S.F. Japantown merchants and community groups say no to a proposed Starbucks.

By CAROLINE AOYAGI
Executive Editor

Carol Murata has owned Café Hana, located in the heart of San Francisco's Japantown, for close to two decades now; her sister runs which has been in the family for over 30 years. The cafes are places of the Japanese American community of northern California.

As Café Hana and May's Coffee Shop are part of what was once a bustling center of JA activity, where families would come to live, work, and play. But in recent decades, more and more families have chosen to move out of Japantown, leaving the occasional visit to the annual Cherry Blossom festival or an outing to a favorite restaurant.

Today, like most often these days, business at Café Hana is slow with only a trickling of customers comprised of workers from the Japantown area or the occasional tourist. With the recent news that coffee magnate Starbucks is about to open shop across the street, Murata fears for the survival of her business.

"A big business like Starbucks could do us in. This is serious," said Murata, who speculates that even a one percent decrease in her business could be devastating. "We don't need Starbucks. You can get coffee somewhere else.

In addition to Café Hana and May's Coffee Shop, other Japantown mom and pop businesses that would be affected by a

Equipping APAs with Tools to Break the 'Bamboo Ceiling'

According to this new book, shame and reticence are Asian values that impede career success in the Western corporate world.

By LYNDIA LIN
Assistant Editor

When Jane Hyun worked as a graduate recruiter for Fortune 500 companies, it was her job to scour college campuses and cut through rehearsed lines of half-truths to find the strongest candidates for coveted job openings. But in her many searches, she noticed some familiar traits in Asian Pacific American interviewees that she saw in herself when she graduated from Cornell University and first entered the workforce — a manifest conflict between her built-in Asian values and adopted Western corporate values.

"I came to this country at the age of eight ... and it's this sort of bi-cultural experience where you are raised one way and then you enter the corporate world and suddenly, you have to operate on different standards," said Hyun, who is Korean American. "I wanted to do something for that experience for

Radio Hosts Apologize for Remarks About AA Candidate

By ASSOCIATED PRESS

TRENTON, N.J. — Two talk radio show hosts have apologized on-air for comments they made in April about a Korean American man who is running for mayor of Edison, remarks that Asian American groups called racist.

The controversy stemmed from statements Craig Curton and Ray Rossi made in their April 25 "Jersey Guys" show on NJ 101.5. The duo are known for their cal Asian accent and criticized politicians that cater to minority voters.

"Here's the bottom line," Curton said, according to a transcript of the show. "No specific minority group or foreign group should ever dictate the outcome of an American election. I don't care if the Chinese population in Edison has quadrupled in the last year, minority or foreign group should ever dictate the outcome of an American election."

While discussing the candidate, Jan Choi, Curton repeated the man's name several times in a stereotypically Asian accent and criticized politicians that cater to minority voters.

"Man to man, I'm sorry," Curton told Choi, adding that he also apologized to any listener who was offended by the remarks. "The intent was never to hurt you personally or hurt your mayoral campaign."

Cho said he accepted their apology.

Chinese should never dictate the outcome of an American election, Americans should.

But according to the station's Ewing Township studios on May 25 to receive the apology in person.

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BAMBOO
(Continued from page 1)

a real long time.

So when Hyuns visited campuses to research the subject, she found the same characteristics in young expatriates, who were returned perfect but gener-
ally not willing to agree-

ly jockey for key job openings. Like other can-

didates, she decided to write a guide.


"Breaking the Bamboo Ceiling: Career Strategies for Asians," which combines lessons from her seven years of experience as a career coach and human resources consultant

with statistics and case studies about APIs in the work world.

As a career guide, "Breaking the Bamboo Ceiling" takes on the daunting task of explaining and exposing myths about Asian employees while offering self-

assessments exercises to identify

first impressions, and even more

practical from the pragmatic

point of view of making sure you are prepared for what to be true to yourself.

It's a guide that I needed for myself," said Hyun. "Like many other APIs, Hyun battled the inter-

nal need for stability early in her career when she made the leap over

no wonder! We saw them in the pri-

gate garden, the otea (temples) and

shrine gardens, along rivers and

lakes, and beside beautiful moun-

dains.

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staff manages to get information to

our readers in their monthly issues,

usually one or two paragraphs,

reflect the viewpoint of the editorial

staff. Comments are welcome, but we

are unable to abridgement. Although we are unable

to give abridged feedback to the writer.

V"In a sense, the bamboo ceiling is a phrase that originated as an illus-

sion about breaking into the corporate

world as a minority. It could be that there are not a lot of minority human

resources professionals."

When Hyun started in the human resources business in the 1990s, she

noticed that only company-Diversity awareness resources offered were sensitivity training

sessions.

Now, she travels the country operating an extensive speaking schedule for private corporate events and some public speaking engagements.

She is also doing a book tour where she said APIs and non-

majors will be given their positive reinforce-

ment on her book.

"The book speaks about cultural fluency that does not just pertain to API's but others, adding that many have commented

on finding similarities between themselves and case studies reported in the book regardless of ethnicity."

Identifying Your Bamboo Ceiling

ORGANIZATIONAL BARRIERS

- Manager/employer lacks an accurate understanding about APIs, and other professionals of color; lacks accountability measures for diversity programs

PERSONAL BARRIERS

- Cultural values/traditions may hinder you from demonstrating cer-

tain behaviors in the workplace.

- Inner impediments and barriers (fear of taking risks, fear of failure)

- Lack of self-awareness or lack of clarity about what you can offer and what you can bring to the table.

