A Visit from Visiting Violette

By YUMI SAKUGAWA
Special to the Pacific Citizen

In the album "A Hero's Day," Lee Takasugi, lead singer of Visiting Violette, sings about falling in love with pink-haired women, stumbling Martians and lost adolescent romance. It is this kind of tellable quickness that makes the band, composed of Takasugi, guitarist Olean Surfavech and electric guitarist Shin Kawasaki, defy simple categorization in the growing and vastly diverse Asian American music scene.

"Glenn and I are the core members," Takasugi said. "Before Shin came, [Glenn and I] went to high school together. So we've known each other like, forever. We've had so many drummers and bass players in just ten years. Arid then Shin Kawasaki, defy simple categorization in the growing and vastly diverse Asian American music scene.

"The challenges I think is to convince the mainstream that there is a huge community of people who will spend a lot of money buying records, buying concert tickets and supporting Asian American artists." Their last live performance was July 28 at The Knitting Factory in Los Angeles as part of an eight-week competition sponsored by World/Asia Television as an opportunity for AA musical artists to be recognized by a mainstream audience. Once a week for seven weeks, audience members will vote for a source of pain and a source of victory. According to a Japanese American executive director.

"Jap Lane" in Orange County hasn't received as much attention as "Jap Road," but after Jefferson County commissioners voted 4 to 1 to rename "Jap Road" at a July 19 hearing, the issue is sure to land on doorsteps with a resounding thud!

As a committee of current "Jap Road" residents was given the task of selecting a new name and on July 28 announced their selection: Boondocks Road, in honor of a popular restaurant that operated on the road in the 1990s. But so far, Orange County commissioners have not been swayed by the events in Jefferson County nor the voices of the various groups demanding a name change for "Jap Lane."

"We support the citizens living on the road, the citizens that live here in Orange County," said Judge Carl Thibodeaux, head of the Orange County Commission, noting that a recent poll of "Jap Lane" residents indicated they were not in favor of a road name change. So far a hearing to take up the "Jap Lane" issue has not been scheduled since more pressing issues like the budget are being dealt with, said Thibodeaux. But, he added, perhaps the issue will come up in the next round of elections.

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By LYNDA LIN
Assistant Editor

With its sharp consonant sound, the word "Jap" was the weapon of choice in wartime propaganda campaigns designed to define the perfect enemy as militant, suspicious and always an outsider, but the word that has slashed at so many Japanese American souls is enjoying a revival in popularity today. Dallas Cowboys Coach Bill Parcells admitted his team uses sneak-attack "Jap Plays," and for over a decade, Texans could drive by "Jap Road" or "Jap Lane." Some of these occurrences are just aberrations in a mostly tolerant society, but don't forget that a wide variety of "Jap" products are still available on eBay.

Perhaps the clearest indication of America's growing pains when it comes to racial harmony is the prevalence of hateful messages being broadcast on radio talk shows. One of Los Angeles' top rated morning talk shows hosted by Bill Handel and his morning crew on KFI 640AM was recently caught in a flap over the use of the word "Jap." The incident occurred not years or months ago but July 5, 2004. In a conversation with a guest about Japan's premier hotdog eating champion, Takeku Kobusho, radio personality Paul "The Wall" Charfauros said "he's just a Jap," according to a Japanese American listener in San Diego who was so offended that he wrote letters of complaint to the Federal Communications Commission (FCC), KFI and advertisers.

KFI did not air an on-air apology but letters of regret were written. In letters dated July 8, Charfauros wrote, "I did not intend to say anything that would cause you offense. I was trying to be funny and failed miserably. Please be assured that I will not..."
Role of Buddhism

Thank you for the very fine front page article recognizing the vital role many Buddhist temples have played in the lives of the Japanese American communities. The JACL struggled to build a network of temples on the West Coast which could serve not only as a religious refuge, but also a place where Japanese Americans could gather for cultural and social activities and services. Today, there are Buddhist temples actively reaching the East Coast. During World War II, the Buddhist temples took on the responsibility of reassuring families and giving counsel within the confines of the concentration camps. They also made sure that veterans and others who died were given funeral and memorial rites.

After the War, the JA communities again set forth to rebuild the structures and programs to promulgate the religious traditions entrusted to them by the Issei.

Today, many of your JACL leaders, and we thank you for your continued support of JACL, have never seen many JACL scholarship recipients have not chosen to be JACL members as they have completed college. JACL needs more people to join JACL and to encourage their friends and relatives to also support JACL.

The Giving Continues

The following is a list of donors that gave to the Pacific Citizen Spring Campaign after the 71696 edition was published: Louni Ishihara, Ayako Tagashira, Emeri Vanterpool, and Mary Yasumoto.

Today, Homamatusu and oben are events shared not only by Buddhists, but also by the wider community who felt enriched by the diversity of religious activities in this pluralistic nation.

Today, Buddhist Americans earn merit badges in cub scouts, boy scouts, brownies and girl scouts, as well as through the campfire organization. The Buddhist Churches of America has assured that any Buddhist veteran can have the Wheel of Dharma engraved on his or her tombstone at Arlington National Cemetery or any other national burial ground. In a nation founded on the principles of religious freedom, I am pleased that the Pacific Citizen dedicated its precious space to show the historical context by which Buddhism is growing today.

