Film "Better Luck Tomorrow" Wants Mainstream Success for AAAs
By TRACY UBA
Writer/Reporter

Justin Lin’s independent film “Better Luck Tomorrow” already broke one barrier: it was the first Asian American film to screen and subsequently pick up distribution at last year’s Sundance Film Festival in Park City, Utah. Now, it’s going for a second: crossover success at the box office.

The film — about a group of upper middle class AA high school teenagers whose ambition and academic success belies a darker struggle descending into a disturbing furry of sex, drugs and violence — is opening in limited release in major U.S. cities April 11 and 18. Asian American audiences are being encouraged to make it a mainstream hit.

“For the first time, we are not on screen for some function ‘just because,’” said Kadoike.

JACL to Challenge U.S. PATRIOTS Act
By CAROLINE AOYAGI
Executive Editor

SAN FRANCISCO—The JACL is taking on the U.S. PATRIOTS Act.

At its first national meeting of the year March 1-2, board members unanimously voted to take a serious look at the Act and consider avenues to mount a legal challenge.

“It’s one of those bills, after you read it you think, ‘Oh my God’ . . . this is incredible,” said John Teshirogi, JACL executive director. “As a civil rights organization it’s imperative that we challenge . . . the legitimacy of the Act.”

The U.S. PATRIOTS Act was passed by the House and Senate shortly after the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks and signed into law by President Bush. Americans were devastated by the deaths of hundreds of fellow Americans and the nation’s little resistance, passing easily.

But now a number of civil rights organizations, including JACL, are dismayed at the actions taken by the U.S. government under the provisions of the Act, questioning their right to take away the civil freedoms of citizens and legal residents alike.

Under the Act the U.S. government: may monitor religious and political activities without suspicating criminal activity to assist in a terror investigation; has seized the identities of hundreds of people without charges; encouraged bureaucrats to resist public records requests; can monitor public library records and bookstore purchases; may monitor jailhouse conversations between attorneys and their clients and deny lawyer’s to Americans accused of crimes; may seize and seize Americans’ papers and effects without probable cause to assist in a terror investigation; and may interrogate Americans indefinitely without trial.

Michelle Yoshida, JACL legal counsel, pointed to the case of Osama Awadallah to illustrate the far-reaching powers of the PATRIOTS Act. Awadallah had originally been arrested as a material witness for a grand jury investigation shortly after the Sept. 11 attacks. He ended up being imprisoned for 83 days, spending most of his days in solitary confinement. On April 30, 2002, it was finally determined that Awadallah was unlawfully detained and the immunity agreement dissolved.

“Mr. Awadallah was very much like most of us,” pointed out David Haycox, JACL vice president of planning and development. Originally from San Diego, Awadallah had been involved in the community and civil rights issues but he was arrested because of his race, said Haycox.

With the help of legal counsel, JACL is currently looking for a case that will help to project the limits of the U.S. PATRIOTS Act. JACL is also looking to support an organization that has decided to challenge the Act. Several cities across the country have already passed resolutions protesting portions of the Act.

The board noted that the need to challenge the PATRIOTS Act has become even more important since documents have been leaked out showing that a PATRIOTS Act II is in the works, an act with even more far reaching ramifications than the original.

According to the Center for Public Integrity that posted Act II on their website, this new act would

See JACOL/03/page 9

MORI MEMO
An Open Letter to the JACL Membership
By FLOYD MORI
JACL National President

Thank you all for being members of JACL and supporting a great organization that continues to work for the benefit of us all. As we try to build up membership through various membership drives, we hope you will join us in encouraging others to join JACL as well. Many friends and relatives would join JACL if we approach them about membership. We can also give gift memberships to those whom we feel would benefit from JACL membership.

It is unfortunate that we have been required to raise the dues for JACL membership in order to keep JACL going. Increasing our membership numbers significantly would help us financially so that further dues increases might not be necessary. If most members of JACL would help us obtain one or more new members, it would

See MORI MEMO/page 4

Democratic Chair Calls for Resignation, JACL Joins Groups Requesting Meeting With Rep. Coble
By Pacific Citizen Staff
and Associated Press

The Democratic National Committee (DNC) has called on North Carolina Congressman Howard Coble to resign from his subcommittee chairmanship at the same time two dozen organizations, including the JACL, are requesting a personal meeting with Coble.

The DNC passed a resolution urging Coble, a Greensboro Republican, to step down from his post as chair of the House Crime, Terrorism and Homeland Security Subcommittee, according to a statement released recently.

"In our work to keep our country safe from terrorism, policymakers have an obligation to bal­ ance the need to protect our home­ land and safeguard the constitu­ tional rights of all American citi­ zens and residents," Democratic Chairman Terry McAuflle said in the statement.

"Congressman Coble is not fit to lead our country on security and constitutional matters and must resign from the chairmanship," the statement said.

A spokesperson for Coble declined to comment. Meanwhile, the JACL joined two dozen organizations on Feb. 15 — the National Day of Remembrance — in requesting a meeting with Coble.

See COBLE/page 5

See COBLE/page 5
Response to 'Whither National JACL? To Live or Die Out?'