- Lack of understanding about others and their values, particularly the knowledge of how others perceive your day-to-day workplace interactions.
House Agrees to Fund Angel Island Restoration

By ERICA WERNER
Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON—The House passed legislation May 23 to spend $515 million restoring the immigration station on Angel Island that was the first taste of America for more than 1 million Asian immigrants.

Supporters are trying to raise $50 million to maintain it, create a museum and preserve dozens of poems that were carved by detainees into the barracks walls.

"Millions of Asians and Asian descendants nationwide are eager to see their roots in this country honored in the same way we honor Ellis Island," said Rep. Lynn Woolsey, D-Petaluma, who authored the legislation. "If these walls crumble we lose this one-of-a-kind documentation forever."

The bill passed on a voice vote.

Census Profile Shows Less English Ability and More Recent Population Growth for AAAs in NYC Boroughs than General Populations

Asian American populations in all New York City boroughs in 2000 had lower English skills, larger educational gaps and recent immigration rates than general borough populations, according to a census-based study released May 26 by the Asian American Federation of New York (AAFA).

The study showed that from 1990 to 2000, ranging from 39 percent (in the Bronx) to 87 percent (in Brooklyn), exceeded those of overall borough populations in every borough, Bangladeshis and Malayaisians were among the five fastest-growing Asian groups during the last decade.

Asians were much more apt to be immigrants than non-immigrants, with 1.9 in every 100 people in the last 10 years.

The study showed that the Asian American population in the five largest boroughs in all boroughs percentages were as high as 80 percent (in Brooklyn).

Asian householders, with average sizes ranging from 2.25 people (in Manhattan) to 3.54 members (in Queens), was the largest household size.

Asian populations' growth rates were as high as 80 percent (in Brooklyn). This is higher than the national average.

The current educational support program and other minority students, said Barbara Boxer will introduce a comprehensive, academically successful unit that is not in need of academic support.

Congressman David Wu, a member of the Asian American and Pacific Islander Serving Institutions bill May 24 that would provide grants to 43 institutions of higher education for the purpose of improving and expanding services targeting Asian American and Pacific Islander (AAPI) students.

Specifically, Congressmen Wu's legislation will help institutions identify and assist low-income and underserved Asian American and Pacific Islander (AAPI) students. Similar programs currently only serve other minority populations.

"The Asian American and Pacific Islander community has and will always be an integral and vibrant part of American society," said Wu. "As we mark the 27th celebration of Asian American and Pacific Islander Heritage Month, recognizing the many contributions and achievements of Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders, I am pleased to introduce legislation that will help foster further contributions by these members of the AAPI population that our educational system has neglected."

Current law allows the U.S. Department of Education to provide similar financial assistance to institutions which serve African American, Hispanic, Native American, Alaskan Native and Hawaiian Native students.

Congressman Wu's legislation would increase the current educational support program and other minority students, said Barbara Boxer will introduce a comprehensive, academically successful unit that is not in need of academic support.

The current educational support system fails to address the needs of specific ethnic groups. Some within the AAPI population.

A Southeast Asian Resource Action Center study of the 2000 Census found great differences of educational attainment among the different ethnic groups of the AAPI population.

For example, only 26 percent of Cambodians and 28 percent of Vietnamese had some college as compared to 63.6 percent of Chinese and 51.8 percent of the national average. The study also found that 26.2 percent of Cambodians and 45 percent of other Chinese residents, at least 30 years of age, had no formal schooling, as compared to 1.4 percent nationally.

AAFA the grants, according to the AAFA. The higher educational investments will increase educational opportunities for low-income and under-represented populations by providing funding for cultural and linguistically-appropriate services for AAPI and other minority students, said Congressman Mike Honda, chair of the Congressional Asian Pacific American Caucus. "This bill helps us in our effort to ensure that educational opportunities for our students, especially our hard-working students who fall behind, are not socio-economically and culturally obsolete."

Wu's legislation is supported by 21 original cosponsors and Sen. Barbara Boxer will introduce a comparable bill in the Senate. The bill would amend the Higher Education Act which is due to be reauthorized this year.
**National Newsbytes**

**By P.C. Staff and Associated Press**

**Canadian MP Apologizes for Racial Slurs**

WINNIPEG—Conservative MP Steven Fletcher has apologized for referring to Japanese soldiers from the Second World War as "Japs" and "bastards" at a Canadian veterans' convention.

In his statement of apology, Fletcher referred to his family's personal experience during the war, saying they had given him "a very emotional perspective" on that historical period. His grandfather was captured and held as a prisoner of war by the Japanese during the fall of Singapore.

**Asian American Study Foundation Bill Passes First Senate Hurdle**

TRENTON, N.J.—A bill sponsored by Sen. Joseph V. Doria which would authorize the secretary of state to establish a nonprofit Asian American Study Foundation to promote the culture and contributions of the Pacific American population was unanimously approved by the Senate State Government Committee.

The bill, S-2342, would direct the secretary of state to establish the nonprofit Asian American Study Foundation to help meet the needs of the state's Asian-Pacific American population and to develop policies to improve the community, economic, health and social well-being of that population.

The bill now heads to the Senate Budget and Appropriations Committee before going to the full Senate for a vote.

**California Groups Gear up to Fight Proposed Gay Marriage Ban**

SAN FRANCISCO—A coalition, which includes the JACL, will join forces to defeat a proposed amendment to the state Constitution that would ban same-sex marriage and strip gay couples of most of the spousal rights they already have as domestic partners.

If the proposed Voters Right to Protect Marriage Initiative passes, it would revoke the nearly full spousal benefits the state has conferred on registered domestic partners, which can include not only same-sex couples but also unmarried senior citizens.

