Starbucks Passes on J-town Location

By Pacific Citizen Staff

After weeks of protest from community members and merchants, coffee magnate Starbucks has decided not to move into a proposed location in San Francisco's historic Japantown.

"After listening face to face to some of their concerns, we felt it was not the best place to build a relationship," said Liz Capurro, Starbucks' regional director of operations for San Francisco in the San Francisco Examiner.

Early last month, Japantown community members and merchants learned that the San Francisco Redevelopment Agency had approved proposed leases with Starbucks and UPS at the 1600 Webster Street building. The location was of particular interest for this was the site of the former Japantown Bowl demolished in 2002 to make room for condominiums even after much community protest.

In response, the Redevelopment Agency Commission held a meeting to look into the proposed leases and hear the community's concerns. Another meeting was to be held June 7 but Starbucks announced its decision before the meeting could take place.

"They listened to us, they talked to us and they did the right thing," said Linda Satoiku, executive director of the Japantown Task Force, as the Examiner reports Starbucks' decision.

Community members and merchants' concerns were mainly directed at the Redevelopment Agency's handling of the proposed leases, especially what they viewed as a lack of discussion with the Japantown community prior to their decision on the leases.

Another overwhelming concern was the potential loss of business for several mom and pop businesses in the Japantown area such as May's Café, Café Hana, and Big Sky Spa.

The in-house video that featured racist, sexist and lewd jokes landed the San Francisco 49ers in hot water, and forced the team's disgraced public relations director to apologize for his "terrible mistake."

Now team officials need to answer to the Asian Pacific American community. Team Owner John York will meet with APA leaders June 14 in San Francisco's Chinatown - the setting of a video segment that featured a stereotypical portrayal of Chinese Americans.

In the fallout, the team's public relations director, Kirk Reynolds, was fired and another tape with similar homophobic and sexist messages was discovered.

"I'm more sorry than anybody," Reynolds told the Associated Press. "My intention was to deliver a message important to our team. Certainly the execution and my decision-making were way out of line."

APAs Want Full Accountability from 49ers

The team's racist training tape reveals anti-Asian sentiment that many say is endemic in sports.

By Pacific Citizen Staff

Pacific Citizen

Much like the JAs during the 1980s, Mexican Americans seek to right a wrong.

By CAROLINE AOYAGI

Executive Editor

Christine Valenciana had always known what had happened to her mother Emilia Castaneda during the 1930s — that as a nine-year-old child born and living in Los Angeles, Castaneda and her family were forcibly deported to Mexico.

It was not, until Valenciana was an undergraduate student at Cal State Fullerton that she first learned about the 1930s Mexican Repatriation program and that her mother's story was not unique.

Valenciana, now 79, was one of close to two million Mexican Americans, many of them U.S. citizens, forcibly deported to Mexico to free up jobs for citizens during the Great Depression.

"I was very surprised and saddened that this was not just an isolated incident," said Valenciana, who is now an assistant professor of elementary and bilingual education at Cal State Fullerton. "This is an American issue. Most of these people were not immigrants, they had never been here before."

SEEKING JUSTICE — Valenciana and her family pose in front of the State Capitol after the California State Senate Hearing on Unconstitutional Deportation in 2003. From left are: Francisco V. Balderrama, Flavio Valenciana, Christine Valenciana and Francisco V. Balderrama.

Spring Campaign Top Fives!

By CASEY CHINA

PACIFIC CITIZEN

This year's Spring Campaign will go toward developing a PAC Web site. Have you sent in your donation to help keep this fine publication going? If not, here are lists of House Subcommittee restores funding for the educational program aimed at helping low-income APA students go to college, but the fight is not over.

By LYNDI LIN

Assistant Editor

When Jenabi Pareja started high school, he never thought he would make it to college. He knew that once he received the diploma with his name scrawled across the top, he was expected to go to work.

"I would've probably worked in the mail or something," said Pareja with a laugh. That was the reality he grew up with since arriving in Richmond, California from the Philippines at the age of nine. His hardworking parents have less than a high school education.

So when he set foot on the windowsless campus of Richmond's Kennedy High School, he knew the odds were stacked against him.

Especially since Kennedy High students consistently scored below the state average last year on standardized tests.

Spring Campaign Top Fives!

By CASEY CHINA

PACIFIC CITIZEN

We're coming close to the end of the Pacific Citizen Spring Campaign. This year's Spring Campaign will go toward developing a PAC Web site. Have you sent in your donation to help keep this fine publication going? If not, here are lists of...
FINANCES

(Continued from page 1)

And board members are bracing for an exceptionally difficult year. This year is going to be much tougher than last year simply because our overall membership numbers have shrunk due mainly to the attrition of our Nisei members," said Tateishi.

CAMPAIGN

(Continued from page 1)

The top five reasons to give to the Spring Campaign.

If you're a hard-core JACLer:

1. You want to let your other hard-core JACL friends know that you're doing next weekend, since she's so busy with JACL stuff that she doesn't respond to your e-mails.

2. Your eyes are no longer good enough to read the small print, so you want to read it on-line, where you can make the font size as big as you like.

3. Once the P.C. is on-line, JACL (Grandpa) will stop falling asleep in the bathroom while reading it.

4. buried, so JACL is doing, since you're so busy with JACL stuff that you don't respond to your e-mails.

