Since 1929

PACIFIC CITIZEN

The National Publication of the Japanese American Citizens League

#3016/Vol. 138, No. 11 ISSN: 0030-8579

June 18-July 1, 2004

Culture is Skin Deep

Ink in the Skin: Megan Camerio had her Korean name, which means "Silky Girl," tattooed on her back as a reminder of her heritage. Many young people are following thefad to get tattoos with Asian writing etched on their bodies.

Tattoos with Asian writing is a fashion must-have, but does it symbolize cultural insensitivity?

By LYNDIA LIN
Assistant Editor

Some people describe the act of plunging a needle into flesh to create a permanent tattoo as nothing short of being a divine experience. The joining of art and culture in one sharp point hearkens to traditional tribal tattooing rituals of the past, but the only difference is that these days, rituals are being replaced with convenience. People can now walk into nearly any tattoo shop and pick out a cultural identity of their choice and spell it out on their skin, all within 30 minutes or less.

The popularity of Asian-influenced tattoos in the mainstream is undeniable — daggers and swords are a staple for years, but a new wave of interest in tattoos with Asian writing, characters or words have created a veritable alphabet soup out of traditional and modern lettering.

Some of the more common tattoos involve words of empowerment spelled out in Chinese characters that mean "strength" or in Japanese kanji like current Denver Nuggets' star Marcus Camby's proclamation of "to strive" on his right arm.

"The use of kanji has always been popular since the 1980s because there's always a desire for something different. It's the allure of exoticism," said San Jose-based tattoo artist Horitaka.

It's one thing if this were a slip of the tongue, but it's a totally different matter when [Parcells] uses that word deliberately, knowing that it's offensive and a racial slur," said John Tateishi, JACL executive director. "It disturbs me deeply that he felt Japanese Americans are so inconsequential that he could use such an insulting word and get away with it because we don't matter."

"[Parcells] probably was not realizing that he was being a racist by using a word that he thought was acceptable," said George Hirasaki, a Tokyo-born artist who has been fighting for the road name changes. "The residents of 'Jap Road' also said that they meant no offense by using the word. They believe saying, 'no offense' makes it OK."

Parcells was speaking at a press conference June 7 when he used the racial slur "Jap" to describe a play used by his coaching staff. He was apparently referring to Japan's Civil Liberties Act, the redress bill, "You've got to keep an eye on those two, because they're going to try to get the upper hand," Parcells said about Sean Payton and Mike Zimmer during the team's recent minicamp.

"Mike wants the defense to do well, and Sean, he's going to have a few ... no disrespect for the Orientals, for our culture, we call Jap plays. OK, surprise things." After making his comments he repeated, "No disrespect to anyone." Shortly after the incident was reported in several news outlets, the Dallas Cowboys organization issued a statement of apology. Parcells also apologized saying, "I made a very inappropriate refer-

See PARCELLS' page 8

JA Community Remembers President who Signed Redress Bill


By Pacific Citizen Staff

As the nation mourned the passing of the 40th U.S. President, Japanese Americans across the country remembered Ronald Reagan as the President who signed the historic redress bill.

Reagan passed away June 5 at the age of 93 after a lengthy battle with Alzheimer's disease.

"The lasting legacy of Ronald Reagan for the Japanese American community will always be that he was the president who signed the Civil Liberties Act, the redress bill," said John Tateishi, JACL executive director who served as JACL's redress director during the 80s. "It's a significant act on his part and he'll be remembered for providing a closing of the final chapter on the World War II internment episode."

It was on Aug. 10, 1988, that Reagan signed his name on HR 422, the historic Civil Liberties Bill, offering an official government apology and redress payments of $20,000 to each surviving JA who signed HR 422; it gave the Japanese American community the moral and financial amends they finally had been waiting for.

See REAGAN page 11
I eagerly await the arrival and get more fulfillment out of reading the Pacific Citizen, over again for a daily paper. In my comparison between the two papers I am now way of showing how important the P. C. is, not only to me, but to all who read it and among its peers in the world of print journalism. You've been told terrible tales of all the headlines, photos, etc. of the same exact same formula used over and over again for a daily paper. As and most of you can see, the P. C. has recently undergone a tremendous makeover in its visual appeal. The changes that were made to update the layout and choose different designs, headlines, photos, etc. of the paper have done wonders for it. The P. C. is now much more modern, and looks more competitive and among its peers in the world of print journalism. From what I have been studying, it looks a lot to completely redo-a paper like the P. C. staff had done. In addition to the paper's visual appearance, I consider this the P. C. superior to the DI in other aspects as well — especially when it comes to the writing and variety of stories covered. I would give anything to read articles of the same quality and caliber of the P. C. staff's writing in my own school's newspaper. While both papers have specific audiences (the P. C. being JACL members and the DI being under 35 years and staff), and are therefore more limited in audience selection, the P. C. does a much better job of being well-rounded and in date to the DI does. The DI has a staff of over 25 people, not including all of the interns, reporters and freelance writers they sometimes employ. The P. C. has only three full-time staff and one part-time. Yet they produce a better paper than that of the DI.
Assembly Ceremony to Honor Former Accused Spy Case Decided