One wonders what Takamini Kojima's commentary in the PCC, Feb. 21-Mar. 6, "Whither National JACL? To Live or Die Out?" seeks to accomplish. If his goal is reversing the trend of decreasing membership, he takes the startling tack of threatening a demographic group that the JACL has largely ignored, even though this group represents the future of the Japanese American community.

Unbeknownst, Kojima states that the Hapa generation knows little about Nikkei culture. Worse, perhaps, they seem not to care. They continue to go out and may not even try to bring their mate and children into the JACL. Elsewhere, Kojima declares ignorance, indifference and intermarriage, a permutation of the lopsided political slant of ram, Romanism and renunciation.

With attitudes like this, is it any wonder that the JACL's membership is shrinking? The vast majority of JAs are not members of the JACL. Some have decades-old anger over JACL leaders who collaborated with the enemy, and others find little reason to join. So, why are those who are outmarried and their multiracial children being blamed for the demise of an organization that does little to address the growing diversity of the JA community?

If the JACL and its various chapters are not growing, perhaps the problem lies with those who harbor a distaste for out-marriage and Hapans. Were JACL chapters welcoming the children of intermarriage, this would be expanding, not shrinking. As the spouse of a multiracial Sam and the mother of a multiracial Yonsei in Sacramento, I am the JACL chapter because it offers programs to attract those of multiracial backgrounds, such as multiracial forums, and encourages multiracial individuals to take on leadership roles.

How many other JACL chapters can claim they have developed programs to attract Japanese of mixed race backgrounds? Look at your membership and your board. If multiracial JAs are not well-represented, perhaps it is time that the chapter becomes more of what JACL claims to be: a civil rights organization.

Barbara Takenaka
Sacramento, Calif.

A Story Worth Reporting

I read with great interest the article titled, "The Story of Mr. Nishimura Recalls Trying War Years," reported in the Feb. 7, 2003, issue of the Pacific Citizen. I recently read a clipping from the Deseret News newspaper in Salt Lake City, Utah, featuring a story about Nishimura. He experienced a very similar situation as that of Nishimura. Agaki, however, directed his efforts toward what I would consider a positive result. I feel this story is more worthy of reporting than Mr. Nishimura's in that the sacrifice rendered by Agaki and others was a far more positive result for all Americans of Japanese ancestry.

Witness the fact that the Senate and House bills providing for the separation and apology to the evacuees was labeled House Bill 442 and Senate Bill 100 which was signed into law by President Ronald Reagan. I believe it was President Harry Truman who said, "Patriotism is not a matter of not of color, skin, national origin or religion," as he personally presented the numerous letters to the pres. to the congressional Unit Citation to the 100th/442nd as they were assembled in the Pacific Citizen, Mar. 7-20, 2003

Pledge of Allegiance

The numerous letters to the editor on the controversy concerning JACL and the pledge of allegiance vary in weight. This letter will give another based on a brief historic perspective, and therefore let the weight fall.

In 1892, Francis Bellamy wrote a "Pledge of Allegiance" for the seinen that organization. He was known to be a deeply religious man, but was a strict believer in the separation of church and state. He also opposed parochial schools on the grounds that it was the federal government's responsibility to educate children.

In 1954, Congress added the phrase "under God" to the pledge. It was a political intent to distinguish the United States from godly nations and to unify the country.

In 2002, the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit ruled that the phrase "under God" was unconstitutional. Bellamy's original intent was for the pledge to be a unifying statement. Though a religious man, he did not mean it to be a religious statement.

The congressional action of including "under God" runs counter to Bellamy's original intent of a hopeful purpose to unify the nation instead resulted in divisive. Second, the United States against godless communism was totally one-sided.

The Court of Appeals decision was courageous. It brought the pledge back to Bellamy's original intent. Further, it made it once again inclusive to all Americans regardless of race, ethnicity, religion and beliefs.

Finally, and perhaps ironically, it was recently endorsed from the Holy Bible, King James Version, as found in Matthew 22:41-22 when Jesus proclaimed: "Render therefore unto Caesar, the things which are Caesar's, and unto God the things that are God's.

So in closing I say unto you, "E pluribus unum?," the motto of our good old U.S.A.

Seymour N. Kurogagi
New York City
Asakawa Named P.C. Chair

SAN FRANCISCO—Gil Asakawa has been named as the new Pacific Citizen editorial board chairperson, it was announced by JACL National President Floyd Moser during the March 1-2 national board meeting. Asakawa is a writer, editor, and online content consultant with over 20 years of experience in the media field. He was hired as the Denver Post, Rocky Mountain News, Rolling Stone magazine, and Newsweek Japan Festival, Japan America Society of Colorado, and Empowerment Arizona.


Asakawa also writes the weekly online column "Nikkei View" about pop culture and politics for a JA perspective (http://niknews.com).

Asakawa is also a past president of the Mile-Hi JACL chapter and is a member of the Japan America Society of Colorado. Asakawa is also a member of the Steering Committee for the Colorado Dragon Boat Festival, an annual pan-Asian celebration in Denver.