For those of you who are young, unemployed or broke:

5. The P.C. makes excellent gift wrap while simultaneously spreading awareness of JACL issues. You can find out about the latest Asian American injuries without having to pay to see them.

6. For those who are young, unemployed, or broke: The P.C. makes excellent gift wrap while simultaneously spreading awareness of Asian issues.

You can find out about the latest Asian American injuries without having to pay to see them.

2. You can find out about the latest Asian American sports sensations without having to make a long-distance phone call.

4. You can find out about the latest Asian American injuries without having to pay to see them.

5. The P.C. is chock-full of news and stories that you'll only find in the P.C.—delivered straight to your household.

Paper, printing and mailing is not free. We need your help!

3. Donate $100 and you will receive a free copy of Gil Asakawa's marvelous book, "Being Japanese American" (while supplies last).

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Hawaiians Hope to Build Nation, One Name at a Time

By JEANNETTE LEE
Associated Press

IRISH, DUTCH, GERMAN AND CHINESE, right now."

Many Hawaiians believe a catal-

gog of all living Hawaiians, esti-

mated at 400,000 worldwide, in the key to founding a nation, or at least gaining

federal recognition, for Hawaii's native

population.

"We need to be a nation within a nation," said Laulani, a hula teacher in Honolulu. "But we're not even rec-

ognized as an indigenous people right now."

In a separate effort, the Native

Hawaiian Recognition Act, spon-

sored by Sen. Daniel Akaka, D-Ha-

waii, formally recognizes Native Hawaiians as an indigenous population in the same way the U.S. government recognizes American Indians and Alaska Natives.

The Akaka bill, which Congress

is scheduled to take up later this year, is aimed at settling court

bills that questioned the legality of Native Hawaiian programs and entitlements.

The lawsuit over federal recognition via Akaka would have another form of defense against race-based claims to


Many Hawaiians scoff at the pur-

pose of federal recognition. Others support some degree of Hawaiian autonomy, such as a separate Hawaiian government that would form a partnership with the United States on issues such as defense trade. Most radical among them demand full sovereignty and the reinstatement of a monarchy.

The registries project, called "Kia noa" or "place your name," is the third attempt to count Hawaiians since the 1990s, when self-determi-

nation for Hawaii's native popula-

tion became a more prominent issue.

Many Hawaiians were inspired by the 1995 centennial of the over-

throw of Queen Liliuokalani and a congres-

sional apology for the U.S. backed coup that year.

We have been robbed of our country, our land," said L.T.

South, a lawyer in Honolulu.

One TV ad reminds a telecommun-

ications commercial with neon

blue lines on a world map tracing

the ports of call in between Hawaiians. It urges Hawaiians all

over the globe to help "build a nation."

UC Davis Cancer Center Awarded $4.5 Million

UC Davis Cancer Center has received $4.48 million from the National Cancer Institute to lead a new nation-

wide effort aimed at reducing can-

cer in Asian Americans. By TERENCE CHEA

This was announced at a press con-

ference June 1.

I am pleased to announce that Sacramento and UC Davis Cancer Center, with funding from the National Cancer Institute, will lead the way in reducing the toll of this disease among all Asian Americans — from the newest Hmong immi-

grants to Asian Americans at risk of can-

cers caused by chronic infections, to fifth- and sixth-generation Chinese and Japanese at risk of cancer rates rapidly increasing rates of such cancers as breast and colon cancer," said Dow.

The new grant builds on a previ-

ous NCI-funded project, known as the Asian American Cancer Network for Care, Research and Training (AANCART) also head-

quartered at UC Davis. The new

project, which will also be called AANCARE, is funded through the NCI's Community Networks Program.

The new project unites cancer-

control experts from the California Department of Health Services, UCSC, UC Davis and the University of Washington in Seattle, and Dana-Farber Cancer Institute/Harvard University in Boston with two community groups, the Hmong American Self Help Group, Inc., and the Foundation/Chinese Community Health Plan.

In addition to the $4.48 million in NCI funding, UC Davis and other project participants are contributing another $400,000 in new or in-kind support for the first year.

"Asian Americans have long been overlooked in cancer-preven-

tion efforts," said U.S. Rep. Mike Thompson, whose district includes UC Davis. "Winning this major grant, in today's highly competitive fiscal climate, is a credit to UC Davis and the other participat-

ing institutions. This is an important sight to those working to prevent and treat cancer and other diseases.

Carnegie, Chinese, Filipino, Hmong, Korean and Vietnamese communities in Seattle, San Francisco, Honolulu, Los Angeles and Sacramento will be the popula-

tions of special emphasis.

Many turn to foreign language

newspapers and broadcasts because English isn't their native language. Additionally, media often do a better job covering news from the homeland and other issues the attention to them. That's the bottom line," said Felix Gutierrez, professor of journalism at the Annenberg School for Communication at the University of Southern California, which leads the Asian American and Pacific Islander Media Project.

The survey found that more than half of all Hispanic adults preferred ethnic media. About 60 percent of AA media, according to a poll released June 7.

