By CAROLINE AOGAYI
Executive Editor

In a continuing effort to chal­lenge the merits of the U.S. Patriot Act, the JACL announced that it has signed on to an amicus brief in the Jose Padilla enemy combatant case, better known as the "dirty bomber" case.

The JACL is questioning the authority of the U.S. government to detain U.S. citizens indefinitely under the Patriot Act and calling the detention of Padilla unconstitutional.

"We're questioning whether the government, and the majority of the U.S. Patriot Act, can detain an American citizen indefinitely and whether the President has authority to order such detention within the borders of the country," said John Tateishi, JACL executive director.

"It's important for our members to understand that we place no judgment on guilt or innocence in this case, but feel compelled to question the authority of the govern­ment to act in a manner that echoes the detention of Japanese Americans during World War II." The amicus brief was filed in the U.S. Supreme Court in Donald Rumsfeld vs. Jose Padilla.

In addition to JACL, other indi­viduals and organizations signing on to the amicus brief are: Fred Korematsu, the Bar Association of San Francisco, Asian Law Caucus, Asian American Bar Association For the Greater Bay Area, and Asian Pacific Islander Legal Outreach.

Jose Padilla was arrested shortly after the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks by Federal agents under a material witness warrant in connec­tion with a grand jury investigation of the attacks. Later, the Department of Defense took custody of Padilla, an American citizen, and for the next 18 months he was not allowed to have contact with his counsel, family, or other non-military per­sonnel. After two years Padilla has been held indefinitely without hav­ing been charged with any crime.

The U.S. Court of Appeals For the Second Circuit said Padilla should have been allowed contact with his attorney and that his deten­tion was unwarranted. The U.S. government then appealed the court's decision to the U.S. Supreme Court.

The Second Circuit's decision was largely based on the Non­Detention Act which states that no American citizen can be detained without the authorization of the U.S. Congress. The Non-Detention Act was passed after the Emergency Detention Act of 1950 was repealed, a decision based on the unlawful detention of the JA community during World War II.

And it is this argument that is at the center of the recently filed amicus brief.

The JA community has been vocal in its opposition to the U.S.A. Patriot Act which allows for increased governmental pow­ers including increased search and detention powers.

JACL is quick to see the similar­i­ties between their own forced incarceration under the WWI, where 110,000 Americans of Japanese ancestry were placed in American concentration camps, and the cur­rent targeting of Arab and Muslim Americans in the fight against ter­rorism.

JACL and the other amici state in the brief: "No once can dispute the horror inflicted upon the Nation on that date. However, as illustrated by the Japanese American detention and Congress' response over the past fifty years, it is important to carefully balance our concerns of safety and security with those of our freedoms and civil rights. That is why we pay for democracy."
WILLIAM HUNG
(Continued from page 1)
can't help but be promoted for what
he is, or how he looks.
Hung's album "Inspiration" (Koch Records and FUSE) was released in stores nationwide April 6 and more than 30,000 copies sold in the first week. In addition to his hit, "She Bangs," the album includes Hung's rendition of the classic of "Like" by Elton John and The Eagles' "Hotel California." Mixed in with Hung's off-key performances are inspirational thoughts and a DVD featuring exclusive interviews and studio footage.
He also set up his own official web-site with millions of fans logging on to find out the latest news about their "American Idol" castoff, numbers that exceed even that of Britney Spears' popular website. Hung performed on "The Today Show," "The Tonight Show with Jay Leno" and even had his own show, "Idol Worship: The William Hung Story." Requests for an interview by the Pacific Citizen were never refused. Although there are those in the AA community questioning the reasons for Hung's popularity, the engineering student has just as many AA fans who are wholeheartedly enjoying his 15-going-on-16 minutes of fame.
The official William Hung website was created by Don and Laura Chin of Northern California who pumped in their own money to start the fan site after seeing Hung's honest and humble performance on American Idol.
"I just thought [Hung] was real sincere and authentic. He sings as if he doesn't realize he's singing... which is rare," said Don Chin, a second generation Chinese American.
"I don't know why people are upset," said Chin, who is puzzled that some AAs feel Hung's popularity is due to racism. "I don't know what Asians want as a role model. There's no basis to what they are saying."
Columnist Guy Aoki is taking a "glass is half-full" approach to Hung's current popularity, suggesting people are being sincere in their support of the popular singer. "In a world full of racism [Hung's] uncanny ability is a breath of fresh air," he said.
Aoki does not believe Hung's current success has to do with racism. "I think there was some racism in how the judges laughed at him when he first auditioned," he said. "As far as people accepting him, I think it's the opposite—they've accepted him despite his being a walking Asian FBR and he's the odd one by being himself, despite that self being very awkward.
And among Hung's legion of fans are a number of females, many of whom encourage him in writing and send photos; among the posted shots are several young AA women.
One young woman named Nicole writes, "I think he is absolutely admirable. I am a 29-year-old single man. He has to do what most of us only dream of. He is obviously very intelligent and..." His 15-second turn of fame is turning into a little bit more than that. I love him, I'm so happy for him.
It's obvious a number of AAs are taking Hung's success, as we've seen a lighthearted amusement, something to enjoy without picking apart and analyzing the why's, what's, and how's.
But Guillermon believes this attitude can be dangerous. "Nothing is lighthearted," he said. "Making fun of slavery makes it okay. Making fun of the living stereotype of William Hung is a way to legitimize real negative feelings toward Asian Americans. He's being exploited."

