**Hey Baby, What's Your Blood Type?**

Much like horoscopes, the Japanese believe blood type determines a person's characteristics and marriageability, but lately the practice has come under increasing skepticism.

By CAROLINE AYOAGI

Executive Editor

In the numerous bars and clubs that cover the U.S. landscape, a common pick-up line is, "What's your sign?" — as in zodiac sign. But cross the Pacific Ocean to the island of Japan and it's not the signs of the zodiac potential mates are interested in, it's your blood type.

Whether you're an A, O, B or the more uncommon blood type AB, many Japanese believe it's a person's blood type that determines an individual's characteristics. So whether you're applying for a job or seeking out a potential mate, the Japanese will often ask the ubiquitous question: "What's your blood type?"

"I don't think it's totally accurate, but I think it's not too far off either," said Yoko Fujita, a native of Japan who currently lives and works in Los Angeles. A Type B, Fujita first learned of using blood types to determine characteristics from a TV show in Japan that explained the different blood types.

Some famous blood types (top to bottom): Junichi Kozumi (A), Akira Kurosawa (B), and Jackie Chan (AB). This pie chart above shows the different Japanese blood types.

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**Buying a Slice of Americana**

A JA businessman with a penchant for preserving American history bought a historic town along Route 66 for the price of a small pizza.

By LYNDIA LIN

Assistant Editor

CHINO, Calif.—To the untrained eye, the small desert town of Amboy, California is part of a forgotten world heavy with dust and crumbling with neglect ever since its once booming location along Route 66 fell away from use. When Route 66 was king, Amboy provided weary travelers with a place to sleep and a hot meal while their cars were refilled with gas, but today the town has a population of zero and its existence is continually in danger of being swallowed up by the Mojave Desert's raw environment. That is until Albert Okura saw a preservation opportunity in the desert.

"I see the future — the future is going to be moving out [to the town]." Photo courtesy of Charles Siron

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**Fighting HIV/AIDS Discrimination in the API Community**

The Bancan Tree Project, a multiyear-round campaign, launches the first annual API HIV/AIDS Awareness Day.

By CAROLINE AYOAGI

Executive Editor

Charles Siron, 41, has been living with HIV for the past six years. Like most, he has his good and bad days. Today, he's dealing with Cryptococcal pneumonia with the coughs and lack of energy. He's also developed diabetes because of his HIV medication and suffers from kidney problems and asthma. A formerly robust 185 pounds, he now weighs in at 150 pounds.

But even when Siron — a Filipino American from Manila who now calls San Francisco his home — isn't feeling his best, he's always willing to talk about HIV and AIDS and the need for education and open discussion in the Asian Pacific American community.

"Silence equals death," he said. "If I just sit here and die, it does no good. We need more education in the API (Asian & Pacific Islander) community. Most people don't talk about it but we need to break down the barriers.

Siron is speaking out about his experiences as part of the Bancan Tree Project, a national year-round campaign to help fight discrimination against APIs living with HIV/AIDS. The API Wellness Center in San Francisco, along with six other sister organizations, is spearheading the effort and they recently launched the first ever National API HIV/AIDS Awareness Day May 19.

"The API cultures do value silence ... keep­ing it within the family. But that doesn't work all the time," said John Manzo-Santos, API Wellness Center executive director. "Cultural barriers become cultural baggage ... We need open discussion."
The practice of determining a person's blood type has many interesting origins.

(Continued from page 1)

Murakawa, a Shin Nisei. "When I'm with a group of Japanese people—I've often goal oriented and strong-minded while Type Bs are said to have split personalities, being both outgoing and introspective. The practice has grown so widespread that many Japanese companies ask for applicants' blood types and workers are often divided up by blood type, and there is a place for it and for some it lasts long. The determination of a person's character traits by blood type is not a scientific method. There is no scientific basis for the practice of using blood types to determine a person's characteristics. The practice has grown from under growing skepticism with Japanese magazines and commentaries.

Ask yourself, what does the PC mean to me? Raising a family in New England, my husband and I have always awaited their weekly PC. For them, it was a link to their family in Japan. Although the practice may not have the same meaning today as it did in the United States, it continues to promote the idea of the American spirit, and I for one salute the editors. It certainly was not possible for the first time," she said. "I wonder what happened if you received notice that this was your last issue of the PC?" Think about that in relation to your PC. More news about civil rights. No more news about the JA community. More columns written by JAs. No more editorials. More news about blood types to determine characteristics. The practice of using blood types to determine characteristics is often goal oriented and strong-minded while Type Bs are said to have split personalities, being both outgoing and introspective. The practice has grown so widespread that many Japanese companies ask for applicants' blood types and workers are often divided up by blood type, and there is a place for it and for some it lasts long. The determination of a person's character traits by blood type is not a scientific method. There is no scientific basis for the practice of using blood types to determine a person's characteristics.