Outlets from Korean-language daily to Spanish-broadcasting household use as much as 40 percent of all adults in major minority groups, or about one million people nationwide, at least several times a week, according to mainstream coun-

ters, a poll commissioned by the nonprofits among non-Hispanic Asian Americans.

Overall, ethnic media reach approximately 80 to 85 percent of the population of adults in major minority groups and among adults in a particular region of the U.S. population.

"This is something that is growing like a giant plant in plain sight," said Gutierrez, executive director for NCM, a nationwide association of more than 700 ethnic media outlets.

Many turn to foreign language

newspapers and broadcasts because English isn't their native language.

Additionally, media often do a better job covering news from the homeland and other issues the

community cares about.

"We have a multicultural society with multimedia choices, so people pay attention to media that pay

fueled in part by advertisers looking to tailor their messages to individual consumers. Some companies see minorities "as a pool of potential consumers who may spend money on products that their tastes and buy-

ning habits are still being shaped — as an untapped market.

Advertising and market-

ing in mainstream media, about $1.4 billion a year, is growing about 3 percent annually, according to NCM estimates. In AA media, marketing dollars hover around $100 million (euro1 million) a year, but are expanding at high rates, according to one poll. For Hispanic outlets, ad spending is about $3 bil-

lion and increasing at a suggest-

ing 15 percent. "They're ripe for the picking," Gutierrez said of minority groups.

"I don't think they've had a great deal of buying power, but collective-

ly they do." The poll was conducted through telephone interviews with 1,895

black, Hispanic, AA, Arab American and Native American adults across the country from April to May.

It has a margin of error between 3 and 5 percent, based on a number of people, depending on the sample.

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94ERS

(Continued from page 1)

by upper management. They recently announced their renewed efforts with San Francisco's Human Rights Commission. Incoming City Administrator and former Human Rights Commissioner Paul Tateishi plans to seek a meeting with National Football League officials to "visibly connect them with the communities they represent," an article.

The teams' owners decried the incident of stereotypes. Tateishi attributes the problem to a lack of dialogue on sport ethics and you get what you demand of sport. APAs in sports would help break down stereotypes.

Many APAs are not amused. "To use Chinatown, use a bucktooth man reading a Chinese newspaper... how much more offensive could it be?" said Cecilia Chung, founder of Asian Pacific American Legal Leadership Initiative of the San Francisco Human Rights Commission. "As stars emerge, slights will be -by boys." Paczolski's recent comments and even Quashique O'Neal's notorious mocking of Houston Rockets star Yao Ming ("Tell Yao Ming, 'Ching-chong, hongyeng-ah-shih-"") are some high-profile incidences of anti-Asian attitudes. Tateishi attributes the problem to a lack of dialogue on race relations. He has pleaded not guilty to six counts of attempted first-degree intentional homicide and three counts of attempted second-degree intentional homicide in a confrontation over trespassing Nov. 21 in some isolated Smyer County woods. His trial is set to start Sept. 12.

The Michigan Civil Rights Initiative complaint questions the validity of the Affirmative Action, Integration & Immigration and Rights and Fight for Equality by Any Means Necessary (BAMN) initiative. The Secretary of State recently dismissed the BAMN complaint, which accused the initiative of money laundering and other campaign finance violations.

The filing turns the tables on BAMN, which earlier filed a complaint against the civil rights initiative. "We have seen the nation's fastest growing ethnic community increasingly isolated within their own communities and often are the focus of stereotypes," Tateishi said. Lafayette declared that the problem is the lack of representation. "In too many cases, Asian Americans and our original inhabitants, Native Americans, are often part of the conversation," said Ed Lapich. "As stars emerge, slights will be-by boys." Paczolski's recent comments and even Quashique O'Neal's notorious mocking of Houston Rockets star Yao Ming ("Tell Yao Ming, 'Ching-chong, hongyeng-ah-shih-"") are some high-profile incidences of anti-Asian attitude. Tateishi attributes the problem to a lack of dialogue on race relations. He has pleaded not guilty to six counts of attempted first-degree intentional homicide and three counts of attempted second-degree intentional homicide in a confrontation over trespassing Nov. 21 in some isolated Smyer County woods. His trial is set to start Sept. 12.

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San Jose JACL Honors Scholars

This year’s San Jose JACL scholarship recipients were announced recently at a buffet luncheon at the Issei Memorial Building backyard. The recipients included: Nicholas Masumoto, $2,500 George Masunaga Endowment Scholarship, UC San Diego; Eric Nakagawa, $2,500 Kenji Sakauye Scholarship, UC Berkeley; Audrey Nakamura, $1,000 Masuo B. Nakamura Scholarship, Cal Poly; Amelia Sugai-Freed, $750 Ray and Lucy Sugai Foundation Scholarship, Sonoma State University; Stephanie Yamamoto, $500 CYS scholarship; Douglas Sakamoto, $500 CYS scholarship; Cory Fujitani, $500 Karl Kinaga Memorial Scholarship, Cal Poly; Mika Peterman, $500 Nina Youth Foundation Scholarship, UC Berkeley; Kimberly Hoppe, $500 CYS scholarship; Jackie Nakamura, Nina Youth Foundation, and Shizu Sakaiye and Family.

