first dedication of the Terminal Island Memorial Monument will be given a final opportunity to contribute and have their names or names of family members inscribed on the monument plaque, announced Yukio Tabuchi, program director of Terminal Islanders, and Minoru Toniai, chairman of the memorial monument committee.

Nearly 3,000 Japanese Americans lived on Terminal Island in World War II. Those who would like to represent family members, living or deceased, are encouraged to donate money to the monument, on which they may inscribe the names of loved ones, businesses, organizations or fishing boats that once made up the landscape of Terminal Island.

The donor category that you fall before World War II. Those who would like to represent family members, living or deceased, are encouraged to donate money to the monument, on which they may inscribe the names of loved ones, businesses, organizations or fishing boats that once made up the landscape of Terminal Island.

The donor category that you fall under will determine the number of lines that can be inscribed on the donor plaque.

A form must be completed and returned with a postmark date of no later than March 31. Information by telephone will not be accepted. For more information or to receive a form, contact one of the following Terminal Islanders as soon as possible: Min Toniai, 818/591-1269, or e-mail: min unnoticed@pacbell.net; Yukio Tatsunami, 562/435-6141; Tosh Izumi, 323/735-6675; or Kats Yono, 310/326-4671.

Baseball Returns to Manzanar

The National Park Service has agreed to submit for federal approval this fall a proposal calling for the restoration of one of the baseball diamonds at the Manzanar National Historic Site. In the interim, baseball will play a central role in Manzanar’s grand opening on Nov. 8, 2003.

Two rosters will be assembled this spring in the Los Angeles area, where most of Manzanar’s population resided prior to World War II. A team of 10- to 13-year-old Japanese Americans and a team of 17- to 19-year-olds — many of whom will have direct family ties to the wartime internment — will play against two of Manzanar’s actual baseball teams. The teams will play a game against teams of comparable ages from the surrounding Owens Valley.

Placer County Nikkei Reunion Preparations in Progress

Plans are underway for a reunion of Nikkei who attended Placer County schools before or after World War II. Placer County Nikkei also have attended schools in internment camps during the war and Nikkei who will be arriving from high school and college are also welcome to participate in the reunion. Placer County High Schools include: Lincoln High, Roseville High, Placer High, Del Oro High and Oakmont High. Plans are being made to accommodate younger and older generations who have experienced the Placer County culture.

The reunion is scheduled for Oct. 17-19 at the Sacramento Hilton Arden West Hotel at 2200 Harvard Boulevard in Sacramento, Calif.

Old friends will be able to mingle at a mixer on Friday and another on Saturday. A cocktail hour, banquet, dancing and informal social hour are also scheduled for Saturday, and a breakfast will take place Sunday morning.

Tours, golf and other optional activities are being planned at nearby locations. The reunion committee welcomes suggestions for additional activities.

For more information about the reunion or to register, visit the website: www.placerhistory.com. It contains registration instructions, fees (pending), hotel costs, directions and other pertinent information. The website also features “Placer Memories,” which posts many “common experiences” that were unique to growing up in Placer County.

Persons who need additional information can direct inquiries, to the reunion committee, 2400 West Alico, Suite 202, Alcoa, Ala. 35901-2595, e-mail: mailked@excite.com or Grace Miyamoto, 916/421-2788, e-mail: buchigraciar@aol.com.

AcCLAIMED PHOTOGRAPHER Corky Lee Speaks at Mile HI JACL LOCA Banquet

PHOTO: GIL ASARAGA

Photographer Corky Lee, who has documented Asian Pacific American culture for decades, will present his 2003 calendar, titled “Mile HI JACL/LOCA’s New Year’s Banquet.” Among the highlights of the evening were Lewis’s slide show presentation and an auction of an historic photo that he took in 2002 of a group of Chinese Americans gathered at Promontory Point, Utah, where the transcontinental railroad was completed 134 years ago. The photo was auctioned for $1,000 and proceeds went to OCA, JACL and the Colorado Asian Pacific Student Alliance.

Books on Asian Culture

DOR

(Continued from page 1)

Becerra’s bill would also provide an apology and $20,000 in compensation to Japanese Latin Americans (JLAs), who were forcibly taken from their country during the war and incarcerated in the United States to be used as prisoners of war exchanges between the United States and Japan.

But Becerra may be facing an uphill battle since Coble chairs the very committee that will first review H.R. 779.

"We need you to come forward," Becerra implored attendees Wednesday before addressing Congress to understand what happened because I believe sometimes the words we hear show that they're not aware of the injustices that occurred over 60 years ago.