Calling All Interns

The Pacific Citizen newspaper, the national publication of the Japanese American Citizens League, is looking for someone to work at its Monterey Park, Calif. office, full-time, including some evenings and weekends.
Various duties include reporting, researching, writing of press releases and production duties. Knowledge of the Asian American community and the JACL is a plus.
College or grad students currently majoring in English or Journalism preferred, but not required. Applicants should also have a California driver's license.
The application deadline for PC's "Harry Honda Summer Internship Program" is May 24.
If interested, please send a resume and a writing sample to the Pacific Citizen, 7 Cupania Circle, Monterey Park, CA 91755, fax: 323/752-0064, email: paccit@aol.com, attention: Caroline Aoyagi.

PACIFIC CITIZEN, APR. 16-MAY 6, 2004

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SPRING CAMPAIGN

(Continued from page 1)
personal struggle as I tried to enjoy a culture that consistently made me feel like an outsider.
I became a curiosity, a novelty, the one student everyone remembers, only because I am of Asian decent.
"Were you at the Caso de la Musica last night?" One young man asked me.
"No, "I said, "I thought it was an economic woe, this may all just be a utopian dream. As readers of this paper, however, we need to step up and help ease the burden of the staff, to allow them to focus their attention on the news and on not whether they will be able to make enough money to pay the electricity bill.
This is an investment in the voices of our community and in the legacy of the Asian American struggle. We can all be a part of this by allowing the staff to do their jobs and ease part of their burden.
Please, support the Pacific Citizen, our great newspaper and support the advancement of AAs. Your contribution will help us continue to report the news we need to be informed citizens of this great country.

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The key to choosing a bank.
Muslim Chaplain Cleared by Army, Comes Home

By MELANTHIA MITCHELL
Associated Press Writer

SEATTLE—A Muslim Army chaplain embattled in a case involving a suspected espionage ring at the Guantanamo Bay detention center in Cuba has returned home to Western Washington.

"He is looking forward to closing this book and moving on to Chapter 2," Capt. James Yee told reporters during a brief news conference following his arrival April 5 at Seattle-Tacoma International Airport.

"He is out of this security limbo," Mr. Yee's father said.

Vietnam veterans have experienced this problem since the character assassination against them began last year," his lawyer, Eugene R. Fidell, said.

"No matter how great the opposition, truth will always stand clear of falsehood," Yee told reporters moments after his daughter ran into his arms and gave him a kiss on the cheek.

"Mr. Fidell has raised numerous issues," Steve Lucas, a civilian lawyer for U.S. Southern Command in Miami, said April 5.

"Before taking any action on the appeal, Gen. Hill will thoroughly consider all of the actions taken in Mr. Fidell on Capt. Yee's behalf.

Yee is to eventually resume his post at Fort Lewis.

Fidell has said that Army's decision to drop most of the charges and minimize media scrutiny - hurt Yee's defense preparation and minimized media scrutiny.

"We hope all the people of Hawaii will visit the museum and pay their respects to this great American and Hawaii native," said Sen. Daniel Akaka, a member of the Senate's Appropriations Committee.

Shinseki served two combat tours in Vietnam and later served as the commanding general of the 7th Infantry Division in Europe and of NATO peacekeepers in Bosnia-Herzegovina. He became Army chief of staff in June 1999 and retired four years later.

NPS Announces $100,000 to Complete Study of Eagledale Ferry Dock

By Pacific Citizen Staff

The National Park Service (NPS) recently announced $100,000 in funding to complete a special resources study of the Eagledale Ferry Dock Site on Bainbridge Island that began in 2002.

The announcement coincided with the anniversary of the forced evacuation of Japanese Americans from Bainbridge Island on March 30, 1942.

More than 60 years ago, following the signing of Executive Order 9066, Japanese Americans were ordered to board the ferry to the Kehlken at the Eagledale Ferry Dock Site. From there, they were transported to temporary assembly centers and later to internment camps in California and Idaho.

"Our national parks protect areas of unique value in America. I’m proud that these continued funds will help Washigtonians recognize and preserve the Eagledale Ferry Dock Site as part of our history that we must not forget," said Sen. Patty Murray, who along with Sen. Maria Cantwell and U.S. Rep. Jay Inslee sent a letter to the NPS in support of the $100,000 allocation.

"I am very pleased that the National Park Service recognizes the Japanese American Memorial Study as a national priority," said Inslee.

"This federal funding is one more step towards our goal of creating a national monument to honor those who suffered during that time in our nation's history," Inslee said.

In 2003, the NPS allocated the first increment of funds for the study. The new funds will be used to work with the local communities to develop alternatives and recommendations on future uses of the site and to conduct public hearings.

Congress authorized the National Park Service to conduct the study in 2001. The study is expected to cost approximately $200,000, and will likely be completed next year. The study follows the successful effort by the Washington state delegation to secure funding in the Fiscal Year 2004 appropriations bill to acquire the lands on the site for a memorial and a park.

The study is being conducted in partnership with the members of the community approximately 3200 acres and will be completed next year.

We are looking forward to the day when we can invite the public to this park, said Sen. Patty Murray, who along with Sen. Maria Cantwell and U.S. Rep. Jay Inslee sent a letter to the NPS in support of the $100,000 allocation.