Boise Valley JACL Honor Students

Kawai. He will be attending Idaho State University. Kawai is the daughter of Brenda Miyake and grandmother of Ish and Ruth Miyake. She will be attending Boise State University.

The 2005 Chapter officers include: Robert Hira - co-chairman; Tami Tokishita - co-chairman; Patricia Kawaguchi - vice chairman; David Hira - treasurer; and Jeannie Driscoll - secretary.

Youth Officers include: Kimberly Hira - president, Katie Hira - vice president; Sarah Campbell - treasurer; and Karin Hayashida - secretary.

Inoshita’s Story Featured in Book, ‘Since you Asked’

Veteran Mas Inoshita (left) was honored by the Arizona Heritage Project at a recent reception/performance at the Cave Creek Fine Arts Center in Cave Creek, Arizona. Russell Reese, a Junior at Cactus Shadows High School and a member of the project, wrote a biographical essay titled ‘A Story Rarely Heard about Inoshita’s Experiences while a World War II veteran. The essay was featured in the book, ‘Since you Asked.’

JACL Junior Olympics Calls It Quits

After 52 consecutive years, the JACL Junior Olympics will be no more. At a meeting of the organizing committee, it was decided that the Junior Olympics could not continue in its present form. Several factors were considered including a continuing decline in participation, reduced income from entry fees and advertising as well as the increasing cost of hosting the event.

Participation in last year’s event drew only 175 athletes down from over 250 for the past several years with a high of 350 athletes in the 1980s. The ages of the athletes ranged from toddlers to high school seniors. Since its inception in 1953, it is estimated that over 14,000 children have participated in the event.

According to long-time committee member, Tom Oshidari, “It was a very difficult decision to make because the Junior Olympics had been the longest running program offered by JACL and regardless of the numbers it was always fun for the participants and parents.

The Junior Olympics began 52 years ago as a program of the San Francisco chapter. It has been held at various venues including Kesar Stadium and Chabot College, where the event was held for the past 20 years.

Steve Okamoto, another long time committee member said, “I was involved with the Junior Olympics for over 25 years. It saddens me to see the event discontinued. My fondest memory was seeing all of the kids wearing their medals proudly around their necks. It was a real family affair.”

PACIFIC CITIZEN, June 17-30, 2005

COMMUNITY NEWS

More than 60 Years Later, 14 Nisei Receive Their H.S. Diplomas

After more than 60 years, 14 Nisei from the Classes of 1942-1945 finally received their high school diplomas at a graduation ceremony at Fowler High School June 2. The diplomas were made possible by Assembly Bill 781 which became law in 2004 authorizing all school districts to retroactively issue a diploma to any Japanese American whose high school education was interrupted due to forced incarceration from California during World War II.

Fowler High freshman, Jordan Maldonado, helped organize the event after choosing the California Nisei High School Diploma Project as her community service learning project and 4H project.

Maldonado’s great aunt was interned in August 1942 of her junior summer, and did not receive her diploma from Fowler High. In the early 1940s, JA students comprised about one-fourth of the FHS student body.

For the last seven months Jordan, Julie Hirose Maldonado (Jordun’s mother), and Joann Abboled (Fowler High Principal) have been working collaboratively on the project.

Jordan identified 87 Nisei from the Classes of 1942-1945 by researching yearbooks from the war years, and called upon the Japanese American community both locally and statewide to help find current addresses.

It was soon learned that 23 of the 87 Nisei had passed away, and addresses for six Nisei could not be located. Jordan sent letters and diploma applications to the 58 Nisei, and 27 of them applied for their Fowler High diploma.

Of the 27 diploma applicants, 14 Nisei attended the graduation accompanied by almost 100 family members. Jordan’s great aunt, Harriet Shirakawa Ishibashi, is one of the 14 Nisei graduates who attended.

For more information on the California Nisei High School Diploma Project, visit www.canisci­e­l.org.

Blue Cross Cross of California

Since 1947 the JACL HEALTH TRUST has offered Health Care coverage to JACL members.

To protect you and your family from even common accidents and illnesses the JACL HEALTH TRUST provides Blue Cross of California health care coverage. Blue Cross of California has been providing health care coverage to Californians for over 65 years. Blue Cross is committed to keeping you connected to quality health care services.

Blue Cross of California

For more information call 1-877-845-4875.
Students rally against President Bush's plan to cut funding for Upward Bound.

Students like Pareja and his graduating class to get accepted to Berkeley where he is headed this fall. With diploma in hand and a college. Many others, angry over the possible loss of the program, have joined a chorus of protest across the nation. The federally funded Upward Bound program assists nearly half a million high school students, many of whom are Asian Pacific Americans struggling with culture clashes and low income. Fahn Saeteurn, 17, just graduated from Richmond High School just a few points shy of an academic honor distinction. She can't hide the disappointment in her voice, but her reality is far from what it used to be before she joined Upward Bound. Saeteurn, who is Muir, was at one time so unmotivated that she considered dropping out. "I didn't feel like getting up and going to school," she said. Turning to her parents, who are uneducated, for help was not an option, so when she reluctantly joined Upward Bound she received the support and assistance other low-income families did not. In the fall, she will attend Sonoma State University as the first college student in her family. Program officials say there is a misconception that Upward Bound does not serve APIs. Although national data indicates that Asian Americans account for the lowest group of participants, the numbers should be much higher because of Islanders have changed to now include Southeast Asians, South Asians, Tongans, Samoans and native indigenous Hawaiians. Should educational programs like Upward Bound ... be eliminated, such students will be without resources." Nishi, who worked for Upward Bound programs in Hawaii for three years, estimates that about 35 percent of this year's participants at UC Berkeley are APA.
10/13-10/19

INTER-LEAGUE SUMMER BASEBALL TOUR

- 1st, 6 days, incl 2 Broadway + Rockettes Xmas show) ....................

