

MID-YEAR CAMPAIGN

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TAIKO CRAZE

Taiko art form continues to increase in popularity.

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SIZZLE OR FIZZLE?

P.C.'s guide to Michael Bay-alternative films for the summer.

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Hiroshima to perform at the Long Beach Jazz Festival.

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Since 1929

PACIFIC CITIZEN

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Aug. 5-18, 2005

Musical Prodigy Hits All the Right Notes

Marc Yu can capture the beauty of classical music like a pro even before he turns 7.

By LYNDALIN
Assistant Editor

MONTEREY PARK—Six-year-old Marc Yu is like any other child his age. He likes to kick soccer balls, swat ping-pong balls and demolish opponents in a mean game of Hang Man.

But with cello in hand, Marc is transformed. Eyes softly shut, his fingers dance fluidly across the strings and floods the room with music by Johann Sebastian Bach and Vivaldi. His repertoire also includes piano concertos. He conjures Bach and Mozart with ease, but needs a special extender for his little legs to reach the pedals. One of his goals, he said, is "to grow" his hands to reach the piano's octave.

Marc is a musical prodigy.

For a recent performance in a Monterey Park, Calif. elementary school auditorium, Marc arrived through the back door dressed in a tiny elegant tuxedo complete with tails. Pre performance, he bounded across the room packed to capacity with an excited, mostly Asian American audience. On his hands, he wore teal gloves. On his



MUSIC GIANT: Marc Yu started playing at 3 years and 10 months. He was memorizing concertos at 4. See Marc on the 'Jay Leno Show' Aug. 9.

feet, red socks.

"Marc is a very adorable boy and he is so cute that I wouldn't think of him as a prodigy when I play with him," said Pamela Lam, his first piano teacher.

Marc is also a consummate performer. Every note and musical crescendo is accompanied with the perfect emotional facial expression. His mom, Chloe, said he studies the expressions of his favorite musical idols — Yo-Yo Ma and Lang Lang — from his vast collection of concert DVDs.

He practices up to six hours a day or until Chloe stops him for a walk in the park or swimming lessons. He also has a publicist and his own Web site.

"He's just a normal six-year-old boy playing sports, playing in dirt," she said, adding, "He loves the stage. He loves performing."

For now, the world is Marc's stage. He's been the focus of several newspaper articles and television shows, including an upcoming spot on

"The Jay Leno Show" Aug. 9, where he will play one minute of piano and 30 seconds of cello. He's also received the green light to crack a few jokes. He's been testing one of his favorites at a few of his performances.

"What do you use to clean a tuba? Tub-a toothpaste," he says and then pauses for laughter.

But it's not always fun and games. A lot of responsibilities come with nurturing a prodigy

See **PRODIGY**/Page 5

MDC/EDC BI-DISTRICT

A Delicate Balance



Youth speaker Vanessa DeGuia (back row, second from left), poses with JACL youth members during the recent Chicago MDC/EDC Bi-district.

As JACL's stalwart Nisei membership decreases, many say a stronger voice for the youth is the solution.

By CAROLINE AOYAGI
Executive Editor

CHICAGO—For Filipino American Vanessa DeGuia, 25, gaining a greater voice for Asian Pacific American youth in the community is all about power — and it's there for the taking.

"We need to give youth more power ... to gain a greater voice," said DeGuia, who led a youth workshop on community organizing during the Midwest and Eastern Bi-

District Conference July 21-24. "And it has to be the youth that step up."

As a world studies teacher and active youth speaker, DeGuia knows all too well the often delicate balance of power between the different generations in the APA community — especially when it comes to determining who has possession of that power, often ending in an elders vs. youth dilemma.

It's the same ongoing discussion JACL members have had for years now: membership numbers continue to decline as aging Nisei pass on but why can't the JACL attract more youth members to help increase

See **YOUTH**/Page 5

Afghanistan's Soybean Solution

Using his own money and time, Nutritionist Steven Kwon brings soybean production to aid the people of Afghanistan.

By CAROLINE AOYAGI
Executive Editor

Steven Kwon may be thousands of miles away from Afghanistan but from his home in Pasadena,

California he is helping save the lives of Afghan women and children throughout this impoverished nation.

A nutritionist by training, Kwon works full time as a senior nutrition scientist for Nestle USA. But during



Nutritionist Dr. Steven Kwon with an Afghan farmer in Bagramy, Kabul Province during a recent visit.

COMMENTARY Clifford Uyeda — The Unsung Hero of Redress

By JOHN TATEISHI
JACL Executive Director

Clifford Uyeda was a remarkable person and one of the most unrecognized heroes in the fight for redress. Fearless, principled, full of integrity, fully committed to the Japanese American community, he was the perfect figure to



See **REDRESS**/Page 2

his off days and practically any spare moment he has, Kwon works to provide nutrition and health solutions to the people of Afghanistan through his non-profit organization, NEI — Nutrition & Education International. So far Kwon has used up most of his vacation time in visits to Afghanistan and has spent thousands of dollars of his own money to fund NEI.

"It is definitely a challenge to balance my full-time job and my volunteer efforts with NEI," said Kwon who contacted the *Pacific Citizen* while on a recent trip to Afghanistan. "Many volunteers are full-time workers as well. One of the key reasons why NEI has

See **AFGHANISTAN**/Page 12

APA Community Denounces Hiring of 'Tsunami Song' Creator to SF Radio Station

'My job is to put stuff out there and see what gets a reaction. Hopefully, people will get a kick out of it.'

Rick Delgado in the *San Jose Mercury News*

The radio producer has landed in a firestorm of protest since coming to a city with over 33 percent Asians. Many ask, is 'edgy' radio becoming hateful for ratings?

By LYNDALIN
Assistant Editor

Producer Rick Delgado's radio broadcast career has been filled with controversy. He was fired from New York's MIX 102.7 (WNEW-FM) in 2002 for his role in the radio station's sex in a church stunt. He was also fired from HOT 97 (WQHT-FM) earlier this year for masterminding the tsunami parody song filled with anti-Asian slurs. Now Delgado has landed another controversial job as the new producer at WILD 94.9 (KYLD-FM) in San Francisco, a diverse city with a

large Asian Pacific American population.

Despite expressed outrage from APA groups over his new gig on the "Strawberry in the Morning" show, Delgado told a Bay Area newspaper that he would not change his ways.

"My job is to put stuff out there and see what gets a reaction. Hopefully, people will get a kick out of it," Delgado told the *San Jose Mercury News*.

Some former co-workers who call Delgado "Over the Top Rick" are also confident the producer will inevitably be back to his old tricks of offending people.

"He's in your town now," said XM Satellite Radio Personalities Greg "Opie" Hughes and Anthony Cumia in a July 14 broadcast of their "Opie and Anthony Show." Both Hughes and Cumia were fired along with Delgado from MIX

See **RADIO**/Page 12

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REDRESS

(Continued from page 1)

become the JACL national president
at a time when the JACL's redress
effort needed a perfect leader.

He had led the fight for the exon-
eration of Iva Toguri, wrongly
accused of being the infamous
"Tokyo Rose," and the campaign
against the Sierra Club's boycott of
JA merchants in J-town as retaliation
against Japan's refusal to join the
moratorium on the killing of whales.
Clifford was the lone JA who sat
with the tribal councils of the Navajo
and Hopi Nations in their fight
against the U.S. government's plans
to relocate them. He was extraordi-
narily passionate about the injustices
of all these issues and he was also
passionate about redress.

Although a critic of the JACL, he
was recruited to run for the JACL
national presidency for one reason:
to lead the fight for redress. I was
asked to run Clifford's campaign
against a formidable candidate from
the Central Valley: Judge Mikio
Uchiyama. Most people would not
have given Clifford a snowball's
chance of winning against someone
as revered and respected as Mikio,
but I had worked with Cliff and
knew that his quiet dignity made him
an equally impressive candidate.
People would come to realize that he
had both the commitment and
courage to take us down the path to
redress.

At the time he agreed to be a can-
didate for the national presidency,
Clifford was the chair of the

National Redress Committee, a posi-
tion he accepted when Edison Uno
unexpectedly died while undergoing
heart surgery in December 1976.
I've always felt Cliff accepted the
position as much out of respect and
admiration for Edison's remarkable
achievements as a civil rights activist
as it was his own personal commit-
ment to redress. Looking back on it
now, I don't know if anyone else
could have stepped in to such a big
void and not fallen through.

As the 1978 Salt Lake City con-
vention approached, I often talked to
Clifford about strategies both for his
presidency and for redress, for the
two went hand-in-hand. Shortly
before the convention, he told me he
wanted me to accept the chairman-
ship of the national redress commit-
tee if he won the election and asked
what my goals would be. I told him
I wanted to accomplish two things:
First, to take our fight to the public
arena because we needed to con-
vince the American public. Convince
the public first, I told him, and we
can convince the Congress. We would
use and exploit the media just as they
would try to use us. Second, to focus
on legislation, and if we were lucky,
maybe get something introduced in
the Congress.

I had already pushed Clifford to
develop the Salt Lake City Guide-
lines, and so I felt legislation would
complete his presidency: I wanted
him to have the honor and satisfac-
tion of a redress bill in the Congress
while he was the JACL's national
president.

To everyone's surprise, Clifford

won the election. His victory was
spectacular, not for the way he won,
but simply for the fact that he won
against such a strong opponent. He
and I met privately to talk about his
presidency and about redress. He
told me that we were pursuing an
impossible dream but he was asking
me to lead this campaign. "You will
no doubt pay a terrible price," he
said, and there would be awful con-
troversies. But no matter what, he
said, he would always stand behind
me and support any decision I made.
It was an act of friendship and faith
such as I'd never experienced before
or since. And true to his word,
Clifford was the one person who
stood beside me when things turned
ugly.