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National News

By Pacific Citizen Staff and Associated Press

Gen. MacArthur Shall Return as Action Figure NORFOLK.—A limited-edition toy version of five-star General Douglas MacArthur will land on store shelves 60 years after he uttered his famous words, "I shall return." The toy model features MacArthur's signature sunglasses, combed-over hair and distinctive nose. The design was approved by the General Douglas MacArthur Foundation, which holds the rights to his images.

Acquittal foil for Bush's feetfall at Hanoi Memorial in Norfolk. MacArthur liberated the Philippines from Japan during World War II.

Help Now Available for St. Paul Hmong ST. PAUL.—Arriving in the Twin Cities will not be as daunting for the new waves of Hmong refugees arriving from Thailand this summer. They will be greeted in their own language.

 Carrier Settles Discrimination Charges

By ASSOCIATED PRESS

WASHINGTON—The govern- ment and Continental Airlines April 2 with Continental Airlines over allegations the carrier discriminated after the Sept. 11 terror attacks against passengers believed to have been of Arab, Middle Eastern or South Asian descent. The Transportation Department started getting complaints about a number of Continental flights in the weeks after the attacks, said spokesman Bill Mosley. He said four passengers complained that they were removed from flights because of their ethnic background or national origin. Other complaints were lodged with Continental, though Mosley would not say how many.

Police Reveal Claremont Professor's Criminal Last Call

By Associated Press and Pacific Citizen Staff

CLAREMONT, Calif.—On top of being suspected of staging her own murder, crime. Claremont McKenna Visiting Professor Kerri Dunn has a criminal record that includes shoplifting and driving with a suspended license.

According to the Los Angeles Times, Dunn was arrested three times between 1999 and 2000. On Sept. 29, 1999, Dunn was charged in Nebraska for driving without a license and having fictitious license plates. Her car was impounded. On two other occasions, Dunn was arrested for stealing clothing and accessories in several department stores. A police report described her as being "belligerent and uncooperative."

Training must cost the company no less than $500,000.

This is the third settlement regarding complaints of discrimination involving airline passengers in the weeks following the terror attacks, the department said. It settled similar allegations with United Airlines last year and with American Airlines in February.

APAs in the News

By LEESELLER Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON—A retired min- ister, a college student and a mem- ber of the military are among those involved in the American Civil Liberties Union's challenge to the list of travelers that the government has banned from flying because they're considered a threat.

Airlines are instructed to stop anyone on the "no-fly" list that is compiled by the Transportation Security Administration.

Many innocent travelers who pose no safety risk whatsoever are stopped and searched repeatedly," the ACLU said in a statement issued April 5 to announce the filing of a class-action lawsuit challenging the list. The civil rights group is repres- senting seven plaintiffs, including the military personnel, the minister and the student.

The no-fly list is one of two lists kept by the TSA. The other is the "selectee." These on the no-fly list are not allowed to board a commer- cial aircraft. Those on the selectee list must go through more extensive screening before boarding.

Federal law enforcement and intelligence agencies request that the TSA put names on the list.

Little else is known about the list, including how many people are on it and how they qualify to get on or off. The TSA acknowledged the name-matching technology used by some airlines confuses people on the no-fly list with passengers who have similar names.

In one case, a passenger would be referred to a law enforcement official, who would be able to clear up mistakes by checking the per- son's identification and perhaps put- ting in a call to the FBI, agency spokesman Mark Hatfield said.

Problems with the no-fly list have provided fodder for critics of the TSA plan to conduct computerized background checks of all airline passengers and to require them according to their risk of being a terrorist.

The proposal, as it's written, says it would allow for "second-level discriminations from discriminating against or granting preferential treatment to anyone based on the race, color, ethnicity or national origin."

The petition effort comes after the University of Michigan's 5-4 decision last June that the University of Michigan Law School could consider race to cre- ate a diverse population.

They hope to challenge the uni- versity's undergraduate policy for ensuring a mix of students as too formulaic, and university officials revised the policy last fall to include a more comprehensive review of each application.

Pol: Voters Support Affirmative Action Ban, But It's Confusing

By ASSOCIATED PRESS

WASHINGTON—The govern- ment and Continental Airlines Apr. 2 with Continental Airlines over allegations the carrier discriminated after the Sept. 11 terror attacks against passengers believed to have been of Arab, Middle Eastern or South Asian descent.

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PACIFIC CITIZEN, APR. 16-MAY 6, 2004
Why Young People Aren’t Voting
By PAUL GOSHI

In the late 90’s and around the turn of the millennium, several media outlets outlets the nation drew attention to studies which characterized the current generation of young adults aged adults as apathetic about politics and international affairs. In my own college experience, I could not argue the validity of this claim, at least on a surface level.

It is my opinion, however, that many of my generation are in fact very ambivalent about politics and national and world issues, rather than purely apathetic. There is no shortage of extremely strong beliefs and convictions among young Americans, but as increasing consistent trends that little-voters can do will effect real change in our society.

Statistics show that voter turnout in the 18-24 age group dropped from 60 percent to 32 percent between 1972 and the present, while voting participation for senate increased. I doubt that this could be entirely attributed to youth voter apathy. Particularly in the United States, which poured since Sept. 11th, 2001, far more than 32 percent of Americans in this age group have passionate views about current events.