Asakawa Named P.C. Chair

The University of California, Riverside's weekly student newspaper, The Highlander, has issued an apology for running an offensive, non-story-driven editorial that prompted complaints and faculty wrote in to express their displeasure and outrage.

In a published statement, Highlander Editor-in-Chief Khalil Ford said: "The Highlander understands that the xenophobic depiction deeply offended some of our readers, and that they should be deeply apologetic to them." Ford noted that the publication of the editorial was against the paper's own policy and said new steps were being implemented to ensure cartoons would now be subject to the same scrutiny as articles.

The "Mizery" cartoon published in the Feb. 4 issue depicted an Asian teaching assistant speaking broken English while students at the back of the class asked, "Where did all the English speaking Grad Students go?

"As a former-born Chinese teaching assistant, I find this cartoon deeply disheartening," wrote Kay Pih, a sociology graduate student, in a letter to the editor. "I'm troubled by the portrayal of Asian teaching assistants and all teaching assistants. Furthermore, in this country, my fees fund a publication that openly condones racist material greatly impacting Asian American students. I am most amazed that not one person on the Highlander editorial board found the cartoon compelling.

Professor�s in UC Riverside's sociology department wrote in the Highlander that "the depiction is reminiscent of racist newspapers' 'funnies' during dark times in our country's history. It is not acceptable to portray Asian Americans as objects of derision in our campus newspaper.'"

In response to the outcry, Steve Krevitz, UC Riverside's sociology graduate student, developed a website to educate people about anti-Asian stereotypes and caricatures.

It is he talks about the Highlander incident and the hosting of such websites (http://home.att.com/~bkraw/ crank/actl.html).

Asakawa Named P.C. Chair

APAs in the News

Health Plans for JACL Members

Blue Shield of California offers health care coverage to JACL members ages 18 and over who reside in California. Choose from plans offering a wide range of benefits, including vision care, worldwide emergency coverage, dental care, prescription drug benefits, more. For more information about these plans and to become a member, call the JACL Health Plans Hotline:

1-800-400-5233

Blue Shield www.jaclhealth.org

UC Riverside Student Newspaper Apologizes for Offensive Cartoon

By Pacific Citizen Staff

JACL Members are reminded that your tax-deductible donations to: P.C. Save, 7 Copania Circle, Monterey Park, CA 91755

$25 $50 $75 $100 Other

Name:

Address:

Phone:

Chapter:

National Newsbytes

By Pacific Citizen Staff

Michigan Senate Approves Takai for Information Technology Department Director

LANSING, Mich.—Teressa Takai, a computer and information expert in private business, was unanimously approved by the state Senate on Feb. 20 in the director of the Department of Information Technology Department.

Takai was appointed by Democratic Gov. Jennifer Granholm to replace the Lansing Democrat, who had entered an open race in 2004 year. She is a partner at the Legal Aid Foundation. He received an honorary plaque from the state Senate.

The resolution from Hawaii's Democratic-controlled House originally called for reviewing whether Coble should continue as chairman of the subcommittee overseeing homeland security.

His comments have drawn harsh criticism from Asian American groups and fellow congressmen, including Rep. Barbara Mammari, R-Kalani Valley Island, a former Japanese military, who stopped short of calling for an apology when he sent a letter to Coble but asked that he re-examine his comments.

"Because of your important position," Mammari wrote, "I wish that you realize minority groups that have suffered discrim­ination, or the same action, will never be allowed again.

Great Los Angeles for the 2003-2004 year. He is a partner in the law firm of Mounger, Gonda & Seki and practices criminal defense law with 40 years of experience in the representation of law enforcement officers. He represented several clients in such high-profile cases as the Los Angeles Police Department Rumpant Scandal.

Prior to private practice, Seki was a Los Angeles County deputy district attorney for nine years and has an esteemed history of service at the University of Southern California School of Law since 1991.

Herb Watanabe, a lifelong resident of Culinong, Calif., was honored as the 2002 Citizen of the Year by the city's Chamber of Commerce. Watanabe was the editor of "It is an extremely racist effor to promote more cultural sensitivity in the NBA."
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gag orders on defendants would be lifted and a TIPS phone line to the intelligence community; residents could report them with full access to genetic information; access to airline passenger names will be developed.

"It’s unprecedented," said Tateishi, describing Act II as "innocent and the work of a madman." He added: "This is the ultimate nightmare of taking away people's rights in this country."

Tateishi believes that taking on this Act I will be one of the most important things JACL ever does because it will be a very long and involved process. "It's important that we do this," he said. "It's something that we really have to do in a careful way."

(Motion made by: David Matas, PNW governor; second: Clyde Ishihara, FFC governor)

Other Issues:
CAPPS II
The JACL expressed concern about a new system to check background information of all commercial airline passengers, to be developed by Lockheed Martin.

"I'm worried that this system will start to profile," said Tateishi, who has been talking to the Department of Transportation to express JACL's concerns. "We all have got to get out there on this one ... it's another wrong step the U.S. government is taking.

CAPPS II, the Computer Assisted Passenger Prescreening System, ordered by Congress after the Sept. 11 attacks, will gather much more information than previously. Delta Airlines will try out the system in about a month.