Amendment sponsors must submit nearly 600,000 signatures from voters to qualify the measure for the June 2006 ballot.

**MIT, Harvard Researchers Design 'Tsunami-safe(r)’ Homes**

CAMBRIDGE, Mass.—A team of researchers from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology and Harvard University has designed what they call a "tsunami-safe(r)" house that is less likely to collapse under wind and pounding waves.

Instead of four solid walls, the tsunami-resistant houses have thick concrete block corners and exterior walls made of bamboo. The houses, about 80 of which have already been built, allows waves to wash through the houses instead of knocking them over.

Relief agencies are also building houses for families whose homes were destroyed by the Asian tsunami.

**APAs in the News**

**Yongyi Song Named Paul Howard Award For Courage Recipient**

Yongyi Song, director and organized a dietic program at the hospital, also became a nursing instructor in 1976.

**Korean American Heads North Korea Program**

Freedom House, a human rights organization, recently appointed Korean American Jae Ke as director of its North Korea programs.

The organization will host international conferences on North Korean human rights violations this year with a budget of US$1.97 million provided by the State Department under the North Korea Act, which went into effect last year.

**Naple Names Rev. Silva New Honolulu Bishop**

Benedict XVI appointed a Honolulu-born Rev. Clarence Silva 55, as new bishop of the Diocese of Honolulu. Silva grew up in California, but his parents and grandparents were also born in the islands. His appointment filled a position that has been vacant for nearly a year.

**Time Running Out for Ty**

MELBOURNE, Fla.—Ty Perkins spends his days reading and dreaming of lands filled with dragons, wizards, heroes and magic—anything but the reality of the bone marrow disease that is killing him.

The Melbourne boy is 11 years old. What complicates things further is that Ty, being of Chinese origin, is having a rough time finding a matching bone marrow donor.

"It is very difficult for Asian Americans, Asians and Hispanics to find a bone marrow match because of limited people in the bank," said Dr. Richard Levine, oncologist with Space Coast Medical Associates.

Ty was diagnosed with Fanconi anemia in 1999 while living in an orphanage in Taiwan. He received no treatment because he was an orphan. The only thing that can help him now is a bone marrow transplant.

"He's out of options," said his mother, Karen Magrath, who adopted Ty 1½ years ago with husband Steve.

"From the second I heard about Ty, I immediately felt like he was part of the family," Magrath said.

When Ty arrived in Florida, he knew only four English words: mommy, daddy, poo and disgusting. He also had no idea that he was sick. But in private, he had already started asking his mother about dying.

"We tell him that the doctors will do everything they can do," Magrath said, making sure the children do not see her cry. "And if he gets tired of fighting then it will be time for him to go to heaven."

The family suffered a blow recently when a woman in New York—miraculously a perfect match—backed out of donating her marrow.

"I was devastated," she said. "I don't know if it's a cultural or educational issue. It's hard to imagine where that person could be emotionally that they would decide not to save an 11-year-old boy's life."

Helen Ng, spokeswoman for the National Marrow Donor Program, said many minorities simply do not know about the procedure or the procedure's importance.

"People don't realize how it affects the community until it becomes your child," Ng said. "This is all about how ordinary people can save lives."

Charles Hayford, professor of Asian American Studies at Northwestern University, said that like many ethnic groups, the Chinese community simply needs to be educated about transplants.

"It was part of the old teaching to go to the grave intact, but then creation came about," he said. "The idea of being cut up or having blood taken is not very attractive to anybody."

If there is an educational campaign then it can become quite popular. But it won't be easy."

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**Dear Editor...**

I'm not sad about being sick.

— Ty Perkins, 11, about living with Fanconi anemia, a bone marrow disease. He celebrated his one year family anniversary with mom, Karen (below).

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Go For Broke Monument 6th Anniversary to Highlight Lost Battalion Campaign

Each year, American World War II veterans of Japanese ancestry gather at the Go For Broke Monument to commemorate its inception. On June 11 the Go For Broke Monument Educational Foundation will host "Honoring Our Heroes" 6th Anniversary Go For Broke Monument Tribute.

The tribute will mark the heroes of the Nisei WWII veterans, and bring to light one of the top 10 battles of the U.S. Army's history, the Rescue of the Lost Battalion. "Honoring Our Heroes" will run from 10 to 11 a.m. and be held at the Go For Broke Monument located on the City of San Pedro Temple and Alameda streets in downtown Los Angeles' Little Tokyo district.

"The Go For Broke Educational Foundation is committed to perpetuate the story of the American World War II veterans of Japanese ancestry through educational initiatives and public events such as "Honoring Our Heroes" where their story can be shared," said Christine Sato-Reetz, Tets Kashima Memorial Scholarship committee chair, Tets Kashima.

Individuals who attended the Go For Broke Monument and the Go For Broke Educational Foundation are expected to express their gratitude for those who have served in the U.S. military during WWII.

The anniversary will feature keynote speaker Lt. Martin Higgins, acting commander of the 36th "Texas" Division, who on Oct. 25, 1944, found themselves surrounded by German troops in France's Vosges forest. It took the 100th/442nd RCT, just days after liberating the town of Breyeres and Biffontaine, six grueling days of combat to rescue the Lost Battalion. Additionally, Kenneth Inabu, Ph.D., will talk about his experiences as a soldier of K Company, who with I Company, 442nd RCT, were the first to reach the Lost Battalion. K Company suffered many casualties during the two weeks of fighting in France, losing all but 17 riflemen surviving.