So I appeal to you, young and old, please give us a moment of your time, for the moment that was lost for many who were interned. Give us a moment and help us seek justice through legislation.

Becerra urged attendees to write, phone, and visit their elected officials. "I urge you to help us push this legislation into law," he said.

Rep. Coble

Prior to the DOR program, a coalition of APA organizations held a press conference where they voiced their outrage over Coble’s Feb. 4 remarks.

They demanded the following: that Coble issue an apology, that Speaker of the House Dennis Hastert and President Bush call on Coble to issue a formal apology, and that Coble step down as chair of the House Judiciary Subcommittee on Crime, Terrorism and Homeland Security.


Ken Nagano, a member of NCHR speaking on behalf of the coalition, said, "We are here to point out that we must not forget the lessons from the past. We must not make the same mistakes. Whenever those in power make power statements that rewrite history and downplay gross injustices, they must be held accountable for their actions."

Ken Inouye, JACL’s vice president of public affairs, said Coble’s statement that the government incarcerated the Nikkei community for their own protection was "ridiculous on its face and it is something this country cannot accept."

The Asian Pacific American Caucus, comprised of APA elected officials, sent a letter to Coble requesting a formal meeting. A Feb. 7 letter from Coble turned down their request.

Honda, a member of the APA Caucus, said they will continue to seek a formal meeting with Coble and plans to invite Coble to support Honda’s National Day of Remembrance resolution he introduced last week.

In an informal meeting with Coble which lasted about 15 to 20 minutes, Honda said, "My sense was that there is some movement in his understanding. But there is a great need on his part to continue to say that he feels that President Roosevelt had done the right things in his own mind."

Honda said he referred Coble to future legislation which posts original 1942 documents proving that the mass evacuation and incarceration of JAs was driven by prejudice, wartime hysteria and a failure of political leadership.

MICHIGAN

(Continued from page 1)

inside of it. Affirmative action programs are essential to ensuring that diverse perspectives and experiences are brought to the campus, so that all students may benefit.

"America was built by the contributions of a diverse society, and we continue to benefit from it."

Seattle Chapter

"Reflecting on Our Past: Shining Into the Future," Seattle Chapter plans for the Seattle JACL’s 81st annual installation banquet. Over 400 guests witnessed the installation of the youngest president in the history of the chapter, Tatouo M.W. Nakata (pictured above). Nakata has served on the national board as vice president of youth as well as on the Seattle chapter board of directors and executive committee.

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They are: Bill Tashima, president-elect; Hon. Vicki Toyohara, first vice president of operations; Joy Shigaki, second vice president of civil rights, aging and international relations; Elaine Akagi, third

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For Former Kansas, NBA Player Rex Walters Starts Career in Coaching

OVERLAND PARK, Kan.—At the beginning of the season, Rex Walters struggled to sit still on the Blue Valley Northwest bench. Instead, the former University of Kansas star stood for most of the action. He stepped a few feet onto the floor when he yelled. He kept up a constant chatter with players up and down the bench. Walters, who is a Hapa, came off more like the team’s head coach rather than a rookie first-year assistant.

"It probably needs to bring it down a tad on the sidelines," Blue Valley Northwest athletic director Mitch Lubin said. "Normally the head coach gets away with a little bit, but the assistant doesn’t always. But that’s just Rex. He’s just an intense and competitive guy. He’s learning on the job and he’s going to be a great coach. After more than two decades as a top-level player, Walter, 32, is breaking into coaching at the bottom of the ladder. Gone are five-star hotels and chartered flights, both replaced by shivering in school buses and short trips across Johnson County.

While Walters minds him, he is considering a career choice and is grateful veteran head coach Ed Fritts has given him a long leash.

"That’s the greatest thing about coach Fritts is that he’s allowing me to teach the game of basketball," said Walters, who helped take Kansas to the 1993 Final Four. "Some coaches might have a big ego and might not be receptive to another hands-on-coach being right there. But we’re both like-minded that in trying to win."

Walters also teaches youth basketball at the Rex Walters Basketball Academy at Dale’s Athletic Academy in Lenexa before reporting to Blue Valley Northwest’s practice.

"Everything is great with having Rex here," said Fritts, who coached the center for 14 years. "He’s just a great person and he’s had a big impact on the kids and what we’ve been doing this year.

Players and coaches both describe Walters as a demanding coach with a strong faith in the game’s details. Players say they like him because he brings a player’s perspective to practice, though some admit they weren’t familiar with his basketball exploits.