Best regards,
Floyd Mori
JACL National President

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Please become a member and help us in our mission.
Members of President's Advisory Commission on AAPIs Sworn-in

A public ceremony was held July 18 in the White House Conference Center to swear in the newest members of the President’s Advisory Commission on Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders. The event drew over 100 guests representing the API community.

"The President has shown his commitment to the API community by renewing this Advisory Commission," said Betty Wu, chairwoman of the commission. "I look forward to working with this group of business leaders, entrepreneurs, and community advocates to better understand the specific issues facing AAPIs and to develop creative solutions leading to growth and community empowerment," she said.

The President’s Advisory Commission on Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders was established by Executive Order 13339 signed by President Bush on May 13. The commission provides equal economic opportunities for full participation of AAPIs businesses in the free market economy where they may be underserved. The following are the 16 members of the commission: Betty B. Wu, Chair, Member, Asian American Conservatives of California; Nitz Nyugen Collier, Dev. Aikay Desai, Vel Veer Dietrich-Hall, William Kil, John C. Kim, Jeanny Lee, Joseph Melokarvan, Derrick H. Nyugen, Rudy Pumimann, Martha Cruz Rush, Jeffrey B. Sakaguchi, and Kenneth Wong.

Unlike Hispanics, Surfing Asian Population Lacks National Political Clout

WASHINGTON—Asian Americans are the country’s second fastest-growing minority behind Hispanics. But unlike Latinos, they have virtually no national political clout.

Eager to change that, activists and political leaders are relying on tried-and-true methods like voter registration drives and educational efforts to get more people to the polls.

Yet when it comes to counting Asian voters, political parties appear to be more influenced by some simple math, courtesy of the Census Bureau.

There were more than 9 million Asians in the United States of voting age in July 2003, up 1 million from three years earlier. Among minorities, Asians lag behind the 26.3 million Hispanics and 25.7 million blacks of voting age.

People of Pacific Island background comprised just 2 percent of voters in the 2000 election, compared with 10 percent for blacks and 5 percent for Hispanics.

National, Asians represent just 4 percent of the U.S. population, and there is a large immigrant segment in the United States who aren’t citizens and therefore can’t vote.

"Asian votes should be courted, not taken for granted," pleaded Cass K. O., executive director of the Asian American Federation in New York. "At the same time, politicians and the political parties don’t know how to court the Asian vote and many in the community do not know enough about the political process," he says. "There’s no easy answer.

David Lee of the Chinese American Voters Education Committee in San Francisco calls it a cycle that "feeds into itself." Parties historically haven’t sought Asian participation in the community do not know how to court the Asian vote and many of them are the lowest bidders because of San Francisco’s race and sex-based rules.

"The voters of California spoke loudly to end racially driven programs and policies like those used in San Francisco," Browne said. "I am heartened that the court saw the issues clearly and handed down this victory for equality."

Browne said the court ruling means San Francisco must suspend its affirmative action programs immediately. But Matt Dorsey, a spokesman for City Attorney Dennis Herrera, said July 27 that the city would appeal Warren's decision down San Francisco's contracting process. "The citizens of San Francisco, "Browne said. "I think the case created this remedial program." Warren, Browne said that both Schram and an automatic 10 percent deduction are good intentions of the city when it carved out an exception based on the concededly constitutional breach of Proposition 209.

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"The intent of the voters in adopt- ing Proposition 209 was to outlaw race- and sex-based programs irrespective of the good will and moral position behind any particular program; Warren wrote in striking down San Francisco's contracting methods. "Nobody argues that Proposition 209 carved out an exception based on the concededly good intentions of the city when it created this remedial program."

The case was brought by the Sacramento-based Pacific Legal Foundation, a public interest law firm that works to limit the scope of government, on behalf of two construction companies that do business with the city. Pacific Legal Foundation attorney Sharon Browne said that both Schram Construction and Coral Construction had lost contracts for which they were the lowest bidders because of San Francisco's race and sex-based rules.

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**National Newsmytes**

By P. C. Shiro and Associated Press

Japanese Women Set New Record for World's Longest Life Expectancy

TOKYO—Japanese women have covered the market on long life for the 19th straight year. Japan's Health Ministry said women in the country could expect to live 85.3 years in 2003, up from 85.2 years in 2002. Women make up about 85 percent of the total.

Sikh Student Says His Appearance Led to Interrogation

Sundeep Sahni, a senior with a double major in computer science and finance, said he was taking pictures of buildings on campus when campus police approached him. Sahni, 21, said the agents were staying on campus during the Democratic National Convention, searched him and his car for weapons and bombs.

The Secret Service said the agents acted properly because of security concerns during the convention. Sahni said that he would resist his impulse to leave school and return to Kuwait, where his family now lives, because he owes it to other Sikhs to remain here.