The practice was abandoned shortly afterwards but was revitalized in the 1990s. Tatsuya Sato, associate professor of psychology at Ritsumeikan University, said, "The science of blood type-personality connection," he said. "The general public believes in this. I certainly believe in this. But I don't think it's scientific." Indeed, the practice of using blood types to determine characteristics is often goal oriented and strong-minded while Type Bs are said to have split personalities, being both outgoing and introspective. The practice has grown so widespread that many Japanese companies ask for applicants' blood types and workers are often divided up by blood type, and there is a place for it and for some it lasts long. The determination of a person's character traits by blood type is not a scientific method. There is no scientific basis for the practice of using blood types to determine a person's characteristics.

Type A is said to be perfectionists while Type O are more often goal oriented and strong-minded. The practice has grown so widespread that many Japanese companies ask for applicants' blood types and workers are often divided up by blood type, and there is a place for it and for some it lasts long. The determination of a person's character traits by blood type is not a scientific method. There is no scientific basis for the practice of using blood types to determine a person's characteristics.

By P.C. Staff and Associated Press

New Mexico: 101.5 FM Loses Ads Due to Shock Jocks' Racial Stunts

EWING, N.J.—Hyundai Motor America and Cingular Wireless said they will stop advertising with New Mexico's 101.5 FM because of a recent broadcast during the afternoon drive time show where shock jocks Craig Carton and Ray Rossi made fun of Hiroshima.

The May 10 ruling could also make it easier for the government to force reporters facing punishment for revealing secrets of their sources and that a lower court erred in finding in the contempt of court rulings. A $500-per-day fine was suspended pending appealing.

Lee is suing the government for leaking his Los Alamos National Laboratory information about him to late in the Clinton administration when information about him to late in the Clinton administration when information about him to late in the Clinton administration when information about him to late in the Clinton administration when information about him to late in the Clinton administration when information about him to late in the Clinton administration when information about him to late in the Clinton administration when information about him to late in the Clinton administration when information about him to late in the Clinton administration when information about him to late in the Clinton administration when information about him to late in the Clinton administration when information about him to late in the Clinton administration when information about him to late in the Clinton administration when information about him to late in the Clinton administration when information 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in Iraq making a difference in life. Not only mice but people for those who need help to fight for their rights. Not very many people can tell the world that he or she is a Marine, a Marine that has been in Iraq twice.

My personal hero was my grandfather on my stepfather’s side. He was a Marine drill instructor, one of the best jobs in the Marine Corps. He passed away last year when I was out west. My stepfather was in Operation Desert Storm. I would like to be more knowledgeable just like him.

'The proudest moment I had in the military was coming back from Iraq alive.'

THOMAS KFM, 25
Second Generation Korean American
Counterintelligence (CI) Agent
3rd brigade 2nd Infantry Division, 1-4 Cavalry Squadron
Returned from active duty in Iraq as Human Intelligence Collector and CI Agent in Cavalry platoon

I decided to enlist after my second year of attending the University of California, Riverside. It was during a time in my life when I was most confused and vulnerable. I was in the process of changing majors and I felt that I was learning nothing from school. I was always interested in joining a government agency such as the FBI or CIA and this figured would help with job experience and give me an advantage when applying to a government agency.

I have a couple regrets about joining the big one being time. I had to enlist for five years (when I initially only wanted to join for two to three) of this time, I required a top-secret security clearance and a lot of schooling. I found out during that time, that this was the career path I wanted to take, so now I have to play catch up with my education. I thought I'd be able to finish my degree while in the military, but in reality there was little time for school.

When I was with the Cavalry, I had to rid homes of insurgents, go on convoys from Balad to Scania, do cordon and searches in the city of Samarra and Mosul, do daily patrols through Mosul, and go on "Quick Reaction Force" (QRF) when soldiers received [armeJl contact.

You would think when soldiers go on raids to find people or do cordon and searches or attack cities that they'd be most vulnerable. But that didn't seem to be the case with me. I was in most danger at times I felt most comfortable and felt we were safe. In Samarra, we were outside the city setting up a traffic control point when mortars rained down on us.

Also, when we were doing convoy missions from Balad, I was bored to death standing outside the hatch of a Stryker watching cars pass, when an Improvised Explosive Device (IED) went off on a fuel truck directly behind us. All I heard was the beginning of a loud boom and then I went deaf (I wasn't wearing hearing protection because most of the time on convoys, nothing happens). There was smoke and dust everywhere, and for awhile (it felt like a long time), I was stunned and in shock. I then heard the clacking of an AK47 and saw a person on the highway about 100 meters off the blast area. I opened fire on five guys that dismounted from a vehicle.

To this day, I don't know if I hit them, nor do I care. All our goals were to get out of bad situations alive not to kill a lot of people or get medals or awards...to just people regrets about being back alive with all our limbs and eyesight intact.

I've found out that intelligence work is really not my thing. I hope to become a pharmacist, I'd like to help people in an area where I won't see blood, deal with the dead...but I'll still be helping people maintain their health and hopefully I can travel with doctors to third world countries and help dispense drugs in these areas.

'I am glad to give back and serve this country.'