During his two-year presidency,
we accomplished incredible things.
We launched the campaign from the
Little America Hotel in Salt Lake
City and made the internment of JAs
and our demands for redress a

national issue. We took the issue to
the national media and had heated
debates in the editorial pages of
major newspapers and aired the
story of the internment on the three
network news programs. We made
the very controversial and very
unpopular decision to opt for a bill to
seek the creation of a federal com-
mission to investigate the circum-
stances of the internment, and so
much more.

On the day before his term as
JACL national president expired, I
stood with Clifford in the White
House as President Jimmy Carter
signed the commission bill and
shook Clifford's hand. Two humble
men, two great humanitarians.

In my mind, Clifford was a great
leader and a true hero of the cam-
paign. He was a tireless and fearless
leader who gave dignity and stature
to a campaign that to this day is con-
sidered one of the most remarkable
campaigns in this nation's history. ■

COMMENTARY

JACL Membership: Remember the Weeds

By EDWIN ENDOW
Nat'l V.P. of Membership

Picture this in your mind for a
moment. You are on the sidewalk
looking at a house. The house is
immaculate. It isn't a man-
sion, just a regu-
lar house. But
look at what's
around it. The
landscaping:
the lawn,
bushes, trees,



and the colorful flowers of all vari-
eties. There isn't a weed to be seen.
Everything has obviously been
watered, fed, trimmed and mani-
cured. That's what makes the scene
so impressive. You know there are
people tending to it daily with ten-
der loving care, keeping it beautiful.

Now imagine this. What if you
returned to the house in six months
to find a different scene? The people
taking care of the house had fallen
sick and could no longer take care of
it. The automatic watering system
was still working, so that stuff still
looked green. BUT, THE WEEDS!
They were everywhere. They were
all over the lawn, choking the
flowerbeds. Some of them were so
big they looked like small trees. The
weeds were even cracking through
the cement and the asphalt.

You are probably asking yourself,
what has this got to do with JACL
and membership? There is a parallel
here: *the weeds*. The weeds we face

are the injustice, prejudice, and
ignorance that JACL has been fight-
ing through education and its pro-
grams. The JACL has been digging
out and hoeing the weeds of injus-
tice, prejudice, and ignorance for
over 75 years. It has been a constant
battle because you know how weeds
grow. We have also cut, pruned and
planted the good things (trees, lawn,
flowers) with education programs,
scholarships for the future, and cul-
tural and community activities to
make where we live a better place.

Now that we've done all this for
75 years, can we just stop, look,
enjoy the fruits of our labor and say
our work is done? *Remember the
weeds!* Weeds will always come
back and grow, no matter what. If
you stop digging them out, they will
come back. It is the same with injus-
tice, ignorance, and prejudice.

This is why I believe in the JACL.
We need to be vigilant in the present
and in the future. We can't rest on
our successes of the past. That is
why I am asking each of you, the
roots of our organization, to please
take the step of getting a new mem-
ber for JACL.

This quarter, we are asking you to
consider gifting or asking a family
member to join ... a son, daughter,
brother, sister, cousin, any relative,
or a close friend you think of as
family.

If they ask you, why?, *remember
the weeds!* Tell them why their
membership is so important for us
now and in the future and not just
the past.

Thank you for your sustaining
membership and for your efforts to
get new members. ■

Letters to the Editor

HR 2616

Your excellent article about
underprivileged Asian American
students explained the issue very
well ("Rep. Wu Introduces
Legislation To Support AAPI stu-
dents"). However, it failed to men-
tion that his bill is HR 2616 and that
it is currently referred to the House
Committee on Education and the
Workforce.

Your readers who wish to contact
their Congressmen in support
should refer to HR 2616, a bill to
amend the Higher Education Act of
1965 to authorize grants to institu-
tions of higher education serving
Asian American and Pacific
Islanders.

Larry Scheetman
Chicago JACL

JACL MID-YEAR CAMPAIGN

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those who take the time to send us
their comments.

MDC/EDC BI-DISTRICT

Creating a Pathway to Political Participation

Circuit Court Judge Sandra Otaka uses her own experiences to encourage AAs to become more politically active.

By CAROLINE AOYAGI
Executive Editor

CHICAGO—For years, Chicago native Sandra Otaka worked as a waitress — some of which she spent working on the Amtrak railways crisscrossing the country — just happy to be making a good living with no career ambitions.

Today, she is Judge Otaka who sits on the Cook County Circuit Court in the state of Illinois. She also has the distinct honor of being the first Asian American ever elected to this esteemed position.

Otaka's path from hard-working waitress to honored judge is filled with enlightened anecdotes, lucky happenstances, and admitted failures. And she wants members of the Asian American community to not only learn from her life experiences but to demand a place in the American political arena.

"If we don't get active in politics we're never going to get elected," said Otaka, who lead a political empowerment workshop at the JACL Midwest and Eastern Bi-District Conference July 21-24. "We need people to think, look, and care about us. If we don't, who do we have to blame when a law gets passed and we're not included?"

Otaka, a Sansei, was elected to the Cook County Circuit Court in 2002 after leading an energetic campaign that mobilized the local Asian American community, a group that currently makes up four percent of this city's population but has largely been silent on the political scene. Her supporters not only included local Japanese, Chinese, Korean, and Filipinos but also the Southeast Asian community including Indians and Pakistanis.

"She really energized the Asian American community here. She played a great role in solidifying her base," said Bill Yoshino, JACL Midwest regional director, who helped work on the judge's campaign. He noted Otaka's skill in establishing political contacts and



(Pictured l-r): MDC Regional Director Bill Yoshino, Judge Sandra Otaka, and Ken Inouye, JACL national president.

her skills at fundraising, bringing in almost \$90,000 during her 2002 campaign.

Otaka's early scholarly accomplishments are impressive: a graduate of UC Berkeley with a GPA of 3.979 and a straight A student at the UCLA School of Law. But she is humble about her achievements.

"I've never been particularly gifted ... it came from hard work," said Otaka, who noted that her mother, a Nisei who had been interned at Minidoka during World War II, always emphasized the importance of working hard to achieve your goals. "I got into UCLA because of affirmative action."

Even after graduating from UCLA Otaka admits she never had

an interest in political life and the idea of pursuing a judgeship had never crossed her mind. But one thing she learned quickly was the power of the community.

Otaka had been working as a volunteer for Judge Marilyn Patel during the historic Fred Korematsu *coram nobis* case, and recalls vividly the day Judge Patel ruled in favor of Korematsu who had been vilified by the U.S. government for his decision to fight the WWII evacuation orders.

"When Judge Patel read her opinion vacating [Korematsu's] case, everyone was crying in the courtroom, including me," she said, recalling how the courtroom had been packed with Japanese

Americans who had supported the case and were anxiously awaiting the judge's ruling.

It was shortly after Korematsu's court ruling that Otaka slowly became involved in political issues, but largely from the outer edges. She worked on several different campaigns, always for people she "truly believed in," including current Cook County Clerk David Orr.

She was also selected to lead various Asian American advisory commissions including one for former Sen. Paul Simon. It was during her work for Simon that she helped to get a bill for minority student scholarships amended. Although the bill was written to support minority communities, it only included African American and Hispanic students. Nowhere in the bill did it mention AAs.

"No one thought to include us. Why? Because we weren't at the table," said Otaka. "Those things made it clear to me, we were not included. We are not included because we are not there, we are not aware, and we are not monitoring. It was our fault as a community."

She also discovered that there had never been any AA judges appointed in the state of Illinois even though the state was home to the fourth largest Asian Pacific American population in the country during the late 1980s.

See OTAKA/Page 4

NCI Program Helps JA Youth Get Involved in the Community



By YUMI SAKUGAWA
Special to the Pacific Citizen

For many college students, summer means getting a part-time job in an air-conditioned mall or taking summer school classes at a community college.

For Conrad Ohashi, a Shin Nisei and a fourth year history major at UC San Diego, summer means interning at the Little Tokyo Service Center, a non-profit organization that offers community and social services within Los Angeles' Little Tokyo. He is currently helping conduct a housing survey that will determine the future population of Little Tokyo in light of new housing developments that will create luxury condos within the area.

Ohashi is one of the 12 interns selected to participate in the Nikkei Community Internship (NCI) program, in which college-aged stu-

dents who show an interest in the Japanese American culture or non-profit community work are paired up with a community organization within Little Tokyo or San Francisco's Japantown.

Their job descriptions, depending upon where the intern is placed, can be anything from working with middle-school kids at a Japanese culture day camp, writing news articles for the *Nichibei Times* or doing behind-the-scenes work at the Japanese American National Museum.

The NCI program, which is now in its fourth year, was created in response to a statewide conference in April 2001 called Spectrum, which was run by and for JA youths. One of the main points addressed within the conference was the pressing need for the Nikkei youth to become more active participants in shaping the future of the communi-

ty. In response, the California Japanese American Community Leadership Council (CJALC) funded a statewide summer internship program in 2002.

Amy Miyako Phillips, who has been the internship coordinator for the Southern California aspect of NCI since it began in 2002, said the main goal of the NCI program is to give the youth an opportunity to directly participate within the community.

"Young people want to be involved in the Nikkei community," Phillips said. "I think that a lot of community leaders assume that young people don't care because they don't see young people showing up at the community events. But these students are already putting on big events at their respective colleges all by themselves; they're

See NCI/Page 4

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Taiko Continues Phenomenal Growth in North America

By AMY E. IKEDA
Special to the Pacific Citizen

With over 200 taiko performing groups in North America and Hawaii, the art of taiko drumming seems to be all the rage these days. While the rhythmic art of taiko has grown phenomenally among young Japanese Americans, it has also exploded in the American mainstream. Today people of all different backgrounds are involved with the Japanese originated folk art.

Many Yonsei and Gosei, some who do not speak Japanese, are choosing taiko over western instruments like piano as a way to reconnect with their cultural roots.