By Associated Press and P.C. Staff

SACRAMENTO, Calif.—An Assembly ceremony to honor former accused spy Wen Ho Lee was called off after a group of Republican lawmakers threatened to fight the event. The Asian legislative caucus had planned to honor Lee on the floor of the Assembly's Lower House on June 7 for his courage while facing spy accusations four years ago. The former computer engineer at Nevada's Los Alamos National Laboratory was jailed for nine months, but was never charged with stealing nuclear secrets in China, as news reports suggested.

But on June 5 the ceremony's organizers decided to cancel the event after Move America Forward, a new Republican group formed to support the war on terrorism, objected to the event. The Republican group's members had told the Oakland Tribune that the Asian caucus members might be violating their oath of office to defend domestic enemies.

The six-member Asian caucus said it was "outraged" by the group's "inflammatory remarks" in the June 4 article. They said they canceled the ceremony to spare Lee from an "awkward situation."

"Dr. Lee has already been victimized by an overzealous prosecution by the government and I do not want him to be brutally victimized again," said Judy Chu, D-Monterey Park, chairwoman of the caucus. The Asian caucus later privately honored Lee with a "profile in courage" award.

"We applaud Assemblymember Chu and the API Legislative Caucus' decision to honor Dr. Wen Ho Lee and their decision to spare Dr. Lee from unwarranted, racially-charged, inaccurate and irresponsible accusations made by misinformed and overzealous politicians," said Phil Ting, executive director of the Asian Law Caucus. The letter states in part: "Given the unusual facts of this case, it is critical to determine whether Captain Yee was appropriately investigated, arrested and charged for criminal conduct by the U.S. Army. We are particularly interested in learning whether the Army, in this case, abided by the Manual for Courts Martial, which includes U.S. Code of Military Justice (UCMJ), the Rules for Courts Martial (RCM), and the Military Rules of Evidence (MRE), and whether its treatment of Captain Yee was consistent with military law."

The letter goes on to say: "Our request for an IG investigation is motivated by our concern for our nation's security and integrity of legal process of our Armed Forces. We value the important work your office performs and we trust that you will give this matter your close and urgent attention."

JACL Takes Part in Memorial Day Service at Arlington Cemetery

The JACL, Washington, D.C. chapter recently attended a Memorial Day Service at Arlington Cemetery. Pictured (l to r) are: Turner Kobayashi, chair of the Memorial Service, Lt. Fred Pace, retired veteran and Eagle Scout Kenneth Mortuau, U.S. Deputy Surgeon General of the Public Health Services, and featured speaker at the recent Memorial Day event, a wreath was laid at the Tomb of the Unknown on behalf of all Japanese Americans.

Rep. Honda Demands Investigation Into Yee Case; Calls on Army to Demonstrate Due Process

U.S. Rep. Mike Honda, D-San Jose, has formally requested an investigation into the U.S. Army's court martial of Chaplain James Yee, a commissioned officer of Islamic faith who was held in solitary confinement for 76 days on a variety of charges ranging from treason to mishandling classified documents. Ultimately, the Army dropped all criminal charges.

On June 4, Honda submitted a letter to Joseph Schmitz, inspector general of the Department of Defense, formally requesting the investigation into the Army's criminal probe and court martial of Yee. Honda authorized the letter in consultation with House Armed Services Committee Ranking Member Ike Skelton, D-Mo, House Armed Services Total Force Subcommittee Ranking Member Vic Snyder, D-Ar, and Armed Services Committee member Adam Smith (D-Wa).

The letter states in part: "The JACL Takes Part in Memorial Day Service at Arlington Cemetery. The Japanese American Citizens League (JACL) Washington, D.C. chapter recently attended a Memorial Day Service at Arlington Cemetery. Pictured (l to r) are: Turner Kobayashi, chair of the Memorial Service, Lt. Fred Pace, retired veteran and Eagle Scout Kenneth Mortuau, U.S. Deputy Surgeon General of the Public Health Services, and featured speaker at the recent Memorial Day event, a wreath was laid at the Tomb of the Unknown on behalf of all Japanese Americans.