TIMOTHY TANAKA, 20
Shin-Nisei
Sergeant Headquarters and Headquarters Company 1/160 11th Infantry Regiment, 4th Infantry Division
Currently on active duty in Kosovo in the 5th Battalion Communications Section providing computer technical support

Getting accepted to UCLA pushed me to the National Guard. Although I am going to be three years behind after this deployment, I have learned so many new skills and seen so much more of the world that it's worth it. I am proud to be American.

With all the opportunity to do absolutely anything I am glad to give back and serve this country.

Kosovo is not a terribly dangerous place. Our mission here is to "Provide a Safe and Secure Environment." The most dangerous issue for us would be ice in the winter (we're mostly from Southern California) and the narrow roads and offensive drivers. Carpal Tunnel Syndrome is a bigger threat to me as my job consists of sitting at a desk and typing the day away.

My grandfather was in the Imperial Japanese Navy during WWII. He enlisted when he was 17. He was in Shanghai, Singapore, the Solomon, the Battle of Midway and several other places. He told me every ship he was on sank, but only after he moved to another. He got processed out of the Navy on Okinawa just before it was invaded. I guess you can say he was lucky.

On Memorial Day I will remember the Japanese American soldiers of the 100th and the 442nd RCT and all the JA citizens that fought for the U.S. in WWII. Facing hate and discrimination back home they still volunteered for service to prove their loyalty to their country.

'Put on the uniform, and everyone is the same.'

CHING TUAN, 33
Chinese American
Sergeant of the U.S. 3rd Division, 2nd Infantry (Styker Brigade)
Returned from Mosul to Fort Lewis, Washington

I personally had no unique challenges in the Army as an Asian American and female. I am the first enlistee in my family. However, both my grandfather and father served in the Taiwan Nationalist Army decades apart.

By Pacific Citizen Staff

Judith Chu Honors San Gabriel Valley APIAs

Assembly Member George Nakano (education); Kaleigh and Kimberly Komatsu (family); Victor Cheng (community activism); Choi Nim Van (business/entrepreneur); Dr. James Wang (business/entrepreneur); Dr. Victor Cheng (community activism); Choi Nim Van (business/entrepreneur); Dr. James Wang (business/entrepreneur); Dr. Victor Cheng (community activism); Choi Nim Van (business/entrepreneur); Dr. James Wang (business/entrepreneur); Dr. Victor Cheng (community activism); Choi Nim Van (business/entrepreneur).
2005 Topaz Pilgrimage
Set for June 11

The 2005 Topaz Pilgrimage will be held June 11 and will commemorate the 60th anniversary of the closing of the Topaz Internment Camp, which held over 8,000 Americans of Japanese ancestry during World War II.

The public is invited to attend the daylong program featuring exhibits, videos and a theater production which will offer information about the WWII camp that was once the fifth largest city in Utah.

Tours of the camp site will be conducted throughout the day. Over 500 acres of the main-living areas remain untouched since the camp was closed. Outlines of roads and paths of the internment camp's skeletons, and remnants of rock gardens created by internees are still visible in the Desert Sevier.

Over 75 former internees from the San Francisco Bay area are expected to attend the pilgrimage. Program activities will take place in the Delta City Park on Main Street in the largest city in Utah.

Program activities will take place in the Delta City Park on Main Street at Epinal American Military Cemetery, thus it is extremely important to remember those who gave the ultimate sacrifice to preserve the liberty of a free world.

Sixty-three years after having their high school education cut short by the impending World War II and relocation to the various American internment camps, several Japanese Americans who attended school in Imperial County, California finally received their long-overdue high school diplomas in a ceremony May 6.

The diplomas were made possible by a new law, AB 781, passed in 2004 that authorizes high school districts to retroactively issue diplomas to students of Japanese ancestry who had their education cut short by the WWII internment.

The event was sponsored by the Imperial Valley JACL chapter and the Imperial County Office of Education.

The Go For Broke Educational Foundation recently announced it has been selected to administer a floral tribute endowment for American World War II veterans of Japanese ancestry and their families previously interred in U.S. cemeteries overseas.

The fund was established by California attorney and appraiser Florence Yamada, who was a 442nd Regimental Combat Team (RCT) veteran, in February as a one-time tribute. But because of the overwhelming response and donations, floral tributes will continue to be placed every five years.

Yamada, who is also executive director of the Ted Tanouye Memorial Foundation and administrator of the Erito Yamada Memorial Scholarship, decided to implement the fund after returning from the Epinal American Military Cemetery in France on Memorial Day 2004. He was deeply troubled to discover none of the 13 gravestones of the 100th Infantry Battalion and 424th RCT at Epinal had floral tributes.

Since that visit, he set up a fund for all 39 JA soldiers and their officers, who were not Asian, buried or memorialized in five European countries, including the "Tables of the Missing" interred overseas and one Military Intelligence Service soldier memorialized at the Manila-American Cemetery in the Philippines.