"I do not think about Japanese culture every single time I hit a drum, but it is a large part of why I hold it so close to me," said Kelsey Furuta, a player with the group Tsunami Taiko in Seattle. "Being able to play taiko connects me with my family, my ancestors and the Japanese community at large."

And it's not just JAs these days that are involved with the art form. With the rising popularity of Japanese culture, taiko has expanded over the last decade, attracting people of all backgrounds to the art.

"Being basically a White Anglo-Saxon Protestant American myself, the only doubts about my place in the JA taiko community I have ever encountered have been in my own head," said Joel Mankey, who has been playing taiko for four years with Cal State Northridge's group Jishin Taiko. "One need only go to the taiko conference to see this acceptance and nursing of diversity shown in full view."

Over 100 groups from across the



country recently attended the 2005 North American Taiko Conference. The conference has been held every other year since 1997 at the Japanese American Cultural and Community Center in Los Angeles' Little Tokyo.

Japanese drummer Daihachi Oguchi is credited with inventing kumidaiko, the group-drumming genre most performed in America. The origins of JA taiko can be traced back to Japanese immigrant Seiichi Tanaka who started the group San Francisco Taiko Dojo in 1968. Kinnara Taiko and San Jose Taiko would eventually emerge as the next groups in North America.

Wendy Jedlicka, of Czech heritage, was inspired to play taiko from witnessing her best friend's mother studying taiko.

"Here in the Midwest there aren't enough people of Japanese heritage to complete a whole ensemble," said Jedlicka, who has been playing taiko for eight years with Mu Community Taiko. "I appreciate the purity aspect. But I also really love taiko. So I'd be pretty bummed if I was excluded because I'm Czech."

In the JA taiko community there seems to be mixed reactions to the recent mainstream growth of the art. Some feel taiko going mainstream

will alter the essence of a grassroots cultural art.

"I myself am very against anything mainstream," said Joanna Murakami of Cal State Northridge's group Jishin Taiko. "When something becomes mainstream, the uniqueness and purity of it becomes washed out. Things get altered to satisfy the masses."

Roy Hirabayashi, co-founder of San Jose Taiko, expressed concern about the emerging media images of taiko believing taiko has historically been part of the heart, soul and spirit of the Japanese people. He commented that the recent Mitsubishi car commercials with beautiful Asian women playing taiko portrays sexist stereotypes.

Although concerned with the direction of taiko as the art form continues to evolve, many are open to the growth with players of different backgrounds.

"I am sometimes torn," said Marcy Hiratzka. "Sometimes I think it's just a fad that people want to get into to feel more Japanese. But then I remember that we are here to learn about the same art and play with passion for the same reason. I remember that race shouldn't be something that hinders our growth as a taiko community." ■

having JA youth realize that even though we're not a big immigrant community anymore, there's still a need for community and an importance in preserving our cultural ties," she said.

Perhaps one of the biggest accomplishments of the NCI program are the relationships both within the community and with the other interns that are sustained long after the eight-week internship is over. An NCI alumni network is undergoing development to ensure that NCI interns remain connected to each other.

Past NCI alumni have gone on to become more seriously involved with their campus JA organizations or choose to pursue work within the community organizations they were exposed to. Just this past June, several NCI alums took a major role in coordinating the youth track of the California Conference on the Internment of Japanese Americans in San Francisco's Japantown.

For Ohashi, the program has

given him the valuable opportunity to experience firsthand the tremendous work that takes place within these nonprofit organizations, which inspires him to continue staying involved.

"These past four weeks, I've grown really attached to community because there are a whole bunch of people who are working really hard to protect so much of what isn't going to be there in ten years unless someone steps up," Ohashi said. "As a Shin Nisei, I think I'd like to be someone who steps up and proves to the JA community that you don't have to have parents or relatives who've gone through internment to care as much about the JA identity and the culture and the heritage involved in it." ■

The Nikkei Community Internship program takes place every summer. For more information on the internship and its respective organizations, visit www.nikkeiyouth.org.

OTAKA

(Continued from page 1)

"I was shocked. I just said this is not right and I decided I was going to change that," said Otake. "Of course I did not know what I was doing... I knew nothing. But sometimes knowing nothing is an advantage because you don't know the boundaries."

Otake knocked on every door and formed various coalitions throughout the county. In the end, she played a pivotal role in the 1991 election of Lynn Kawamoto, the first Asian American associate judge in the Circuit Court of Cook County.

Close to 10 years later it would be Otake's turn to make history on the bench becoming the first AA judge to sit on the Cook County Circuit

Court.

"I had no thought of being a judge. I've never been political in my life," she said.

In the end it was the years she had spent working on other people's campaigns and helping those in positions of power outreach to the AA community that proved beneficial in her own campaign.

"In the political world, access to power, to information, and timing are critical," she said. "I had the support of most of the political power in the district."

Since Otake's rise in the political world, few AAs have stepped up to follow in her footsteps, but slowly she is seeing some progress.

"We have a long way to go," she said. "But if I can do it, anyone can." ■

JACL Announces Selection of S. Floyd Mori As Washington Rep.

S. Floyd Mori, past JACL national president, has been selected as the JACL's director of public policy in the Washington, D.C. office.

"When you compare Floyd's credentials with anyone, regardless of who that person might be, it's difficult to find anyone more qualified for the Washington Rep's job than he," said John Tateishi, JACL executive director.

Mori will establish a strong JACL presence on Capitol Hill, he added.

Mori began his political career in 1972 when he was elected to the Pleasanton City Council while teaching economics at Chabot

College in Hayward, Calif.

While on the council he was elected mayor of Pleasanton, and was elected to the California Assembly in 1975, one of only two Asian Americans serving in the state legislature at the time.

After six years in the assembly and one year as the director for the Office of International Trade for the state of California, he returned to his native town of Sandy, a suburb in Utah, where he established an international business consulting firm.

Mori served four years as the JACL national vice president for general operations before being elected national president, a position he held for two terms.

Mori, who moved with his wife Irene to D.C., officially began his duties in the Washington office Aug. 1. ■



ACLU's Ramona Ripston to Speak at Tri-District Conference

Ramona Ripston, executive director of the ACLU of Southern California, will be the opening speaker for the biennial Tri-District Conference Sept. 9-11 in Irvine, Calif.

Ripston has been the executive director of the ACLU of Southern California and the ACLU Foundation of Southern California since 1972. The Southern California affiliate of the ACLU is one of the largest in the nation with over 35,000 members.

She is the first woman to hold this position in a major affiliate and she recently served a six-year term on the California Commission on

Judicial Performance.

"Ramona Ripston is one of the most respected advocates for civil liberties in the country," said JACL



National President Ken Inouye. "JACL is very proud and honored to have her speak at our Tri-District Conference."

Ripston is a perfect fit for the conference with a theme of "Effecting Change."

Registration will be accepted until Aug. 19. For a registration form or more information, contact the JACL PSWD office at 213/626-4471 or psw@jacl.org. You can also visit the conference website at: www.jaclpsw.org/tridistrict2005.htm. ■

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PRODIGY

(Continued from page 1)

and for a single mom like Chloe, 32, that means a lot of sacrifices.

"Money is needed for music lessons, art supplies, special summer programs, private schools etcetera," said Ellen Winner, professor of psychology at Boston College. She also points out that if a child were truly a prodigy, scholarship funds would be plentiful.

Marc has won his share of awards including being the youngest ever Davidson Fellow with a cash prize of \$10,000. But even with his award-winning raw talent, Chloe is feeling the pinch in the pocketbook.

"I don't have much time to myself, especially now that he graduated from kindergarten. I'm struggling," she said, adding, "He's very intimidating. He asks me a lot of musical questions and other questions too."

Marc's latest query was about American history, specifically World War II. He asked how many people died and what happened at Pearl Harbor. He comes up with these questions not through TV or radio (he doesn't partake in either), but from the many mommy-and-me field trips to the library and museums.

In order to quench his never ending thirst for knowledge, Chloe wakes up at 4 a.m. daily to prepare his musical lessons and research questions he asked the day before. This fall, Chloe plans to start home schooling him. Marc reads at a fifth grade level and his math skills are at a sixth grade level. He has also written ten of his own musical compositions.

Chloe does not work and relies on child support checks to survive. They want to start a non-profit organization to help fund Marc's



Chloe and Marc Yu.

musical education.

And more help is coming soon. Some family friends are moving into their back house to help baby-sit, but not all have been supportive. Marc's father and some family members have criticized Chloe for not allowing Marc to have more "normal" pastimes, namely video games and TV.

"A lot of people think he's good because he practices so much, but what people don't know is that he's going out and taking breaks," she said.

But the long term risks and concerns are high when it comes to child prodigies, said Winner, because not many make a successful transition to adulthood.

What is a prodigy to do when all the attention and applause stop?

"Many [prodigies] also have difficult stressful lives, and feel like failures when they do not make the transition from prodigy to adult creator," said Winner, adding that parents should be careful not to live vicariously through the child.

Chloe was an aspiring musician herself, but her parents weren't supportive of her musical dreams. Growing up in Macau, she had to save her own money to buy an electronic keyboard and take lessons. She played Marc a lot of Beethoven while he was still nestled in her womb.

YOUTH

(Continued from page 1)

those numbers?

Some of the answers to JACL's difficulties in establishing a strong youth base may be ingrained in an APA "culture clash," said DeGuia. APA youth are taught to respect their elders but often deny their own voices at the same time, she said. In JACL's case, as elders continue to hold a majority of the leadership positions, the relatively small youth presence is still largely in the background.

"We need to try to negotiate the power within the group," she said, emphasizing the need to focus on specific issues of importance for youth and creating a structured action plan. "The conversation needs to be had ... it's not a power

Chloe's concerns as a mother are natural — she wants to support Marc's dreams. He wants to play with the Los Angeles and New York Philharmonic. He wants to become a composer and a conductor.

It's a dream that may not be far off with the L.A. Philharmonic expressing interest in Marc.