7/19-7/25

WAKANOHANA

sibling rivalry heats up in Japan

BY JIM ARMSTRONG

AP Sports Writer

TOKYO—A feud between sumo siblings is taking on the proportions of a Cold War between Japan's retired grand champions. Wakanohana and Takahana stand on opposite sides at their father's funeral.

Wakanohana, who made an emotional speech at his father's funeral, said, "People want us to get along but I am afraid that's impossible." Wakanohana considered his brother to be his mentor and his first sumo teacher. Wakanohana, who was a quiet and soft-spoken brother, stood by with a stem look on his face.

"I would like him to realize what his public position is," Takahana told reporters. "He has quit sumo circles and it is not a polite thing to do for former sumo elders attending the service."

Wakanohana, who was two years younger than his brother, has considered one of the greatest sumo careers in sumo history, winning 22 championships including at the Bunko Rock. His father, who rose to sumo's second highest rank of nekku, is also ranked sixth on the all-time list.

Ultimately, the short climb proved to be a longterm lesson, for it was one of the few times the 15-year-old golfer from Hawaii ever gave up. "If I get afraid of failure," she says now, "I can't go any higher."

It's hard to gauge how many tow­ers We has reached in golf, although she hasn't been over­whelmed — and she wouldn't look back.

We recently came in second to Annika Sorenstam at the Bunko Rock Golf Club major championship June 12 with a 3-under 69. Her other achievement is putting the Women's Amateur Public Links which she won at the age of 13. Since then she has struggled against women twice her age as achievement; others believe there is no greater experience than a room full of trophies. The only certainty is that her career path is unlike any other, which is why it gets so much scrutiny.

We just finished her sophomore year at Stanford School. Her summer plans include a long list of tour­naments, but only two against ama­teurs — both small-to-medium events in Germany and Austria.

On the course, she can be seen running around the fairway, wearing a dapper white shirt or a sleek black skirt, her hair pulled back in a ponytail. She is a natural leader, with a confident and steady swing.

"I think we as Americans who speak English, they're dumb. You know what, everybody tries to speak English," she said.

GOLF

We are Not Afraid of Failure, Not Worried About Criticism

BY DOUG PERGUSON

AP Golf Writer

Michelle Wie's spindly legs car­ried her along the Great Wall of China. She never bothered to look back to see how much progress she had made, or down to see how high she had fallen. It was a family vaca­tion to Beijing, although she doesn't remember the name of the hotel.

"It was right after I failed to qualify for the U.S. Women's Amateur," Wie said. "So I turned back and just thought I would go for it."

"I don't think I was scared of failure," she says now. "I can't go any higher."

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YOUTH FORUM
MANZANAR: An American Story

BY EMILY TERUYA

Recently attended the world premiere of "Manzanar: An American Story" performed by the Berkeley Symphony. Narration written by playwright Philip Kan Gotanda, a nonagenarian of Japanese-American heritage who was a young internee at Manzanar, told the story of the World War II internment. The music was composed by Naomi Hirahara, a B.F.A. graduate of CalArts. The performance was held at the UC Santa Barbara’s, Lobero Theater. It was a moving and emotional experience.

The performance started with a solemn procession of Japanese-American leaders, including former internees and community leaders, who entered the theater carrying a large banner bearing the name of the camp where their relatives were interned. The audience was captivated by the solemnity of the procession and the solemnity of the music that accompanied it.

The orchestra played a haunting and melancholy theme that evoked the sadness and sorrow of the internees. The music was interspersed with brief spoken interludes by the narrator, who read passages from the internees' personal letters and diaries.

The internees' stories were a testament to their resilience and strength in the face of adversity. They described the harsh conditions of life in the camps, the discrimination they faced, and the pain of being separated from their families.

The performance ended with a moving tribute to the internees and their families. The audience was moved to tears by the words of the narrator, who said, "We must never forget the injustice of the internees' treatment and the lasting impact it had on their lives." The performance was a powerful reminder of the importance of remembering the past and learning from it.

In conclusion, the "Manzanar: An American Story" performance was a moving and inspiring experience. It was a reminder of the importance of remembering the past and learning from it. The performance was a powerful tribute to the internees and their families and a call to action for us all to remember and to fight against injustice.
Michael Kang: Luckily for me,

MK: After college

PC: Where are you from?

MK: I'm from New York.

PC: How did you get started in filmmaking?

MK: I started by making shorts.

PC: What is your favorite film?

MK: My favorite film is "Peeling the Banana.

PC: What is your next project?