His initial goal was to raise $10,000 in five months in cooperation with the Epinal American Military Cemetery; one is memorialized at the cemetery, one is memorialized at the Netherlands cemetery, and one at the Manila, Philippines cemetery.

For a complete list of names, contact the Go For Broke Educational Foundation's Resource Center at 310/328-0907 or email ResourceCenter@GoForBroke.org.

To make a contribution to the memorial, send checks clearly specifying it is for the floral tribute to: P.O. Box 2590, Gardena, Calif. 90245.

Plc. Tadao 'Beanie' Hayashi and fell to his knees. He laid a silk lei carefully around a cross on his grave. He lit some incense before his respects at Beanie's grave. Nearly 50 years later, Kabota fulfilled his promise. Kabota stated he lived his life for two people: his and Beanie's. Sadly, Kabota passed away four months later.

If you or your family are interested in establishing a one-time floral tribute endowment, send checks to: P.O. Box 2590, Gardena, Calif. 90245.

The Imperial Valley commencement is the first scheduled ceremony for 2005. Other Nisei graduation ceremonies are being planned with high schools and communities throughout California.

The California Nisei Project is working with schools and community organizations to create opportunities to honor the Nisei with their high school diplomas and facilitate an exchange of "living history" for current high school students.

To find out how you or your family can sign up and support the California Nisei Project, or to find out if any efforts have begun in your region, visit www.canisei.org.

COMMUNITY NEWS

63 Years Late, JAs Get Their High School Diplomas

The Go For Broke Educational Foundation announced a new initiative to memorialize the 13 Japanese American soldiers who gave the ultimate sacrifice and promised to one day pay his respects at Beanie's grave. Nearly 50 years later, Kabota fulfilled his promise. Kabota stated he lived his life for two people: his and Beanie's. Sadly, Kabota passed away four months later.

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J-Town Task Force
Launches Book Project

The Japantown Task Force, Inc. (JTF) is about to embark on a book project about Japanese Americans in San Francisco in partnership with Arcadia Publishing. Arcadia Publishing is the leading local history publisher in the United States, with a catalog of more than 3,000 titles in print and hundreds of new titles released every year.

The book will contain approximately 200 photos and short excerpts capturing the history of the early immigrants establishing roots in San Francisco to a thriving business and cultural community. Topical areas include family, spiritual life, military service, war relocation and post-war resettlement, sports and recreation, activism, arts and culture, business and new immigrants and changing demographics. This will be a timely publication as Japantown's centennial in 2006.

Japantown Taskforce, Inc. was established as a non-profit organization of one of California's communities. JTF will work with interns Misako Mori and Darryl Abantao.


Contact the Japantown Task Force, Inc. at 1765 Sutter Street, Suite 1, San Francisco, CA 94115. kishiuel@pacbell.net for more information.

Gala Dinner Pays Tribute to Californians Instrumental in Redress Campaign and California Civil Liberties Program

The "California Conference on the Internment of Japanese Americans" gala dinner will pay tribute to Californians who played a vital role in the historic Redress Campaign and the California Civil Liberties Program.

The dinner will be held June 3, 7 p.m. at the Radisson Miyako Hotel in San Francisco's Japantown. The dinner will close the statewide conference sponsored by the California Civil Liberties Public Education Program - California State Library.

Dinner Co-Chair Carole Hayashino explained that the theme of the dinner, "Justice, Courage, Hope," was selected to express "the spirit of the community working together on redress and our friends who stood with us throughout the years. Their efforts represent the values of justice and courage. And, they gave us hope."

"This dinner, like the conference, is not only about the past, it's about the present and the future," she said. "And, a reminder that we have a responsibility to the legacy of justice, courage and hope for future generations."

The dinner program will pay tribute to Japanese Americans who never gave up and worked tirelessly on the passage of the redress bill, HR 442, The Civil Liberties Act of 1988. It will also acknowledge those few individuals who stood up for the constitutional rights of JAs during 1942.

San Mateo JACL Holds Scholarship Luncheon

The San Mateo JACL's Scholarship Luncheon was held May 1 with Calif. Congressman Mike Honda as the keynote speaker. Pictured here (l-r) are: Brent Nakagiri, scholarship chair; Kristine Chiba, scholarship recipient; Justine Moray, scholarship recipient; Congressman Mike Honda; Kelley Hasegawa, scholarship recipient; Robert Takahashi, scholarship recipient; and Heidi Tanakatobo, national JACL vice president of public affairs.

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With gratitude,
Kristine Minami
Director for Public Affairs (1999-2005)
Washington, DC Office

GOLO
PaciFFIC CITIZEN, MaY 20 - JUNE 2, 2005
WILLIAMSBURG, Virginia—Se Ri Pak spent the last seven years focusing all her attention on her golf game; determined to get into the U.S. LPGA Hall of Fame. Now that she’s qualified, though, Pak finds herself struggling. She wants more balance in her life, and is trying to find other interests besides golf; But it’s hard to break from routine, and the conflict is taking a toll.