Moreover, the Educational Foundation will award in 2005 Go For Broke Monument Medal to Larry Carroll, a regional public relations consultant, and Bruce Kato, construction engineer. Geypall was instrumental in providing guidance to coordinate the monument design competition, working with the architect and contractor to ensure it was built, and managing public relations and marketing efforts. Kato was the Go For Broke Monument's project/construction manager, supervising the entire construction of the monument to ensure it was built and had the veterans' approval.

Following the tribute, the Educational Foundation will also host the grand opening of its Go For Broke Monument Visitor's Center located at 361 E. First Street, in the historic area of Little Tokyo. The Visitor's Center will feature interactive computer displays and small exhibit, limited resource library, and a retrospective visual painting by WWII Nisei veterans, volunteers and staff of the Go For Broke Educational Foundation.

For more information about the Visitor's Center, call 310/328-0607 or 213/625-0780, or email VisitorCenter@gofbroke.org. For more information about the "Honoring Our Heroes" tribute, the call the Go For Broke Educational Foundation at 310/328-0607 or email at each­dier@gofbroke.org.

Heart Mountain, Wyoming Foundation to Dedicate Interpretative Walking Tour

The Heart Mountain, Wyoming Foundation will dedicate an eight station interpretative walking tour on June 25 at the original Heart Mountain Camp site.

The handicapped accessible, self guided, walking tour consists of an informational kiosk and eight stations situated in a 1000 foot path placed behind the existing World War II Honor Roll and the Flag Pole in the camp administration.

Each station in the walking tour will have pictures and text relating to the area that station overlooks. Station one will be the isolation complex area; station two, the military police complex; station three the root cellars and agriculture in general; station four the recreational programs and the swimming hole; station five, the camp administration; station six, a high school and education area in general; station seven, the camp living quarters and living conditions; station eight, the camp support facilities such as the camp newspaper, police station, fire station, post office, sewage treatment plant, and water supply. All pictures on the stations are from the time of relocation 1942-1945.

Speakers at the dedication will include; Secretary of Transportation Norman Mineta, (invited), Former U.S. Sen. (Wyoming) Alan Simpson, Mayuri Gokhale, and Executive Director of the Heart Mountain Sentinel, Bill Hosokawa, Director of the Wyoming Department of Cultural Resources Art Reese, and Heart Mountain, Wyoming Foundation President Dravid Root.

Funds for this project were raised at the same time money was raised to restore the WWII Honor Roll, which was accomplished in 2003, and for purchase of 50 acres of original camp site land, which will serve as the location for a future interpretative learning center.

HMWF is extending an invitation for the public to attend the ceremony at 2:00 p.m. An evening dinner will be held at 6:30 p.m. at the Holiday Inn, Cody, WY and is by reservation only. Please call HMWF at 307/754-2689 for cost and reservations.

JAMsj to Celebrate Completion of Japantown Visual History Project

The Japanese American Museum of San Jose (JAMsj) will hold a celebration to culminate a Japantown visual history project on June 26 at the Yu-Ai Kai Senior Center in San Jose.

Thanks to a California Civil Liberties Public Education Project (CCLPEP) grant, and just present Japantown businesses are documented for future generations. The project, "Losing Stories: The Resettlement of San Jose Japantown," provides internet access for community members, researchers, and the public in general to learn about Japantown history.

What challenges did you face in re-establishing your business after the war? Who helped you resettled? Such questions were posed of narrators Perry Doehali, Doehali Markeft, George Hanada, George's Service Center; Mollie Nakasaki, Mandarin Restaurant; Richard Onishi, Onishi Florist; James Sakamoto, Sakamoto Barber, and Dave Tatsuno, NichiBel Business Department Store.

Project Director, Aggie Idemoto, collaborated with a team of interviewers — Steve Fugita, Jeff Kawano, Alan Muto, Kristin Omamoto, and Jiro Saito — to identify and interview narrators. Rounding out the team were video producers Mike Iimura of Zoom Video Productions and Karen Masuoka, web master/graphic designers. Steve Puglia served as liaison to the Densho, a Seattle project headed by Tom Ikeda, for the technology aspects of the project. Densho presented the product into being state-of-the-art with digitized interviews via the internet and CDs for on-site and outreach presentations.

The June 26 celebration will take place at 2:00 pm at the Yu-Ai Kai Senior Center, 585 North 4th Street, in San Jose. For more information, call Aggie Idemoto at 408/294-3188.

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Georgia Asian-American Heritage Foundation Hosts Gala Dinner

The Georgia Asian-American Heritage Foundation held its fourth annual gala dinner recently to celebrate Asian Pacific American Heritage Month. About 24 community-based organizations jointly hosted the event at the Grand Hyatt in Atlanta with over 450 guests, including federal and state government officials, dignitaries and community leaders.

Georgia has the second fastest growing AA population in the United States. The Selig Center for Economic Growth reports that Asian buying power in Georgia increased 453 percent between 1990 and 2004. The Census Bureau, also reports that Asians voting in congressional elections increased significantly at the same time that overall voting nationwide dropped.

The recent gala was held to recognize and celebrate these milestones and the many contributions AAs have made and will continue to make in Georgia. The AA population includes people who come from a wide variety of cultural, political and religious backgrounds. The Heritage Foundation gala event was one of the few events that brought all members of the AA community in Georgia together.

