The head tax certificate serves as a painful reminder for many families of past injustices imposed on Chinese immigrants.

Canada Maintains No Reparations Stand for Chinese Canadians

By LYNDA LIN
Assistant Editor

For William Dere, justice comes to the government for simply being Chinese.

In 1909, Dere's grandfather arrived in Canada only to hand over $500 and the head tax certificate serves as a painful reminder for many families of past injustices imposed on Chinese immigrants.

Editorial

A crisis in the world today with the war in Iraq, the upcoming Presidential election, the 9/11 Commission, and rising gas prices. Well, maybe this may be a little under your radar, but yes, it’s the Spring Cleaning once again, and the Pacific Citizen needs your help.

See SPRING CAMPAIGN/ page 2
See HATE CRIME/ page 4
**Letters to the Editor**

**Re: Al Franken**

The March 5-18 issue of the *Pacific Citizen* carries a front-page story concerning both Al Franken's casual use of "Japs" on p. 343 of his recent book, "Lies and the Lying Liars Who Tell Them," and JACL's reaction to the slur. The story pro- vokes two thoughts.

First, this "*New York Times* Best-selling Author" first rose to public attention when playing an earnest citizen, with a penchant for "Saturday Night Live." Mr. Franken then applied lessons from SNL to his liberal activism, heaping insults on all he calls the "Right." His political overstatements have spewed over into the racial slur under discussion. JACL members who are familiar with Mr. Franken's previous political discourse should neither be surprised by his book's sloppy language nor expect apologies of etiquette from him and his publisher, E.P. Dutton. If author and publisher (or their lawyers) deign to respond, they will correctly state the author's language is constitutionally protected.

Second, if Messrs. Mori and Katsuyama, along with many others on the editorial board of the *Pacific Citizen,* are members of a reputable publication with very high circulation, they have the right to say whatever they please, so long as it is not defamatory in nature.

*Laurence Ohshara,
Cupania Circle, Los Angeles, CA 90045* 

**Same-Sex Marriage**

I read with interest the letter to the editor in the March 5-18 issue of the *Pacific Citizen* written by Emily Moto Murase. While she does a great job championing same-sex unions, she may not reflect the viewpoint of the JACL members who are familiar with Mr. Franken's previous political discourse should neither be surprised by his book's sloppy language nor expect apologies of etiquette from him and his publisher, E.P. Dutton. If author and publisher (or their lawyers) deign to respond, they will correctly state the author's language is constitutionally protected.

Second, if Messrs. Mori and Katsuyama, along with many others on the editorial board of the *Pacific Citizen,* are members of a reputable publication with very high circulation, they have the right to say whatever they please, so long as it is not defamatory in nature.

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Our years of experience extend to the early days of Bank of Tokyo-Mitsubishi, over 80 years ago. At Union Bank of California, we provide a wide variety of financial products with our most current and competitive rates. Banks are always subject to change, although we are unable to print all the letters we receive, we appreciate the interest and we will endeavor to respond to the time to send us their comments. 

—**Union Bank of California**

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—**Union Bank of California**

**JACL MEMBERS**

**Change of Address**

If you have moved, please send information to

**National JACL**

1765 Sutter St., San Francisco, CA 94115

Allow 6 weeks for address changes.

To avoid interruptions in receiving your *P.C.*, please notify your postmaster to change your subscription to your new address (USPS Form 3577).
Go For Broke Monument Vandalized

By TIM MARTIN
Associated Press Writer

The Go For Broke Monument in Los Angeles’ Little Tokyo was vandalized with more than 20 six-point stars with circles etched into the granite surface of the donor pillars. The Los Angeles Police Department is currently investigating the incident as a possible hate crime.

The star-like symbols were discovered by World War II veteran Ken Akane on March 18 as he cleaned the Monument. The incident was reported to the LAPD on March 19 and it is believed the incident occurred sometime between late March 14 to March 17.

“Just about all the police handle the incident, as well as the Little Tokyo Koban, but also realized we needed to voice our concern and disappointment about the incident,” said Akane. “We have had flower pots knocked down, but nothing of this magnitude has ever happened.”