The feeling that voting “doesn’t really count,” or “doesn’t really change anything,” however, particularly in light of the scandals 2000 Presidential Election, is rife. Many of the younger Americans I speak with voice sentiments along the lines of, “I don’t see what I can do about it.”

The lack of accountability throughout all the highest levels of our government is undoubtedly, at least part of this problem. A president like George W. Bush, for instance, who entered office promising to lower taxes and government spending, has instigated a period of government growth and spending unparalleled since Reagan, and the fact that the deficit which has appeared will benefit taxpayers in the next Democratic administration seems to chalk most of his supporters.

The Iraq disaster and the war on terrorism debacle show a similar lack of accountability. Invading a theoretically armed, terrorist-supporting regime, only to find no weapons, has created a misand of misleading and finger-pointing, with no one stepping up to claim responsibility or even pledging to amend the alleged intelligence failures which helped create or exacerbate these problems. The major figures within the Bush Administration to walk out because of these problems are quickly silenced, disgraced, and put on the defensive regardless of their credentials. They are accused of having “an agenda” and the Bush Administration and mainstream media are apparently assumed not to be filling that agenda.

The conquest of Iraq has proven more difficult, costly, and less of a “liberation” and more of an occupation than every impression Americans people were given prior to the invasion, dovetailing with many of the aids who’ve walked out of the administration had said. None of this is perhaps very surprising, considering Bush wanted to make a “Department of Misinformation” when he took office. It is shocking that this is all going on, however, and still nothing appears to shake the American people out of their complacency.

What many consider the “apathy” of young people in our society is really the result of there being powerful elite coalitions of business and politics within the United States which pursue their own interests, quite successfully, beyond the reach of voter accountability or input. This realization is far from a complete disconnection across American voters of any age, but it is there and does play a role in decreasing young voter turnout.

Voting for “the lesser of two evils”, has become the expected convention in elections.

The gap between the average American reality and the interests of elite American families and corporations is growing, and this is reflected in the repeated instructions that we not judge history classes to increase, or even maintain, the gains made towards equalization religious and political over the last century.

Perhaps to understand why young people aren’t voting, we should examine why being a voter seems to hold no vested interests with sharing in the nation’s democratic society, it always should.

Paul Goshi is a recent graduate of UC Berkeley.

NJAVC Announces Judges for MIS Essay Contest
The National Japanese American Veterans Council (NJAVC) has selected three prominent Nikkei scholars as the judges for the Military Intelligence Service (MIS) Occupation of Japan essay contest. They are: Dr. Akemi Kikumura-Yano, vice president for programs, Japanese American National Museum; Dr. Franklin Odo, director, Asian American Pacific Studies, The Smithsonian; and Dr. Dennis Ogawa, director of American Studies, University of Hawaii.

The contest seeks to have MIS veterans who participated in the occupation of Japan to provide, in addition to their official duties, accounts of their personal involvement in assisting local communities and residents.

Union Bank Donates to Obata Mural Acquisition
In an effort to help secure the rare Chiura Obata mural, the Union Bank Foundation donated $1,000 to California State University at Monterey Bay’s acquisition campaign.

The Obata painting, originally from the Pine Dew Restaurant on Webster Street in Monterey, is on loan from the Trotter Gallery in Carmel. It is one of the rare large format Obata murals still in private ownership.

Obata, an immigrant artist from Japan, distinguished his artwork by recording his life experiences during internment with quick sketches. Obata’s work can serve as an introduction to the history of more than 120,000 JAs forcefully removed from their homes, work and communities to the stark barbed wire desert internment camps during World War II.

The JACL Monterey chapter feels this painting will be beneficial to the JA community and on the university wall thousands of students can view and recognize the contributions of the Japanese of the Monterey Bay region.

“This gives an opportunity to leave a legacy for everyone who passes through CSUMB,” said Larry Oda. n
CONVENTION ALERT

The early registration deadline is approaching. Deadline is May 15.
Where is Wie Going, and How Long Will it Take to Get There?

JACKSONVILLE, Florida — Everything was back to normal for Michelle Wie, if there is such a thing anymore.

The 17-year-old graduated to the ninth grade at Punahou School in Honolulu recently, back to studying math and science instead of the break in the slick screens at the Kraft Nabisco Championship.

She could have told you that she finished fourth in the first major of the year and was within two shots of the lead at one point. If that had been true, the golfer from Honolulu could have mentioned the $900,000 she earned down at two tournaments — enough to be ninth on the LPGA Tour money list — to remain an amateur.

Meanwhile, her father was busy sending an e-mail to decline a sponsor’s exemption for his 14-year-old daughter to play for the team at the Nabisco this summer. B.J. Wie declined to say which one.

The future has never looked brighter for the girl who has been cheered by so many questions.

By now, there should be no doubt the teenager with a penchant for shopping is the biggest golf prodigy since Tiger Woods.

Figuring out where it leads and how soon she gets there remains a work in progress.

Wie played in the final group of the Kraft Nabisco Championship at Mission Hills Country Club in Rancho Mirage, Calif., in March. (AP Photo/Nam Y. Huh)

U.S. Women’s Open, the richest prize in women’s golf worth $558,000

B.J. Wie considered the future really good for her. She believes she needs a transition period, departing from us, doing chores like laundry, cooking for herself. She likes to be more independent.