The nationwide computer system will check outgoing credit reports and bank account activity and compile passenger names with those on government watch lists. The system will also rate a passenger’s travel potential by assigning a color of either green, yellow or red. Critics see the system as profiling, while supporters believe it will help weed out dangerous people while ensuring law-abiding citizens aren't unnecessarily scrutinized.

Rep. Coble
The JACL continues to press for the removal of Rep. Coble, R-N.C., as chair of the subcommittee on homeland security, after he made remarks endorsing the World War II internment of Japanese Americans.

"It was an innocent statement on his part but his views are very racist," said Tateishi, noting that Coble voted against the 1988 redress bill.

JACL and its chapters have sent several e-mail letters, signed petitions to Coble demanding an apology and his resignation for so far receiving an unsatisfactory response from the longtime representative. JACL has also requested a face-to-face meeting with Coble, but so far Coble is still waiting for a response.

Gil Akaway, Pacific Citizen board chair, noted that Asian Pacific American issues tend to fade quickly in the mainstream media and encouraged JACL to continue speaking up on the issue of Coble's removal.

"We need your help to get the media's attention. We're pissed off," said Tateishi.

JACL and its chapters have sent several e-mail letters, signed petitions to Coble demanding an apology and his resignation for so far receiving an unsatisfactory response from the longtime representative. JACL has also requested a face-to-face meeting with Coble, but so far Coble is still waiting for a response.

In response to their first letter was received, reported Inouye.

The organizations had been complaining about boxers shorts that showed a picture of Buddha with the words, "Rob me for luck."

So far, only a form letter from Macy's has been received. The JACL and BCA want an apology and action taken to protect such offensive products from being sold in the future by Macy's.

"This is much more than a merchandising issue; this is something that demonstrates an insensitivity to Asian Americans," JACL and BCA noted in their letter.

JAP's Ad
After the JACL complained to both the Macy's and BCA about their newest mailer, "Sensible," requesting that they remove at least the first letter was removed, received Inouye. The JACL will write a letter to the chair of the Macy's committee that is currently looking at changing the law.

(Motion made by: Ken Inouye, PNW governor; sec- cond: Ueha; vote: unanimous)

"We need to let the media know that we're pissed off," said Tateishi.

The National Board of the JACL has joined in on the affirmative action discussion, through its website to Congress, urging the House Leadership to pass a resolution on this issue, a resolution that supports the separation of church and state, and whose byline is "under God." The JACL noted that close to 10 national organizations of Asian American issues have written letters opposing the "under God" in the pledge: the National Board of the JACL, as a civil rights organization that supports the separation of Church and State and whose byline is "under God," from a final Senate vote saying the word "under God" will no longer be used.

"I have never seen something like this since the redress days," he said. But undeterred, Tateishi plans to continue pursuing the issue.

Total Information Awareness System
JACL plans to distribute the materials to all JACL chapters first and then to various Osaka, and a brochure to educate people about hate crimes against APAs.

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Affirmative Action
The issue of "under God" in the pledge of allegiance continues to be debated in Washington. Tateishi will write a letter to the chair of the Congress that is currently looking at changing the law. (Motion made by: Ken Inouye, PNW governor; second: Ueha; vote: unanimous)

Macys' Buddhist Shorts
JACL's strong response on the removal of Title IX and oppose any changes to the law championed by the late Hawaii Rep. Patsey Mink that has helped encourage women's participation in sports nationwide.

Tateishi will write a letter to the chair of the BCA committee that is currently looking at changing the law. (Motion made by: Ken Inouye, PNW governor; second: Ueha; vote: unanimous)

JACL Anti-Hate Crimes Legislation
Thanks to a generous grant from the Ford Motor Company the JACL received a new program and a brochure to educate people about hate crimes against APAs.

"The JACL is an informative hate crime response guide, and "Anti-Asian Terrorism: Words can kill the spirit," are two handouts that help explain the many forms of hate crimes.

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(Taken from page 1)
Kokoro Kai Receives $5,000 From Bemhke

Kokoro Kai—The Kokoro Kai Adult Day Program has been granted a $5,000 award from the Bemhke Foundation. The funds will go toward the Nutrition Program, which provides nutritious and culturally appropriate meals to its participants.

Kokoro Kai, meaning “a meeting of hearts and minds,” is a day program designed to help seniors maintain independence and wellness through social interaction, mild exercise and social opportunities. Three days a week participants gather among their peers and enjoy activities and a healthy lunch. Participants said that they are able to support Nikkei Concerns’ Kokoro Kai Nutrition Program, which by its nature provides meals to people who are too old or too frail to prepare a meal for themselves or have a hungry stomach for many seniors in the International District.

The Kokoro Kai Adult Day Program (509 S. Jackson St.), which doubles as a community based nonprofit organization whose mission is to promote health and related services in a traditional atmosphere to primarily elderly Nikkei in the Washington/Northwest.

The Kokoro Kai program contacts Naoko Utsumi, director at 205-776-6474 or e-mail: naoko@nikkei-concerns.org.