“This incident is very disturbing because the Go For Broke Monument is a civil rights symbol representing the patriotism of the Japanese American soldiers of World War II during a time that the civil liberties of Japanese Americans were being infringed,” said Executive Director Christine Sato-Yamazaki. “The veterans built the Go For Broke Monument to ensure the civil liberties of all Americans are forever guaranteed as stated in the U.S. Constitution.”

Anyone with information that could help the LAPD investigation, are asked to contact Central Properties Detective at 213/485-2671.

The first of its kind in the mainland United States, the Go for Broke Monument, which is 40-feet in diameter and 9-feet high, represents the WWII heros of JA soldiers who fought bravely while their families were incarcerated behind barbed wire. Dedicated in 1999, this landmark commemorates the JA soldiers while serving as a permanent reminder of the civil liberties protections guaranteed by the Constitution to Americans of all races and ethnic backgrounds.

Muslim Army Chaplain Reprimanded on Charges of Adultery, Downloading Pornography

By MATTHEW BARAKAT
Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON - A Muslim Army chaplain was once again accused of being part of an espionage ring at the Guantanamo Bay prison has been found guilty of two minor charges, prompting his lawyer to call him the victim of a “drive-by act of legal violence.”

Capt. James Yee, 35, was issued a reprimand March 22 during an Article 15 proceeding, used by the Army to settle minor disciplinary issues. In such proceedings, a finding of guilt does not result in a criminal conviction.

The commanding officer at the Guantanamo Bay base, Maj. Gen. Geoffrey Miller, found Yee guilty of two violations of military law — adultery and improperly downloading pornography onto an Army computer.

Miller had the option of imposing 30 days’ arrest in quarters, 60 days restriction, and a loss of one-half of a month’s pay for a maximum of two months. He issued only a reprimand.

Yee said he will appeal.

Yee’s attorney, Eugene Fidell, said he believes Yee’s Muslim faith led authorities to improperly suspect him, calling Yee “a victim of an incredible drive-by act of legal violence.”

Yee, of Chinese descent, converted to Islam from Christianity in 1991 after his military studies at West Point. He left the army for Syria where he received religious training. He returned to the U.S. military soon after.

Yee was charged in custody after the military initially linked him to a possible espionage ring at Guantanamo Bay in Cuba. But the government failed to produce a capital espionage case against him.

He was eventually charged with misconducting classified material, failing to obey an order, making a false official statement, adultery and conduct unbecoming an officer.

Yee was arrested Sept. 10 carrying what authorities said were classified documents. On March 19, the Army dismissed all criminal charges, saying national security concerns prevented them from seeking a court-martial in open court.

Fidell said he does not believe the information Yee possessed was classified, and expressed concern from the Army will never reveal why it was suspicious of Yee in the first place.

There’s no effective remedy other than the court of public opinion,” Fidell said. “People concerned with the military justice system have come to see it as a formulaic, and university officials reviewing the policy last fall to include a more comprehensive review of each application.

JA LAPD Officer Wins $4 Million Settlement in Discrimination Lawsuit

By Pacific Citizen Staff

Japanese American officer Richard Nagatoshi won a $4 million lawsuit against the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors. Nagatoshi claimed he was a victim of discrimination, harassment, and retaliation as a member of the department’s K-9 unit.

The settlement is one of the largest employment discrimination awards ever against the LAPD.

In an interview with the Los Angeles Times, Nagatoshi said he was pleased with the settlement but was not allowed to make any further comments.

“Sometimes, many years of an attack on his dignity as a person, and he refused to let them win,” said attorney Matthew McNicholas to the Times. “He prevailed and was completely vindicated. It was a matter of honor.”

Starting in 1996 until 1998 Nagatoshi was the victim of various discriminatory acts as a member of the LAPD’s K-9 unit at a dog handler. He filed the first complaint in 2001 and according to McNicholas the retaliation from his co-workers occurred at the same time.

After Nagatoshi spoke out against his supervisors, a sergeant made a discriminatory comment against an Asian American driver during a K-9 unit event and later forced Nagatoshi to sign a compliant written in Korean, although he is not Korean. Nagatoshi was also investigated for two alleged excessive force complaints although they were later dismissed. Even after transferring from the K-9 unit some posted copies of his complaint in the K-9 unit offices and placed them in his locker.