MK: I'm working on a script about two parallel characters involved in the same murder. One is a young 2nd generation Korean American man, and the other is a 1.5 generation Korean American gangster. The story deals with the relationship between the 1.5 and 2nd generation. The script gets a lot of influence from those great New York crime films of the '70s like 'Serpico' and 'Dog Day Afternoon.' It's also got a lot of 'Training Day' and 'Infamous' in it.

PC: Tell me about 'The Motel.'

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Q&A
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PACIFIC CITIZEN, June 17-30, 2005

ENTERTAINMENT

9

"I always loved movies," said Michael Kang. "I think the communal experience of sitting in a dark room with a group of people and watching a story unfold together is one of the most powerful things." He compares the movie-going experience to a cavern sitting around a campfire after the big hunt.

"Someone had to get up and start telling a story. I want to be that guy." Kang's feature-length directorial debut in "The Motel" (which he adapted from Ed Lin's book, "Waylaid") is a dark comedy about a teenage boy named Emest (Jeffrey Chyau) growing up in a seedy motel run by his family.

The film has premiered in several film festivals from San Francisco to Sundance and has picked up many awards along the way. Michael Kang: Luckily for me, I never worked with child actors to create one of the most mesmerizing and well-adjusted kids so he pretty much was able to withstand any pain. We went through a lot.

MK: After college I took part in a few different theater companies — one that I founded that crashed and burned. Then 'Peeling,' where I did a lot of solo performances. It was actually with 'Peeling' that I had a revelation about the relationship of my cultural background and the material I wanted to write. I realized I had so much more to say when I committed to including my Asian American-ness in my writing. My first short film "A Waiter Tomorrow" was actually a theater piece with 'Peeling' before it was a film.

PC: So you're a dancer too! Tell me about the Virginia Cole commercial.

MK: Dancer is a very loose term.

PC: Are you tight with other Asian American filmmakers? I mean, are you in a tight group and it is hard not to be tight with them.

MK: There is me sprinkled in all of it. Didn't grow up in a seedy motel but I did have a terrible puberty. I also actually did win Honorable Mention in a national writing competition.

PC: You get the kids in the movie to do some pretty wild things.

MK: Jeffrey Chyau was a really great actor. He is a smart and well-adjusted kid so he pretty much was able to withstand anything I threw at him. The main thing throughout the process was to make sure he trusted me and that we built a real friendship first. The film is a byproduct of that.

MK: I'm a big fan of xanga called mike2cents. I have recently been posting lists of all the Asian American feature filmmakers. I started with Korean Americans and then went on to Japanese Americans and now Chinese Americans. What I realize is that in each group there are barely more than a dozen at best. I also realized I know most of them (pretty much all the East Coast-based ones and a lot of the West). We are a really small group and it is hard not to be tight with them.

PC: Tell me about this festival: Korean gang movie you are working on.

MK: It is a script I have been working on with my writing partner Edmund Lee who used to be a reporter at the Village Voice. The script is really about ambition. It is about two parallel characters involved in the same murder. One is a young 2nd generation Korean American lawyer and the other is a 1.5 generation Korean American gangster. The script deals with the relationship between the 1.5 and 2nd generation. The script gets a lot of influence from those great New York crime films of the '70s like 'Serpico' and 'Dog Day Afternoon.' It's also got a lot of 'Training Day' and 'Infamous' in it.

"THE MOTEL"
Written/Directed by Michael Kang
Starring: Jeffrey Chyau, Sung Kang, Jad6 Wu, Samantha Futerman, Maxie Chung

Set in July 2 - Asian American Int'l Film at Asia Society in New York

October — Pusan Int'l Film Festival

For more information, visit: www.themotel-film.com

SECRET ASIAN MAN By Tak

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INTERVIEW INFO:
Tiger at Entertainment Weekly's Pre-Oscar Party
At Dinner with Kevin and Rebecca

IN INTERVIEW...

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The Tri State Temple in Denver is hosting a Mesh Craft Jewelry demonstration by Fumie Shiozaki, June 18 and 19.

For two doubles and $154 for corner suite, room discounts on June 21: a welcome reception is scheduled for Thursday and a dinner on Saturday. Further details to follow.

CINCINNATI
Sun., Aug. 14—Cincinnati JACL Annual Potluck Dinner; 4 p.m.; Hyde Park Bethel Church, 3799 Hyde Park Ave.

CLEVELAND
Sun., June 19—Cleveland JACL/CFJ Scholarship Luncheon; 12:30 p.m.; Salmans Restaurant.

DENVER
Sun.-Sat., June 19-21—3rd Annual Denver Cherry Blossom Festival; Sat.-Sun., 11 a.m.-7 p.m.; Sat., 7 p.m.; Sunday, 7 p.m.; Sakura Square, Lawrence St.; between 19th and 20th streets. Info: 303/295-1844 or www.denvercherryblossom.com.

SACRAMENTO

WATSONVILLE
Sat., June 18—A Taste of California at the Watsonville Community Center. Info: 831/728-4589 or wccc@wccc.org.

THOUSAND OAKS
Sat., June 25—Aratama Kokoro Kai Annual Obon Festival at the Thousand Oaks High School Performing Arts Center, 2325 Moorpark Rd.; light refreshments will be served; $7 adult, $5 child (3-17), $5 senior (62+). Info: 805/498-5231 or azuma@usa.com or azuma532@yahoo.com.