Women, Minorities Win Discrimination Settlement with DOH

MORGANTOWN, W. VA.—Hundreds of minority and female employees of the state Division of Highways could get raises and promotions under the 19th straight year. Japan's Health Ministry said women in the country could expect to live 85.3 years in 2003, up from 85.2 years in 2002. Women make up about 85 percent of the total. But already Orange County commissioniners have been forced to take some action. After a federal discrimination lawsuit was filed last December in Jefferson County, commissioniners in Orange County passed a resolution in March designating Highway Road 1135 as "Kishi Road," in honor of pioneer Kichimatsu Kishi.

But this motion by Orange County commissioniners does not satisfy many Jews who plan to continue pressing their demands to rename "Jap Lane."

"To me, that ship simply shoots at me ... It's like an advertisement, sanctioned by the locals, and laughing at me," said Daniel Watanabe, coordinator of the Texas Honor Project ad hoc committee. "Nobody has a right to show that onto me."

"The word 'Jap' is a racist and derogatory word," said George Hirakishi, JACL Houston chapter president, who is a descendant of the Kishi family for whom "Jap Lane" was originally named after. Hirakishi hopes that by working with the local Orange County Historical Society the county commission will be pressured to rename the road "Kishi Lane" in honor of the pioneering family.

"If the local residents see a local organization advocating the name change in honor of a local pioneer, they might not have objections to changing it," said Hirakishi.

So far a federal discrimination complaint, much like the one filed in Jefferson County, is not on the table for Orange County. In the Jefferson County complaint the issue was brought before the Department of Housing and Urban Development and the U.S. Department of Transportation, demanding a renaming of "Jap Road" or else federal funds would be witheld.

"I don't believe it's necessary or advisable to file a federal complaint for a name change," said Tateishi, who favors a wait and see approach in Orange County. "Jefferson County commissioniners were miwysi, a 22-year-old man, with a much more distinctively indie style. The winner of the recent competition was to get into people's heads and make them remember something."

The July 28 show clearly demonstrated the artistic diversity of musical styles prevalent in the growing AA music scene. Along with Visiting Violette, some of the other performers were miralyn, a 22-year-old man, with a much more distinctively indie style. The winner of the recent competition was to get into people's heads and make them remember something.

"We came up with these songs because we thought our main goal was to get into people's heads and make us impression," Suracew said.

"So our attitude was let's choose the songs that will be on their next album, and a cover of the U2 song 'With or Without You.'"

Although Visiting Violette did not win the competition, Suracew said the band was happy with their performance.

"We really went into this not trying to win. We just want to do our best and just be exposed," Suracew said. "We were really proud because we feel like we really proved ourselves as being it is what we are trying to do. What we're trying to do is purely from the perspective of being a good musician and good songwriter. We're not trying to follow any kind of formula. And maybe that's why we're chosen. It's all about what we're doing our own thing and nobody knows how to classify us."

ALSO

Grant Hirabayashi Inducted into Ranger Hall of Fame

Grant Hirabayashi, a World War II veteran of the famous Merrill's Marauders, the 30th Composite Unit (Provisional), was inducted into the Ranger Hall of Fame at Fort Benning, Georgia on July 8, 2004.

Hirabayashi was one of the 14 Japanese American volunteer linguists from the mainland U.S. and Hawaii to serve on the staff of President Franklin D. Roosevelt, called "a dangerous and hazardous mission."

Orange County candidate blows trail for Vietnamese-Americans

Vian Tran, the 39-year-old city councilman is expected to win the state Assembly seat from his Republican-leaning Orange County district in November. If he does, he will become the first Vietnamese-American elected to the California Legislature and the highest-ranking Vietnamese American in elective office nationwide.

If elected, Tran said his top priorities are affordable housing and improved transportation.
YOUTH FORUM

Wanted: Single Asian Woman Seeking Sexy Asian Male Actors

By YUMI SAKUGAWA

A while back, a friend and I were watching an illegally downloaded copy of “Battle Royale” on her computer. Any respectable college-age sub-culture should know about “Battle Royale.” It’s the gory and x-rated Japanese cult film about a group of high school kids who are left on a deserted island through some sadistic government project and must kill one another until only one person is left standing.

Although we were both enthralled with the redo of “Lord of the Flies” that gripped with heavy topics of ethics and human nature, curiously, we found ourselves focusing on other things.

“Dude,” I remember saying to my friend, “...all these guys in this movie are freaking hot.”

And indeed, they were. Granted, they were blowing up buildings, mowing down fellow classmates with tanks and guns and engaging in other random acts of violent destruction, but one couldn’t help but be mesmerized by the men that emerged out of their man-pants.

At some point in the movie, I found myself having a crush on one of my face and pondered the greater sociopolitical implications of raging hot Asian male actors in a movie.

Why doesn’t that ever happen in movies and television over here?

And let me take this moment to boldly declare myself the “Asian American kid” William’s face doesn’t even count.

There exists a pervasive societal stereotype that men of Asian decent aren’t as sexy as their white, black and Latino American counterparts. More than once have I heard girls at my college complain that an L.A. campus when students of Asian descent are the racial majority, they just don’t find Asian guys attractive or dateable.