The future seems so far away, especially since Wie is still in the ninth grade.

NBA Wants to Turn Yao Ming Admirers Into Full-fledged Fans

OAKLAND, Calif.—Rick Chiu was a rabbi in front of raucous fans who packed the Oakland Arena recently to watch the Golden State Warriors host the Houston Rockets.

Sporting a red-and-gold Rockets jersey, Chiu wasn’t cheering for his own team. Like many Asian Americans who made up about one-third of the sellout crowd, Chiu came to catch a glimpse of China’s biggest sports star, Houston center Yao Ming.

‘‘To tell you the truth, I don’t really care who wins,’’ said Chiu, a 29-year-old software analyst from San Francisco, wearing Yao’s No. 11 jersey. ‘‘Just want to see Yao play.’’

That phenomenon has become common since Yao’s arrival last season. The 7-foot-6 All-Star center has drawn thousands of AA fans to their first NBA games, but turning Yao maniacs into full-fledged fans hasn’t been easy.

Many franchises are trying to leverage Yao’s popularity to sell more Asian fans, but few have no determination that the businesses listed in this directory are licensed by proper government authority.

Greater Los Angeles

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Golf

No Green Jacket for Choi

AUGUSTA, Ga.—K.J. Choi is just the third player in Masters history to make eagle on the 11th hole, a feat that clearly made it one of the best shots of the tournament.

But he wound up in third place — a very nice result for the South Korean, who has never played well enough to insert himself in the middle of the pack.

The eagle was part of a back-nine charge that saw him go from 1-under to 7-under. Choi is certain he can make the green jacket. He did, after all, win the title in 2000, shot 31-31 for 63, topping the scores of Tiger Woods and Phil Mickelson. Choi, a two-time winner on tour since he earned his card in 2000, will get the traditional pair of crystal goblets the folks at Augusta National give as a prize for every eagle.

Best finish in a major was 15th in last year’s Masters.

Yao becomes one of the world’s most recognized players.

It’s obvious that the NBA is aware of (the Asian American) market and its power,” said Jeff Yang, CEO of Factset Inc., a New York-based marketing firm focused on Asian-Amer. NBA teams have done a good job tapping a new market for Yao’s fans, using entertainment like Chinese acrobatics shows and dragon dances to help sell the sport.

But getting those fans to come back, or even look at the game, will be a challenge.

The Warriors and the NBA are looking for more fans like Tak Chen. After attending his first NBA game last year when the Rockets came to Oakland, the 42-year-old Hong Kong native bought tickets to 15 Warriors games this season.

“I’m a Warriors fan, but every time Yao scores, I’ll be cheering,” he said. “They are our team.”

If Yao Ming was with the Warriors, he’d be sold out every night.

Yao became a celebrity when Houston made him the No. 1 pick in 2002. He’s proven his skeptics wrong, making the All-Star team in his first two years and averaging 17.7 points and 9.1 rebounds per game. No team has benefitted more from Yao’s star power than the Rockets, gaining the team a boost of about 3,500 fans per game from the year before his arrival.

The Rockets have an aggressive campaign to reach Yao to the city’s Chinese community. The team advertises games in Chinese-language newspapers, television and radio. They have also launched a weekly Mandarin radio show that features an interview with Yao.

The Rockets have also hired Mandarin speakers in its marketing department, launched a Chinese-language Web site and started selling group tickets to the Chinese community.

Compiled by Brian Tanaka

Stories by Pacific Citizen

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800/966-6157

PACIFIC CITIZEN, Apr., May 6, 2004
When Thomas Jefferson wrote in the Declaration of Independence that “all men are created equal,” he knew that there were the physically strong and the physically weak; that “all men are created equal” he equal, they were equal in the eyes of all men may not be all men were created equal, but we know that not all the Constitution, Bill of Rights, and the laws are fair. The rights of the minority must be protected, but the law, but we know that not all that we are equal in the eyes of the law, and yet we know that not all. While all men may not be equal protection apply to gay and all persons “equal protection under the law” is a right enshrined in the Constitution, Bill of Rights, and the Fourteenth Amendment. Our Fourteenth Amendment guarantees all persons “equal protection under the law.” Does this not right of equal protection apply to gay and lesbians as well? Yes. On the TV news recently, a young man outside of San Francisco’s City Hall was holding a sign that read, “No Homo Need Apply” (for marriage licenses). During the latter half of the 1800’s, the sign read, “No Irish Need Apply” (for employment or housing). Discrimination was aimed at the Irish; most of whom were Roman Catholics. Sandy Lydon, in his book, “The Japanese in the Monterey Bay Region: A Brief History,” points out (on page 148) that marriages between whites and “negro, mulatto, or a Negro” were legalized in California starting in 1880. By Mongolians they meant Asians — in particular, the Chinese and the Japanese.

In 1882, Congress passed the racially motivated Chinese Exclusion Act. That preceded the declaration of the Statue of Liberty in 1886 and before Emma Lazarus’ famous poem, “... give me your tired, your poorn your huddled masses, yearning to breathe free. The wretched refuse of your teeming shore. Send these, the homeless, tempest tossed to me. I lift my lamp beside the golden door.” But not if you’re Chinese.