Kokoro Kai is a community based nonprofit organization whose mission is to promote health and related services in a traditional atmosphere to primarily elderly Nikkei in the Washington/Northwest. For information about the Kokoro Kai program, contact Naoko Utsumi, director at 205-776-6474 or e-mail: naoko@nikkei-concerns.org.

LITTLE TOKYO
Saturday, May 27, 9am to 11am
GARDENA
Saturday, May 27, 9am to 11am
Ken Nakamura Center
1670 W. 162nd St.
Seating is limited. Make reservations at 626-449-7783 (24 Hrs.), or fax 626-449-7785. Reserve online at www.alakondomo.com.

YOSHIDA KAMON ART
P. O. Box 2958, Gardena, CA 90247-1158
(213) 629-2848
(8am - 10pm PST)
KEL YOUDAN
SCHOOL DIRECTOR
NINA YOSHIDA, Translator

JACL Sets Membership and Fundraising Goals for 2003

BY CAROLINE AOYAGI

SAN FRANCISCO—To help offset JACL’s predicted revenue shortfalls for 2003, the organization has set forth various membership and fundraising goals.

Lucy Kubo, JACL national program director, announced the organization’s goal of increasing membership by 2000 new members this year.

Each district will be in charge of recruiting new members with the following targets: NCWNP-DCW, 807 new members; CCDC - 114 new members; PWNW-DC, 152 new members; PWNDW-DC, 96 new members; and PWNW-MDC, 152 new members.

Kubu hopes each district will do their best to reach the above goal.

During the past year, Ryan Chii, vp. of membership, has also been promoting the gift membership program using two cameras to fund the initiative.

Chii, said “there was a lot of opportunity here but we have just pushed the gift membership,” said Chii.

In addition, all gift membership cards were distributed, only 138 gift membership cards were purchased, a figure both Chii and Kubu find disappointing.

“We had a lot of opportunity here but we have just pushed the gift membership,” said Kubu.

In addition, all gift membership cards were distributed to the various districts, but there was little response. New Kinok will change tactics and do a direct mailing to all Life, Century Club and Thousand Club members asking them to gift a membership.

In addition to the gift memberships, JACL has also been reaching out to its past national scholarship winners, many of whom have not continued membership in the organization. After an initial mail-out of 542 letters, to date 27 have renewed their memberships.

Kubu is currently working with the National JACL Credit Union on a possible sponsorship of the JACL membership campaign. In addition, the Credit Union has agreed to help JACL open a merchant account so membership and fundraising payments can be made with a credit card, with the Credit Union picking up the service charges.

National JACL Gala Dinner


National JACL is working closely with the selected cities to host the event. Hirono Uehi, PWNW governor, encouraged all the board members to attend the dinner and asked for names and contacts of possible sponsors for the event.

Inaugural National Nikkei Golf Tournament

The JACL and the National Japanese American Memorial Foundation (NJAMF) will be hosting the inaugural National Nikkei Golf Tournament July 14 at the Westfields Golf Club in Northern Virginia. Details are currently being worked on and more information is forthcoming.

Proceeds from the event will be split between JACL and NJAMF. Current JACL is hoping for possible sponsors for the event.

Annual Giving Campaign

The 2002 Annual Giving campaign raised $589,000, an increase of $40,000 from the 2001 campaign. 

"The response rate was approximately the same in both years but in 2002 people made larger contributions," said Kubu. JACL plans to do a mid-year fundraising campaign in May and a 2003 Annual Giving campaign in either October or November.

Legacy Grants

David Hayashi, JACL vp. of planning and development, announced that the Legacy Grants program would be held on March 31.

Through the Legacy Fund is currently below its principle value and thus withdrawals from the fund cannot be made.

District Funding Activities

Mori Yoko, JACL national president, announced that the district grants are more aggressive when it comes to membership and fundraising.

"We can’t expect members to do things we’re not willing to do," she said. "We have to be a more responsible than we’ve been.

"It’s a big problem," he said Members of the PWND are seeking funding from NCWNP for a draft report on expansion of national JACL and a development strategy to address the current fiscal issues. Until they receive the information, they are unwilling to support national JACL’s fundraising efforts, said Mason.

In response, Mori reminded JACL that its district office is being funded by national JACL. As leaders on the national board, he emphasized that the district office should be given a chance to filter down the information and that the information is disseminated at the board meetings.

Mori noted that the JACL national budget is about $3 million for the fiscal year 2003. Mori also noted that the JACL national budget is about $3 million for the fiscal year 2003.

Estate Planning

Learn the best ways to improve your Estate Plan, and avoid the most common mistakes when investing for retirement. Pass your assets to your heirs with a minimum of tax at your estate is over $100,000.

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244 S. San Pedro
GARDENA
Saturday, May 27, 9am to 11am
Ken Nakamura Center
1670 W. 162nd St.
Seating is limited. Make reservations at 626-449-7783 (24 Hrs.), or fax 626-449-7785. Reserve online at www.alakondomo.com.

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BASKETBALL

ST. LOUIS—Quick, versatile players are all the rage in the NBA, but Los Angeles Lakers Coach Phil Jackson timeless Shaquille O'Neal heads the list of the league's top 25 players as compiled by The Sporting News.