“Through last year, I always just make one goal, trying to be the best. So I work on and spend the entire week you for my game,” she said. “I am trying to have some more thinking without the golf. Just trying to everything has to come together. I am not really used to this and that.”

Pak’s career began with quite a splash. She got her first American tour victory at the 1998 LPGA Championship, then won the U.S. Women’s Open after a 20-hole playoff. In her first seven seasons on the tour, she won 22 times, including four majors.

Her win at the Michelob Ultra Open last year gave her enough points to qualify for the Hall of Fame, though she still must meet the 10-year playing requirement.

“I put a lot of pressure on myself,” she said. “Nobody can tell me, ‘You have to win every week.’ I am the one that keeps telling me that. Every single week I want to see my name on top of the leaderboard.”

But Pak said she knows she needs more out of life, and her family and friends have been supportive. Her father recently told her to cut herself some slack, not to practice so much. Her best finish this year is a tie for 27th, at the Kraft Nabisco Championship, where she finished one cut and withdrew from the Safeway International.

“It was difficult to change a little bit,” she said. “I think I have to live with having more balance in my life. I want to play this game, but it is really hard work. I guess my life is more important than this strange game.”

BASKETBALL
Study: NBA is Pro Sports’ Best at Achieving Diversity

By MIKE BRANOM
Associated Press Writer

ORLANDO, Fla.—The National Basketball Association received an A in racial diversity from a study released May 4, the top grade among America’s pro sports leagues.

The NBA also is tied with Major League Soccer in providing opportunities for women, according to a study by Richard Lapchick of the University of Central Florida’s Institute for Diversity and Ethics in Sport.

The NBA earned an overall grade of B-plus, the best in sports. In racial diversity the grade was an A, and in gender issues it received a B.

Most of the study focused on the 2003-04 season.

“The NBA’s success is a result of its commitment to diversity,” Lapchick said. “The league has found a way to accomplish its goal of increasing diversity while maintaining the competitive edge that makes the NBA the best.”

The NBA also earned an A in racial diversity in Lapchick’s previous report in 2003.

Baseball received a B-plus that year, the NFL a B-minus, and the NHL a C.

The NBA has one black owner.

Robert Johnson, of the Charlotte Bobcats. Also, the league has three black CEOs/presidents and five black general managers.

On the 30 team rosters, 76 percent of the players were black — the lowest rate since the 1991-92 season — and 2 percent Latino and Asian.

The number of white players increased to 27 percent, two percentage points higher than the 2001-02 season covered in the last report.

As of Jan. 1, there were 12 black coaches, although that number had decreased to 10 by the end of the regular season.

There are three women with majority ownership of NBA franchises, Colleen M. Maloof and Adrienne Maloof-Nassif are part of the family that owns Sacramento Kings, while Irene Pollin is co-owner of the Washington Wizards with her husband, Abe.

Yao Plans to Hang Out in Houston, Not China, for Summer

By JOEL ANDERSON
AP Sports Writer

HOUSTON—Yao Ming rested comfortably in a chair and smiled at the thought of a summer without basketball.

At long last, the big man will get a break.

“I just want to relax,” Yao said. “I don’t want to do anything. I’m not too sure being eaten.”

Yao will head into his first NBA offseason without any obligations, a big change from the previous two summers when he returned home to play with China’s national team.

At 7-foot-6, Yao was already one of China’s biggest stars sports — quite literally — after joining the NBA in 2002 as the No. 1 draft pick. However, the challenges of year-round basketball and travel have taken a toll.

His commitments to China’s national team have limited his ability to improve his conditioning and skills in the offseason and he is often hurt by fatigue during the grueling NBA season.

“What you want and what happens is not totally in your control,” Rockets coach Jeff Van Gundy said. “Everybody understood there were going to be other commitments that he was going to have to honor. We respect Yao for honoring his commitments.”

Sitting at the Rockets’ arena May 9 before he and his Houston teammates scattered for the offseason, Yao said he’d consider playing for China in the Asian Games, which start July 19 in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, but wouldn’t commit to doing much else for the summer.

“The first thing about my summer is I don’t want any scheduling,” Yao said. “I don’t want to wake up and think about what I need to do.”

The Rockets already have drafted an offseason program in case he sits around.

An MRI exam will determine if he needs surgery to remove loose particles from his left ankle, followed by rehabilitation and training in Houston for at least a couple of months.

Stories by Associated Press and Pacific Citizen.
AMB0Y (Continued from page 1)

Habemus Papam

T he name of the new pope - Benedict XVI - Japanese American angle that points to the 100th Infantry Battalion in one of the great WWII battles of Italy at Monte Cassino, site of the ancient abbey founded by St. Benedict, in 530 AD was there that the 100th earned its nickname - the Purple Heart Battalion.

In Thomas Murphy’s “Ambassadors in Arms: Story of Hawaii’s 100th Battalion,” German defenses at Monte Cassino were depicted as mountaintop fortifications that withstood direct shell fire. Many stone houses in town were miniature forts with sniper controlling the narrow streets. The town of Cassino was deserted; the civilians took refuge at the abbey.