Ed Yim, LA Philharmonic director of artistic planning, said engaging Marc in the philharmonics will happen organically, but they need to make sure Marc is ready.

"We need to get to know him and his musicianship and his maturity level," he said. "It's all about protecting the artist."

But for now, Chloe said Marc is not ready. He's given his last performance and will take some time off to learn a new repertoire.

"He's flattered that they call him prodigy. But he's told me that he would rather people remember him by his real name, Marc Yu," she said.

control situation."

The concern with the continued lack of youth members in JACL was voiced during the Midwest District Council meeting. MDC Governor Sharon Ishii-Jordan took a poll of delegates who had active youth groups in their JACL chapters. Only two groups answered yes: Chicago and New Mexico.

"We have a lot of work to do in the district," said Ishii-Jordan. "We need to build up our youth."

Chicago Chapter President Megan Nakano, 30, has been active in helping build the Chicago chapter's youth base and noted that they have been seeing some recent success. She emphasized the need for JACL members to give the youth a reason to join.

"There's got to be a value proposition ... something in it for them," she said. "You have to give to get."

"There's so many youth in Chicago we're lucky," said Brandon Mita, 21, who has been helping the Chicago chapter's work in attracting more youth members. We need to "get people interested. Get people thinking."

And what attracts young people today are issues and concerns that directly impact them. DeGuia noted their needs to be recognition that the issues affecting APA youth today are vastly different from the youth who grew up in the 1940s or 1960s. For older members of the JA community, issues surrounding the World War II internment are prominent. Although the internment is important for JA youth today they are also dealing with new and different identity issues.

So what can JACL do to encourage the youth to take an active interest and stay interested? For John Tateishi, executive director, the answer is simplistic: JACL's mis-

sion.

"JACL has a notable mission: We help take care of people," said Tateishi, who helped lead a membership workshop during the Bi-district. "We make sure everyone has a chance. As an organization we can do an incredible amount of good."

"We're off to a great start," added Tateishi, who noted that almost two full tables were filled with youth during the conference's banquet dinner. With the help of JACL staff members, he plans to soon launch a youth leadership program which will bring the organization to various college campuses across the country.

Ken Inouye, JACL president, echoed Tateishi's sentiments. "The youth deserve the time in the sun and we need to help them," he said. "Young people today are just as committed to social justice. Young people want to be engaged. The JACL will continue to attract the younger generation that wants to make a difference."

To stop the downward trend in membership, Ed Endow, JACL vice president of membership, knows all too well the importance of encouraging the next generation to continue an interest in the organization.

"JACL can't rest on its laurels," he said. "It is our time to be stepping up."

As DeGuia led her youth workshop, she was impressed with the intergenerational interaction of the participants. "There's a bright future for APA youth," said DeGuia. "JACL is necessary ... it's important to claim our space."

But she also noted JACL needs to continue reaching out to youth and encouraging full participation in the organization. "There's always room for improvement; room for rebuilding." ■

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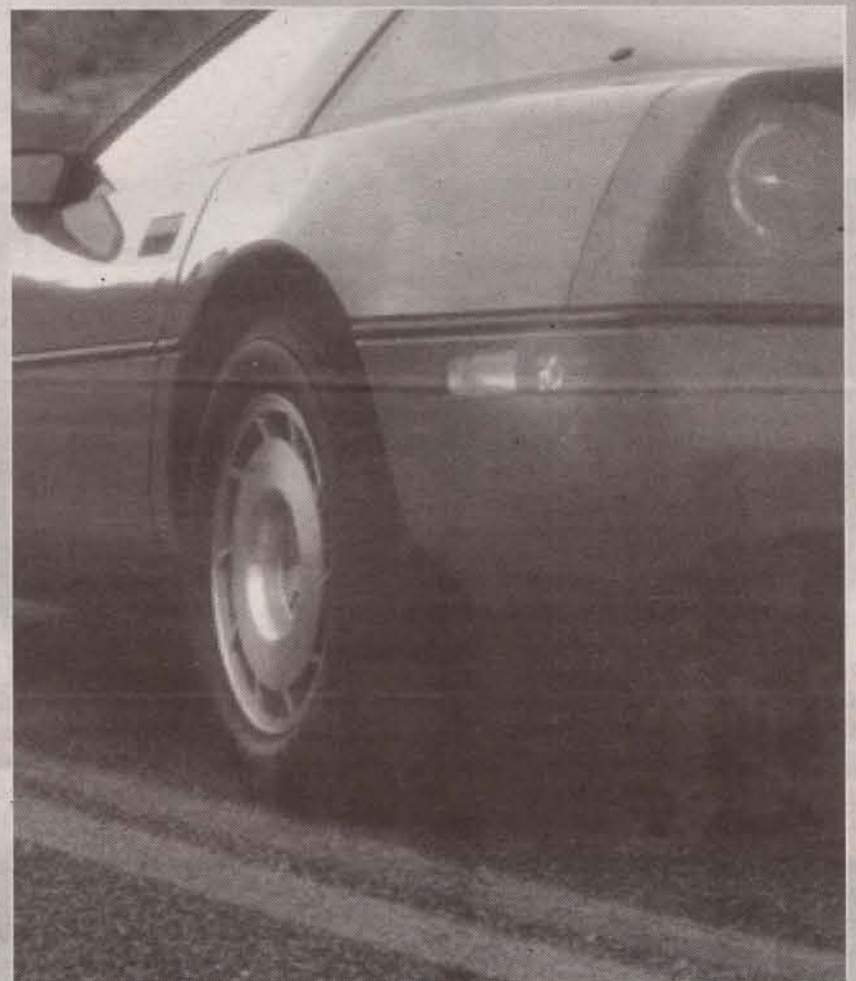
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2005 MDC/EDC Bi-District Conference



National JACL board members Larry Oda (far left), Carol Kawamoto (second from left), and Edwin Endow (fourth from left) help welcome Bi-district attendees.



Attendees at the Chicago MDC/EDC Bi-district enjoy the event's gala dinner.



MDC Youth Representative Leilani Savitt gives her youth report during the Midwest Council meeting.

Thank you Chicago



Megan Nakano, Chicago chapter president, takes part in the youth workshop on community organizing during the recent MDC/EDC Bi-district conference.



(Left-right): Laura Paige, Silvana Watanabe, Reiko Yoshino, David Kawamoto, and Carol Kawamoto enjoy the Chicago Bi-district's gala dinner at the Radisson.



Lary Schectman, longtime member of the Chicago JACL chapter, was presented with a sapphire pin by JACL President Ken Inouye during the Bi-District. Schectman was honored for his dedication and work with the JACL and the larger Asian American community.



Gerald Sakura of New Jersey and member of the Seabrook JACL chapter was the big winner of a JACL membership contest and will soon be off on a cruise to Ensenada, Mexico donated by the National JACL Credit Union. Silvana Watanabe of the Credit Union presents the cruise prize to Executive Director John Tateishi (left) and Edwin Endow, national vice president of membership.



A table of JACL youth members enjoy the Chicago Bi-district's gala dinner. Youth members held their own conference during the recent four-day Bi-district conference.



Congressman Mike Honda (second from right), D-Calif., stops by the Chicago MDC/EDC Bi-district conference. Welcoming him are (l-r): JACL National President Ken Inouye, JACL Executive Director John Tateishi, and Bill Yoshino, MDC regional director.

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HOCKEY

Sharks Surprise Setoguchi with First-Round Pick

By GREG BEACHAM
AP Sports Writer

SAN JOSE, Calif.—Devin Setoguchi had no idea the San Jose Sharks would trade up in the NHL draft July 30 to select him with the eighth overall pick — and that's just how the Sharks wanted it.

Setoguchi, a multitalented forward from the WHL's Saskatoon Blades, was the top selection in a hectic draft for the Sharks, who traded three picks to Atlanta to move up four spots in the first round.

"Once I got drafted, I was like, 'San Jose, where is that? California?'" Setoguchi said with a laugh. "I wasn't expecting this one bit. Obviously, I was as shocked as my family was when they called my name. That's just a great feeling to see that a team has that much trust in a player."

Though the Sharks became interested in Setoguchi during the intensive scouting done by all teams during the canceled NHL season, they conducted only one extensive interview with him at the draft combine. When Setoguchi played well for Canada's under-18 team at the world championships last spring,

San Jose feared other teams would snatch its favorite prospect.

"We had to get off of him on the street, because we didn't want to tip our hand. We don't mind if a guy's a bit shocked, just like [2001 first-round pick Marcel] Goc was a bit shocked. I guess it was a semi-strategy," said Tim Burke, the Sharks' director of amateur scouting.

Setoguchi, whose paternal grandparents immigrated to Canada from Japan, grew up on a farm in Canada's corn capital of Taber, Alberta. His father, Dale, played professionally in Japan before returning home to grow potatoes and raise a family, including a hard-skating son who patterns his game after Calgary's Jarome Iginla and San Jose's own Jonathan Cheechoo.

Setoguchi had 33 goals and 31 assists in 69 games with Saskatoon this season. He'll probably play at least one more season in juniors

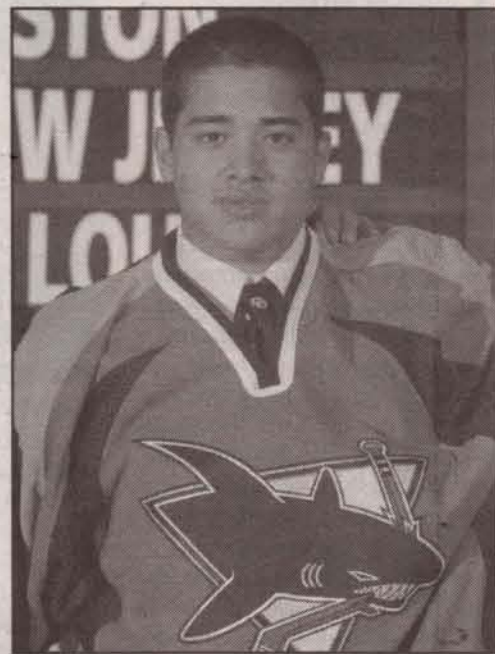


PHOTO COURTESY SAN JOSE SHARKS

Devin Setoguchi was taken by surprise when selected in the first-round of the NHL draft by the San Jose Sharks.

before moving to the pros.