Houston Rockets center Yao Ming came in at No. 23. The St. Louis-based publication polled general managers for its top-25 list, highlighted in the March 3 edition of Newsweek.

O'Neal's teammate Kobe Bryant is No. 2 on the list. One general manager said Bryant is the closest the NBA has to Michael Jordan in his prime. Bryant's streak of nine straight games of 40 or more points ended Feb. 25, when he scored 23 in a win over the Los Angeles Clippers.

Rounding out the top 10 were, in order, San Antonio's Tim Duncan, Orlando's Tracy McGrady, Minnesota's Kevin Garnett, New Jersey's Jason Kidd, Sacramento's Chris Webber, Dallas' Dirk Nowitzki, Boston's Paul Pierce and Philadelphia's Allen Iverson.

These ranked 11-25 were, in order, Jermaine O'Neal, Indiana; Gary Payton, Milwaukee; Steve Francis, Houston; Vincent Carter, Toronto; Steve Nash, Dallas; Jordan, Washington; Richard Wallace, Portland; Ray Allen, Seattle; Stephen Marbury, Phoenix; Karl Malone, Utah; Shawn Marion, Phoenix; Baron Davis, New Orleans; Yao, Houston; John Stockton, Utah; and Michael Finley, Dallas.

***

Meanwhile, in Beijing, Yao fell short of winning China's "Sportsman of the Year" award.

Yao and other candidates fell flat in boasting to world champion gymnast Li Xiong, who helped China win the 2000 Olympic all-around gold and won three golds in last year's Asian Games.

Yao was in Washington for a game with Michael Jordan and the Wizards at the time of the announcement, which took place Feb. 28, Beijing time.

Even the 21-year-old Li said he thought Yao would take the top prize.

"I thought Yao would win because no one can deny that basketball is a more popular sport than gymnastics in China," Li said. "Everyone, including me, likes Yao more." Li was quoted as saying by China's official Xinhua News Agency.

One of the 80 sports authorities who picked the winner said the nominees' international competition results are more important criteria than their popularity.

"It's a great win among interna­ tional titles last year, and I think he deserves the title," said former Olympic champion Wung Jun-song.

BASEBALL

Vancouver Asahi Team Elected Into Hall of Fame

TORONTO—The Vancouver Asahi, a team with Japanese descent that won several championships before World War II, was elected to the Canadian Baseball Hall of Fame on Feb. 24.

They join Tezutao star Joe Carter, Canadian pitcher Kirk McCaskill and administrative Richard Harada, who are also among the nominees for the Canadian hall.

Baseball's Hall of Fame and Famer Mort Berson scowled at the idea.

"I'm a little bit upset about it," Berson said.

"I don't think it's completely absurd, but Selig won't say if or when he will take any action. Still, it's possible that the Canadian Baseball Hall of Fame has inducted 58 members, including Berson's James Hare, who is the most famous to win 264 (by a Canadian).

The hall will hold its induction ceremony on June 28 in St. Marys.

Suzuki, Sasaki Look Forward to Opener in Japan

TOYOKO—The Seattle Mariners' long road trip for opening day will be a trip home for first-year manager Kazuhiro Sasaki and Kazuhito Sasaki.

That's because the Mariners are starting the season in Japan, a two-game series against the Oakland Athletics at the Tokyo Dome on March 25-26.

"It will be a totally different experience from any other opening game," Suzuki said. "I want to play in my native country for the Mariners is a very exciting thing for me." The Mariners will be a well-rested, talented team and it will be important to get their first hitter out to see how they play," Suzuki said, "It will be fun."

That's because the Mariners' opener before the 2001 season and the AL MVP and Rookie of the Year awards. He battled 321 with eight homers and 51 RBIs last year.

Suzuki has missed 91 games of the year, had surgery in the off-season to remove a floating bone chip from his right elbow. He said he's making progress and is looking forward to taking the mound in Japan.

"I feel very excited," Suzuki said. "It's the first time I'll pitch in Japan in this season." The Mariners held Suzuki's start to two warm-ups before their March 20 exhibition game against the Chicago Cubs.

On Feb. 9, she shot a 5-over 77 in the final round of the Hawaii Pearl City Open, finishing with an 80-over 254 to 4 for 43-piece place. She was the only female player — and the youngest overall — in a field of 192, half of whom are top Japanese professionals.

In January, Week tried to qualify for the PGA Tour's Sony Open. She shot a 73 over 73 from the back tee and tied for 47th playing against 90 men. In December, she won the Hawaii Junior Amateur's Tournament of Champions.

"It was a little difficult to adjust," she said. "Moving up from high school to playing a first-class European Tour was difficult for me."

San aki, who pitched 10 sem­ tens in the Tokyo Dome, was tentatively sched­ uled for the Pacific Coast League for the next season.

Production Company Seeks JAs for ‘Antiques Roadshow’ Special

Robin's Nest Media Factory, a tele­ vision consultation/production com­ pany based in Venice, Calif., is cur­ rently seeking Japanese or Japanese American participants for a two-hour Japanese TV special similar in format to the PBS program "Antiques Roadshow," in which people bring their antiques, collec­ tibles, heirlooms and treasures to be appraised by appraisers.