But for some reason, while Asian guys get the short end of the stick on male sexuality, Asian women are somehow capable of sexiness by societal standards.

Lucy Liu, Kelly Hu, and other Asian female celebrities can grace the covers of Maxim and pose seductively on wall posters in scanty clothing. But for some reason, the term “yellow fever” just doesn’t exist at all for Asian run.

Of course the media must some how play a role in this. How else would you explain it? While we believe it or not the media holds a lot more control over how the general public views many of us, people in terms of race and ethnicity. And when a segment of a population is marginalized, stereotyped and tokenized in a condescending manner, people tend to internalize these stereotypes and use them.

“Asian male sex symbol” is still an oxymoron in this present society. Surely, there are big-name Asian male celebrities like Jet Li and Jackie Chan who have shown more for their mad martial arts skills than their heartthrob appeal or ability to shuck and jive. Some have an extensive knowledge of kung fu and tai chi, but have to be a prerequisite in order to be found big in Hollywood. Don’t you think they have it rough already?

I angrily smash my fist at the whitewashed media machine that overly emphasizes Asian and African American men but still leaves Asian men castrated and one-dimensional. Who can’t even get it right with other Asian women because they are too thin and too far from the forbidden lost of the White Man. Except for John Cho and Kal Penn, who are starting in the recently released “Harold and Kumar Go to White Castle,” I realize there may a small summer release that has an Asian male actor in a main role and doesn’t know what to do with him.

When will the media get a clue and stop portraying Asian males as either effeminate or incapable of being? At the rate we’re going, certainly not anytime soon. So I will join my family in watching the cheesy Asian drama’s that’s on TV. Maybe that will be a good substitute for the engaging storyline of this year’s film.

Yumi Sakugawa is currently a sophomore at UCLA and is the Pacific Citizen intern.

PHOTO: YUMI SAKUGAWA

The tofu-eating contest (above) was one of the most popular events at the 9th annual L.A. Tofu Festival, which took place on July 24 - 25 in Little Tokyo.

Soy Dreams

The 9th annual L.A. Tofu Festival proves once again that tofu is a versatile dish, not limited to Asian cooking and vegetarians.

By YUMI SAKUGAWA

Special to the Pacific Citizen

LITTLE TOKYO—Yuki Matsuzaki really knows how to eat his tofu.

Not with soy sauce and chives like most people, mind you. A 22-year-old actor from Japan, Matsuzaki shows his face into a 14-ounce block of raw tofu and gobbles it up quicker than anyone else with utensils or hands. After all, that’s what he’s known for doing among the tofu-eating circuits.

At this year’s 9th annual L.A. Tofu Festival July 24-25, Matsuzaki was once again declared the winner of the tofu-eating contest, a feat accomplished for the third time.

“My secret technique is that you have to practically swallow the tofu because you don’t really have time to chew,” Matsuzaki said. “This year, I had some difficulty because the texture of the tofu was a little firmer than last year. However, I definitely be back next year to compete again.”

Cheered on by a large crowd of people and honed to perfection from Japanese-language networks and cuisine in the Food Network, Matsuzaki might as well have been some celebrity athlete.

Who would have suspected that a bland, white cube of protein would be the source of so much hype and mania?

Before tofu was picked up by the trendy health nut trend, it used to be confined to Asian cultures and vegans. Indeed, it is only recently that people are starting to discover the many secrets and uses of tofu.

Tofu, which is conventionally served in miso soup or cold and plain with a dose of soy sauce, was the defining ingredient in this year’s unconventional offerings of Mexican tacos, gumbo, pad thai, andouille dressing and tacos. Even the crepes that were sold at the festival boasted tofu cream cheese and tofu whipped cream as its main filling.

Fong said one of the strongest assets of having something like the Tofu Festival is that it brings people from outside of the Japanese American community into Little Tokyo.

“The Tofu Festival helps bring people who otherwise may not come into Little Tokyo to downtown,” Fong said. “It brings exposure to the Japanese culture, the community and anything else that is in Little Tokyo. It also attracts more interest in the community because the funds go directly to the Little Tokyo Service Center.”

Perhaps this idea is no better exemplified than in the case of Peggy Schmit and Tina Davidson, who, prior to attending the event, did not have too much knowledge about tofu or exposure to the JA culture found in downtown.

“We heard about this festival in the Los Angeles Times,” Davidson said. “I thought it was a big deal. It’s just a neat festival. I don’t ever think that we would be so many interesting uses. For the future, I hope that this festival will definitely make us want to go to more ethnic and cultural events in downtown in the future.”

Although the annual Tofu Festival brings out hardcore tofu enthusiasts and curious food-adventurers from many places, perhaps not everyone can be convinced of some tofu’s merits.

Daisuke Araki, who performed Japanese talk drums with UCLA Kyodo at the festival, said that as someone who grew up in a family who came from the countryside of Japan, he has always preferred the conventional way of eating tofu—cold with soy sauce and fish flakes.

“Don’t ever eat tofu ice cream,” he said. “It’s just not real ice cream.”