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National Newsbytes

By P.C. Staff and Associated Press

Anti-Asian Violence at Brooklyn High School Spurs Justice Department Action
WASHINGTON—Brooklyn's troubled Lafayette High School will institute new procedures to reduce violence against Asian American students under a consent decree with the Department of Justice. Lafayette has been a subject of a federal civil rights investigation since 2002, when students complained that school district officials ignored student harassment and abuse.

According to a complaint filed in a Brooklyn federal court, Asian students were subjected to violent attacks involving thrown food, cans and heavy metal locks.

The school also faces complaints that some Asian students were forced to graduate early to bolster the school's graduation rate.

'Enola Gay' Pilot Visits Mission Launching Point for First Time
PEARL HARBOR, Hawaii—Retired Air Force Brig. Gen. Paul W. Tibbets returned recently to Hawaii for the first time since piloting the B-29 bomber "Enola Gay" to drop the first atomic bomb on Hiroshima on Aug. 6, 1945.

Tibbets, 89, was on a stopover while on his way to the Mariana Islands for ceremonies recently in the capital city of Saipan marking the 60th anniversary of the Battles for Saipan and Tinian.

Although hesitant at first, he visited the Pearl Harbor museum and memorial. He remains proud about his role in the atomic age.

"Ask me to do it again under the same circumstances, I wouldn't hesitate," he said.

Advocates Call Recent Asian Medicine Sting Discriminatory
RICHMOND, Va.—A government sting on buyers of traditional Asian medicine ingredients is being condemned by Asian immigrant advocates who say the sting unfairly targeted individuals because of their cultural beliefs.

The three-year sting based in a Shenandoah Valley sporting goods store resulted in charges against more than 100 people in January, most of them Korean Americans.

The government says the sting, which targeted buyers of black bear parts and wild ginseng, is one of many nationwide investigations on black market items. Prosecutors say law enforcement agents warned everyone that their purchases were illegal by using a mix of short, English sentences and pantomime.

Korean communities derided the use of pantomime as a degrading way to signal the situation's severity to a vulnerable population.

Cities, Institution Continue to Oppose U.S.A. Patriot Act
Two more cities and one university have recently gone on record opposing the USA Patriot Act.

Paterson is famous for being the temporary home of as many as six of the Sept. 11 hijackers. Now it is the ninth New Jersey city to adopt a resolution opposing the act, joining 32 other municipalities or counties across the country in passing similar resolutions. Lehigh University in Pennsylvania also took a stance against the act.

Hmong Soldier Goes to Iraq Without His U.S. Citizenship
WAUSAU, Wis.—Yao Yang, a Hmong refugee born in a camp in Thailand, has been called to active duty in Iraq, but he's not even a U.S. citizen.

Yang, 23, said he has filled out the needed paperwork for his citizenship but has not completed the process yet.

"It's my first trophy or award ever. I couldn't be happier," Yagira told a news conference. "I want to become a fine actor." Yagira plays the eldest of four siblings who takes charge of the family when their mother leaves. The film opens in Japan in July.

"We're filing this appeal today because we believe the state court was wrong," said Ernie Doizaki, a nephew of Yokomi's who bought his uncle's business in 1996.

Yokomi operated a fish market, Central Fish, from 1950 to 1996—1996___.

"This occasion represents affirmation of our belief in the future and especially my uncle's belief in this area and his love of children," said Emie Doizaki, a nephew of "Yokomi's who bought his uncle's business in 1986.
JACL Announces Candidates for National Office

The 2004 Nominations Committee met via conference call to evaluate the nominations for candidates for national board officers. The committee consists of Larry Grant, chair, Grace Kimoto (PNW), Toshi Abe (EDC), Scott Sakamoto (PSW), Alwayne Yonemoto (PSW), and Sharon Ishii-Katsuna (NCWNP), Thailand Nakashima (DC), and Steve Okamoto (NYSCCOC). The committee consists of Jamie Cork (Pacific Citizen), Steve Okamoto (PSW), Jamie Cork (MPOC), Steve Okamoto (PSW), and Sharon Ishii-Katsuna (NCWNP), Thailand Nakashima (DC), and Steve Okamoto (NYSCCOC). The accepted, timely filed nominations for national board officers are shown below with brief biographical information. Each candidate's complete nominations materials may be viewed at the JACL website: www.jacl.org.