"Once you're drafted in the first round, you know you've got the skill," Setoguchi said. "It's just a matter of how hard you can commit yourself in the off-season to get there physically." ■

GOLF

Jang Holds Off Gustafson, Sorenstam to Win Women's British Open

SOUTHPORT, England—Jeong Jang won her first pro tournament at a July 31 major after shooting a final round 69 to win the Women's British Open by four strokes.

The South Korean, who was six strokes ahead at the turn and had led each round at Royal Birkdale, beat runner-up Sophie Gustafson and left Annika Sorenstam with just two majors for the season instead of the Grand Slam she had aimed for.

Jang finished at 16-under 272 while Gustafson, winner here in 2000 before the championship became a major, posted a 67 in her final round for a 12-under 276. Sorenstam, who began the day 8 under and tied for second, shot a 71 for a 9-under 279.

Michelle Wie, the 15-year-old amateur playing her final tournament before returning to high school in Hawaii, birdied the last two holes for a 69 and finished at 10-under 278 and in a tie for third place. ■



South Korea's Jeong Jang holds the trophy after winning the Women's British Open golf tournament at the Royal Birkdale course near Southport, in northwest England. Jang finished the tournament at 16-under par to win the trophy. (AP Photo/Matt Dunham)

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MARTIAL ARTS

Penn 'The Prodigy' Defeats 2 Gracies

HONOLULU—B.J. "The Prodigy" Penn has accomplished what few fighters have been able to do: defeat two Gracies.

Penn, of Hilo, won a unanimous decision over Renzo Gracie July 30 in the K-1 World Grand Prix in Hawaii. The win comes nine months after defeating Gracie's cousin, Rodrigo.

Both Gracies are members of the legendary family who pioneered Brazilian jiu-jitsu and mixed martial arts. Penn is a former student of the Gracie family.

"It means a lot, but it was just another tough fight," Penn said.

Penn showed his versatility and was able to control the final stages of the three-round match. He fought standing up in the second and used his ground attack when he took Gracie to the mat in the third.

With the crowd on its feet and chanting his name, Penn got the best of an exchange of punches in the

second round, bloodying the nose of Gracie.

"He definitely won this battle, but not the war," Gracie said, who is seeking a rematch. "If I have time to train, I'll beat him easily." ■

Quick Stats

B.J. "The Prodigy" Penn



From: Hilo, Hawaii
Height: 5'9"
Weight: 155 lbs
Discipline: Brazilian Jiu-Jitsu
DOB: 12/12/78
History: Nicknamed "The Prodigy," B.J. was introduced to Brazilian Jiu-Jitsu in Hilo at 17. Opponents Beat: Din Thomas, Caol Uno, Paul Creighton, Takanori Gomi, Rodrigo and Renzo Gracie
Source: bjpenn.com

Going to a Vietnamese Café, and then Some

I spent a Friday night recently watching an open mic at a Vietnamese café in Westminster, a city in Orange County, Calif. known for hosting a large Vietnamese American community. I went there by myself to support the birthday of a friend who is both a spoken word artist and a passionate activist in the Vietnamese American community.

It's interesting to immerse yourself in another ethnic community, at least for one evening, to be the lone outsider looking in. I idly wondered if people assumed I was Vietnamese like everybody else, but then I figured the fact that I had a blank expression on my face when everyone else laughed out loud at Vietnamese jokes was a pretty dead giveaway.

Although this may seem like an awkward experience to some people, I found myself enjoying it. True, I did not understand a word of Vietnamese, but it was lovely and intriguing to immerse myself in its strange cadences and intonations that are so different from the silky symmetry of Japanese.

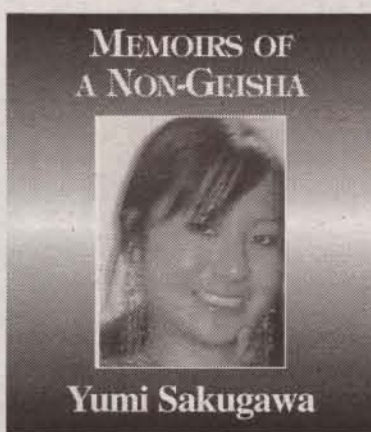
I knew nothing about the allusions they made to their homeland, the universal phrases their mothers used to nag them, and of the many food dishes they waxed poetic about, but I could understand how when a love for your culture is so strong you feel compelled to write poems and sing songs about it.

In all, it was inspiring to see a parallel Asian community so linked to their history and culture gather for an intimate evening of poetry, music and spoken word.

Thanks to the civil rights movement and the rise of ethnic studies, we are all clumped together under the great umbrella of the pan-Asian American identity. But then going to something as small as an open mic in a Vietnamese café makes me realize there is still so much we don't know about each other.

Sometimes, I think we get so immersed within the struggles of our own communities that we forget the bigger picture.

Hopefully, JAs will always remain attached to their obon festivals, their legacy of internment camps and the small JA businesses that have accompanied the develop-



Yumi Sakugawa

ment of their community. But then, why should anybody else? This is where the hard work really begins.

Indeed, there is something inherently wonderful about connecting with members of your own community, but I think there is something more challenging and even more meaningful about finding similarities and sharing common goals with people who are outside that intimate circle.

And this is why we should not only stay connected to our own communities, but take the time to step out from our respective worlds to celebrate the existence of other communities too.

I am reminded of how, during a community internship I participated in last summer, for a group activity all of us interns were asked to draw on a large sheet of butcher paper what the idea of a community meant to each of us.

Not knowing what else to do, I drew the first thing that came to my mind — a picture of a globe with people forming a circle around it with their linked hands. You've seen it, I'm sure, printed on every other Christmas card and cheesy tie, the ultimate clichéd emblem of world peace.

"I find that idea to be too unrealistic," a fellow intern smirked when he saw what I had drawn.

"Everyone has their own special interests and motives for that to ever happen."

Far too true, unfortunately, and right now it seems impossible that unity within our country, let alone global unity will happen anytime soon. But what a shame it would be if we never took the time to listen to the stories that others had to tell.

Yes, world peace seems next to impossible right now. Still, within this vast melting pot or tossed salad of ethnicities, these different clusters of humanity find a way of bumping into each other, in a good way, and surely that's something to hope for. ■

YOUTH FORUM

The 'Harajuku Girls' Craze

Gwen Stefani objectifies an entire ethnic group with her Harajuku girls obsession.

By AMY E. IKEDA

Singer Gwen Stefani (solo artist and front woman for the group "No Doubt") was tolerable until her disturbing obsession with Harajuku girls began.

Oblivious to the fact that she is objectifying Japanese culture and people, Stefani's ignorance makes me want to bang my head against a cement wall every time I hear her songs on the radio.

Although she has proclaimed her love for Japanese culture, she has no real understanding beyond her propaganda. It is just like she sings in her song "Harajuku Girls": "Style detached from content, a fatal attraction to cuteness." Sadly, the mainstream has devoured Stefani's Harajuku craze like a foreign delicacy.

After a short visit to Tokyo's Harajuku shopping district, Stefani has taken only a surface layer of what she found aesthetically pleasing about Harajuku street fashion and Japanese culture and has distorted them into this convoluted lucrative fad.

Four Harajuku girls shadow Stefani's every move. Trucking them behind her at interviews and red carpet events, the girls just stand silently behind Stefani giggling submissively like living props. Stefani even named the four girls Love, Angel, Music, and Baby after her CD title as if they were human pets.

Many people who have been to the Harajuku district have said Stefani's Harajuku girls are not accurate representations and are much more hyper-sexualized.

Real Harajuku girls wear many layers of clothing and lots of color. They are not limited to miniskirts and do not wear pastel colored kneepads like Stefani's girls.

In her "Rich Girl" video the girls diminutively dance around barefoot while Stefani parades in front with her huge platform heels. How can Stefani's image promote self expression and individuality when she treats these girls like plastic dolls, dressing them up, giving them names, and dragging them around like oompa lompas without a voice?

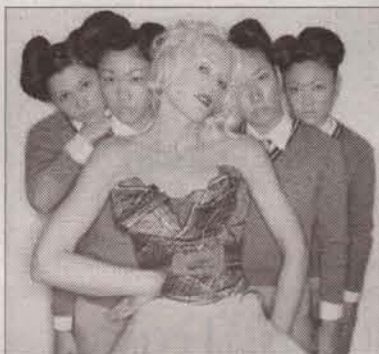
I cannot picture this type of exploitation going over well with the public if Stefani had hyper-sexualized African girls following her around. America has become too

comfortable with objectifying Asians. Sadly, these geisha-like creations of Stefani only further perpetuate existing stereotypes of Asian women.

I have also never heard the girls speak at any public appearances. The girls are rumored to be Asian Americans and not all of Japanese decent. If this is true, than Stefani sees AAs as foreign and Asians as interchangeable. I think the orchestrated silent appearances are intended to portray the girls as mysterious

community. There are always going to be people willing to sell out and unfortunately, most available roles in entertainment for AA women are as hyper-sexualized foreigners. Regardless, Stefani should stop prostituting the Japanese culture and be more responsible for the media images she puts out

Stefani's images are most detrimental to AAs because there are so few representative media images and those that do exist define Asians to the mainstream. Since people still



'... she treats these girls like plastic dolls, dressing them up, giving them names, and dragging them around like oompa lompas ...'

and exotic commodities.