Arizona Chapter Holds Sara Hutchings Clardy Scholarship Luncheon

The JACL Arizona chapter honored four Valley High School graduates at the 44th annual Sara Hutchings Clardy Scholarship Luncheon recently and championed the future of Japanese American leaders. More than 130 Japanese Americans gathered at Phoenix College’s Culinary Café to recognize Samuel Asaki (far right), 18, Scottsdale, who attends Desert Mountain High School; Stephen Harper (second from left), 18, Chandler, who attends Corona del Sol High School; Lindsey Ishikawa (second from right), 18, Gilbert, who attends Gilbert High School; and Jordan Nakagawa (first from left), 18, Gilbert, who attends North High School. The Sara Hutchings Clardy Award is given in honor of the late Sara Hutchings Clardy, who helped Japanese all over the world learn citizenship to the Japanese. She died in 1962. Also pictured are Ken Inouye (third from left), JACL national president, and the Hon. Brian Ishikawa, guest speaker.

Gift Honors Memory of Longtime Strawberry Growers and Creates Legacy to Benefit Fullerton Arboretum

When it comes to fresh produce in Southern California, strawberry season is, arguably, one of the most anticipated times of the year. For more than three decades, second-generation Japanese Americans — or Nisei — Tom and Chiz Miyawaki contributed to this annual bounty as farmers and managers in the strawberry business.

Among the beneficiaries of their hard work are Chiz’s brothers Tom and Frank Matsuoka of Culver City and Kingsburg, respectively, and nephew Kurtis Nakagawa of Placentia. In tribute to and in honor of the couple’s memory, Nakagawa and his uncle established the Tom and Chiz Miyawaki Legacy Project with a $15,000 gift to Cal State Fullerton’s Center for Oral and Public History (COPHI).

Aimed at promoting the COPHI and the Fullerton Arboretum’s Orange County Agricultural and Nikkei Heritage Museum — currently under construction — the donation, explains Nakagawa, is “to give students the opportunity to be authors, to benefit the university and to educate the public at large about the Japanese American contributions to Orange County.”

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Ayako Okamoto Voted Into Golf Shrine
ST. AUGUSTINE, Florida—Ayako Okamoto, who won 62 times around the world and became the only Japanese woman to win the U.S. Women’s Open, has been elected to the World Golf Hall of Fame.
Okamoto was elected on the International ballot, the Hall of Fame announced May 23. She earned 52 percent of votes cast by writers, Hall of Fame members and golf officials, and joins Vijay Singh—previously elected from the PGA Tour ballot— in this year’s class.
Neither of the other two minimum 65 percent for election. However, the Hall of Fame added a stipulation two years ago that if no candidate receives the minimum, the player with the most votes will be elected as long as that player gets at least 50 percent of the vote.
Japan’s Jumbo Ozaki received 48 percent of the vote and two-time major winner Sandy Lyle of Scotland got 29 percent. Bounding out the top five were Australia’s Kel Nagle (25 percent) and Welshman Ian Woosnam (20 percent).
"It is hard to express in words my joy in becoming a member of the World Golf Hall of Fame,” Okamoto said. "I never dreamt the choice I made during my 30-year career would lead me to join the ranks of the most respected players in the history of golf.”
The induction ceremony is Nov. 14 at the World Golf Village. Singh has not decided whether he will be inducted this year or defer until next year because of a scheduling conflict.

Ayako Okamoto is the third Japanese golfer to be elected to the World Golf Hall of Fame. She followed fellow golfers Isao Aoki and Chaoel Higuchi. Also inducted in this class was Fijian, Vijay Singh.

Ayako Okamoto was voted among the top 50 players and teachers during the LPGA’s 50th anniversary in 2000. She won 17 times on the LPGA Tour, including four times in 1987 when she was the LPGA player of the year and captured the money title.
This is the third straight year a Japanese player enters the Hall of Fame. Isao Aoki was elected last year, and Chaoel Higuchi was selected in 2003.

BASKETBALL

NBA Great Kareem Abdul-Jabbar Teaches Basics of the American Game in Shanghai

By CHRISTOPHER BODEEN
Associated Press
SHANGHAI, China—Xia Yong, 16 years old and 200 centimeters (six feet, six inches) tall, was born the year great NBA Kareem Abdul-Jabbar said "Skyhook" to be born into the world, in a country where basketball had made little impact on society.
On May 24, Xia was in class with the NBA great, learning aspects of the American game as a long leg-up toward his own NBA dreams.
"I know he’s a real star, a great player sort of from the earlier generation," said Xia, who has trouble with other players having him watch me, though," he adds nonchalantly.
Xia was one of 55 players from China and the region watching Abdul-Jabbar teach American-style psychology as part of a newly developed course called “basketball psychology and attitude.”
The class aims to cover real-life situations that occur routinely in the NBA but which athletes from China and other nations might not have experienced, including talking trash and dealing with the media, footwork, fitness, and mental preparation.
Abdul-Jabbar showed players how to use their bodies to defend and keep opponents out of the paint. He cited the example of Yao Ming, the Shanghai-born center for the Houston Rockets who has spent two seasons adjusting to the more aggressive American game.
"Yao Ming is a great player, but he has had trouble with other players who keep him off balance and make it hard for him to use his height advantage,” Abdul-Jabbar told players seated on the court at the Shi Shi Sports Academy.
He also showed off the basics of the “sky-hook,” Abdul-Jabbar’s trademark shot that has gone the way of canvas sneakers since his 1989 retirement.
"It never really had the opportunity to become fashionable,” he said of the shot. “It’s kind of like if you go back to that era ever, the 1950s.”
Abdul-Jabbar’s two-day course is part of a multi-nation camp that will pick all-star team to play in America.
Xia, one of the NBA’s newest growing markets. Chinese national television broadcasts two NBA games a week, while fans in Shanghai — where Yao started with a Chinese team before moving to the NBA — can see as many as six a week.
The NBA last October stage two preseason games in China and plans to host a regular-season game in China ahead of the 2008 Beijing Summer Olympics.
Xia, both of whose parents played basketball for Shanghai, said he and other Chinese players aimed to soak up all they could learn at the camp.
"Anything they’re teaching us is really useful,” he said.
"To play in the NBA is pretty much the dream of everyone here,” he added.