There are two offices for which there is no completely timely nomination was received. Late nominations for these offices may be considered by the committee at the national convention. Nominations for National Treasurer of the JACL, in addition to the official nominations form and shall be subject to the requirements of the majority of the national board of directors, shall be submitted by the credentials committee to be in good standing. In the case of the elected National Youth/Student Council positions, the nominations form shall be submitted by the candidate or delegate, as designated by the student/delegate representative or an official youth/student council proxy holder who has been designated by the credentials committee to be in good standing.

President
Kenneth K. Inouye
JACL Background: Current: National VP for Public Affairs; President, Inouye Properties, Inc.; Past: President of the PSW Civil Rights Caucus; JACL Youth Organizing Committee Chair (2003-2004), JACL Board Member (2004-present), JACL Membership Chair (2003-present), JACL Reunion Convention Chair (2002-present). V.P. for General Operations
Larry Oda
JACL Background: Positions: Board Member, Delegate, President (7-Chapters for Membership Foundation), Chapter, Vice Chair of the JACL Health Trust, Chair, District 75th Anniversary Celebration, Convention Chair, National Convention Consultant, President, JACL Japanese Language School.
Activities: Successfully listed the historic Monterey JACL Hall as an official landmark site (2002); Coordinated tour, dedication, a niche initiative, a scholarship in the name of a former chapter president.
Personal Background: BA, MA California State University; U.S. Navy, Vietnam Vietnam.
Occupation: Fleet Maintenance Manager, City of Salinas, CA.
Honors: City of Salinas Management Employee of the Year 2002.
Qualifications: "Internal Structure of JACL: My experience and ongoing training as a municipal division manager has given me a different perspective, a leadership and marketing perspective than my experience as a business owner or employee. The diverse view helps me understand the dynamics of organizations in general, and JACL, in particular. Personnel Policies: Municipal Management-level employees are the lifeblood of our organization, and I am provided with ongoing training on every aspect of personnel administration. This ongoing training has given me a wealth of knowledge as well as reference material at my disposal beyond what is available at the chapter level." Leadership in Carrying Out the JACL Program For Action: "JACL is an organization that is needed to accomplish the goals of the organization. My many years of experience as the head of Human Relations Organizations at the City, County and State level have endowed me with the opportunity to develop the skills that are necessary to bring diverse individuals together in order to reach a common goal. I will work with the National Secretary-Treasurer and staff to develop the information that is needed for the National Board to need in order to make fiscally responsible decisions regarding JACL programs and operations."
Contact this candidate: Larry_Oda@hotmail.com
V.P. for Public Affairs
Heidi Tanakatabo
Personal Background: BA in American Studies from University of California at Berkeley; Professional: Marketing Communications Specialist for PC World magazine.
Qualifications: "I was a 2002 Klara Ma Women's Leadership Award from Northern California Cherry Blossom Paginate Committee (for dedication to the JA community).
Qualifications: "My professional responsibilities dovetail well with the duties of the JACL National Vice President for Public Affairs and the JACL National Board. As a marketing specialist, I am in constant communication with members and other important groups, as well as vendors. Though I always act on behalf of my company, I must always keep the needs of others in mind, and remain as impartial as possible. In addition, my role as chairperson of the JACL Membership Foundation Committee has taught me how to deal with a group, delegate, and work effectively to balance many different interests. The opportunity to bring all of these together to achieve a decision that best meets the needs of the group staff, and propose an organizational chart for an effective JACL for the future, 5 years and more."
Contact this candidate: voteheidi@yahoo.com
V.P. for One Thousand Clubs, Membership Services
Edwin Endow
Personal Background: BA in Elementary Education, University of the Pacific.
Qualifications: "My background has been in both membership and financial growth that I have gained not only through my association with the JACL, but also through my employment will be an added benefit to the JACL. Furthermore, my recent education in the field of Public Administration will help bring updated and new innovative ideas to our organization."
Leadership in Carrying Out the JACL Program For Action: "Specifically, I will establish a broader "Membership Benefits" package to include membership development in the districts in their recruitment of new members, we will develop a membership retention program. As a membership retention program, we will develop a plan to help us reach a consensus on the correct path for JACL to take. We need to add new members to the JACL. In addition, we also need to consider how our membership does two important things: it adds revenue so that we have the money to pay for the programs that we need to offer and it adds energy to the entire organization. Finally, I will always try to remind everyone of the JACL motto, "For Better Americans in a Greater America." After all, after everything is said and done, I feel that is why we do all of this." Contact this candidate: Endowvps@chartermail.com
Joon Jackson
Activities: Initiated and organized my chapter participating in the California Adopt-A-Highway program, initiated membership drive within my chapter, and increased total membership levels within the chapter. I initiated the 2002 Los Angeles Dodgers Nikkei Celebration with over 60 chapters in participating. I organized our chapter's first participation in the 2003 National Gala Dinner with over 200 attendees.
Personal Background: BS in Criminal Justice Administration, San Diego State University; MA in Public Administration, San Diego State University.
Occupation: General Manager of Desert Security and Investigative Services.
Honors: Boy Scouts of America Eagle Scout, Order of the Arrow Vigil Honor, Boy Scouts of America National President of the Silver Beaver Award (Council's highest award for an adult volunteer), Boy Scouts of America National President of the Silver Beaver Award (Council's highest award for an adult volunteer), Recipient of the Citizen of the Month for the 51 Congressional District, presented by Congressman Bob Filner. Engaged.
Qualifications: "I believe that my background in both membership and financial growth that I have gained not only through my association with the JACL, but also through my employment will be an added benefit to the JACL. Furthermore, my recent education in the field of Public Administration will help bring updated and new innovative ideas to our organization."
Leadership in Carrying Out the JACL Program For Action: "I feel that part of being a leader is acknowledging the fact that you do not have all the answers. It helps me to experience the board, but also to be open to the ideas of the rest of the board. I have seen what works and what doesn't. Hopefully, I can bring that experience to the board, especially in the membership arena, so that we can come up with a program that everyone can use to help grow this great organization."
Contact this candidate: jacksonvps4n@hotmail.com
V.P. for Planning and Development
No candidates.
V.P. for One Thousand Clubs, Membership Services
Edwin Endow
JAPANESE AMERICAN NATIONAL MUSEUM