Arizona-Nevada
Las Vegas JACL
Mon., June 27—Las Vegas JACL 2005 Convention; 7 p.m.; Ramses Room; pre-paying their own club/organization fees. Info: 702/262-4443 or www.bbo-reviews.com.

Reno
Sun. July 10—Roxy JACL Summer Picnic; 11:30-3:30 p.m.; Bowes Mansion Park, North Picnic Pavilion; ticket sales and hot dogs will be provided, please bring your own salad, and desserts. RSVP: Mimi Fujii-Niijima, 775/863-8850 or strick11@dial.colo.rr.com.

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Submit your completed registration form and your $125 registration fee by Friday, July 29, 2005 to:

The National JACL Credit Union
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or call: 800/544-8828 or 801/355-8040

*Participants must be members of JACL, JACL CU or 1/16 Asian and/or spouse.
Mitsuru Hanada, a legendary former okei from one of Japan’s most powerful sumo dynasties, died May 22 at 55, sumo officials said.

Hanada, more commonly known by his title as sababuster Futagoyama, died at a hospital in 0:40 GMT, the Japan Sumo Association announced.

NHK public broadcaster said the cause was a type of oral cancer.

Hanada, during his 16-year career in the ring, came to be known affectionately as the “Prince of Sumo,” rising to the sport’s second-highest rank of okei.

He was also the father of the immensely popular brothers, former yokozuna Takanohana and Wakanohana, who dominated the sport in the 1990s.

Hanada, who also fought under the ring name of Takanohana, rose to sumo’s top makuuchi division at the record age of 18 under the training of his elder brother, Katasui, the first Wakanohana and also a grand champion.

But he was never able to make it to sumo’s top rank of yokozuna despite winning two Emperor’s Cups. He retired in 1984 and later became director of the Japan Sumo Association.

Hanada’s hometowns are in California except as noted.

Hiro, Yasuo, 77, San Diego, May 25; survived by brothers, Harry and Hisako, Richard and Bob (Keiko).

Jimbo, Masaru J, 91, Fountain Valley, June 2; WWII veteran, Army; survived by wife, Shirley, sister-in-law, Grace Jimbo; and brother-in-law, Akira Kudo.

Kagimoto, Nichi, T., 86, Gardena, May 26; survived by wife, Jan; son, David (Rikki); daughters, Joanne (Tom); title; brother-in-law, Lloyd Yandas; Nakanoumi; and sisters-in-law, Evie (Koji) Takajo and Gigi Oda.

Kohayakawa, Akira, Larry, 90, Camarillo, May 27; WWII veteran, Army, M.S.; survived by wife, Yukimi; son, James; 3 gc.; and sisters, Toko (Harry) Otsuka and Yuiko (Sakai) Nakamura.

Kawamura, Miki, 10, May 4; survived by wife, Emie; son, (Robert) John; daughter, Fumi (Shirley) Yamashita; brothers, George and Tom; and sisters, Karen and Reiko.

Kato, Toshihisa “Tosh,” 86, Pasadesta; May 22; survived by wife, Eunice; sons, Douglas and Richard (Shawn); 3 gcs.; 1 gc.; and sisters-in-law, Gloria and Tanei (Sam) Dohara.

Kikuchi, Kazuo, 91, Seal Beach, May 22; survived by wife, Nemat (Jennifer); 3 gc.; sis­­ter, Mary; husband, brother, Haruo Hamada, and sisters, Akiko Hattori and Kiyo (Masachio) Morita.

Higa, Jon, 59, Monterey Park; May 17; Vietnam veteran; survived by wife, Yvonne; brothers, John; and Bobbie; and sisters, Alice Uchiyama, Shigekazu and Haruko Morita.

Hiramatsu, Ruth Sasak, 94, Los Angeles, Apr. 28; survived by wife, Akiko; brother, Ralph Kato; sister, Lorna Otsuka; brother-in-law, Charles Kitamura; and sisters-in-law, Kiyoko Hiramatsu, Freda Hiramatsu, Yoshie Togawa and Kake Kishida.

Honda, Nobus, 80, Los Angeles, May 18; survived by wife, Margaret; June 1, 2005; son, Douglas; mother, Carter (Jean) and Shig (Deanne); 6 gc.; and sisters, Gloria (Tom) Oki and Mary Uchida; sister-in-law, Mary Shimizu; and brothers-in-law, George, Jim, Garry, Dan (Julie) Katoh and Tokyo (Sakura) Kirishima.

Sekine, Mary, 77, Los Angeles, May 23; survived by wife, Emily; children, Susan and John; and brothers, Richard and Michael.

Shomote, Bill, 87, Pasadena, May 31; WWII veteran, Army, M.S.; survived by wife, Shirley; 2 gc.; and sisters, Gloria and Larry (Harry) Kiyoto; and brothers, Robert (Elda) .

Tajiri, Joe, Los Angeles, May 16; survived by wife, Amy; brothers, Richard and Steve; sister, May Inoue; and sisters-in-law, Muran (Ben) Morkin and Yagi (Takahide) Kitahata.