U of Idaho Conducting Project on WWII Army Programs

The University of Idaho’s Asian American Comparative Collection (AACC) is conducting a research project about the AA students who studied at the University of Idaho and elsewhere under the Army Specialized Training Program (ASTP) and/or under the Army Specialized Training Reserve Program (ASTRP) in the years 1943-45.

Those who were participants in either program or were associated with the ASTP and ASTRP programs are asked to share their knowledge with the University of Idaho researchers.

Participants in these Army programs were often selected from the Japanese American WWII internment camps or were Chinese Americans and Korean Americans who were never interned. Those who participated in the programs were administered a variety of tests to their educational level and from various administered tests.

Persons who may have information are asked to contact: Charles M. Rice, U of Idaho, 10900 W 19th Ave, 208583-9565, or at 109 East 84th St, No. 12, Moscow, ID 83843.
TELEVISION

Tavares Bath
Event: Women's Singles, Women's Doubles with Gao Jun
Residence: Salt Lake City, Utah
Ethnicity: Hawaiian
Moonlights as: A student at the University of Colorado, Boulder.

Did you know: Jun began competing at age five, influenced by her father's encouragement. She became the top female in the U.S.

Logan Malei Lei Tom
Position: Setter
Residence: Honolulu, Hawaii
Moonlights as: Volleyball player and business student.

Gao Jun
Event: Women's Singles, Women's Doubles with Tawny Banh
Residence: Los Angeles
Ethnicity: Vietnamese
Favorite Food: Pho

Did you know: Her first name means "illusion" in Hindi. She is an American Award for Achievement winner.

Whitney Ping
Event: Women's Doubles with Jana Reece
Residence: Beaverton, Oregon
Complex love: Whitney loves the complexity of the game and how the more she can understand it, the more she can love it.

Aloha: Tom has spent many summers in Hawaii, and Huffins persuaded her to try the decathlon. Huffins remained Clay's coach.

Tawny Banh
Event: Women's Singles, Women's Doubles with Gao Jun
Residence: San Gabriel, Calif.
Ethnicity: Vietnamese
Favorite Food: Chinese Vegetarian

Did you know: Jun is currently ranked 16th in the world and is the top female in the U.S. Jun began playing table tennis at the age of five, inspired by her father's encouragement.

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JAPAN AUTUMN ADVENTURE (4 day) ......... OCT 13
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AMERICAN HERITAGE HOLIDAY TOUR ......... NOV 6-13
GRANDPARENTS-GRANDCHILDREN JAPAN TOUR ......... DEC 6-13

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American Holiday Travel

Clay was a 4.0 GPA student in high school and a member of the National Honor Society.

Gao Jun
Event: Women's Singles, Women's Doubles with Tawny Banh
Residence: Los Angeles
Ethnicity: Chinese
Favorite event: Vault
Residence: Los Angeles
Ethnicity: Asian

Did you know: Her first name means "illusion" in Hindi. She is an All-American and the winner of the AAU American Award for the nation's top senior gymnast.

Kimiko Hirai Sodai
Residence: Magnolia, Texas
Ethnicity: Japanese
Favorite Food: Mexican

Did you know: Her father was born in a U.S. internment camp. She started her own weight lifting program and then started to lose weight and win medals.

Sodai was a gymnast until a knee injury ended her career. After one year of knee rehabilitation, her dad suggested the sport of diving.

Logan Malei Lei Tom
Position: Setter
Residence: Salt Lake City, Utah
Ethnicity: Hawaiian
Moonlights as: Business student and a volleyball team member.

Did you know: Jun is currently ranked 16th in the world and is the top female in the U.S. Jun began playing table tennis at the age of five, inspired by her father's encouragement.
Howard Bach
Ethnicity: Chinese
Favorite Food: Steak, Lobster
Idol: Lance Armstrong
Music: Hip Hop & Alternative

PC: You're a novice compared to your teammate, Kevin Han. In terms of Olympic competition. Has he imparted any sage advice or tips to help you?
KH: Kevin has taught me how to win as a team collectively, and as an individually myself. Having three Olympic Games under his belt has definitely given me confidence to stand and hold my own ground.

PC: How do you two communicate during a match?
KH: We've partnered each other long enough to predict and expect certain shots and outcomes during the game. When in doubt, we normally call strategies and game plans in between points if needed, when permitted.

PC: Do you try to intimidate the other team?
KH: In the World of badminton, there's no faking in the game. It's either you're good enough to win or you're going to lose. Our game strategy is to "win" our match against our opponent. However, consider us to be more offensive than defensive.

PC: You were named on People's List of 'America's 50 Hottest Bachelors.' What does your most desirable characteristic?
KH: I am definitely a bright future in this sport and hopefully I have the honor and privilege to represent my country in the 2008 Olympic Games.

PC: Where do you get frustrated with the people who think badminton is not a real sport?
KH: I think I'm okay looking, not bad looking. But I don't know what they're looking for, what their criteria is and what achievements need to be made, but I think I have a good chance.

PC: What's the best advice you've given to Howard?
KH: I tell him to go there and be himself to enjoy the experience. We're going to the Olympics and meeting all the top athletes and should fully take advantage of it.