FIGURE SKATING

Michelle Kwan to Compete at 2006 Olympics

By ANDREA ADELSON
AP Sports Writer
Michelle Kwan came to New York undecided about whether she wanted to try and make her third Olympics.
After spending one night with 14 other Olympians, sharing stories, dreams and memories, Kwan said it was a major step forward.
"It was a really helpful," she said.
Kwan said May 26 she wants to compete at the 2006 Games in Turin.
"I said after the 2002 Olympics I was going to play it by ear, just go with the flow, and it worked for me," said Kwan, an eight-time World champion.
"Now, it has been added to the Gold Medal Athlete Summit. "After spending some time with these athletes and coming here to New York, "I said, "This will be a great experience, try it one more time.”
Kwan, who turns 25 in July, certainly is no stranger to the Olympics.

Though she may be considered ancient in her sport, she wants to experience the camaraderie of the international event just one more time.
"I don’t think I’m too old to try for another time. Coming here, seeing the Olympic rings — I got chills when the other athletes were talking about their experiences, their triumphs and their struggles." Kwan took bronze in Salt Lake City, and silver in 1998 in Nagano. Though the five-time world champion is the most decorated figure skater in U.S. history, with nine national championships, Kwan has never won Olympic gold.

These questions constantly follow her, though Kwan said her Olympic performances don’t define who she is.
"It’s your life, you go through struggles," she said. "Olympics, they don’t define me. Medals don’t define me. It doesn’t matter. I’ve had some good moments, some bad moments. But it’s all about the Olympic spirit and the sport itself."
Being Angry and Asian Through Theater

It is a common pathway for young Asian Americans, upon entering college, to find ways to explore their Asian American-ness. Many take classes in AA studies or join campus organizations related to their ethnic identity because purifying and getting drunk has so much more sociopolitical significance when you do it with people of your own race. Some become more politically conscious of their ethnic communities and take part in student activism.

So I went through all the standard prerequisites of Ethnic Identity Awakening 101. I eagerly filled my yellow rage by taking AA-themed classes that taught you that the model minority myth is completely wrong and dude, you should get angry about it. I went to student protests, participated in the Nikkei Student Union, and even had a summer internship involving the Japanese American community.

But still, that wasn’t enough. I needed to do something more. Or maybe I just needed to do something. So this year, I began protesting against The Man, not through student activism or volunteer work in ethnic orgs, but by dressing up in weird clothes and acting as a crazed voodoo lady on a stage in an auditorium filled with fellow students.

These are the kind of things you do when you are part of UCLA’s Asian American theater group called La Toa the Coyote. You have many great opportunities to make a complete fool of yourself onstage because hey, you don’t need to be dignified, you just need to be doing it all in the name of the greater AA community.

La Toa the Coyote (LCC for short) is one of the largest college AA theater groups in the country, and has been around for ten years now. We write, direct and act in our own original plays and put on a show composed of four to five different skits every quarter. It is rather amusing that a grassroots, student-run organization dedicated to the creative power of the AA community has stayed together for so long.

Joining this theater group has probably been one of the best things that has happened to me so far in my college career. Not only does it show me just how exciting it is to be involved with a cast of talented and dedicated people, it also gives me a chance to give back to the AA community through the power of human creativity.

I still remember the first time I saw LCC perform on campus. I was a freshman and just joined the group. It was spring quarter of my freshman year. Seeing flyers and posters advertising the show scattered throughout campus, I was curious about the kind of material a student-run, AA theater group would come up with, so I dragged along two of my friends to come watch it with me.

They had their usual combination of drama, satire and comedy, all of which were cleverly written and well acted. But what impressed me the most was something that seems so obvious in retrospect but remarkably profound at that time. Wow, I remember thinking to myself, Asian people can be funny, too!

Well, of course Asian people are capable of being funny and entertaining. But why did it have to be such a shock for me? The short answer, of course, is that there is no representation of ethnic diversity in the media, which is the same old complaint that’s been persisting for years. How many times do you actually have the opportunity to see funny, entertaining AAAs in starring roles in the flesh right? Hardly ever.

LCC challenges this notion by its mere existence. Certainly, AAs can be funny and entertaining — and by being funny and entertaining, I mean actually being the one making the jokes instead of being the butt end of them. Not only that, we are also capable of being tragically, romantically love interests, the main hero and a slew of other meaningful character roles that unfortunately, are constantly denied to us in the mainstream.

This is how we protest. We are doing it in a way that seems so obvious in retrospect but amusingly profound at that time. Now, I remember thinking to myself, Asian people can be funny, too!

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WWII CAMPS
(Continued from page 1)

homes to internment camps, we are increasingly losing not only the infrastructure of the camps, but more importantly, those people who were detained.

Thomas’ support for the bills stems in part from a lifelong friendship with former Democratic state legislator Floyd Mori, past national JACL president.

Gerald H. Yamada, national coordinator for the Japanese American National Heritage Coalition, has worked with Thomas and the House Resources Committee to arrive at this bill that was passed by the Resources Committee.