The follow-up to the "All-Camps Summit" in 2002

CAMP CONNECTIONS: A Conversation About Civil Rights and Social Justice in Arkansas

September 23–26, 2004, Little Rock, Arkansas

Part of Life Interrupted: The Japanese American Experience in World War II Arkansas, a partnership between the University of Arkansas at Little Rock and the Japanese American National Museum with major funding provided by the Winthrop Rockefeller Foundation.

Register before June 30, 2004 and save on registration, optional keynote address meals and an optional limited-seating trip to both the Rohwer and Jerome campsites. Take part in the openings of eight exhibitions, three military-related, in Little Rock, including four national premiers.

For more information, call
Jessica Hayes 501.569.8391
Nancy Araki 213.830.5649
jahayes@uark.edu
naraki@jannm.org

Or check www.jannm.org or www.lifeinterrupted.org


Personal Background: Will demonstrate a work ethic that will carry out the program for action.

Contact this candidate: todd_4_youthrep@yahoo.com

For complete nominations details see the JACL website: www.jacl.org


Personal Background: BS in Electrical Engineering, Santa Clara University, MS in Electrical Engineering, UCLA.

Occupation: Electrical Engineer, Senior Staff Engineer, Broadcom Corporation. Married with two daughters.

Honors: Tau Beta Pi, Electrical Engineering Honor Society.

Qualifications: “I’m qualified for the position of Secretary/Treasurer of the National JACL, based on these essential characteristics: 1) As the NCWNP governor, I’ve worked actively on the 2003 National Operation budget that netted over $344k. 2) I have managed budgets at the district and chapter level. I have managed significant projects within the JACL such as the 1996 National JACL Convention and the first NCWNP district gala dinner; 3) I am a long time JACLer that would like to help the organization to help create a stable base from which the JACL can create programs that are beneficial for the JACL and our country; 4) As an engineer, I have dealt with financial information and data in general and would be able to apply this background in this posi­tion. Finally, as the NCWNP gover­nor, I have gotten a first hand look at how the JACL National board oper­ates and in the position of Secretary/Treasurer, I can see many ways in which the JACL can operate more efficiently and as a stronger organi­zation.”

Leadership in Carrying Out The JACL Program For Action: “As the Secretary/Treasurer, I would manage the finances of the National JACL such that the national budget passed by the National Council can be carried out within the extent pos­sible. The upcoming years may be difficult years as we have suffered in the past few years. I hope to be a key member in helping set a strong foun­dation for the organization in the coming biennium and beyond. I bring knowledge and experience about the JACL through being everything from a chapter board member, chapter president and dis­trict governor. I will also be bringing the energy and a willingness to roll up my sleeves to get the goals of the organization accomplished.”