KH: What's your game strategy?
KH: We like to put ourselves in contention for a medal first. The Olympic sport.

KH: We don't have to win, but I think I have a good chance.

KH: What's the first thing you're going to do if you bring home a medal?
KH: I want to get my friends and family together and go to Hilton [down-town, Los Angeles] for their buffet.

KH: Is it better to just be beginning to show its true color. There's definitely a bright future in this sport and hopefully I have the honor and privilege to represent my country in the 2008 Olympic Games.

KH: What's your game strategy?
KH: We're going to the Olympics and meeting all the top athletes and should fully take advantage of it.

KH: How do you intend to do. We both see this event as an opportunity rather than a threat.

KH: What's your game strategy?
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A PASTIME in my retire­ment, besides a little ex­ercise and eating less, has been reading a good morning away with newspapers and magazines. The old habit of spotting Japanese American names in the daily papers still dominates.

One article really blew me away. It was a small heading, "Land of the Rising Gun," in the British news­magazine, The Economist (July 10), about Japan's foreign policy — a subject seldom cultivated in the Pacific Citizen.

Datelined Tokyo and unsigned, it first recalls when a North Korean spy ship sailed close to Japan in December 2001 and was chased by Japanese coast guard cutters. Gunfire was exchanged and the clash ended when the spy ship exploded and sank in the East China Sea. Though it sank in China's economic zone, Japan raised the ship and found it to be loaded with spy gear and heavy weapons. This incident, says the Economist, highlighted "Japan's changing attitude towards its armed forces."

The most visible sign of that shift occurred in June when Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi sent more than 550 troops from "its care­fully named Self-Defense Forces" (Jieita) to help rebuild Iraq. For the first time since World War II, Japan has sent its soldiers abroad. Some might even reckon that Japan's abili­ty to send out sailors and soldiers reveals the U.S.-Japan Security Treaty can be flexible.

During the first Gulf War, Japanese were "humiliated" (as The Economist puts it) for failing to send troops, even though it had paid bil­lions into America's war chest. The Diet then passed a law in 1992 allowing the SDW to send troops to help United Nations missions and during this past have served as peacekeepers in Cambodia and East Timor. "Most Japanese are proud of these mis­sions, but this hardly reflects a popu­lar urge to redefine their country as a military power;' the newsmagazine points out.

Germany and Japan, after WWII, knew war is always wrong; but the threat of North Korea testing a medi­um-range missile in 1998, lobbying one over Japanese airspace into the Pacific Ocean, has stifled some old feelings. Last year, Japan launched its first spy satellite to get a look at North Korea.

Koizumi took a political risk to meet with North Korea's Kim Jong­il and came home with five North Korean spies and 40 tons of food and $10 million.

Koizumi also left released in 2002. Koizumi also left Japan's annual white paper on defense suggests the coun­try needs to keep a close eye on China as a dangerous rival in areas other than trade.

As a Mainland Nisei, I often felt we needed to understand more about the Japanese in Hawaii. It was most evident to me during a bus trip while touring Japanese wartime camps in British Columbia. One Californian who grew up in Hawaii was telling the busload that despite the same kind of discrimination the Japs faced and the Niseis endured, there was no mass evacuation and internment of the Japanese on the islands.

An important crossroad comes when Koizumi leaves or is re-elected to office. As always, how Japan regards the U.S. presidential election will bear watching with respect this time to America's overtures with North Korea. According to The Economist, Japan's annual white paper on defense suggests the coun­try needs to keep a close eye on China as a dangerous rival in areas other than trade.

The ruling Liberal Democratic Party has sent its soldiers abroad. Some might even reckon that Japan's ability to send out sailors and soldiers reveals the U.S.-Japan Security Treaty can be flexible.

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In "No Sword to Bury: Japanese Americans in Hawaii During World War II" (Temple University Press, 328pp, $19.95) Franklin Odo focuses on that Hawaiian Nikkei experi­ence. At a glance, the 1940 Japanese population in Hawaii: 158,905 (37% of the total) vs. the three West Coast states: 112,353 (0.01% of CA, OR and WA combined).

While JAs played a central role in prosecution of the war in Hawaii, the Nikkei on the West Coast were easily scapegoated. The members explain why the Hawaii military governor circumvented orders to lock up all the JAs. They comprised a skilled work force, reinforcing and rebuild­ing the Islands' defenses despite the "Japanese question."

To placate anti-Japanese hostility in the community, including the Chinese, Koreans and Filipinos whose homelands were ravaged by Japan, the VVV (Varsity Victory Volunteers) was formed of young Nisei men that spawned the strategy, the war record and its vaunted repu­tation postwar.

The captivating core of Odo's work lies in the detailed history of the 1920s and 1930s, of the future VV­P personalities through research and interviews in the 1990s about the 1940s. Indeed, they had no need to burry for by their actions, patriotism and patience, this Nisei story is one of a kind.

As Odo concludes: "U.S. society [finally] saw fit to elevate the Nisei... a story largely built around the history of WWII Hawaii. And the contributions of the VVV may help to understand "the apparently fatalis­tic commitment to U.S. ideals and promise on the part of (then leaders of JACL) in face of on-going prejudice and discrimination."