Last year a Los Angeles Superior Court jury voted against the city and awarded Nagatoshi $951,000 in lost wages and $3 million for damages for the loss of value to his career.

Later the court added attorney fees to the award bringing the total judgment to more than $4.1 million. Under the recent settlement, the city of L.A. will pay Nagatoshi $4 million.

Nagatoshi, 41, graduated from the Police Academy in 1985 and was selected for the K-9 unit in 1993. He is married and has children.
JACL Joins Coalition to Preserve Internment Camps

By Pacific Citizen Staff

JACL recently passed a resolution to join the Japanese American National Heritage Coalition (JANHC), an umbrella organization that supports the proposal of federal legislation to preserve ten internment camp sites. At the last JACL board meeting, the original resolution to consider joining JANHC was not acted on because of concern over several issues including JACL's tax status and sensitivity to Native American tribes.

JACL President Floyd Mori then asked for members of the national board to reconsider the resolution through an e-mail vote while clarifying the proposed legislation's express his unacceptability with the camp sites and also submitted a letter to the editor. "Hopefully we will start to have a forum with other groups, in the way how to represent the API LGBT population so we are not invisible as we have been in the past, " said Dollahite.

Andrea Kaplan, vice president of corporate communications for "Details", the magazine has received several letters regarding the "Gay or Asian?" piece and plans to publish several of them in the upcoming May issue. "Details" also plans to publish the following statement in the May issue. "The "Gay or Asian?" item in our April issue was part of a continuing feature that is intended as a humorous swipe at social stereotypes. "Details" has a wide readership — male, female, straight, gay or not, and we value all of you. We appreciate the substantial feedback on this item that we have received, and we will certainly keep those concerns in mind as we move forward. We regret that anyone was offended by the article, as that was not our intention." But several AA groups and individuals are not satisfied with "Details" response and are not only pushing for an apology but are pushing for a boycott of all the magazine's advertisers, starting with those in the API community. Daniel Lee has started an "Asians Against Ignorance" petition against "Details" publishing the "Gay or Asian?" piece and plans to publish several of them in the upcoming May issue. "Details" magazine is a men's lifestyle and fashion magazine that has various feature stories in the promise of change — a long journey ahead. We learned an important lesson from the ground up, starting with their advertising money," writes Lee. "We will not be quiet. We are going to make history, take this magazine down and show what Asians are capable of. Say this petition if you are sick of being treated as a second-rate citizen..."

"Details" magazine has various feature stories including one on divorce in the API community that has Nick Lachey, former 98 degrees band member, on its cover. "Some students are disappointed," said Clark Lee, a CMC senior. "You probably won't see indifference on campus. It's more like shock, bitterness and anger."

Gail Takuma, a 1991 graduate of CMC, was shocked by the recent chain of events. "I did not experience any racial discrimination at all in college. I did not write about it to be talked about these hate crimes," she said.

The coalition is formed to show support the proposal of federal legislation to preserve ten internment camp sites. The coalition was formed to show support the proposal of federal legislation. They need to better understand what we are," added Mungo, who believes the API LGBT community lacks respect in the mainstream media.

The Asian American Journalists Association (AAJA) also sent a letter to "Details" calling for an apology for the piece and also submitted a letter to the editor. "This is an important issue to "Details" magazine from the ground up, starting with their advertising money," writes Lee. "We will not be quiet. We are going to make history, take this magazine down and show what Asians are capable of. Say this petition if you are sick of being treated as a second-rate citizen..."

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COMMUNITY NEWS

YOUTH FORUM
J A Identity 101

By JESSICA KAWAMURA

It was during college orientation that I was eating lunch with a bunch of other freshmen. As I turned around to join a conversation behind me, one of my peers asked me "what I was, "Japanese American" was my automatic response, although looking back at the whole experience, I wonder if I should have offered something more along the lines of "Hi, my name is Jessica. What's yours?" I can't remember the first time I identified as being JA. Perhaps it was implicit in the way my parents raised me or in the community I grew up in; however, growing up Asian American, I am sure that someone along the way asked me what I was, and I probably told them I was Japanese.