Col. James Hanley’s “A Matter of Honor” (1995) recounts the 100th’s mission to Monte Cassino as the last gasp of German defenses in Italy. He notes the abbey halfway up the mountain on the eastside. The 100th encountered stone walls, mines and wire along the Rapido River, flanked by Cassino. While crossing the dry bed of river at night, Baker Company was hit by intense cross-fire of machine guns and artillery. Only 14 out of 187 men made it to the wall on the other side.

“The valor and spirit of the men from Hawaii, putting aside outstanding that,” as Hanley notes, “the numerous casualties earned it the name of Pusan Perch or Monte Cassino.”

Monte Cassino, an isolated hill between Naples and Rome, became the metropolis of Western monasticism in the early sixth century. Benedict, of noble birth from Sabine, was sent to Rome for a liberal education but rebelled and escaped to Monte Cassino, where he became a hermit on his own and eventually took up residence and attracted by his way of living “and vowing to obey the celebrated “Benedictine Rule” of miraculous powers.” As disciples, they were the nucleus to create the community of monks, taking the vow to obey him and be trained, now the celebrated “Benedictine Rule” of poverty, chastity and obedience. Little by little, the monks rebuffed the abbey of St. Benedict around 530.

These were the Middle Ages, 400 AD to 1100 AD (sometimes known as the Dark Ages in Western civilization), when monasteries persevered north and east. The abbey at Monte Cassino was sacked by the Lombards from north Italy around 570-90; the abbey of St. Benedict around 530.

By 1100, Monte Cassino and other abbeys in western Europe became self-governing communities, ruled by the abbot as a religious, worship, of learning, of culture and the arts.

The Americans finally admitted in 1969 that the monastery had not stood up to American or Allied insistence to the contrary during and after the war. The British government investigation to the bombing was kept from the public for 30 years when it concluded in 1979 no such “irrefutable evidence” existed.

The business of chickens — Albert Okura has turned the Juan Pollo restaurant chain grow to 31 locations. To publicize his business, Okura balances preservation with redevelopment.

OKLAHOMA CITY, May 6—20, 2004

Brooke Barnes, Bessie’s granddaughter, said, “I would collect things like Buddy Holly, hard to find things.”

The Purple Heart Battalion.
When her life seemed most perfect, Georgia Lee dropped out of Harvard, formed a production company with college friends and took on Hollywood with her bold film, "Red Doors."

By LYNDA LIN
Assistant Editor

PACIFIC CITIZEN, May 20-June 2, 2005

IN A GEORGIA STATE OF MIND

G eorgia Lee steps into the spotlight onstage posture perfect in a crimson dress like a human highlight amidst scrappy filmmakers clad in jeans and corduroy. She talks about how in her early 20s she sent her first short film to Martin Scorsese at his request, and her naivety, and then announces the West Coast premiere of her first feature film, "Red Doors," which also happened to be virtually the closing film of this year’s Los Angeles-based VC Film Festival.

A week later, from her parents’ home in Connecticut, Lee reflects on that night as “very much like a friends and family screening” where jokes about a family dog named Lucky really struck emotional chords with the largely Asian American audience. And for Lee, the hysterically dark story about the Wongs, an emotionally frayed Chinese American family, was so deeply personal that she inserted a part of herself in the film. Literally.

Look closely and the little girls dancing and ice-skating in the Wong’s home videos are really Lee and her real-life sister as young girls.

"Truth is stranger than fiction," Lee said, adding with a laugh, “We debated about ‘re-shooting’ and making fake home videos, but there was the issue of not having any money ... and there was a graininess there that could not be home videos without crying,” said Lee.

While the film is loosely based on her own life, she says everything is “hyper-dramatized” for entertainment. The story about a seemingly perfect Chinese American family crumbling under the weight of misinformation seemed radically different. One day, she drafted a letter to the editor on the table and her father, a scientist with a penchant for philosophy just like the father in the film, read the letter of the script and pronounced, “Red Doors? We have red doors!”

“Hummm,” said Lee with a laugh.

Harvard to Hollywood

There are more parallels between the movie and real life, according to Lee, her own life is mirrored in the movie’s eldest sister Samantha (played by “Charlotte Sometimes” Jacqueline Kim), an ambitious businesswoman.

Not so long ago, Lee was luring every moment of being a business consultant and attending Harvard Business School (where she also received her undergraduate degree in biochemistry), so she took a leave of absence from school and her then “smarmy perfect” boyfriend, moved to a friend’s kitchen and began changing the focus of “Red Doors” from just a story about Samantha to an ensemble cast complete with a silently desperate father, a traditionally maternal mother, a rebellious youngest sister (played by Lee’s real sister Kathy Shao Lin Lee).

But like she said before, truth is stranger than fiction. Lee never went to film school, instead she spent five months in Rome on the set of “Gangs of New York” as an apprentice to Scorsese — who believe it or not — watched the short film she sent to his fan mail and took her under his wing.