Contact this candidate: kobayashiz@netzero.net

National Youth/Student Council Chairperson
No candidate.

National Youth/Student Council Representative
Andrea Parker
JACL Background: Positions: Osaka Chapter member of the plan­ning committee for Tri-dist­ric­tion conference (hosted by Omaha Chapter, July 2003), planner for children’s activities at an­ual Easter Egg Hunt (1997–2001), participant in chapter’s

PACIFIC CITIZEN, JUNE 18–JULY 1, 2004
OLYMPICS

Kimiko Soldati bounced back from a poor dive to win the 3-meter springboard at the U.S. trials June 12. At the trials, she’s the oldest diver at 37.

Soldati didn’t start diving seriously until a dozen years ago and overcame numerous injuries to clinch her first spot on the Olympic team.

Her second dive was ugly. Soldati, oriienatal on an inward pike 2/1 somersault, created a huge splash as she sliced through the water. The crowd groaned and the scores confirmed their appraisal — 4s and 4.5s that dropped her into second place behind Rochelle Kinkel.

Michelle Davison, a 2000 Olympian, was charging, too. She was just 7.2 points behind Soldati with three dives remaining.

“I missed that dive, but I was OK with it,” said Soldati, a Colorado native who now lives in Texas. “I thought about it for about 30 seconds. That’s it. Then it was time to move.”

Soldati, who passed time during dives listening to the Usher song “Yeah!” on her headphones, bounced back. Her last three dives were on the mark, closing with a reverse pike 2/1 somersault that clinched the victory.

Soldati finished with 884.70 points, while Kinkel became a first-time Olympian with 874.38.

Davison settled for third at 870.60 — just 3.78 points out of a return trip to the Games. She was 12th in the springboard at Sydney.

Soldati was a top-level gymnast in high school, but the first of her injuries — a torn knee ligament — prompted her father to encourage a switch to diving. She finally got serious about it as a freshman at Colorado State, where she competed on the 3-meter board for the first time.

A steady string of injuries slowed Soldati’s progress. In all, she had four shoulder surgeries and two knee operations.

“I’m not amazed she pulled it off, but I’m amazed she got to this point,” said her husband, Adam. “I know that day in, day out is a constant struggle. There are days she gets out of bed and can’t even move her arms.”

Soldati’s father, Gary Hirai, was born in an intern­

ment camp for Japanese Americans during the clos­

ing months of World War II. He was on June 12, cherishing on his daughter with about 30 family and friends in the bleachers who she’ll be representing the country that once locked up his parents.

“It’s just neat,” Hirai said. “It all fits together perfectly, as far as I’m concerned.”

Soldati’s mother, Judy Hirai, died in 1990. She long struggled with breast cancer. Her influence was evi­

dent at the trials — from her wed­

ding ring worn by Soldati while diving, to her daughter’s indomitable will.

“My wife was so strong and so focused that no complaining while she was sick. She just wanted to do the best she could,” Hirai said. “That carried over to our daughter.”

GOLF

Wie Helps United States Win Curtis Cup

FORMBY, England—Hawai‘i’s Michelle Wie helped the United States retain the Curtis Cup on June 13 with a 10-4 victory over Britain and Ireland.

The Americans have won now four straight and 24 overall in the biennial amateur competition, which has been played 33 times.

The 14-year-old Wie beat Nicola Timmins 6 and 5 to give the United States a 7-6 lead. The 14-year-old Wie beat Nicola Timmins 6 and 5 to give the United States a 7-6 lead. The 14-year-old Wie beat Nicola Timmins 6 and 5 to give the United States a 7-6 lead.

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June 13, June Park lost hers, then

Please send your stories to:

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Susan Omoto

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In addition, all stories should answer the question: If

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ment, but the first of her

injuries — a torn knee ligament —

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knee operations.

"I'm not amazed she pulled it off,

but I'm amazed she got to this point," said her

husband, Adam. "I know that day in, day out is a constant

struggle. There are days she gets out of bed and can't even

move her arms."

Soldati's father, Gary Hirai, was born in an intern­

ment camp for Japanese Americans during the clos­ing

months of World War II. He was on June 12, cherishing on his

dughter with about 30 family and friends in the bleachers

who she'll be representing the country that once locked

up his parents.

"It's just neat," Hirai said. "It all fits together perfectly, as far as I'm concerned."