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by phone.

by phone.

by phone.
"Bai" means white, simple and pure. 'Ling' is an exquisitely complicated Chinese character; so is this actress

By LYNDA LIN
Assistant Editor

Most of the journalists sitting in the room with Bai Ling don’t know what to ask her. They fidget uncomfortably in their seats and try to fill the silence with vague questions about what it was like working with Spike Lee in "She Hate Me," a grandiose film essay on sex and politics that has Bai Ling playing a lesbian eating chicken feet while in the throes of passion. But the 34-year-old Chinese American actress whose name means "white spirit" does not seem to mind; she happily mumbles from one story to another like we’re all one family. In one instance, she snaps the table rapidly with the palms of her hands to illustrate how she remembered to remember the word "lightning" - diamonds baubles that spell out the word, "sexy" - and has no problem substituting French for English, a language she recently learned.

It’s difficult to envision that this demure woman in an olive color suit is the same much photographed woman who unabashedly tosses down the red carpet in see-through tops and barely-there frocks, but then again there are the earrings to remind us what she’s about.

In person, she is delicate, barely five feet while in the throes of passion. "One of the strengths of our race is that we have all these different kinds of genes," she says. "I think the one with the most impact is, 'Red Corner,' my first leading role in Hollywood opposite Richard Gere. The character is an intelligent, beautiful woman. Somehow I will always treasure that experience because I got into problems (The Chinese government banned her from the country after she appeared in the anti-Communist film). Because of the problems, I learned so much about life, about politics, about consequences of your actions."

PC: How long did it take you to prepare for this film?
BL: That was my idea! When I was reading the script, I was thinking, "What can I add?" Because in the movie, (Spike Lee) uses different ethnicities, so we brought our own experiences to it. I just thought it would be funny. I never ate chicken feet while making love in real life. The whole room smelled like garlic! I never ate so much chicken feet before.

PC: Which role has been the most important in your career so far?
BL: I think the one with the most impact is, 'Red Corner,' my first leading role in Hollywood opposite Richard Gere. The character is an intelligent, beautiful woman. Somehow I will always treasure that experience because I got into problems (The Chinese government banned her from the country after she appeared in the anti-Communist film). Because of the problems, I learned so much about life, about politics, about consequences of your actions.

PC: Has that problem been resolved?
BL: I’ve solved that problem with [a lot of effort]. Now, I can go back to China and I can work there. Before I couldn’t and now I can because China is changing.

PC: Did you ever experience any foreign language problems?
BL: Before, I was kind of lost. In China, I was doing movies. I could do any role I wanted - all leading roles - but I wasn’t very happy. I didn’t know myself. I had all these emotions. Sometimes it’s my name - "Bai" means 'white, simple, pure.' 'Ling' is a complicated character - I am struggling with the two. One time, I lost the meaning of life; that’s why I was in the hospital. I couldn’t deal with the rules of society... That’s why I am there, because nobody told me what to do.

PC: That’s very poetic. Is that your secret to life?
BL: All you have to do is smile and enjoy the day. The future does not belong to us. The past is already behind us. I just love life honestly by how I feel. I feel like if you’re in love, you’re lucky, it’s a gift, so I’m not thinking about who ever makes me feel that way, make or female, so that’s not important.

PC: Your editor wants to know what you do if your diet/exercise regimen is, because whatever you say, she will do.
BL: You will not believe it. I eat so much dessert. I just indulge myself and I don’t exercise. The only thing I do [is] I love dancing. Sometimes I swim but just for the joy of it. Life is for living. You have to enjoy your food, enjoy living.

Franklin Odo has captured with much warmth and poignancy, the emotions of men who, though abandoned by their country, loved this country and proved it by repeatedly standing in harm’s way to defend it. - Senator Daniel K. Inouye

No Sword to Bury
Japanese Americans in Hawaii during World War II
Franklin Odo
"Captivating and informative, No Sword to Bury is Odo’s career pinnacle in a multi-layered, nuanced study of Japanese Americans and their role in Hawaiian history. What emerges is a portrait of a lively, diverse group of men who mixed motives and feelings of what they did during the course of their lives." - International Examiner

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FILMOGRAPHY

• Star Wars: Episode III - Revenge of the Sith (2005)
• Sky Captain and the World of Tomorrow (2004)
• The Price (2000)
• My Baby’s Daddy (2004)
• The Price (2000)
• Taxi 3 (2003)
• Storm Watch (2002)
• Sky Captain and the World of Tomorrow (2004)
• Bai Ling
• Anna and the King (1999)
• Wild Wild West (1999)
• Flow Your Boat (1998)
• Red Corner (1997)
• Nixon (1995)
• Crow, The (1994)

Source: imdb.com
Sat., Aug. 7—Mt. Olympus JACL meeting; new members, men and women, are welcome. Call for meeting time and place: M. Kusaba, 415/333-2287.