Perhaps Stefani doesn't want the girls to talk because if they opened their mouth and fluent English poured out, people might question the sincerity of Stefani's fetish for the Harajuku fashion.

Some people defend the appropriateness of Stefani's Harajuku girls by saying the girls voluntarily receive money to work. Just because these few girls get paid well does not condone the objectification of a whole culture and people.

Also the girls' payment does not buy acceptance of the whole AA

view AAs as foreigners, the American media portrayals of Asians really affect the way AAs are viewed and treated.

If Stefani is truly interested in the Harajuku style then she should spend time studying and living in Japan so she can try to step outside of her Western filter and get a realistic view and understanding of Japanese fashion and culture.

Maybe then she will see that underneath the cool funky street clothing are real people and stop objectifying them. ■

JACL Urges Caution in Lodi Terrorist Investigations

In a letter to U.S. Attorney McGregor W. Scott, JACL expressed concern over the recent handling of alleged terrorist-related cases in Lodi, Calif.

Noting that the FBI's investigation has all the appearance of a "witch hunt," John Tateishi, JACL executive director, expressed concern that the government's actions against the Arab and Muslim communities in Lodi are reminiscent of the government's treatment of Japanese Americans in 1942.

Last month, Lodi residents Umer Hayat and son Hamid Hayat were arrested on charges of having ties to Al Qaeda terrorists.

JAs. Tateishi noted, "are only too familiar with the way in which a climate of suspicion can so easily feed upon itself and result in the stigmati-

zation of an entire community."

Like 1942, he added, "the entire Arab and Muslim communities in Lodi are being stigmatized and viewed with suspicion as a result of your agency's actions."

JAs want to ensure history does not repeat itself.

The Florin, Lodi, Stockton and Sacramento JACL chapters are monitoring the situation in Lodi.

"This isn't about guilt or innocence," said Tateishi. "This is about due process and the Constitutional protections afforded to all who reside in this country."

The JACL, he added, will continue its vigilance to ensure that the federal law enforcement do not overstep its bounds, "especially those brought under suspicion simply by virtue of their race and religious beliefs." ■

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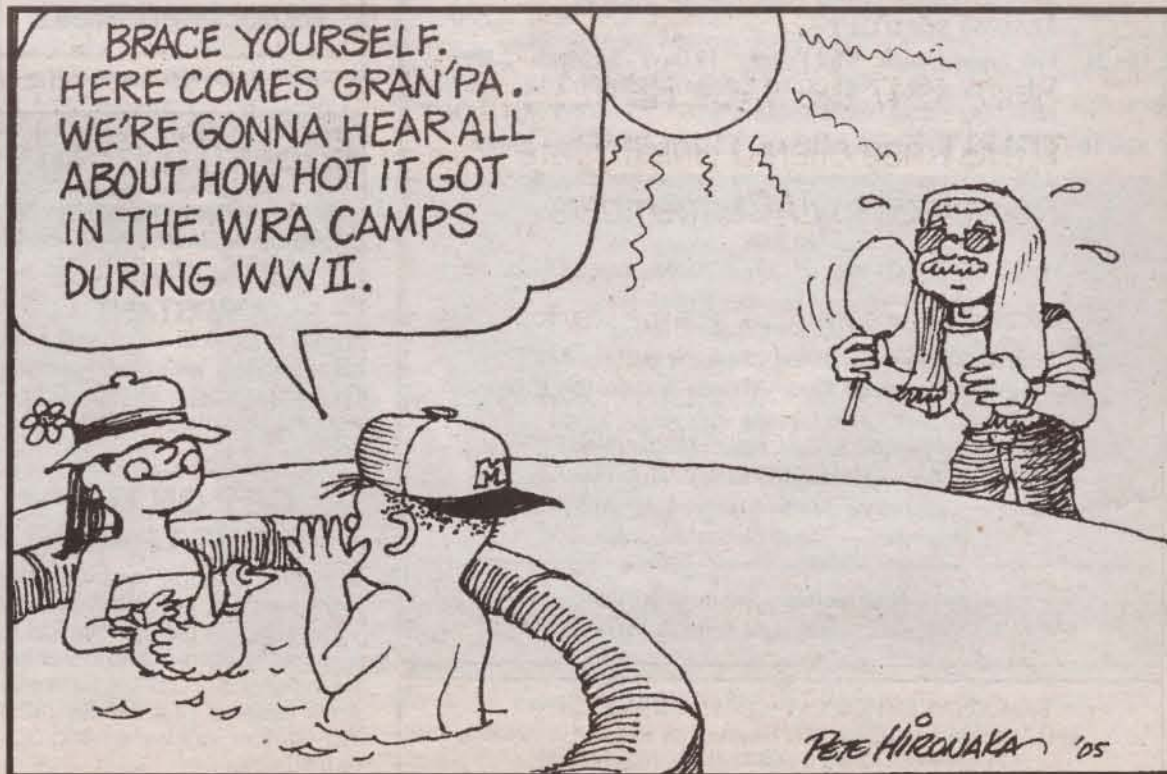
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- Oct. 7 Sumo in Las Vegas
- Oct. 15 Onsen of Hokuriku plus Seoul & Taipei
- Nov. 3 Southern Japan - Okinawa & Kyushu
- Nov. 30 The Best of South America - "Brazil, Iguassu, Argentina & Chile"
- Dec. 6 Holiday Season in San Antonio
- 2006 (Partial listing of trips to come)
- Jan. 14 Discover New Zealand
- Feb. 7 Panama Canal Cruise plus Costa Rica & Caribbean on Crystal Symphony
- July Alaska Cruise and Land Tour on Coral Princess
- Aug. 11 Treasures of the Rhine River
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Would you rather wander into the angsty mind of a gay APA teenager or hop the train to the surreal world of '2046'? Read the reviews & make your educated selection. By LYNDALIN



Summer Film SIZZLE or FIZZLE?



'Ethan Mao'

Directed by Quentin Lee
Starts Aug. 12 in Los Angeles in limited release



Bad, Bad Black Sheep

In "Ethan Mao," loss of innocence begins with online chatting and ends with anonymous sex in a pickup truck — and that's just the opening sequence.

As the family drama spirals down into a ridiculous hostage situation, the movie's director/writer, Quentin Lee, steepes the story with what seems to be every Asian parent's worst nightmare: a gay son with a lot of angst and a loaded gun.

A movie like this makes clear that the Asian Pacific American struggle with the model minority myth still runs deep. After Justin Lin's "Better Luck Tomorrow" showed the world that APAs have bad streaks, a spate of recent APA films like Georgia Lee's "Red Doors" and Alice Wu's "Saving Face" have followed up

with their own take on the conundrum of being both gay and APA, a complicated issue which Ang Lee artfully aired out in "The Wedding Banquet" (1993).

Except this time, we get a visual feast of fast-moving, MTV style montages complemented with pulsating music to usher in a new kind of APA antihero: Ethan, 18, (played by newcomer Jun Hee Lee), whose state of mind seems dictated by his hairstyle (combed means obedient and spiky signifies rebellious).

According to Ethan's voiceover, he was at one time a sober suburban

high school student working in his father's restaurant. But when his stepmother (Julia Nickson) discovers his gay magazine and tells his traditional father (Raymond Ma), Ethan immediately leaves home to become a street hustler.

Ethan's hard life, filled with tricks and a haze of street drugs, flies by in musical montages punctuated with an unflinching shot of a satisfied john. He's good at the job because he has the "right kind of look" though it's not specified what that look is, but it's presumably the look of emptiness.

His only salvation is Remigio (Jerry Hernandez), a drug dealer with such a kind spirit that he offers Ethan a place to stay and free drugs with no strings attached. He even offers to help Ethan break into his former suburban home on Thanksgiving while the family is away to steal the diamond necklace so beloved by his mother before she died.

When the robbery goes awry, (like it always does because like most other Asian families, the Maos keep their jewelry in a safety deposit box at the bank) Ethan is forced to take the family hostage for 24 hours until the bank opens. From there, the Maos and Remigio form an unlikely bond filled with misplaced moments like a family dinner where Ethan's younger brother (David Tran) teaches Remigio how to use chopsticks.

The characters are all so poorly developed that it's difficult to even sympathize with Ethan who acts more spoiled than misunderstood. He screams, "You just don't get it, do you?" more than once, but we do because we've seen it before.

Lee's directorial style has moments of genius, but the plodding story is too over-the-top to work. ■



'2046'

Directed by Wong Kar Wai
Opens Aug. 5 nationwide.

Love and Loss in '2046'

Wong Kar Wai's "In the Mood for Love" (2000) left us wanting and waiting for more and now we can have some closure with his follow-up "2046."

But questions left lingering typically don't get straight answers in Wong's hands. Instead, the answers are revealed in a seductive riddle peeled away in layers.

Chow Mo Wan (Tony Leung) reemerges onscreen with the emotional scars inflicted by his "In the Mood for Love" heartbreak. He is now a newspaper columnist penning erotic stories inspired by real life dalliances with women in his seedy hotel room — number 2047.

A steady stream of beautiful women perfumes his life, especially the women who live and love in room 2046. Former occupants include Lulu/Mimi (Carina Lau Ka Ling) and a fragile prostitute (Zhang Ziyi).

And as he shares fleeting moments with his lovers, he's always reminded of his past love. The ruffle of a skirt, a girl's innocent ability to complete his sen-

tences or a simple black glove all have the ability to remind him of what he could not have.

Chow falls for women who remind him of his former lover Su Li Zhen (Maggie Cheung, who makes a cameo in this film).

Every memory, Wong reminds us in a fade to black message, "is a former lover." Every memory can be connected to someone you loved at that time and lost.