"I’m a big KU fan," said junior Brandon Robinson. "But I was kind of young back then, so I don’t really remember him. I grew up in Iowa, so I had never heard of him," said junior Dan Petersen.

Now, Walters regales his players with tales of guarding Michael Jordan and has the team over to his home, where they watch television and play pool.

"I could do this for a long time and be very happy," Walters said.

AFTER PEARL HARBOR, why did a law-abiding U.S. citizen meekly submit to internment? And from behind barbed wire, did he react to the “loyalty questionnaire”?

Candid answers appear in “The First 80 Years,” a memoir by Wat Takeda. The book is available at: (1) Kinokuniya Bookstore, San Francisco Japanese Town; (2) Vision Books Intl., 775 E. Blithedale Ave., Mill Valley, CA 94941; (3) authors e-mail: wat-michi@aol.com.

HOUSTON—Growing up, Gordon Quan was the only Asian kid on his block, one of only a thousand in the city. But times have changed.

Three years ago, Quan, 54, became the first Asian American ever elected to the city council. But even Quan never imagined growing up in Houston as Chinese; an entire arena singing his praises to an Asian man as his hero.

The name they sing is Yao Ming, the 22-year-old Chinese basketball player and star of the Houston Rockets, who has become the year’s biggest sports story. Yao started in the NBA All-Star Game Feb. 9 and scored two points. Analysts say it was a ploy to Rock the Yao, but it’s his popularity among non-Asian fans that has many, including Quan, talking about broader change.

"Some coaches might have a big ego and might not be receptive to that," said Walters, who helped take Kansas to the 1993 Final Four. "Every Yao shot, rebound, assist and block."

"I realized the site was tapping into something that has been in the closet a long time," said Quan. "He is an Asian male," said Takehara, a producer at a tech firm by day. "You go on the discussion board, and these guys are really thundering their chumps.

Discussions of Yao often strayed into race and the status of Asians in America.

"The guys’ starting a point for a lot of Asian Americans to talk about the positive and negative. But the fact is Asian Americans talk," said Jon Chang, 35, a freelance writer at the University of Texas at Austin, wrote a scathing critique in the AAUW Asian American Studies fellow at the University of Texas at Austin, wrote a scathing critique in the AAUW Asian American Studies associate director. "It’s a site where Asian Americans can vent."

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process: "Go -- for example -- "We" (the Middle East) and "You" (the rest of the world) are working to accommodate their new Mandarin-speaking staff members, even introducing a weekly radio show in Mandarin. "At the end, O’Neal tallied 31 points and 13 rebounds compared with Yao’s 10 points, 10 rebounds and 8 blocks. But Yao more than held his own, slamming home the decisive basket with a minute left and walking away with an overtime win.

"Besides winning enough votes to start ahead of O’Neal in the recent NBA All-Star Game, Yao has gotten some lucrative endorsements, including his first two TV ads—one for Apple Powerbooks that paired him with Verna." "Men-Mi"Troyer and a Super Bowl ad for Visa both of which were hits.

in San Francisco, the Camera 3 Cinemas in San Jose.

"1997 Asian Week,'" a gritty documentary on refugees, is being held as a Best Documentary Oscar nominee. "Asian American males," said Takehara, a producer at a tech firm by day. "You go on the discussion board, and these guys are really thundering their chumps.

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S.F. International AA Film Festival to Run March 6-16

With more than 130 films and videos from 15 countries, the 21st San Francisco International Asian American Film Festival comes of age with a 43-program cinematic showing, an intensive cultural reflection of Asian America and the Asian diaspora.

The festival will take place March 6-16 at the AMC Kabuki 8 Theatres and at the Camera 3 Cinemas in San Francisco, the Camera 3 Cinemas in Berkeley and the Camera 3 Cinemas in San Jose. The festival is open to the public.

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**COMMENTARY**

**Whither National JACL? To Live or Die Out?**

By TAKASUMI KOJIMA

Recently, there have been reports of a crisis in JACL’s future because of financial setbacks and decline of membership.

The crisis is, ironically, of its own making and is so severe that by 2022 the JACL may be reduced to less than 20 percent of the current membership.

There are those who derogate such predictions, saying a "revival" is in the making. Proof is offered in the form of increased awareness of civil rights and Nikkei cultural programs. This is indeed positive, yet it’s hardly a renaissance.

Large numbers of Nikkei are drifting away from the JACL because they are not living and thinking as Nikkei. They are living instead as a single-identity, as a Hapa generation. The Hapa generation knows little about Nikkei culture. Worse, perhaps, they seem not to care. They continue to eat and marry, and most don’t try to bring their mate and children into the JACL. The result: a combination of ignorance, indifference and intermarriage leading to disappear­ance into the majority culture. A Nikkei Sonoma State demograph­er predicted 10 years ago that the Nikkei population in 2000 would be fewer than one million.