What does it mean to be a JA youth, especially a Yonsei? Many of us have grown up with a strong sense of being JA, yet this identity is not as simple as it seems. If there is such a thing as blood, we are Japanese, but by nationality and birth, we are without doubt American. Our culture is influenced by that of our Japanese forbears, yet it is also American as well. Each member of my generation has his or her own memories of what it means to be JA, I know that when I think of my experiences growing up, I remember making omiyage back from spring vacation and knowing to carry on the last piece of food.

For me, being JA is as much a political and social awareness as a cultural identity. When people look at me on the street, I will still look like a foreigner. I know that the racism of the past still exists today, perhaps not as blatantly or outright, but it is still there. In the past two months, the racial incidents at Columbia University and hate crimes at the Claremont Colleges have reminded our generation that racism still exists on our college campuses and in the outside world. I hope that as Yonsei, we can use our JA identity as a means of connecting together not only to preserve our history and culture, but also to stand for the civil rights of all people.

More importantly, I have a strong sense of my family's and our community's history. I understand that I stand on the backs of all of the previous generations who put up with blatant discrimination and overcame it. From those who made the journey from Japan and endured the humiliation of internment, to those who bravely fought for us on the battlefields of Europe and the Pacific and those who sought our civil rights at home, I know that I owe respect and gratitude to those who came before me.

As Yonsei, we have the choice to decide whether or not we identify as JA. Although race is not a choice, ethnic identification is. I have chosen a JA identity because it reflects my upbringing and the supportive family and community in which I grew up. It is not because I don't think that I am not good enough to be "just American," but because I recognize that the past is not so easily forgotten. For me, being JA is as much a political and social awareness as a cultural identity. When people look at me on the street, I will still look like a foreigner. I know that the racism of the past still exists today, perhaps not as blatantly or outright, but it is still there. In the past two months, the racial incidents at Columbia University and hate crimes at the Claremont Colleges have reminded our generation that racism still exists on our college campuses and in the outside world. I hope that as Yonsei, we can use our JA identity as a means of connecting together not only to preserve our history and culture, but also to stand for the civil rights of all people.
REDRESS (Continued from page 1)

of the long-standing battle between member of the Chinese Canadian community affected by the taxes and the Canadian government, which took the position against reparations in 1994.

"Jean Augustine's portrayal of the 'official government' policy is completely unacceptable," said Kenda Gee, chair of the Edmonton Head Tax and Exclusion Act Redress Committee (HTEA). "The remarks ... merely underline the ignorance or willful blindness of this issue that is so dear to our Ostrom bureaucrats and officials."

But even within the Chinese Canadian community there is disagreement on this issue.

Said Keng, chair of the Chinese Cultural Center of Greater Vancouver: "If the policy of the head tax was set up and the Chinese immigrants affected like him, then there's nothing to complain about."

But for Dero, who calls Montreal his home, and Chinese Canadians affected like him, this debate is still a sore point when there's still an uneasy feeling about being at home after all these years.

"True integration and true recognition of belonging is the redressing of past wrongs. I will not feel accepted 100 percent until the history is recognized," he said.

Finding Deep Racial Problems

Dine chose to visit and report on Canada this year because of "the country's interesting policies and programs to promote multiculturalism."

Canada was, in fact, the first country to introduce a multiculturalism act to promote, protect and recognize cultural and racial diversity. But after spending days meeting with members of the government and the community, Dine said she heard a different agenda. He heard personal narratives of racial profiling by the Canadian police, saw countless tears from African Canadian motorists and learned of African Canadians ousted from their homes then known as Africville in 1970.

"An apology without some sort of monetary commitment is hollow," said Pay. For Augustine, is standing with the 1994 resolution and favoring a more "forward-looking" agenda, but said perhaps as the government takes more time to review the report, they may reverse the decision. "My more recommendations are to recognize the reality of racism," she said.

"The very basic principle of the law says that anything wrongdoing must be corrected. Once convicted, the person cannot serve the sentence that a very terrible wrong has been done."

JAP ROAD

(Continued from page 1)

Americans and African Americans don't need to be reckoned with," said Scott Newar, legal counsel for Tanarnachi and Kuwahara. "But it's a matter of time before this gets done."