Soldati's mother, Judy Hirai, died in 1990. She long struggled with breast cancer. Her influence was evi­
dent at the trials — from her wedding ring worn by Soldati while diving, to her daughter's indomitable will.

"My wife was so strong and so focused that no complaining while she was sick. She just wanted to do the best she could," Hirai said. "That carried over to our daughter."

Book Author Seeks Internnees' Stories


I am collecting remembrances from internnees who were between the ages of 10 and 16 when they were in the camps. Stories can be any length.

Subjects can include: Memories of Dec. 7 and/or Executive Order 9066, pre-evacuation atmosphere in school or community, everyday life in the camps.

Readers should learn what it was like to leave your home and friends, how your life changed in the camps and how the evacuation affected you as a young adult.

In addition, all stories should answer the question: If you could pass along one piece of advice or wisdom to the youth of today, what would it be?

Please send your stories to: Susan Omoto

2347 Ogden Court

Saint Paul, MN 55119

susan@internmentstories.com

fax: 651-578-8199

Please include personal background and contact information.

For more information, visit www.internmentstories.com

Stories should be sent by August 1, 2004.
But that reaction isn't good enough for many IAs and Tateishi noted that the JACL will continue to press the issue with the NFL in hopes of opening a dialogue to discuss the league's policy regarding racial slurs by coaches and players.

"This is something the JACL will continue to pursue until we're satisfied with some results, which includes confronting the Cowboys organization and [NFL Commissioner] Paul Tagliabue," he said. "I'm especially interested in learning why the NFL dismissed this issue so quickly and why they feel IAs and APAs can so easily be brushed aside."

The Parcells' incident coincides with current efforts by local IAs and various civil rights groups to rename various roads in Texas that still use the racial slur "Jap." Late last year, a federal complaint was filed with the U.S. Department of Transportation and the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development asking Jefferson County to rename "Jap Road." They are asking that federal funds be withheld until a name change takes place. So far, the road in Jefferson County still exists and the neighboring county of Orange has also kept its "Jap Lane."

The recent Parcells incident "can be used to help educate the state of Texas that using such racial slurs in any manner will not be tolerated in this day and age," said Texas resident Sandra Nakata Tanuwidjaja, a plaintiff in the federal complaint who has been trying to get "Jap Road" renamed for more than ten years now. "Racial epithets certainly are not tolerated by African Americans or Hispanics."

Tateishi noted that Parcells is originally from the East Coast but that the manner in which the Dallas Cowboys dealt with the situation highlights the need for more education in the state of Texas. "I do think there's something to be said about this incident and the way the Cowboys organization brushed this incident aside as inconsequential, add to that the refusal of the towns in Jefferson and Orange counties refusing to change the names "Jap Road" and "Jap Lane,"" said Tateishi. "In both cases, it's a refusal to accept that this word is offensive to Japanese Americans."

If so, the road names are changed we have to keep talking about this issue."

He noted that educating Texans about the slur "Jap" is important but it's a lesson that needs to be spread throughout the country. "It's a good lesson for all people, people who haven't had the opportunity to understand how hurtful this phrase is," he said.

Pictured are (l-r): David Miyamatsu, Jane Allen and Miyako Conley.

**ANN M. CROWELL**
Exercising culture clashes with 'Sumo East and West'
June 19—Seventeen Rituals in the Buddhist Practice; 2 p.m.; Moyer Auditorium, Fresno City College. Lavandier will present an overview of the historical development of rituals in Buddhist practice, and the relevance of such rituals to day-to-day life in both a cultural and as a religious context. Info: 2021357-2700.

June 20—Shamisen Recital/Concert; 1:30 p.m.; George Mason University, Center for the Arts. Info: Akko Shimizu, 703/992-6180 or Sachiko Smith, 703/795-6496.


June 26—JACL Picnic; 12:30 p.m.; Wheaton Regional Park, Shelter D, Shorefield Road.


June 27—Annual JACL picnic, Holiday Park. Contact: NE JACL, 345 N. Lake Ave., Pasadena 91101.

June 22—Annual JACL picnic, Holiday Park. Contact: NE JACL, 345 N. Lake Ave., Pasadena 91101.


June 23—Annual JACL picnic, Holiday Park. Contact: NE JACL, 345 N. Lake Ave., Pasadena 91101.

June 20—JACL Picnic; 12:30 p.m.; Wheaton Regional Park, Shelter D, Shorefield Road.


June 26—Seminar Using Southern California plants to create a Japanese style garden; 2-3 p.m.; Camarillo Community College, 1019 Ponderosa Drive; Free. Info: Camarillo Council of JACL; Anne Chilton, 805/492-0146 or vcaj@hotmail.com.