In 1933, “Malaya” (the law was aimed at the Filipinos) were added to the list of those who could not marry whites. Many Filipinos were told to die as lonely bachelors in California. After World War II, California’s anti-miscegenation laws were declared unconstitutional in 1948 by the California State Supreme Court. It took another twenty years for the U.S. Supreme Court to decide the issue, Loving v. Virginia, 1967.

The late Mrs. Wakayama, born in the U.S. Territory of Hawaii, married “Frank” Wakayama, a Japanese immigrant, in Hollister, Calif. in the 1930s. Mrs. Wakayama lost her American citizenship for marrying an alien who was ineligible for U.S. citizenship.

Mrs. Wakayama’s American citizenship was restored in 1952 with the passage of the McCarran-Walter Act. The late Frank Wakayama was a trapper leader in Watsonville-Santa Cruz JACL Senior Center. Reflecting upon the same marriage performed in San Francisco, Rev. George V. Erickson, a Presbyterian minister whose columns appear weekly in the Watsonville Register-Pajaronian, wrote on Feb. 21 that people need to be more compassionate and understanding toward one another.

“King David had at least one homosexual affair and several wives. He is condemned for killing the husband of one so he can take her, but not for all the other women with whom he shared a bed.” If a marriage/divorce statistics (nearly half end in divorce or annulment) were medical statistics, immediate action would be taken by the nation regarding this “epidemic.”

Will, however, a U.S. constitutional amendment which denies rights to its gay and lesbian citizens be introduced and passed? Introduced, yes, for political gains. Will it pass? No. Why not? More Americans are learning to be thoughtfully respectful of the rights of others.

Ten years from now, same sex marriages will attract little notice.
BACON, Annie Lee, 20, said she had decided to go to raves and flunk out of school.

“I was very angry and frustrated,” said Jimmy about filming his daughter in a rape scene. “I would never have wanted to do that. I tried to do everything to help her.”

AL: No! (laughs) I was a prude in high school. My mom always said no to everything.

PC: You weren’t doing lines of coke with your friends or having sex?

AL: No! (laughs) I was a prude in high school. My mom always said no to everything.

PC: During filming, did you ever stop and think, ‘My dad is watching me simulate sex and do a line of coke. This is kind of weird’?

AL: I was pulled out of a scene there. We did only one or two takes and that was it. When it was happening, especially the bathroom stall scene — it was really quick, but that was (laughs) really weird. We would have to position ourselves in a certain way. I just tried to pretend that he’s not my dad. I just wouldn’t look at him.

PC: What was the most challenging about working with your dad?

AL: Just everything. It was nice because we could be honest with each other. Because all three of us have such different thoughts, trying to decide on something took a long time. Collaborating with three people was hard.

PC: What is the best and worst quality that you inherited from your dad?

AL: The best is probably that I’m kind of a perfectionist. I’m very passionate. The worst is ... he’s a worry wart. He worries about everything and I worry about everything too.

PC: Did you do all your own stunts?

AL: Yeah, I got so many bruises. Even like the rape scene, I was so excited to get into it, so I told the actor (that he) could really slap me up, so he really slapped me and stuff (laughs).

PC: Let’s talk about the fight scene with Christina Ma.

AL: There was a stunt man there. It was my favorite. It was so fun.

PC: Fun!

AL: Because we were rolling down a couple of stairs at a time, so we were just tumbling, but Christina hated it.

PC: In this movie, Jenny only goes out with non Asians and her mom divorces her Korean husband to be with a white man. Does it concern you that you may be reinforcing a stereotype?

AL: I don’t think so. I don’t know if it’s really a stereotype. We’re in a melting pot and you can’t ignore that and there are people who are mixed couples and I don’t think there’s anything wrong with that. We were not trying to create stereotypes, we were just telling a story.

PC: Why doesn’t Jenny go out with any Asian guys?

AL: Basically, she’s not surrounded by Asian guys. She basically wasn’t surrounded by any Asians. Her mom was the one she’s living with — she’s very Americanised, so she just was kind of lost. She lost her culture. That’s why her father comes back and tries to immerse her in her culture, but I don’t think it mattered what the guys were.

PC: Does Jenny hate her culture?

AL: No. I think some people might think she hates her culture, but it’s totally not that. At the same time, she’s very influenced by Caucasians, so maybe she thinks that Asians are the stereotypical white people see them — nerdy or something like that. Which is why I think it’s good, because at the end, she doesn’t feel that way.

PC: How do your views of Asian Americans relate to Jenny’s?

AL: There is this sort of prejudice that already exists in Asian Americans too. Even when I was younger, I was like, ‘Some Asians are FOBS.’ Well, I was Asian and I liked Asian guys and whatever, but when I was younger, I thought some were nerdy. She has a view that a lot of Americans do — even Asian Americans.

PC: Class?

AL: No! (laughs) I was a prude in high school. My mom always said no to everything.
National

Tues-Sat., Aug. 10-14—National
JACL 75th Anniversary Convention
Nakahai, Hawaii. Host hotel
hosts say, “Come early and enjoy an
extra day.”

East Coast

New York City

Sat-Sun., May 4-5—Book Talk, “No
Sword to Bury: Japanese Americans in
Hawaii During World War II” with
author Frank Abe, from the Smithsoni-
an Institution Asian Pacific
American Program. 7 p.m., Temple
Visitor’s Center, 900 Storkney Blvd.
Renkown, MD; reveals the untold
stories of 160 JIs in the after-
math of Dec. 7, 1941. Info:
www.nps.gov/manz

Northern California

Oakland

Sun., April 21—Berkeley JACL’s
Annual Scholarship Awards Lun-
cheon; 12 noon; Silver Bengal
Restaurant; announcing scholarship
award recipients. Info: Ron
Takata, 933/793-9747.