"They place for the word 'jap' in American politics, culture, or society." Newar noted that they are still awaiting a decision on the federal complaint and hinted that a lawsuit may be the next step.

So far promises to take the issue up with the Jefferson County Commissioners Court, the political body that has the authority to change "Jap Road," have not materialized.

Jefferson County Commissioner Mark Domingue believes the name change issue got stuck in an informal discussion among residents and the various civil rights groups. Although an exact has date been set, he hopes to have the talks sometime in April.

People in the immediate area consider it a non-issue. The people who care about this are from outside of the area," said Domingue.

Although he believes local residents are against a name change he would be in favor of changing "Jap Road" to "Japanese Farm Road" to honor the pioneering Japanese American families in the area.

Wayne Wright and his wife Polly have lived on "Jap Road" for 31 years and believe the name should remain unchanged from the original purpose of honoring pioneering Japanese farmer Yoshio Mayomi who settled in the area 100 years ago.

"There's no one I know that wants to change it," said Wright, who has been compiling information on the history of the road and on the use of "jap. "I have done enough research that disproves what they are saying," he said. "Jap" is not a word, it's an abbreviation.

Wright notes that he has invited the concerned community to his home to discuss the issue but has been turned down. "I have no authority to change the Japanese or아버иш키 use." he said.

The "Jap Road" controversy has inevitably trickled over to neighboring Orange County, Texas where "Jap Lane" also has come under criticism, although it was not a part of the recently filed federal civil rights complaint.

After watching neighboring Jefferson County deal with the recent upzroar, Orange County commissioners have not yet made their decision on the residents living on "Jap Lane" to see if they want a name change. About 70 percent said they wanted the name to remain the same, citing financial costs and legal issues.

"We felt it should be their decision," said Judge Carl Thibodeaux. "It's a major expense to change the road and we have to consider the residents wishes."

Although "Jap Lane" will remain, the commissioners passed a resolution March 15 asking the Texas Department of Transportation to designate Highway Road 1135 as "Kishi Road" in honor of pioneer Tari Kishi who settled in the area in the 1900s.

This move is consistent with renaming King "Kishi Lane" in honor of King George Hirasaki, who was born in Orange County, and his brother currently lives on "Jap Lane." "I find 'jap' very offensive and I want the name changed,

But although more than 10 years have passed since Tanarnachi started the uphill battle to change "Jap Road," she's still hopeful that the name will be changed. "The residents are more educated and have come to understand our situation. The younger children are more educated and my hope is that this will be a salutary lesson," she said. "I'm not going to give up hope."

Aloha!

We invite you to register for the 2004 JACL 75th Anniversary Convention "Our Legacy. Our Future: Ensuring Diversity in America."

Registration Information:
The following is information on how to register for the convention. Please complete one registration form per attendee. You may download the form and survey. Please submit only one completed registration form and payment to:

JACL National Convention
JACL Hawaii, Honolulu Chapter
P.O. Box 1291
Honolulu, HI 96807

Method of Payment:
Check, money order, VISA, MasterCard (No Purchase Order Checks)
Non-refundable airline tickets. By registering, you agree to be bound by the convention registration deadline. Registration deadline is Monday, May 17, 2004. Registration fees are non-refundable and non-transferable. Please read all terms and conditions set forth.

Activities:
Please indicate that you must register for tours and family activities separately. Pre-registration for activities and tours is highly encouraged, but is not required at the time of registration for the convention. You may also register for activities at the activities desk during the convention. Participants must show their convention badge to be eligible for activities and tours, please see "activities/tours" link on our website and print out the registration form. You may also submit your completed form and payment to JACL Hawaii, Honolulu address noted above. Please contact Pam Funai at activities@jaclhawaii.org.

JACL Members & Tomodachi Registration Includes:
- Breakfasts, ALL on-site Workshops, Youth Diversity
- 1 ticket to off-site tour of Hawai'i Plantation Village (Open to first 450 Youth registrants only), 1 ticket to the Waikiki Welcome Mixer, 1 ticket to the Sayonara Banquet.