"Natsutomo Kato ("We Will Appraise Your Treasure")" is one of the most popular programs in Japan, airing nationwide on Tokyo Television Network at 8 p.m. (JST) Saturdays and Sundays. The two-hour special seri­ es will air at sometime in April.

"Several candidates who were selec­ ted prior to actual filming for a seg­ ment called "Shunsho Kanazawa," featuring individuals or groups rep­ resenting the JA community in the United States, have items of appraised material.

Location scouting, auditions and shooting dates are tentatively sched­ uled for the beginning and middle of March. Shooting times are estimat­ ed to be three hours per day.

The film crew is small and is willing to accommodate participants who have special requests or wishes to promote during filming.

Robin's Nest Media Factory has been producing television special pro­ duction for 10 years and has co-pro­ duced numerous Japanese programs, including documentaries, series, dramas, travelogues, music videos and documentaries.

For more information on how to be a part of the show, contact Kathy Sakai, Managing Media Factory production manager, at 0313-307-3207 or e-mail: kmtf@m.com. Or contact Kathy Sakai, Managing Media Factory production manager, at 0313-307-3207 or e-mail: kmtf@m.com.
The Fourth Case

KADOIKE

(Continued from page 1)

drafted hit home to Kadoike when one draftee passed away three days before their scheduled meeting. Kadoike tells of another Kadoike that more are passing away without documenting their experiences.

At the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Kadoike said he found documents showing that from the mid-1950s the central government began gathering information on the Kibei Nisei living in Japan. While Kadoike concedes he can’t verify whether the preliminary stages, he shared that the prefectoral governors were required to submit detailed information on the Kibei Nisei living in their respective prefectures. This program seemed to be taken up around 1935 and lasted for about five years, right until the outbreak of WWII.

The amount of information provided by each prefectoral governor varied, said Kadoike. Prefectures with fewer Kibei Nisei such as Ishikawa listed individual Kibei Nisei names, place of birth, year of birth and birth environment, while prefectures with a larger Kibei Nisei population such as Hiroshima, Yamaguchi and Okayama may have only listed the number of Kibei Nisei and offered no additional information.

Among some of the observations made by the prefectural governors regarding the Kibei Nisei (translated) “Good in English, Loquy in Japanese”; “Face and features as much Japanese as it seems American”; and “Educated in Japan but as soon as he/she (gender not signified) returns to America, his/her heart will return to American ways.”

From these documents, Kadoike calculates that between 3,000 to 2,000 Kibei Nisei, men and women, were in Japan before the outbreak of the war. Of this number, Kadoike estimates that between 600 to 1,000 Kibei Nisei had been drafted into the Japanese military.

It’s probably more than 500 but there is no record so it’s very difficult to check on this,” said Kadoike.

Kadoike said he hopes to have his findings on the Kibei Nisei experiences of both Kibei Nisei and women from the United States and Canada.

“I’ve become very interested in this subject,” said Kadoike, who has met many of the Kibei Nisei during the course of his research. The biggest hurdle to Kadoike’s research has been lack of funding. The trips within Japan and to the United States have been largely paid out of Kadoike’s own pocket.

Both views would sanction egregious civil rights abuses against a minority group.

Unfortunately, the same outrage is not evident when defamatory remarks are made about APAs. The public feels threatened and reacts reflexively, raising their defenses on their perception of threats to America’s dignity.

The military draft is not a constitutional concept like the internment During a radio call-in show in North Carolina, Coble stated that he supported Franklin Roosevelt’s decision to incarcerate Japanese Americans during World War II.

Coble went on to say that JAs were confined for their own protection, declaring that our community was “an endangered species.” He further said, “Some probably were more than just to harm us, just as some of these Arab Americans are probably intent on doing harm to us.”

Some of Coble’s Democratic colleagues took issue with his remarks, as did a newspaper editorial in his own hometown publication in North Carolina. The JACL took a position severely criticizing Coble, calling for his apology and that he step down from his chairmanship of the Judicial Subcommittee on Crime, Terrorism and Homeland Security, the very subcommittee that he chairs.

Several APA’s were offended by Coble’s remarks but didn’t want to make their objections public. How often do we let offensive racial behavior slide by? “Let it go,” Coble often responds. “They’re just having some harmless fun.” The problem, of course, lies in the adage that “when you tolerate insult, you invite injury.”

Racial hate is often perceived as racial slurs. The internment during WWII was preceded by years of fear-mongering and racial intolerance. Howard Coble will properly apologize and step down when the political establishment in Washington feels threatened enough to force the issue and when the media discovers that the APA’s will not abide racial insult. We all need to step up to confront offensive behavior before it undermines our credibility and our dignity.
WYOMING
Monthly—Tour of Heart Mountain camp, offered by the Heart Mountain Wyoming Foundation. Info: Pat Wolfe, 307/514-2699 or e-mail mail@heartmountain.org.

INTERMOUNTAIN
SALT LAKE CITY
Mary Williams, 2001; 2nd Annual JACL Credit Union banquet and auction.

Sun., March 23—JACL Intermountain District Council (IDC) meeting.