Sun., April 21—Trip Valley JACL
Tetsuya Chicken Box-lunch Sales
pavement. 11-3 p.m. in pick up, or
pick up, 12 noon karate demo, 12:30
taiko presentation); Alameda
County Fairgrounds, 451 Pleasen-
ton Ave. (look for signs at southeast
corner) 530/283-1454.

Sacramento

Sun., April 21—Music by classical
Japanese folk, pop and jazz singer
Shizue Ohashi, 720 Folsom
Street; helping to celebrate the
50th anniversary of the U.S. JACL
and Japan-JACL friendship. Info:
Tickets: 530/792-1513; www.
pajcamusikclub.com.

Sun., April 21—Sat, April 18—
Screening, “A Tradition of Honor”;
2 p.m; Smithsonian Institution
Japanese American National
Museum, 369 E. First St., Little
Tokyo, the story of a group of
Japanese American soldiers who
fought in Europe’s early-summer
1944 battle for justice for
uderlings in the Marine Corp.
signed and discussion of his book
“Fighting Tradition: A Marine’s
Journey to Justice” will follow. Info:

Sun., May 2—2004 Women of the
Year will be honored by Downtown
Los Angeles JACL and the Asian
Woman’s Society of Southern
California. 12:30 p.m., New Old
Hotel, Little Tokyo, RSVP by April
21 to Amy Timbers (English/Span-
ish); 323/722-3987, or Rodney
Nakajima (Japanese), 323/682-1800.

Sun., April 24—“Keep It Going ... Pass
It On!”, 70th Anniversary of the
Battalion, 442nd RCT, 100th Battalion,
MIS. Info: CB Pacific, 909/607-
8065.

San Francisco

Sun., April 25—Lecture, “Nation-
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Festival, 12 noon-7 p.m.; West Corn-
ner Civic Center Courtyard, 1444 W.
Gary Ave.; koto, tea ceremony,
crafts, food, two stage shows, races,
graffiti foods, city’s special remem-
brate the 442nd RCT, 100th Battalion,
MIS, limited edition item, first come,
first served, Info: 801/522-5598;

Correction

Re “Jap Road” (page 6 in the
April 1-15 issue), the resolu-
tion of “Keep It Going ... Pass It
On...,” 70th Anniversary of the
Battalion, 442nd RCT, 100th Bat-
talion, MIS, is 442nd RCT, 100th
Battalion, MIS. Info: CB Pacific,
909/607-8065.

Correction

Paul Shiozawa, who wrote for the
Youth Column on page 5 of the
April 1-15 issue, is not a freshman
but a recent graduate of UC Berke-
ley.

Los Angeles

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Info: 626/756-8356

Kagawa Insurance Agency, Inc.
429 S. Lake Ave., Pasadena 91101
Suite 901
Info: 626/756-1777

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**OBITUARIES**

All the towns are in California except as noted.

Abe, Irene Sakaye, 80, Los Angeles, March 17.

Fujitani, Kiyoshi, 85, Tucson, Ariz., March 29; survived by daughter John and grandchildren.

Fukushima; and 4 gc.; predeceased wife, Mary Hisako; survived by wife, Mary; children, Cyndi Ikeda, Mark, and 4 grandchildren.

Mandalay Shores, March 13; Ogden, Utah-born; Los Angeles-raised; survived by wife, Miyako; son, Curtis Isao; daughters, Mineko and Kaori Ikeda Chun; and 4 brothers.

Sandor, Albert (Mike) Stephen and wife, Tanako; predeceased by wife, Maryon (Frank) Suzuki; and sister-in-law, Juen Oishi of Oakland; predeceased by husband, Masao, and sister-in-law, Hisako.

Taketa, Terrie Otsubo, 76, San Jose, March 15; survived by husband, Toshio Shimabukuro of Hawaii; parents, Esther and Connie Masaoka.

Fukushima, Craig, 56, Seattle, March 16; New York City-born, Los Angeles-raised; survived by wife, Wadihah Nelson; Shimabukuro; parents, Esther and Masa Shimabukuro; and children, Joy Fies and Toshi Shimabukuro.

Shimabukuro, Tetsuo, 85, Tucson, Ariz., March 29; survived by wife, Mary Hisako; children, John (Pattie) and Paul; and daughter, Christine (Neil) MacDannald; 2 gc.; sister, Marilyn Kainama and brother Henry (Bert) Nakamura; predeceased by brother, Gary and sister, Yoko Nancy.

Tabata, Yoshio "Yo," 89, Monterey, April 5; Monterey-born; Japanese American; successful customers; "we connect with our local people," he said. The bank received a marketing award for the ads in 1992. "Ben's personality in real life was exactly like you saw him in the TV ads," said Alon Kivik, vice president of Bank of Hawaii. The Tamashiros were "immeasurably successful in connecting with our local customers," he said.

Tamashiro was a member of the 100th Infantry Battalion of World War II fame and was wounded in action. He later became the unit's unofficial historian. He also wrote the words for a WWII memorial erected in Los Angeles' Little Tokyo area to honor Japanese-American servicemen.