To make “Red Doors” come to life, Lee enlisted the help of family members and college friends Jane Chen and Mia Riverton to form a production company, Blanc de Chine.

When all was said and done, “Red Doors” won this year’s Tribeca Film Festival award for best film.

The two friends who are my co-producers actually want to make films so that they can help!” Jane Chen (left, Mia Riverton (center) and Lee formed Blanc de Chine films to make “Red Doors” independently.

New York Best Narrative Feature.

Setting the Record Straight

“I wasn’t going to make a ‘Joy Luck Club Two,’” said Lee about some critical posts on the Internet message boards (including www.asianamericanfilm.com) condemning the film for having two out of three of the onscreen relationships be between an APA woman and a white man.

“We were like, blink blink, right now and suddenly there was this flame was going on against us. I completely understand the argument about the under representation of Asian American men in the mainstream media. I completely agree,” she said. But added, “What was most important to me was the family theme. I am Chinese American and I don’t know about you, but my family never sat around the table and talked about how it sucked to be immigrants.”

It’s more important to portray APAs like anyone else, said Lee, who said she originally cast Asian actors in the roles of the male love interests, but both dropped out at the last minute. Ultimately, Lee said her decision was based on who was best for the role.

Plans were a side, the next biggest hurdle for “Red Doors” is gaining distribution to come to a theater near you.

“I think right now there is a critical mass of creative fountainheads and Hollywood will start to notice that these stories can be commercial, I think these are exciting times,” said Lee.

“Red Doors” will screen at CineVegas and Outfest Film Festivals this summer.

gaz.com, or www.outfest.org
All the towns in California except as noted:

Garcia, Fermin Nunez, 87, Spokane, Wash., Apr. 28: Spokane JACL; buried after service; Eileen; and brother Jack. Survived by son Jerry; daughter Linda Scott; daughter, Kim (Henry) Sebion; daughters, Jesse, Joe, John and Mike, and sisters, Delia Santamaria and Christine Sundvall.

Kobayashi, Yuki, 87, Wailuku, Maui, HI, Jan. 24: JACL; buried after service; Mrs. Yuki; and children. Survived by daughter, Mrs. John (Mary) Currin; daughter, Mrs. Robert (Moy) Slone; son, Robert; brother, Daniel; sisters, Mrs. Gladys Lee and Mrs. Betty Sakamoto; grandchildren; great-grandchildren; and great-great-grandchildren.

IN MEMORIAM

Lane Nakano, Co-star of film about JA Soldiers Dies

By ASSOCIATED PRESS

LOS ANGELES—Lane Nakano, who appeared in the World War II documentary feature "Brother about Japan" American soldier who lives in Europe has died. He was 86.

Nakano died April 28 after a long bout with emphysema, his family said.

Nakano played the lead part of Sam in "Go for Broke!" the movie about the famous 442nd Regimental Combat Team led by Robert Pine, a color guard and was the only vet who served in France and Italy after he returned to Los Angeles, where he became a well-known singer and actor. He also starred in the 1965 film "Three Weeks of Love" and had smaller movie and television roles.

BAN YAN TREE (Continued from page 1)

about HIV/AIDS.

It is through the courageous stories of APAs living with HIV/AIDS that the message of APLs is making its point.

When Sam was first diagnosed back in 1999, he was hospitalized for a short period and for several months he suffered from depression, something he admits he still struggles with to this day. He is grateful for the support he received from his family and friends, and the community, something that surprised him.

"There's a lot of stigma among Americans and even APAs. That was really surprising," he said, noting that he had hoped to gain some support and comfort from his fellow APAs. "It was like being crucified. I was really isolated," he said.

According to the APL Wellness Center, there was a 54 percent increase in AIDS diagnoses among APAs in the United States from 2000 to 2003. Although the number of reported AIDS cases in the APL community is relatively small (6,924 cases in 2002) compared to other groups, under-reporting and misclassification obscures the true impact on the community. Also, a culture of silence and shame thwarts the disease. Some still falsely believe that living with HIV is a constant struggle, especially when making new acquaintances or even starting a new relationship with a boyfriend. "It's really tough to deal with," said she. "I don't know how to talk to new people. It's very, very hopeless that the Banyan Tree Project will create more awareness in the coming years.

We want to be in "your face," said he about the project. "Many APAs living with HIV/AIDS may have difficulty speaking up because of their culture of silence and shame. We want to change the stigma and help stymie discrimination against those living with HIV/AIDS in the APA community.

"We are still ignorant about HIV/AIDS," said Mem. "People should talk about it and we need more education about HIV/AIDS.

"If this thing happened to me it would happen to a lot of people out there," said Mem. "I try to have a positive attitude but I want to help my community." His message: have open hearts, open minds.

The Banyan Tree Project is funded by the U.S. Centers for Disease Control & Prevention and the sister organization, the Asian Pacific Islander American Health Forum (San Francisco & Oakland). Asian Health Coalition (Honolulu); and the Asian Pacific Islander AIDS Intervention Team (Los Angeles); Hawai'i Asian Pacific Islander Mental Health Project of Life Foundation (Honolulua); and Massachusetts Asian Pacific Islanders & Pacific Islanders Health Services, Inc.