"HR 1492 will allow the "confinement sites" to be used to show-case the hardships and sacrifices made by Japanese Americans during World War II and to preserve the important lesson that this Nation’s commitment to the fundamental principles of due process and equal protection must not be compromised by prejudicial and discriminatory governmental actions," said Yamada.

Thirty organizations have thus far joined the Heritage Coalition, including the JACL, Go For Broke Educational Foundation, Go For Broke = National Veterans Association, Japanese American National Museum, and the Japanese American Veterans Association.

Rep. Bill Thomas’ bill would spend $38 million to restore and preserve the internment camps used during WWII.

JOBS OPENING

Director of Public Affairs in Washington, DC Office

The JACL seeks an energetic, resourceful individual for the position of Director of Public Affairs in the Washington, DC office. Under the direction of the National Executive Director, the Director for Public Affairs maintains the public affairs office of the JACL in Washington, DC and is responsible for the organization’s government affairs as legislative liaison to Members of Congress and the Senate, as well as interactions with the administration. Specific duties include tracking legislation; monitoring regulatory decisions; writing press releases; interacting with the public and the media; working in coalition and with membership to effectively advocate issues of concern; creating and disseminating action alerts; maintaining the legislative function of the JACL, website; convening and directing an annual leadership training program and implementing other programs throughout the year.

The candidate must be a self-starter with an ability to work with minimal supervision and must have substantial knowledge of federal agencies and familiarity with APA community issues to represent the organization in meetings with elected officials and members of the administration. The JACL is a non-partisan political organization. The candidate must have some years experience in non-profit public policy, or similar field.

For job description and requirements, email job@jcl.org, with "DC Rep" in subject.

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Invest in you
Deep down, Alice Wu thinks everyone wants the same thing: love. Her film ‘Saving Face’ explores the reality of the quest, complications and all.

By LYNDA LIN
Assistant Editor

“If you ever want to see looks of boredom, tell people you are writing a screenplay,” said Alice Wu with a laugh that punctuates the truism of the story. Five years ago, she was working at Microsoft in Seattle when she started writing a ‘love letter’ to her mom — an eventual screenplay about the intergenerational tug of Chinese American families that would become her first full-length feature film, ‘Saving Face.”

“It’s a lot less lonely now,” said Chen. “It’s a lot less lonely now,” said Chen. "I wrote [the screenplay] as a love letter to my mother and it’s a wonderful bonus that it’s just resonating with people,” said Wu adding that her main objective was capturing something that’s so personal to you mean so much to so many others as well. It’s totally validating in that way because I like to think that no matter who you are, we all want to be loved. In a way, the film is much larger than I am... the most surreal part is when I have to go on stage by myself when I really want to bring everyone up so that people can see how many hearts went into the film. What advice do you give to young professionals hoping to make a career change like you did? AW: Even though I wrote the script, I didn’t think that I would become a filmmaker. It would have killed me if I had handed it to someone else to make. People have come up to me after screenings and I know they have had it handed to someone else to make. It’s not about the sex. It’s about what you put into the film. You have to focus on the intimacy... make your film sexy, it’s being completely free... I think that’s a gigantic cheat. It’s this one moment that Wil (Lynn Chen) is being completely free... I think that makes the scene much stronger. ‘How did a screen legend like Joan Chen join the cast?’ AW: Initially, I didn’t think Joan was right for the role. For one, she’s never done comedy and for another, she’s one of the most beautiful women. She expressed interest a second time and I said, ‘Well then you have to start smoking and drinking so that you look the part because I’m going to costume you in the way that you’ve probably never been costumed before and probably may never want to again!’

And she said ‘Okay, I’ll go with you there. She’s the consummate actress. A vast selection of fresh produce, meat, seafood and groceries.

SECRET ASIAN MAN By Tak

And she said ‘Okay, I’ll go with you there. She’s the consummate actress. A vast selection of fresh produce, meat, seafood and groceries.
PALOS VERDES, Calif. — Second Annual National JACL Golf Tournament; 10 a.m. Cornish Point, Smallman, Rolling Hills Country Club, $250 per golfer; includes lunch, drinks, prizes, cart and awards; info: Director of Nutrition, 540 NW Regional Office, 2133024-4771 or piej@jacl.org or Phil Matsuda, 540-732-4044. See registration form below.

SALT LAKE CITY Fri-Sun., June 24—26—2005 National JACL Student/Youth Conference; University of Utah; $40 for members (includes lodging); 560 non-members (includes lodging); info: Joshua Spyr, joshua@jacl.org or Todd Sato, tsato@jacc.org. See registration form below.


East Coast

ATLANTA Sun., June 26—JACL Southeast chapter annual picnic; 11:30 p.m; East Club Pavilion at 200 West Park; Alphabets; general meeting to follow picnic. Info: Roger Okae, 770790-3066.

PHILADELPHIA Thurs. May 12—Exhibition of "Keicho-ha: Flowers and Birds in Japanese Art"; Philadelphia Museum of Art; galleries 241, 242 and 243; Benjamin Franklin Parkway at 26th St.; 9:30 a.m. to 5 p.m.; features the wealth of such motifs found in Japanese art from the early eighteenth century to the modern age. Info: 2139-696-1000 or www.philamuseum.org.


Midwest

ALBUQUERQUE Sun., June 5—Festival of Asian Cultures; 11:30 p.m; Casa Chavez Community Center, 785 Kobayashi St; free; fresh fruit, food, cultural entertainment.