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suffered the indignities of forced internment during World War II.

The signing took place during the same time as the 1988 JACL national convention in Seattle and several JACL representatives and officials flew a red eye flight to Washington, D.C., for the official signing ceremony.

Pacific Citizen Editor Emeritus Harry Honda remembers attending the historic ceremony and was pleased to hear when Reagan mentioned a P.C. article he had read during his speech at the White House signing ceremony.

"It was a pleasant and an unexpected moment for me to hear President Reagan mention the Pacific Citizen in his remarks at the signing of HR 442 — the Redress bill," said Honda. "No other President has ever cited the Pacific Citizen..."
SKIN DEEP

(Continued from page 1)

With Asian writing is something Horitaka calls a strictly American tendency—tattooing one's own name onto the body.

A small kanji character that translates to “Hana” sits on Amy Wakayama’s right hipbone. In the summer of 1998, when “tattoos were the rage,” Wakayama summed her language skills learned from past Japanese classes and chose the character because it represented her middle name “Hana” and her father’s name “Haruo.”

But for others, getting a self-referential tattoo is a very personal attempt to reclaim their diminishing heritage.

Ken Arata, 25, is planning to get his family name tattooed down his spine in kanji to show that his Japanese heritage is the backbone of his existence even though he does not speak the language.

Megan Carriero, 20, is South Korean but she was adopted at a young age by a European American couple in Connecticut who kept reminding her of her Korean name, which means “Silky Girl.” The tattoo on her lower back is the Korean characters for “Silky Girl,” which she researched by rilling through her adoption papers and then showed to the tattoo artist to have etched into her skin.

“Not that I want to combine both my lives, because I am who I am. I am American, but from Asian descent. It’s just my way of giving tribute, in a way, and remembering that I am originally from Asia,” said Carriero.

Because of her own experience, Carriero said that she finds the current popularity of tattoos with Asian characters silly for people to get unless they have a real connection with the culture.

But Nicole Conley defends her decision to get the Chinese words for “Year of the Ram” and “Year of the Rooster” tattooed on the front of her collarsine.

Even though she is not Asian, she has a love for the culture. And her tattoos are not just fashion accessories, but are symbols of a special bond between herself and her husband who has both of these tattoos.

Still, Conley said that when Asian Americans see their tattoos, they give her a “quick quiz” and seem pleased as long as she knows the true meaning of the characters.

In his 13 years of experience as a tattoo artist in Los Angeles, Kirk Alley estimated that one out of every 20 customers goes to a walk-in tattoo shop to get a tattoo with Asian characters, and from that percentage most of those are Caucasians and African Americans. He attributes this popularity to a “monkey see, monkey do” attitude.

However, the popularity of these tattoos has created another problem—nonsensical writing and unintentionally funny denotations.

“The Chinese-Japanese written language is very complex. Unless the tattoo artist speaks and writes the language, it’s impossible to translate correctly,” said Alley. “One wrong brush stroke and it says something completely different.”

Stories about tattoo artists wreaking revenge on nasty customers by inking derogatory phrases like “shut” and “ugly” float from one tattoo shop to another like urban legends, but Horitaka has seen a lot of really messed up kanji that declare gibberish.

Whether for cultural or fashion-able reasons, he has advice for the burgeoning group of young people scurrying to get their ethnic phrase inked in their skin do your research.

“People come into the tattoo shop and say, ‘I got this off the internet,’” said Horitaka. “Well, the internet is a toilet bowl. Others come in and say, ‘We were at a Chinese restaurant and someone helped us translate this.’ Well, did you tip well?”

This year’s winners, pictured left to right: Eric Murakami ($500), Ryan Akimoto ($1,000), Jamie Doi ($1,000), and Greg Stillman ($1,000), were the three Utah chapters—Salt Lake, Wakayama’s right hipbone.

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The Alice Kasai scholarship awards were presented as part of a joint scholarship award dinner for the three Utah chapters—Salt Lake City, Mt. Olympus, and Wasatch North—held recently at the Salt Lake Community College.

Thanks to a successful Tanoshimi no Yoru fundraiser a total of $4,000 in scholarships was awarded from the Alice Kasai Scholarship Fund. This year’s winners, pictured left to right, are: Eric Murakami ($500), Greg Stillman ($1,000), Jamie Doi ($1,000), Ryan Akimoto ($1,000), and Krista Furutabayashi ($500).

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