For more information about the Banyan Tree Project, go to www.banyantreeproject.org or 866/854-4000.

OBITUARIES

DEATH NOTICE

DONALD HAMILTON ESTES

Donald Hamilton Estes, 68, died Saturday as a result of complications related to cardiac surgery performed earlier in the week in New York. He was born in San Diego in 1939 and has been a resident of North Park for over 30 years.

A graduate of Roosevelt Junior High and San Diego High School, Donald attended the University of California at Los Angeles for his 43-year teaching career at San Diego City College where he was Professor of Political Science and History. He held academic positions at the University of Illinois, most notably the chair of the Political Growth & Development Committee, visiting professor at the Institute of Social Sciences, member of the City College Executive Board, and past president of the California Community Colleges. He also served as a Senator on the Statewide Academic Senate of the California Community Colleges.

Mr. Estes holds a Ph.D. in American studies from the University of Illinois at Chicago and has been an Associate Professor of American Studies at the City College of San Francisco since 1969, and was on the Executive Board of the Japanese Friendship Garden of San Francisco.

Mr. Estes was a lifetime supporter of the Boy Scouts (BSA), dating back to 1948 when he became a Boy Scout. He served as the Region 11 Chair of the BSA and received the Silver Pin Award in 1971. He also served as the leader of the San Francisco JROTC program, a non-profit entity, since he was Scoutmaster of Troop 53 in North San Francisco as well as a Scoutmaster for the San Francisco College of Education's JROTC program. He served as an advisor to the San Francisco, American Legion Post #13, and starred on numerous television shows while working at the VA.

Mr. Estes was served by his wife, Ethel Carol Estes, sons Matthew (Jaima) and Kevin, and daughter, Denise (Jim) Appel, along with his brother, Roy Yonemoto; and sisters, Mary Aikana Edwards, Edith Ichiuji and Tomie Takahashi.

Services were held May 11 at the Buddhist Temple of San Diego, 2929 Market St., San Diego. Memorial contributions can be made to the San Diego Community College Foundation, 7775 Silver Oak Drive, San Diego, CA 92126-0988.
A Plague Upon Humanity: The Secret Genocide of Axis Japan’s Germ Warfare Operation
Harper Collins Publishers
pp. 256; $25.95 hardcover

"A Plague Upon Humanity" meticulously exposes the disturbing story of Japan’s campaign of human experimentation and extermination that have been denied and marginalized for a long time. Using real testimonies from victims, graphic descriptions from Japanese doctors involved, and biomedical evidence from human remains, Barenblatt illustrates a disturbing picture of what happens when medical ethics and basic human morals are inverted for the pursuit of military power and imperial domination.

Wabi Sabi: The Japanese Art of Impermanence
Tuttle Publishing
Andrew Juniper
pp. 165; $12.95 paperback

Wabi Sabi, a design movement that has gotten trendy in interior decorating very recently, is actually an ancient aesthetic philosophy that stems back to fifteenth century Japan. This book examines the history, culture, art, design and spirit of the form that has influenced Japanese philosophy and poetry for centuries, and can now be applied in a more contemporary context.

Buddha, Volume One: Kapilavastu Vertical
Osamu Tezuka
pp. 288; $24.95 hardcover

Osamu Tezuka, known as the godfather of manga comics and the Walt Disney of Japan, is known for combining humor and humanism in an engaging visual form that created memorable graphic novels for many generations. "Buddha," Tetsuko’s epic graphic life of Siddhartha, is now available for the first time for English readers.

Love After War
Curbside Press
Edited by Wayne Karlin and Ho Ahn Thai
pp. 626; $19.95 paperback

"Love After War" is the largest anthology of Vietnamese writers that presents both established authors as well as many exciting new voices. This impressive collection shows the myriad of literary voices that struggle with the history of a country marred by decades of war and tragedy, and also the continuing will to find love and redemption in spite of the suffering.

Birthmark
Southern Illinois University Press
Jon Pineda
pp. 80; $13.95 paperback

Half Filipino and half white, Jon Pineda explores the many threads of his identity in this collection of poems. Family, father/son dynamics and cultural identity are few of the many topics that are captured in his words.

My Japanese Sketchbook
Flammarion
Watercolor illustrations by Cloe Fontaine
pp. 136; $24.95

Combining beautiful watercolors and helpful explanations, "My Japanese Sketchbook" captures the unique aesthetics of Japan in 140 brilliant color illustrations. Taking a look at fine porcelain dishes, kimonos, temples and traditions, this book is a wonderful visual for anyone interested in Japan’s culture.

Year of the Snake
Southern Illinois University Press
Lee Ann Roripaugh
pp. 80; $13.95 paperback

Lee Ann Roripaugh, whose poems have appeared in many prestigious publications, explores her dual Japanese and American cultural identities.

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