JAPAN June 2-4—New Mexico JACL Picnic; 11 a.m.; Holiday Park, Comanche NE (between Juan Tabo and Tramway NE); free; hot dogs, hamburgers and soft drinks; help with side dishes and dessert. Info: Louise Churchwell

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Obituaries

Fukunaga, Kenneth Noboru, 90, Thousand Oaks, Apr. 18; survived in-law, Michi Matsuda; and 13 gc.

Hiroko, Kawaguchi, 70, Los Angeles, Apr. 22; survived by husband, Ken; brother, Michael; and sister, Hiroko.

Hamano, Mitsuko, 89, Gardena, May 1; survived by sister, Haruko Kani and Masako Nakashima; brother, Koichi; and nieces, Ken and Shizue.

Harada; and sister, Harada.

Harada, Ayako, 91, Monrovia, Apr. 23; survived by husband, Haruo; sons, Robert, James, and Gary; daughters, Yuko, Haruko, and Karen.

Hiroko, Yoko, 87, Los Angeles, Apr. 25; survived by husband, Shigeru; brothers, Toshi and Hideyuki; and sister, Yoko.

Hirano, Kenneth Tamio, 73, La Palma, Apr. 26; survived by wife, Nogumi; daughters, Kay and Sonya; and sister, Mrs. Tanaka.

Hosokawa, Masahiko, 80, Los Angeles, Apr. 26; survived by wife, Nobuko; daughters, Cherrie, Grace, and Miki; and sons, David and Kenichi.

Huynh, Min, 69, Garden Grove, Apr. 26; survived by sister, Yvonne; and brother, James.

Ichinose, Masao, 85, Los Angeles, May 4; survived by wife, Yae; son, Taro; daughter, Karen; and brothers, Tad and Kunio.

Izumihara, Kiyoshi, 74, Los Angeles, Apr. 26; survived by wife, Eiko; daughter, Akiko; and sons, Yoshihiko and Masao.

Jackson, John, 85, Los Angeles, Apr. 26; survived by wife, Michiko; son, David; and brother, John.

Jinno, Masao, 82, Glendale, Apr. 27; survived by wife, Kiyoko; sons, Robert, Thomas, and Michael; and daughters, Yoko, Sally, and Yoko.

Kawakami, Masao, 90, Los Angeles, May 6; survived by wife, Toshiko; sons, Masao and Masaki; and daughters, Susan and Sherry.

Kawamura, Thomas, 58, Los Angeles, Apr. 26; survived by son, Michael; and brothers, Paul and John.

Kawano, Takeshi, 72, Los Angeles, Apr. 26; survived by wife, Masako; sons, Masaki and Masahiro; and daughters, Yoko and Sachiko.

Kawamoto, Masahiro, 80, Los Angeles, Apr. 26; survived by wife, Haruko; sons, Charles and David; and daughters, Yoko and Sachi.

Kawamura, Toshio, 73, Los Angeles, Apr. 26; survived by wife, Florence; sons, Kazuo and Shigeki; and daughters, Yoko and Shuji.

Kawamoto, Toshio, 83, Los Angeles, Apr. 26; survived by wife, Jean; son, Larry; and daughters, Eiko and Miki.

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A meeting was held at San Francisco's City Hall on May 17 to hear the community's concerns and on June 7 the Redevelopment Agency Commission will once again take up the matter with several JA community members vowing to be there.

In the meantime groups have started a petition against the establishment of Starbucks arguing that businesses will be adversely affected in Japantown and that a community business should be built instead. They also note that within a two-mile radius of the 1600 Webster St. building there are already 55 Starbucks coffee shops. So far about 3,500 people have signed onto the petition.

"We would like someone else to get that space, some kind of Asian enterprise rather than Starbucks," said Murata. "Hopefully we can get enough people to back us in helping us out here," she added, noting that Chinatown, Little Italy, and North Beach have all been successful in keeping Starbucks out of their neighborhoods.

"The lease for a potential new Starbucks retail location in Japantown has not yet been signed," noted Leonom J. Abrams, director of civic and community affairs for Starbucks Coffee Company. "Starbucks is in the very early stages of this process. We are actively communicating with local community groups and look forward to continuing the dialogue in order to listen and address concerns."

Responding to the community's concern of not being included in lease discussions, Marcia Rosen, executive director of the San Francisco Redevelopment Agency, said "Existing law and agreements do not require public review of the consistency of the leases with land use restrictions. In retrospect, a formal community review process would have been a good idea."

Rosen noted that although a prior agreement states "franchised retailers" and "fast food operations" are not to be established at the 1600 Webster St. building, the Agency believes Starbucks and UPS do not fall into these categories. They argue that UPS is a "business service franchise" and that Starbucks is not a "franchise" since it is owned and operated by the Starbucks Corporation.

Rosen added that representatives of Anasazi Properties informed redevelopment agency staff that they "had advised community members of possible occupancy by Starbucks and received no objections." But she would not speculate on the impact of a Starbucks on the Japantown area. "The Agency will not speculate on the impact of these commercial uses until the matter is fully resolved," said Rosen.

Yet, according to Jofuku, community members had explicitly stated they didn't want a Starbucks," she said. "To ignore this is wrong." The Japantown Task Force is now looking into getting legislation established that would ban chain stores and franchises from the Japantown area so that incidences like the current Starbucks controversy can be avoided in the future.

Japantown merchants and community members alike say they are not about to give up this fight, showing a unified determination to see that Starbucks does not make Japantown its home.

"We're hoping Starbucks will say it's not worth it," said Hashimoto. "I hope that Starbucks will not have the will to be [in Japantown]. That they will see they are not wanted here," said Jofuku.

"We're keeping our fingers crossed, keeping our hopes high. We will keep going."