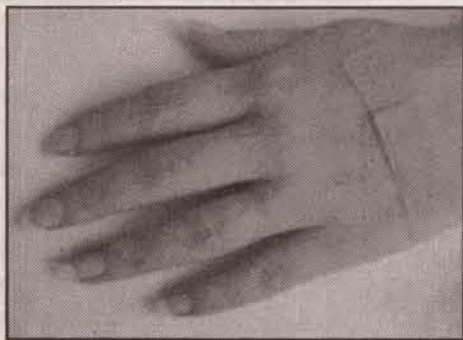
All the characters in "2046" have experienced the loss of love and desire to recapture a memory.

They all live parallel lives with alternate identities and their stories span across several countries, three different languages (Cantonese, Mandarin and Japanese) and three time settings including a fictional future filled with androids.

It doesn't get more complicated than this, but the mystery in this film is its beauty. Wong is the master of making simple love so haunting and sublime.

Wong triumphs with "2046," his most sophisticated work to date. ■

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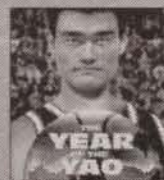
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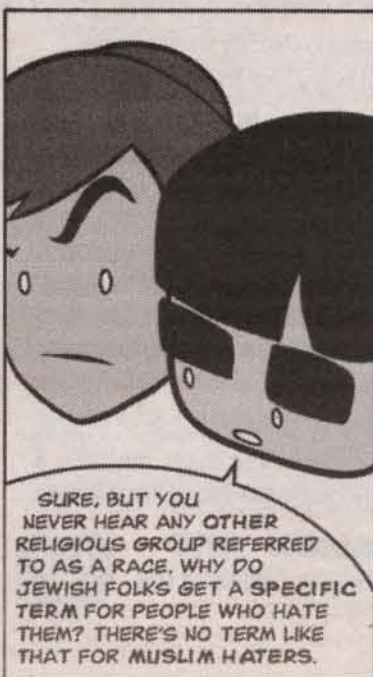
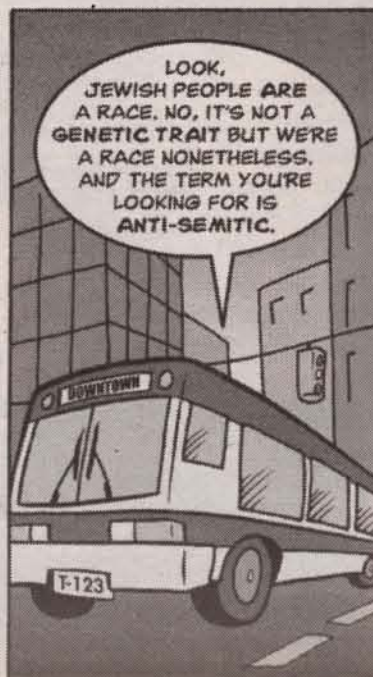
"The Year of Yao" — (limited release)
A documentary about the rise of the Houston Rockets guard.



"Balzac and the Little Chinese Seamstress" — (New York) Based on Dai Sijie's international bestseller, a semi-autobiographical look at his years spent in a Maoist re-education camp.

SECRET ASIAN MAN By Tak

secretasianman@weekdydig.com • www.BlackLava.net/sam • ©2005 Tak Toyoshima



JACL-COMMUNITY Calendar

Midwest

ALBUQUERQUE

Sun., Sept. 25—Aki Matsuri 2005; 10:30-4:30 p.m.; Park Square (Louisiana Blvd. and Indian School Road NE); free admission and entertainment, great raffle prizes, Japanese food, arts, crafts and demonstrations. Info: Esther Churchwell, 505/883-5320 or 6kalani4@comcast.net.

CINCINNATI

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

CLEVELAND

Sun., Aug. 14—2005 Community Picnic; 10-6 p.m.; Brushwood Shelter, Furnace Run, Summit County Metro Park; Cost: donation on site to CJAF Scholarship and Community Service Activities or send to: John Ochi, 868 Lander Rd., Highland Heights, OH 44143; performance by JACL Icho Daiko Taiko Drumming Group, games, relays, prizes for children of all ages, hiking, volleyball and fishing; sponsored by the Cleveland Japanese American Foundation.

ST. LOUIS

Sat.-Mon., Sept. 3-5—2005 Japanese Festival; Sat. and Sun. 10-8 p.m., Mon. 10-5 p.m.; Missouri Botanical Garden, 4344 Shaw Blvd.; \$10 adults, \$7 seniors, \$3 Garden members, \$3 children ages 3 to 12; featuring sumo wrestling; sponsored by the Missouri Botanical Garden and the Japanese Activities Committee. Info: www.mobot.org, 314/577-9400 or 800/642-8842 (24-hour recording).

Intermountain

FRUIT HEIGHTS, Utah

Sat., Sept. 10—10th Annual JACL Golf Tournament; Davis Park Golf Course; 8 a.m. shotgun start; benefits youth scholarships and leadership development programs; \$70 includes cart, prizes, awards and lunch; make check out to Utah JACL Golf, c/o National JACL Credit Union, P.O. Box 1721, Salt Lake City, UT 84011. Info: Floyd Mori, 801/572-2287.

Northwest

BELLEVUE

Sat.-Sun., Sept. 10-11—Aki Matsuri; Bellevue Community College, 3000 Landerholm Circle SE; Sat. 10-6 p.m.; Sun. 11-5 p.m.; free admission and parking; Lake Washington JACL and Puyallup Valley JACL are participating. Info: 425/861-7865 or www.enma.org.

OLYMPIA

Sat., Aug. 13—19th Annual Bon Odori; 5 p.m. food sales, 6 p.m. dancing; Capitol Lake at Water St.; sponsored by the Olympia JACL in partnership with the Olympia-Yashiro Sister City



Keiko Matsui and Hiroshima are two of the featured acts scheduled to perform at the 18th Annual Long Beach Jazz Festival Aug. 12-14 at the Rainbow Lagoon Park.

Association; free. Info: Bob Nakamura, 360/556-7562 or sgtmilehibob@att.net.

PORTLAND

Thurs.-Sun., Aug. 18-21—JACL Intermountain and Pacific Northwest Bi-District Conference; Embassy Suites Hotel, Downtown, 319 SW Pine St.; for brochure and info: www.pdxjaci.org or 877/843-6914.

SEATTLE

Sun., Aug. 14—1st Annual Seattle JACL Chapter Picnic; 11-4 p.m.; Lower Woodland Park Shelter #5; JACL will provide hamburgers and hot dogs; participants are asked to bring a side dish to share; games, and taiko. Reservations: 206/622-4098 or email@jaclseattle.org.

Northern California

BERKELEY

Sat., Sept. 10—Yuri Kochiyama and Diane Fujino Author Event; 2 p.m.; Heller Lounge located in the Martin Luther King, Jr. Student Union, UC Berkeley; Diane Fujino, author of Heartbeat of Struggle: The Revolutionary Life of Yuri Kochiyama discusses the book with special guest, Yuri Kochiyama; sponsored by the UC Berkeley Asian American Studies and Asian Pacific Student Development; parking available in the MLK garage. Info: Eastwind Books, 510/548-2350 or books@ewbb.com.

SACRAMENTO

Sat.-Sun., Aug. 13-14—59th Annual Japanese Food and Cultural Bazaar; noon-9 p.m.; Sacramento Buddhist Church, 2401 Riverside Blvd. Info: bazaar@buddhistchurch.com.

SAN MATEO

Sun., Aug. 28—Movie matinee, "Rhapsody in August"; 1:30 p.m.; JA Community Center, 415 S. Claremont St.; Info: 650/343-2793.

SANTA ROSA

Sun., Aug. 7—Hiroshima and Nagasaki Remembrance Day; 4-6 p.m.; Santa Rosa Courthouse Square; featuring music, speeches and art; presented by the Sonoma County JACL and the Peace and Justice Center of Sonoma County. Info: www.sonomacojaci.org or www.peaceandjusticesonoma.org.

SARATOGA

Sat., Aug. 20—Daruma Craft Boutique; Saratoga Community Center, 19655 Allendale Ave.; sponsored by the West Valley JACL; proceeds to benefit the West Valley JACL Senior Clubhouse and activities. Info: www.darumafestival.org.

Southern California

EAGLE ROCK

Through Aug. 13—Henry Ong's "The Legend of the White Snake"; each Thurs., Fri. and Sat. 7 p.m.; Sylvan Amphitheater in Yosemite Park, 1840 Yosemite Dr.; presented by the Eagle Rock Center for the Arts and the City of Los Angeles Department of Recreation and Parks. Info: 818/634-8464.

IRVINE

Fri.-Sun., Sept. 9-11—NCWNPD/C CDC/PSWDC Tri-District Conference; Irvine Marriott, 18000 Von Karman Ave., 800/228-9290; \$79/night; conference fees: \$100/attendee, \$50/youth; other events not included in conference registration include the PSW Dinner or Casino Night; deadline Aug. 19. Info: PSW Regional Office, 213/626-4471 or www.pswjaci.org/tridistrict2005.htm.

LONG BEACH

Fri.-Sun., Aug. 12-14—18th Annual Long Beach Jazz Festival; Rainbow Lagoon Park; Fri. gates open 5 p.m., showtime 7-10:30 p.m.; Sat. and Sun. gates open 11 a.m., showtime noon-10 p.m.; Hiroshima and Keiko Matsui are scheduled to perform.

LOS ANGELES

Aug. 6-Nov. 27—Toshiko Takaazu: The Art of Clay; JANM, 369 E. First St.; exhibition features the recent work of Toshiko Takaazu, an artist at the forefront of breaking down the traditional barriers between functional and sculptural art. Info: 213/625-0414 or www.janm.org.

Aug. 13-21—65th Nisei Week Festival; Little Tokyo district; Aug. 13 Nisei Week Car Show; Aug. 13-14 Anime Festival; Aug. 14 Sumo Tournament and demonstration; cultural exhibits and the Grand

Parade. Info: Nisei Week Festival office, 213/687-7193 or www.niseiweek.org.