Hotel Reservations:
To make hotel reservations, please call the Waikiki Beach Marriott at 800/367-5370 and mention "JACL 75th Anniversary Convention." Additional tickets to all events will be sold on a space-available, "first-come, first-served" basis.

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The LPGA Tour, the closest Park had come to a major title was last year going for a 20-foot birdie moments later only to have the ball spin out. It was a tension-filled March 28 tournament, when the outcome was still in doubt and the future of the LPGA Tour. For Grace Park, though, the future is now.

After completing 72 holes Kodama drained a 20-foot birdie on the final hole during play at the Pearl Country Club. Fellow UH senior James Beston ranked in the top 50 among the NCAA division 1 golfers.

The putt was simple enough, but the moment was big. In five years on the LPGA Tour, the closest Park had come to a major title was last year when she lost to Annika Sorenstam in a playoff at the LPGA Newcomer of the Year award with NBA rookie sensation LeBron James of the Cleveland Cavaliers; Spanish F1 champion Fernando Alonso; Robinho, a striker with Brazilian club Santos; and 16-year-old Russian tennis player Maria Sharapova.

Bobby Valentine, who now manages the Giants, is still a huge star here, even after his current players could make it in the majors.

She skated a fast, fluid and elegant program to “Toccata.” Judges rewarded her with six 6.0 marks for technical elements, the highest in the history of the world championships, and still the best all-around player in the world.

Michelle Wie Nominee for Newcomer of Year Award

GRACE PARK WINS FIRST MAJOR

RANCHO MIRAGE, Calif.—Michelle Wie and Lee Song may be the future of the LPGA Tour. For Grace Park, though, the future is now.

The Canadian-born Park will be looking for the Yankees-Devil Rays March 29 in the first of the two major league season-opening games at the 55,000-seat stadium selling for as much as $250, ticket prices for the Yankees-Devil Rays games at the 55,000-seat stadium were scheduled to be determined by five security guards.

If you have any questions, please call 323-589-8660.

"It's crazy," she said. "After 11 world championships, and still there are lots of things." She Sahara Cohen dropped to second place and Kwan, Kwan, Kwan.

Gotler Michelle Wie is up for a World Sports Award, nominated in the Newcomer of the Year award.

The March 30-31 games marked the second time Major League Baseball has opened the regular season in Japan. The Chicago Cubs and New York Mets began the 2000 season here.

The Seattle Mariners, featuring Ichiro Suzuki, were scheduled to open the 2003 season at Tokyo Dome against the Oakland Athletics, but the games were canceled because of the war in Iraq.

Selling out as much as $250, tickets for the Yankees-Devil Rays games at the 55,000-seat stadium were determined by five security guards.

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The Japanese American National Museum stages special exhibits throughout the year, but none compare in concentrated drawing power than the three-day showcase of gorgeous orchids presented by the Torrance Cymbidium Society in mid-March which featured James Toy, the hybridizer par excellence. Plants were on display throughout the two floors of the pavilion and workshops on "how to plant and care for cymbidiums" were held.

Adding to the atmosphere were the strings, an oboe and clarinet, of the South Bay Youth Orchestra, their presence, acknowledged when mornings were for meeting with hybridizer par excellence. Plants which performed Saturday in the Central Hall. Everett Stockstill, the president, in thanking the L.A. Unified School District Board and a founder of JASCSC some 20 years ago is President. As guest speaker, Superior Court Judge Vincent Okamoto, a DSC-bearing Texan, in rarefied air, Victoria War veteran gave an insight of his forthcoming book about the "gentleman" — the combat infantryman due in December. Highlight was the book signing of "Anita Nishikawa Visions III: Little Tokyo, Changing Times, Changing Faces" (158 pages, over fifty writers, $17 plus $3 shipping). If you can't wait till my next column, send your order to JASCSC, P.O. Box 3164, Torrance, CA 90190.

Finally, PANA-USA held its belated New Year party with fabulous door prizes, at a Montebello hotel recently. Guests, there for the first time, must have thoroughly enjoyed the four ailes of Brazilian samba dancers shaking their bellies and hips. Energized by the music, attenders joined them on the floor. Nowhere else in the U.S. will you see colorful Latin American entertainers at a Nikkei dinner.