It is shocking to realize that the golden age of Japanese Americans may be expiring as we progress through the 21st century. Readers may find it difficult to accept such a prediction, for they may see an affluent, educated group of JACL­ers who appear anything but disappearing. Yet, the other face is equally impressive in its negative aspects.

In the 1990s, more than 70 per­cent of Nikkei had mixed marriages.

In the 20th century, fewer than 35 percent of the Nikkei belonged to chapters. These members form a smaller percentage.

The rate of ignorance of JACL activities is incredibly high.

The number of Nikkei consid­ered “active” in perpetuating the culture is in the single figures.

We need a Nikkei leadership that can address the pressing issue of civil rights, which can inspire and which believe in Nikkei values and ideas. That kind of Nikkei educator can thrive in a world where Nikkei ideas can cast a beacon of light. That kind of Nikkei leadership has the power to repair the JACL. Every Nikkei who cares about our future must join in building this new JACL.

Today, there has been a failure of leadership. We see a plethora of meetings, an outbreak of resolutions, discussions ad nauseam of the “financial” problems, formations of blue ribbon committees of every type, all bickering on the same data and repeating that “further research” is the solution. The reso­lutions passed by every task force on continuity sound weirdly similar. Each report turns out to be empty of content, wordy and non-specific.

Was that the mighty battle cry to mobilize the JACL? President Mary Matsuda Taterishi, who are both able leaders, seem frustrated in being unable to emerge with a strong, revitalizing program. What should have been a Nikkei summons to support a plan of action emerged as a dull bureaucratic failure.

In sum, present leaders have failed to provide vision, and the Nikkei have gone their way. The result, if not reversed, would be the JACL to fade away. To avoid that vision must be coupled with real­ity. Alas, that combination is miss­ing. The JACL will fade away if there is nothing.

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Raymond Wong, OCA national CIO, have joined JACL's calls for an Asian Pacific American Legal Foundation locked up during WWII. In a joint statement, "outrageous and uneducated," said whose task is to craft policies for dice, war hysteria, and a failure of perception. If we do not accurately portray the past, we risk repeating it.

"At a time when we should be reflecting on a historic wrong, American society has stood on its head," said Wu. "Japanese Americans were not rounded up into internment camps for protection. If we do not accurately portray the past, we risk repeating it."

In addition to Coble's comments, the California Assemblyman George Nakano, D-Torrance, recently introduced a similar bill in the state legislature. Nakano is outraged at Coble's comments endorsing the internment camps. "The guns from the guard towers were pointing into the camp, not out," he said. "The barred windows were facing the camps were pointing inward at the top to keep us in, not to keep us out."

In addition to Coble's comments, fellow North Carolina Representative Sue Myrick has been criticized for her recent comments about Arab Americans. Myrick is one of the few members of Congress who has failed to come forward with statements condemning the current climate in the country and the plight of targeted Arab and Muslim Americans. With a growing public outcry against the violence for which he was responsible, Myrick has faced significant criticism.

"It's important to acknowledge the role as hate crime prevention fellow," said Ismael. "The state of California, while taking a stand for justice and they've taken a stand for improvement with the introduction of hate crimes legislation, for improving protections against hate crimes, APALC recently part..."

The controversy surrounding the Joseph Ileto Hate Crimes Prevention Fellow is part of the proceedings with the Joseph Santos Ileto Hate Crimes Prevention Fellowship. The fellowship has been established to provide direct assistance to hate crime victims, educate the public about hate crimes, and advocate for legislative and policy changes that will lead to improvements in the treatment of hate crime victims.

"Many people who lose a loved one, they become isolated, they become even more silent, they cut off relations with other communities, and we understand that totally. But what we also appreciate is this courageous family who stepped forward not only to speak out against hate crimes but to reach out to people of different religious faiths, across racial boundaries," Kwoh said.

"The Ileto family has reached out to people around the country. They've gone to marches for ways to help, to ways to change, to D.C. They've reached out to the Jewish community. They've reached out to the other Asian American and Latino families. I'm very proud to say that they've become heroes. They've become heroes because they've taken a position, they've taken a stand for justice, and they've just suffered in silence."

The Ileto family's newfound role in the hate crime advocacy movement has come at a price. However, Ismael said they have received several death threats as well as hate mail, which recently forced them to change residence. But they remain committed to continue to be a visible presence and will soon be embarking on a college campus tour across the United States to talk about Joseph's story and further educate students about hate crimes. A large part of the proceeds will go towards the fellowship.