Taketa was an active member of Munoz Valley Church, where he was a volunteer driver for the church's Meals on Wheels program for 17 years and helped lead the church's recycling efforts. He is survived by his wife, sister, Kay Akimoto, five daughters and seven grandchildren.

By ASSOCIATED PRESS

HONOLULU—Ben H. Tamashiro, who with his wife gained fame through a series of popular Bank of Hawaii television commercials, died March 26. He was 86.

Tamashiro and wife, Gloria portrayed "Harry and Myra," an everyday local couple, in nearly 50 commercials filmed for the bank from the mid-1980s to the early 1990s. The Kaiulani-born Tamashiro became so identified with the commercials that people would call out to him by the name of "Harry," according to his daughter, Brenda Isumo.

The bank received a marketing award for the ads in 1992. "Ben's personality in real life was exactly like you saw him in the TV ads," said Alon Kivik, vice president of Bank of Hawaii. The Tamashiros were "immeasurably successful in connecting with our local customers," he said.

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A Good Time to Start Something New

By ALEC YOSHIO MACDONALD

It happened toward the end of this year's JACL/OCA Washington, D.C. Leadership Conference. My fellow participants and I had just polished off our last dinner together, and although we had a handful more sessions scheduled for the next day, the meal signified a closing of sorts.

As folks began leaving the restaurant, I picked up a fortune cookie from our table, cracked it open, and found these words: "A good time to start something new."

Now I'm really not one for omens, especially those packaged in cultural clichés, but I have to admit that at the very least, the cookie made a good point, even if it was in the form of a sentence fragment. Since the conference had provided us participants with thorough instruction on how to address the issues that face community-based, nonprofit organizations like JACL and OCA, the natural next step would be taking what we had absorbed from the experience and using it right away to spark activity back at our own chapters.

Although we had come from all over the country and brought with us a diverse set of agendas, the comprehensive education we received over those five days certainly supplied enough insight and inspiration to help each one of us launch our own "something new" upon returning home.

The conference led off with topi-cal seminars examining specific aspects of the Asian Pacific American experience. We heard from a number of speakers about APA interests within the contexts of healthcare, immigration, welfare, community development, gender equality and civil liberties.

We also explored the richness and heterogeneity of APA history, reflecting upon the many ways in which our ancestors contributed to the asserted legacies of this nation; later on, we would honor this history with visits to the Smithsonian Museum, the Japanese American Memorial to Patriotism, and the home of former National JACL President Pat Okura.

In addition to studying these topics, we learned how to handle some of their accompanying challenges by using practical, proven strategies. Specialists walked us through the types of techniques and resources available to our organizations, such as charity lobbying, voter registration, grassroots mobilization, public relations management and coalition building.

We also met with policy makers and governmental administrators, who gave us an idea as to how these kinds of processes play out at the highest level in the land. In fact, on the very last day of the conference, we had the exciting chance to speak with four congressmen: Raul Grijalva (D-AZ), Neil Abercrombie (D-HI), Mike Honda (D-CA), and Ed Case (D-HI). It was a real honor being introduced to these accomplished, hard-working public servants.

On the whole, however, I'd have to say that, as invaluable as the encounters with various experts and political heavyweights were, I benefited just as much by getting to know the fellow participants. I enjoyed chatting with them about the many pursuits and programs they were engaged with, and was curious to find out what different JACL and OCA chapters are up to across the country.

Given everything that we were exposed to at the conference, I would have to say that we should all be set to undertake my fortune cookie's directive. I imagine that some of us have already begun. Personally, I've been focusing on trying to apply what I gleaned from the discussions about coalition building and public relations management towards the problem of increasing youth involvement in APA community activities.

I still have a lot to do, however, and this article is a way of ensuring that I stay on task by giving readers reason to remind us participants that we should continue seeking out opportunities to make use of the lessons we learned. As I said before, I don't believe in omens, but now it is definitely a "good time to start something new." It's just important to keep in mind that fortune cookies don't "change things" — people do.

ENGRISH.COM

(Continued from page 1)

"Americans can speak, read and write proper English," said Ayako Higashii, JACL Executive Director John Tatschii says the Web site demeans the Japanese.

"Anytime someone finds humor at the expense of someone else because of language or cultural idio-syncrasies, I do consider that racist," he said. "The intent may not be racist, but then racists usually don't understand their own racism.

Engrish.com maintains a "for entertainment only" disclaimer which distances the site from any racist intentions. The webmaster even insists that he would charge any offensive content, but acknowledges that there is a "fine line between humor and tastelessness." The webmaster, 36, only reveals his identity to be "Steven C." He works in an advertising agency that specializes in the Japanese market and is self-described as Caucasian (part Hispanic)." He agrees to an e-mail interview with the Pacific Citizen only if his anonymity is maintained.

According to Steven C., he started collecting items containing Engrish as a hobby in 1987 when he visited Japan for the first time. He lived in Japan for 10 years studying the language as his collection grew into the popular site that it is today, complete with English novelty items for sale.

Over the years, Steven C. said that he received an "overwhelming amount of e-mail containing praises for the site" from Japanese nationals, Japanese Americans and Asian Americans.

"I believe that people basically see what they want to see. There are some angry people who view the world in terms of racism, section ... in order to feel good that..."