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BORDEN ISLANDS BEACHES HOLIDAY TOUR Dec 11-17
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PACIFIC CITIZEN, APR. 2-15, 2004

Hills shrouded under a black cap.

the room on a sunny day in Beverly Hills shrouded under a black cap. His presence generates silent whispers — is this the mind that has given birth to some of the most unforgettable and vivid depictions of violence and women?

For those who are looking for the obvious, the track record is

PACIFIC CITIZEN, APR. 2-15, 2004

For the first time, Kim tacks on the help of a translator about his new film, women and his hatred of directing and writing the film. "The Lord of the Rings." All of which Kim portrays an adult monk fighting for redemption for past sins.

It is slated to premiere in the United States in limited release on April 2. Here, the director speaks to the Pacific Citizen with the help of a translator about his new film, women and his hatred of "The Lord of the Rings."

Pacific Citizen: There has been debate about the portrayal of women in your films. How do you characterize women? Are they victims or are they tragic heroes?

Kim Ki-Duk: In Korean society, females are very victimized. If my films make it look like the female characters are victimized or or the victims of violence, it is true because it is a reflection of society."

P.C.: What are the distinguishing features of Korean film? K.K.D.: Korean films have no character that is distinctive yet. Korean filmmakers are trying to copy the Japanese style, the Hollywood style, and also the European style. It's been like that all through history, so right now it's kind of the first step for Korean films.

P.C.: Was your inspiration for this film?

K.K.D.: I started this film with the question, "What is the meaning of life?" Everybody needs their own chance to ask themselves what life means to them, especially when a person goes through a painful period.

P.C.: Can you talk about your choice of setting?

K. K. D.: Initially, I wanted to build a temple on top of a hill, but I could not find the quiet, perfect location for the temple. I just decided, "Oh what about a pond?" I thought it would be beautiful for this film and perfect for this idea because the meaning of water is always flowing. It always moves around, but it always stays balanced. It really delivers the meaning of life, I thought.

P.C.: Any plans for Hollywood?

K.K.D.: Hollywood doesn't need me. I made this film based on a treatment not on a script. Just imagine what Hollywood would do with this film in Hollywood! Who would support and finance that?

P.C.: Which Hollywood films have you enjoyed?

K.K.D.: There are some good quality films like "Minority Report" by Steven Spielberg. But at the same time, I don't understand the obsession with "Lord of the Rings." What is the meaning of the ring? I don't think that people spend money to watch this film.

P.C.: But "Lord of the Rings" is a fantasy film and you include a lot of fantasy elements in your films. Isn't there a similarity between you and Director Peter Jackson then?

K.K.D.: The biggest problem with the "Lord of the Rings" is that there is only fantasy. There are only computer graphics. I believe that the most precious thing in life is simplicity rather than spectacular computer graphics. If my movie were in America, I think the film and the money will be built out of computer graphics.

P.C.: So there was really a temple built in the middle of a pond for this movie?

K.K.D.: I got everybody involved in building the temple. If they built the temple with their own hands, it delivers a more emotional message to the audience.

P.C.: How long was the shoot?

K.K.D.: It took one year. I just stayed in Korea from spring to winter. I traveled and wrote while I waited for the next season.

P.C.: Was there anything important for you to act in this film?

K.K.D.: Initially, I cast another actor in that part, but he had some other business to deal with, and winter was coming. I could not wait for him, so I decided to act.

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August 17 Holiday Season in the Smokies

September 21 Holiday Season in the Smokies

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December 6 Christmas in Japan

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Mountain Plains
Sat., April 17—Mountain Plains COIPs; book signing and discussion.

East Coast
WASHINGTON, D.C.
Sat., April 24—Asian Pacific Celebration: Temple Visitor's Center. 9001 Von Kleineln Dr., McLean, Va. Dr. Franklin Odo will speak at 1:00 p.m.; www.nawho.org. JACL: Info. 301/587-0144.

Midwest
CHICAGO

COLUMBUS, Ohio
Fri. April 30—YJACL District Council Meeting; Holiday Inn. 170 and Hamilton Rd. East Columbus.