For more information about the Joseph Santos Ileto Hate Crimes Prevention Fellowship, call 213-441-6000 ext. 229.

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PACIFIC CITIZEN, FEB. 21-MAR. 6, 2003
9

COBLE
(Continued from page 1)


"It only makes sense that a man whose task is to craft policies for national security should support racist policies," said Raymond Wong, OCA national president. "The U.S. government has learned from this shameful mistake; Coble, Wong pointed out, hasn't."

"Coble's comments are outrageous and uneducated," said Floyd Mori, JACL national president. "In a joint statement, "outrageous and uneducated," said whose task is to craft policies for dice, war hysteria, and a failure of perception. If we do not accurately portray the past, we risk repeating it."

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PACIFIC CITIZEN, FEB. 21-MAR. 6, 2003


East COAST
Philadelphia
Sat., Feb. 29—Trip to Philadelphia JACL. Installation Dinner; 5 p.m. cocktails, 6 p.m. dinner; Diamond Function Room, Double Tree Hotel, downtown.

East Coast

Northern California
SACRAMENTO
Sat., Feb. 22—Angel Island Immigrant Museum; 1:30-3:30 p.m.; Angel Island Immigration Museum and Historical Park; www.aiimuseum.org; by RSVP; Info: JACL Sacramento 916/439-5114.

Southern California
CITY OF COMMERCE
Sat., March 15—JACSC Breakfast; 8 a.m.; Five Star Restaurant, 1603 E. 7th St., Commerce; $20. Info: Cindy Chinn, 818/590-0819.

San Francisco
Feb. 27—Angel Island Immigration Museum; 10 a.m.; 1 p.m.; $6; by RSVP; Info: www.aiimuseum.org.

San Francisco

San Francisco

San Francisco
Fri., March 14—Exhibit opening: “Heartbreak House,” photographs; 6-8 p.m.; 15th Floor, San Francisco Chronicle, 800 Mission St., San Francisco (free admission).

San Francisco
Fri., March 14—Speakeasy: 6 p.m.; 1 p.m.; JACC, 1246 Grant Ave., San Francisco; $25. Info: 415/439-5010.

San Francisco
Sat., March 15—JACL Triennial Convention; 11 a.m.-5 p.m.; Four Seasons Hotel, 717 Market St., San Francisco; $106. Info: jncl@japanculture.org.

San Francisco
Mon., April 7—Post Office Dedication Ceremony; 1:30 p.m.; Aoyama Matsuri; Jimori Shrine; 320 Hotel St., Little Tokyo, Los Angeles; $10. Info: nico@rpsla.org.

San Francisco
Thu., Feb. 27—JACL Legislative Breakfast; 7:30-9:30 a.m.; Hyatt Regency San Francisco, 153 Front St., San Francisco; $60 per person. Info: brimley@japlaw.org or 415/928-3535.

San Francisco
Fri., June 6—Gift luncheon; see Las Vegas re bus transportation.

TorrANCE
Sat., March 8—PANA USA New Year’s Party & General Meeting; 5:30 p.m.; 6 p.m. dinner & entertainment; 9:30 p.m. meeting; 4880 S. Vermont Ave. (323/781-2800). Info: Kiyomi Kimura, 310/324-2875.

LOS ANGELES
Sun., March 2—Tea Garden Hosted by Koko Inoue, OC NAPALC; free. Info: Hsiao-Shih Oeta, 714/855-4492.

Bakersfield
Fri., Feb. 27—8 p.m.; Art Center of the Salinas Valley; 2675 Hill St., Salinas Valley, California. Info: 831/752-7577.

Northern California
San Francisco
Fri., March 6—“Japanese American History Month”; Noon; JACL, 1246 Grant Ave., San Francisco; $13 per person. Info: 415/439-5010.

San Francisco
Fri., March 21—JACL Installation Dinner; 5:30-7:30 p.m.; Hyatt Regency San Francisco, 153 Front St., San Francisco; $160. Info: 415/397-5900.

San Francisco
Sat., March 2—Japanese American History Month Installation Dinner; 6 p.m.; Sunday Piano Bar, 730 Sutter St., San Francisco; 415/397-5900. Info: Shuji Zama, 415/397-5900.

Northern California
Fri., March 6—2003 Installation Dinner; 6 p.m.; Sunday Piano Bar, 730 Sutter St., San Francisco; 415/397-5900. Info: Shuji Zama, 415/397-5900.

San Francisco
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