Takagi, Harry O., 85, Tokyo, May 22; WWII veteran, Army, M.S.; survived by wife, Pauline; daughter, Akiko (Yukami) Yamaguchi and Yuri (Masui) Yamaguchi; and brothers, Tom and Kenichi.

Takarai, Kazuo, 88, Beverly Hills, Feb. 18; WWII veteran, Army; survived by wife, Dorothea; son, Tom; and brothers, Kenichi and Takeshi.

Takahara, Theodore, Seal Beach, Feb. 24; WWII veteran, Army, M.S.; survived by wife, Margaret; son, John; and brother, Richard.

Takahashi, Ken, 78, Torrance, March 18; survived by wife, Kazue; son, Shun; and brother, Takashi.

Takayama, Koichi, 70, San Francisco, May 25; survived by wife, Fumiko; children, Karen (William) Varner and Kevin (Cindy) Varner; and grandchildren, Cooper and Ryan.

Takayama, Osamu, 80, Big Bear, May 16; survived by wife, Ellen; her sons, John; and brothers, Robert and Kenichi.
were Americans," she said. "We need to tell these stories "so this never happens again to any group of people.""

Castaneda eventually returned to the same Los Angeles neighbor­hood to live with her grandmother in 1944 when she was 18 years old. The country was still in the midst of World War II and noticeably absent from her neighborhood were the Japanese American children she had grown up with. She would soon learn that her friends and their families had been sent to live in the U.S. internment camps. Although many more people today are familiar with the story of the WWII internment of persons of Japanese ancestry, the story of the Mexican Repatriation of the late 1920s and 1930s is relatively unknown today.

In many respects, the hard­fought battle of the 1980s redress movement was the impetus that brought the JA internment story to the mainstream. With the Mexican American community slowly building up steam to redress the wrongs of their forced repatriation, Mexican Americans are hopeful their story too will soon be brought to the surface.

"The Japanese American experience serves as a model. That we can look at what this group of people were able to do," said Valenciana.

"In some ways I think [the Mexican Repatriation] was worse than the Japanese American internment. It's pretty dark. We were not at war, there was no terror threat, and there were enough jobs," said Francisco Zermeno, a foreign language instructor at Chabot College.

Late last month two California Senate bills authored by Sen. Joseph Dunn, D-Darden Grove, calling for an apology and redress for Mexican Americans who were forcibly deported between 1929 and 1944 passed. The bills are currently waiting to be heard in the State Assembly.

Senate Bill 670 calls for an official apology to Mexican Americans for the forced deportation and the placement of a plaque in a public place to recognize the deportees. It passed by a vote of 27 to 5. SB 645 seeks to form a commission to look into setting up a fund to provide monetary redress for those who were forcibly deported. SB 645 passed by a vote of 24 to 9.

"The people who were through this are asking for this," said Dr. Francisco Balderrama, co-author of the book "Decade of Betrayal" which first inspired Dunn to pursue redress legislation for Mexican Americans.

"What they want is for the government to issue an apology and that this be recognized in the history textbooks," said Balderrama. "By educating people, hopefully Mexican Americans will never come about again for any group of people."

But unlike the historic 1988 Civil Liberties Bill that provided monetary redress of $20,000 to JA individuals affected by the WWII internment, separate legislation would be required to put money into the account for Mexican Americans. In addition, legislation for JAs took place on the federal level and currently only the state of California is looking at redress for this.

I do believe philosophically that any group victimized by injustice should have a right to seek redress for those wrongs, but it's a matter of political pragmatics and the social climate that will have much to do with how successful they might be," added Tantis. During the 1910s many Mexicans escaping the Mexican Revolution moved north to the United States. They settled into their new homes and began rebuilding their lives; many of their children were born U.S. citizens and spoke little Spanish.

But with the onslaught of the Great Depression, the Hoover administration directed the Immigration and Naturalization Service to institute a forced deportation to Mexico of all Mexican Americans. In total close to two million persons, including 400,000 Californians, were forced out. The majority, about 60 percent, were U.S. citizens. Although the Roosevelt administration cut off funding of the program, many states continued the practice.

The current California legislation will be Dunn's third attempt to win both an apology and redress for Mexican Americans. In 2003, a similar bill was vetoed by former Gov. Gray Davis and a subsequent bill was vetoed by current Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger.

This time around, with the bipartisan success of the separate bills SB 670 and SB 645 in the State Senate, many hopeful Mexican Americans will finally receive their long-awaited apology and redress.

"An apology is in order. You need to tell these folks that it was a mistake... ensuring that this doesn't happen again," said Zermeno. "In most instances the money is not enough to pay back what they went through.

"There was a lot of pain and agony. People endured starvation, deaths of their family members," said Balderrama. "No amount of money can pay for the costs of what they went through as individuals.

For Valenciana, righting the wrongs committed against her mother is only part of her mission. For her, ensuring that all of those affected by the Mexican Repatriation receive an apology and some form of redress is her goal.

"I know what happened to these people wasn't right. Their constitutional rights were denied," said Valenciana.

Two years ago Castaneda told her story of forced deportation at a Senate commission hearing. This year will mark 70 years of waiting for an apology and she's hopeful the U.S. government will come around and take responsibility.

"[My mother's] happy about it and thinks it's about time... She wants people to know about what happened."

\[Continued from page 1\]