TWIN FALLS, Idaho
Fri.-Sun., June 27-29—JACL Bi-District Conference (DCP/NW) welcome mixer, "Hint of Hawaii" (pre-function for 2004 convention), recognition of the late Roger Shimomura, political aide Dan Shimomura and President of JACL, tua, and Jackpot, Nev. (goft here also), Mindo turu, fishing for rainbow trout.

PACIFIC NORTHWEST
SATURDAY
Seattle: Sat., March 15—Banana Exhibit, 12 noon-5 p.m.; St. Peter's Episcopal Church, 1601 S King St.; demonstrations by master Sushi Noguchi of Japan at 2 p.m. each day; tea and refreshments will be served. Info: Nobuko Okhi, 206/232-8786, or Mary Fujii-Strickler 206/788-2778.

Sun., March 16—Minidoka Reunion Luncheon, "Living in Minidoka" presentation by Cindy Kondo, 485-2073/8035; www.UNION CITY.

San Francisco: Sat., March 15—Northern California JA Senior Centers 22nd Annual Shenron Kai II.; 11 a.m. to 2 p.m.; Southern California JA Senior Center, 32957 Alvarado-Niles Rd.; obento lunch, reunion banquet in center by March 12; Info Kathy Higuchi, Yu-Ai Kai, 408/294-2529.

Central California
MARCH 22, 2004

Sat., March 22—Poston-Sierra Post 849

Sun., March 23—Peru Center, 11 a.m.; no open bar, 6 p.m. dinner; Four Points Sheraton Hotel, Blackstone at Dakota; keynote speaker, Robert Rubin, former Sec- retary of the Treasury; host: Frank Kudou, 213/328-7212, and Walter Tanaka, MS; Tickets: Osa Fujii-Strickler, 858-8850, or Mimi Fujii-Strickler, 858-357-2511.

HONOLULU
Mon., March 22—Teacher Training
22-Free performance "A New Path" by the Go for Broke Educational Foundation; directed by Jeanne Hwang Theatre, 120 Judge John Aiso St., Little Tokyo; sponsored by the Go for Broke Educational Foundation; featured speaker, Keiko Watanabe, host of "Futtermark Creations.

Los Angeles
Fri., March 26—Annual Senior Appreciation/Scholarship Reception; 5 p.m. cocktail hour, banquet, Saturday dance, and optional activities. Info: http://www.jetsca.org; 213/626-0414.

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Las Vegas

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Las Vegas
Aoki, Masu Hayashi, 83, Monrovia, N.J., Jan. 16; daughters: Patsy (Rod) Eden of Pasadena, Calif.; nurse at Mt. San Antonio Regional Medical Center; predeceased by husband Peter; children: Patsy Hirose-Burs of Santa Ana, grandson, survived by husband Pete; son Steven of McLean, Va.; daughter Ruth of Monrovia; 4 gc.

Domoto, Chiyoko “Chie”, 81, Fresno, Feb. 15; Rechberg, Idaho; born: survivors by sister Ayako (Call); Steve (fiancee); daughter Jo Ann (Bill) Namba; 7 gc.; sisters: Kae (George) Kitaruma; Donna (Shig) Nakagiri, Alice Idehara-Greenberg, Jane (Hideo) Kawamura, Marie Nakagawa; brothers: Yoichi (Kazuko), Ted and Fred (Nerko) Nakagawa; brother-in-law William Yamanaka.


Fukuda, Sadao Munemori; nurse at Manzanar camp; survived by wife Hida; sons Ford, Lone, and James of Spokane, Craig of Bellevue, Wash.; daughters Catherine Tachikawa of Japan, Lyn Battaya of San Bernardino, Wash.; 2 gc.; brother Eiichi Yoshida.

Yamanaka, Chiyoko “Kay”, Redwood City, Jan. 30; survived by brothers Sam (Kathy) Nakamura, Yoko (Mas) Shito, Ashita Shito, brothers-in-law George (Anna), Frank (Peggy), Ar (Kiku), Warren (Mamie), sisters: Frank (Mary), predeceased by husband Lee, children: Yoko, Frank.

Yasukochi, Hllano R., 88, San Francisco, Feb. 10; daughters: born; sisters Sachi Takenaka of Woodland, Wash., Dr. James (Amy) Tszugawa of Bay Village, Ohio; 8 gc.

NOTICES, Of which Japanese inscription “Suyeko” is in the Midwest. With information, please mention at Ft. Snelling, Minn. Frank was a Pvt. Ssgt. MlSIS Minneapolis and St. Paul Section; later returned to United States. He believes that she was in a place and wants to contact me. Please e-mail to studvo@msn.net.

RIO SERRA, Francine: V./Van. MNr.

LA CRUZ, Walter, 67, Poston, Ariz., Dec. 23; daughter Fumiko Tashiro, widow of Michael (Joe) Tashiro, 2 gc.; born in Japan; was a member of Poston Internees, 1941-1945, was in the Midwest. With information, please mention at Ft. Snelling, Minn. Frank was a Pvt. Ssgt. MlSIS Minneapolis and St. Paul Section; later returned to United States. He believes that she was in a place and wants to contact me. Please e-mail to studvo@msn.net.


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