Mountain Plains
DENVER
Sat., April 27—Mountain Plains District Outstanding Contest; 7:00 p.m.; Sakuma School, 9002 Lannier, 2nd Floor. Derek Sakamoto will represent Mile-Hi JACL and Lara Stibana will represent JACL—YM, JACL.

intomountain
SALT LAKE CITY
Sat., April 10—Momentum Olympics JACL; event 1:00 p.m., sand/ manjukake game sale; 6:00 p.m. children’s dance, Sango and Sango and Sango; after dinner, (12 noon karate demo, 2:45 p.m. heat) gala dinner at 6:30 p.m.; dance to the music of the band at the end. Info: 5011261-5390.

Southern California
LOS ANGELES
Sat., April 3—National Asian Women’s Health Organization 10th Anniversary Conference and Gala: “Celebrating a Decade of Health Partnerships for Asian Women and Families.” conference 9:00 a.m., reception 11:30 a.m., lunch 1:00 p.m., banquet 6:30 p.m.; www.nawho.org.

Central California
MANZANAR
Sat., April 24—35th Annual Manzanar Pilgrimage and Grand Opening Dedication for the Manzanar National Historical Site Interpretive Center and Park Headquarters; details at Southern California.


Sun., April 1 —Sunset Boulevard, 1253 Sunset Blvd., Los Angeles, CA 90026-4901. Ticket: $7.00. All proceeds benefit the Women’s Health Organization 10th Anniversary Conference and Gala: “Celebrating a Decade of Health Partnerships for Asian Women and Families.” registration.

Sun., April 1 —Sunset Boulevard, 1253 Sunset Blvd., Los Angeles, CA 90026-4901. Ticket: $7.00. All proceeds benefit the Women’s Health Organization 10th Anniversary Conference and Gala: “Celebrating a Decade of Health Partnerships for Asian Women and Families.” registration.


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Ikegami, George N., 88, San Francisco, Oct. 13; Miyagi-ken, Japan; survived by wife Naoko; son Wayne; daughters Margaret (Gail) of Captain Cook, Kauai and Joyce (David) Schoonmaker; members of the Nikkei Widowed Group of Gardena, the Continuing Education for the Westchester Senior Center and the Nikkei Widowed Group of Gardena, and sister-in-law Fusako (Tom) Ikenaga.

Kimura, Tadao, 83, Sacramento, March 10; Sacramento-born; survived by wife Michi; sons Gleen, Alan (Dorothy); daughters Nadine (Ken) Nakamura and Beverly Kimura; granddaughter in-law Patrice; brother Jimmy (Dorothy) and brothers and a sister in Japan; Ryo (Masako), Minoui Kimura and Matsuya Hayashi. Predeceased by son Wayne.

Kuroda, Lillian Yuriko, 81, Sacramento, March 16; Courtland-born; survived by husband Shigematsu; daughters Sharon Yamamoto, Diane (Gerald) Murakama, Donna (Gordon) Kunitani of Sacramento and Margaret (Gail) of Captain Cook, Hawaii; son Robert (Debbie) Kiroda of Sierra Madre; 11 gc.; brother Jim (Takeo) Taniguchi and sister-in-law Mary Kuroda of West Sacramento, both of Sacramento.

Matsubayashi, Herbert Eihito, 64, Monterey, March 1; Hiro, Hawaii-born; survived by wife Chikako; daughter Sharon; son Kenneth; and sisters Mary Noda and Etsu and Shizue (Hatanaka) Enomoto. Before the war, the family farmed in Merced, Calif. and when WWII broke out, they were interned at the Manzanar Relocation Center in California and then the Poston Relocation Center in Arizona. They moved to Alamosa, Colo. in 1943. After the war, the family worked in the Alamosa Dental Lab. Shirow was also a member of the Masonic Lodge and Alamosa Springs, the Rocky Mountain Cemetery and the Al Kaly Shrine.

Miyamoto, Barry Tameo, 88, Los Angeles, March 1; Los Angeles-born; survived by wife Michi; sons Glenn, Rick, and brother John. He was also a member of the Masonic Lodge in Alamosa Springs, Colorado Spring, the Rocky Mountain Cemetery and the Al Kaly Shrine. Shirow was very active in the San Luis Valley JACL in Colorado.

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Obituaries

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