Sun., Aug. 7—Mt. Olympus JACL August outing; 6 p.m.; Evergreen Garden; 4344 Shaw Blvd. Sponsored by Missouri Botanical Garden and the Steinbeck Center, 1 Main St. Info: 916/448-7777.


Sun., Aug. 8, 11-4 p.m., JACCC; Samurai Festival, Aug. 7-8, crafts, home decor items, games and community programs. Info: Wade Nomura, 805/488-9912.


Sun., Aug. 8—7th Annual Aki Matsuri Food Festival, 11 a.m.-5 p.m.; JACCC. Featuring keynote speaker, “A Most Unlikely Hero.” •


Sun., Aug. 15—23rd Annual Nisei Week Festival, 11:30 a.m.-7:30 p.m.; Nisei Week Grand Marshal, 9:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.; 3rd Avenue, Nisei Week Festival Grand Marshal. Info: 213/625-0413.

Sun., Aug. 22—Movie matinee, “Lost in Translation”; 1:30 p.m., JA Community Center, 222 N. Columbia St. Info: Bob Nakamura, 305/555-3672 or sgmlabor@jtnet.net.


Sunday Morning Services


OBITUARIES

The all the towns in California except as noted.

Hirashima, Tora, Torrance, July 2; Nisei; survived by son, Gen; 1 gc; and sister, Shirahama Yanouchi.

Hirashima, Kenneth Iwaao, 78, Camarillo, June 29; Sacramento-bor Nisei; survived by wife, Midori; sons, Kenneth (Christian); daughter, Laurette Pye and Cheryl (Gary) Stroud; 4 gc; sister, Agnes Choy; and brother, Larry (Irma) Hiroshima.

Kadaya, Hatsuji, 87, Pico Rivera, July 1; Flora-bor Nisei; survived by husband, Edward; sons, Arthur, Kenneth and Dennis; daughters, Sachiko (Leonard) Anselender and Lillian (Gary) Muddler; 5 gc; and sister, Kinue Hiranaga.

Kamibayashi, Yo Minoru, 84, Sun Valley, June 30; Tacoma, Wash-bor Nisei; survived by son, Shigeru

IN MEMORIAM

Former Nat’l JACL Pres. Uyeda Passes

Former JACL National President Clifford Uyeda passed away on July 29 of bone cancer at age 87.

Uyeda was elected JACL national president in 1978 and served one term.

It was during his presidency that JACL launched the redress campaign and began a battle to gain recognition of the World War II internment.

On the day before the end of his presidency, Uyeda stood in the White House at a signing ceremony with President Jimmy Carter on the term.

"We at the JACL are deeply sad," said John Tateishi, executive director of the National Japanese American Historical Society until he became too physically ill to contribute.

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"We at the JACL are deeply sad," said John Tateishi, executive director of the National Japanese American Historical Society until he became too physically ill to contribute.

"Bill;" Nakao; daughter, June (Bob) Ishiwashi; 1 gc; and 2 gc.

Matsumoto, Toshiyuki "Bill," 86, Monterey Park, June 21; survived by wife, Etoku; sons, Dr. Takeshi (Hiko) Dr. Myles and Glenn (Mimiko); daughter, Rieko (Alfred) Uyeda; 9 gc; sisters, Neri (Shinobe) Ogawa and mid Miko Kida and sisters-in-law, Erik Nitta and Ritsuko Niki.

Ono, Eiichi S., 77, Gardena, June 25; survived by sons, Marshall (Jackie) and Mitchell; 2 gc; 1 gc; sisters, June Matsunoka and Kay Harashige; and brother, Stanzo Shiroda.

Otsuka, Hiroshi, 93, Woodland Hills, June 25; survived by sons, Roy (Dorothy), Ken (Rose) and Ted (Pat); 11 gc; and sister, Noriko Fujinari.

Sakai, Rosalie Sumiko, 85, Chicago, Ill., July 9; Bellvue, Wash-bor Nisei; survived by nieces and nephews, Rita Takahashi, Alan Takahashi, Faye Nishiyama, Susan Nohara, Ken Sakai, Kathy Sakai, Steve Sakai, Joy Sato and Faith Lee.

Sakuma, Noriko Fujinari, 92, Woodside, Calif., June 28; survived by her husband Samuel W. Ishiihoshi and their son, John. Memorial donations may be made to the Kato Nisligi Home, 1001 E. Yoder Way, Seattle, WA 98122.

Shiotsu, Takaya, 93, Woodland Hills, June 25; survived by wife, Shizue; sons, Marshall (Joy), Ken (Rosalie) and Ted (Pat); 11 gc; and sister, Noriko Fujinari.

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Sakai, Cheney, 89, Los Angeles, June 7; survived by wife, Shizue; sons, Marshall (Joy), Ken (Rosalie) and Ted (Pat); 11 gc; and sister, Noriko Fujinari.

Sakai, William, 93, Woodland Hills, June 25; survived by wife, Shizue; sons, Marshall (Joy), Ken (Rosalie) and Ted (Pat); 11 gc; and sister, Noriko Fujinari.

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THAT LOWERS BARRIERS AND BISEDS PEOPLE'S 
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