Thurs., Aug. 25—"First & Central Summer Concerts" presented by JANM in association with the National Center for the Preservation of Democracy and sponsored in part by the city of Los Angeles Cultural Affairs Department; 7:30 p.m.; in the institution's plaza at First and Central Ave.; Aug. 25: East L.A. Taiko featuring Maceo Hernandez, Sept. 1: Marta Gomez, Sept. 29: "Of Melodies Old: New Music from the APPEX Ensemble". Info: JANM, 213/625-0414.

PALOS VERDES

Mon., Aug. 15—4th Go For Broke Golf Tournament; Palos Verdes Golf Club, 3301 Via Campesina; \$250/player, \$225/veteran; deadline to register is July 29. Info: Chris Ohama, 310/222-5702 or chris@goforbroke.org.

WEST COVINA

Fri.-Sun., Aug. 19-21—Youth Leadership Seminar, "Get in the Habit of Leadership"; East San Gabriel Valley Japanese Community Center, 1203 W. Puente Ave.; Fri. 5 p.m.-9:30 p.m., Sat. 8 a.m.-8 p.m., Sun. 9 a.m.-12:30 p.m.; ages 14-20; \$25/person (includes Sat. lunch/dinner, Sun. lunch and snacks during the seminar); Info: Brandon Leong, 909/629-2896 or NewsetteEditor@

esgvjcc.org.

Arizona-Nevada

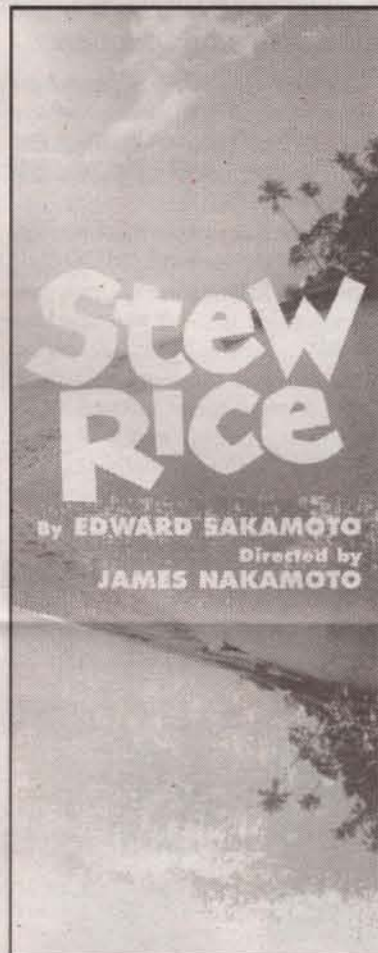
LAS VEGAS

Mon.-Wed., Sept. 26-28—Manzanar High School Reunion; California Hotel/Casino; Sept. 26 (Mixer Night), Auloni Kaeka and the Brothers perform; Sept. 27 (Banquet Night), Brian Maeda, writer/producer will premiere his documentary on Louis Frizzell, who served as the music teacher in Manzanar, followed by an update by the Manzanar National Park Rangers; registration deadline is Aug. 1. Info: Seizo Tanibata, (Gardena area) 310/327-1864, Victor Muraoka, (Valley) 818/368-4113, Ray Kuwahara, (Orange County) 714/521-4036, Sus Ioki, (Venice) 310/202-9199.

Mon.-Wed., Oct. 3-5—Heart Mountain IX Reunion; Riviera Hotel and Casino. Info: Bacon Sakatani, baconsakat@aol.com.

PHOENIX

Sat., Sept. 24—Golf Tournament, hosted by the Asian Chamber of Commerce to benefit ASU Asian Pacific American Studies Program; 8 a.m. start, scramble format; \$100/player; sponsorship levels available. Info: Ted Namba, casey-folks@aol.com, 623/572-9913 or Lisa Sakata, asiansun@aol.com, 602/371-8452.



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In 1975, we established the U.S.'s foremost private library of **KAMON** & related references. This year, we completed our acquisition of the **Nihon Rekishi Chimei Taikē**, a 50-volume series. Utilizing this most current, on-site version of our **KAMON** Library, we will be responding to inquiries about the **KAMON**, **MYOJI** and "J.A. **KAMON**" at our exhibit.

★ 会場には、家紋・苗字史を深めるヒントになる年代別家紋表や参考文献を展示。Also on display will be charts, diagrams, & references on **KAMON** & **MYOJI** to aid you in self-tracing their histories.



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KEI YOSHIDA, Researcher/Instructor

NINA YOSHIDA, Translator

'Picture Bride' Director Dies in Drowning Accident

By Associated Press

Kayo Hatta, an independent filmmaker whose 1995 film "Picture Bride" won an audience award for best dramatic film at the Sundance Film Festival, has died. She was 47.

Hatta died July 20 in a drowning accident at a friend's home in the Encinitas, California area, according to her sister, Julie Hatta.

"Picture Bride", which Hatta directed and co-wrote, told the story of a poor Japanese woman who emigrates to Hawaii to enter a marriage with a plantation worker based on an exchange of photographs. The film was recently released on DVD and has become part of the curriculum in some Hawaiian schools and universities.

Hatta graduated from Stanford University with a degree in English and received a master's degree in



film from the University of California, Los Angeles.

She recently completed a 30-minute coming-of-age film called "Fishbowl" based on the writings of Hawaiian author Lois-Ann Yamanaka. Much of the film's dialogue is in the local pidgin language because Hatta insisted that it sound authentic.

"Fishbowl" is scheduled for broadcast on PBS later this year.

Lori Kayo Hatta, who was born in Honolulu, is survived by her mother, Jane Matano Hatta of Honolulu, sisters Julie and Mari Hatta of San Francisco and Carrie Hatta of Honolulu. She also is survived by half-sisters Eri Hatta of Alameda and Chika and Yuki Hatta of Las Vegas, and fiancé Douglas Hetrick of Leucadia.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made payable to "Asian Improv aRts," with "Kayo Hatta Fund" in the memo section of checks; and mailed to Asian Improv aRts, 201 Spear Street, Suite 1650, San Francisco, CA 94105. ■

Photo courtesy Diane Mark

Loved Ones Remember London Bombing Victim

By P.C. Staff & Associated Press

Family and friends continued to celebrate Mike Matsushita's life weeks after his July 7 death in the London terror bombings.

From Sydney to New York, "Mike's Mates" gathered to feast, watch videos and thumb through photos of the 37-year-old American tour guide and globe-trotter. They remembered his sense of humor and readiness to head to local pubs, and they recorded their adventures with Matsushita in an online tribute.

They all agree that the attacks took away a wonderful man.

Matsushita was last seen leaving the London apartment where he was living with fiancée Rosie Cowan. A

week later, his remains were positively identified as being among the bombing victims.

Matsushita grew up in the Riverdale section of the Bronx where he often gave to needy families. He later worked as a tour guide in Cambodia and visited orphanages while working for a travel company.

His family has established a fund in his name — The Indochina Children's Fund for Mike for those who want to donate in lieu of flowers. Funds raised will be matched dollar for dollar by the Intrepid Foundation and will be distributed amongst two or three children's charities in Vietnam and Cambodia.

Intrepid Travel, where Matsushita worked for 18 months, will also cover all administrative costs to ensure every cent reaches those charities directly.

For more information or to donate go to: <http://www.intrepid-travel.com/rtmikefund.php>. ■



Respected Landscape Architect Dies after Heart Attack

By Associated Press

Robert K. Murase, one of the nation's most respected landscape architects, died July 18 in a Seattle hospital from heart attack complications. He was 66.

In the Northwest, Murase's stamp can be found in the gardens at the Oregon Convention Center and the "Garden of Remembrance" in downtown Seattle. He created the settings for the earliest corporate campuses of Microsoft in Redmond, Wash., Nike in Beaverton and Amgen in Seattle. In the West, he designed the courtyard of the Japanese American National Museum in Los Angeles.

Internationally, it was one of his earliest designs of a garden for the Myodo Kyo Kai Buddhist Temple

in Japan that in 1975 earned him an American Society of Landscape Architects Honor Award.

Born in 1938 in San Francisco, Murase, a third-generation Japanese American, was interned during World War II at Topaz, Utah. His family eventually returned to San Francisco, where he earned a degree in landscape and sculpture from the University of California at Berkeley.

During a stint in Japan, Murase met and worked with several of the country's renowned stone sculptors, among them Isamu Noguchi, who became Murase's friend and mentor, and inspired what would become Murase's signature material, stone.

Murase is survived by his wife, Judy; sons, Shawn of Tokyo and Scott of Portland; daughter, Aya of Portland; and mother, Yoneko of San Francisco. A public memorial service was held July 27 in Portland. ■

Photo courtesy Murase and Associates



All the towns are in California except as noted.

Chiba, Yusuke, 69, North Hollywood, July 3; survived by wife, Mitsuko; sons, Shigekazu (Mika) and Kimiaki (Sayoko); 3 gc.; brothers, Kunio (Aiko), Jinji, Kosuke, Fukuya and Eiichi; and sisters, Shizuka Miura and Michiko Saichi.

Fujita, Shigeuki David, 86, Los Angeles, June 23; WWII veteran; survived by wife, Mary; daughter, Carol; son, Dr. Richard (Kathy); brother, Yoshio (Grace); sister, Fumi (Roy) Hirai; and sisters-in-law, Fumi Kuromiya and Rose Kanetomi.

Fukunaga, Kazuma, 80, Los Angeles, July 5; survived by brother, Bob (Kay); and sister, Sanae Sakamizu.

Hada, Haruko, 90, Rolling Hills Estates, June 30; survived by daughters, Marlene (Dr. Donald) Okada, Kiyo (Dr. John) Tsao and Ruby (Joseph) Hodge; sons, Richard (Nancy) and Dennis (Jacqueline); 13 gc.; and 11 ggc.

Hirabayashi, Ida A., 93, Gardena, June 21; survived by son, Stanley (Alice); daughter, Betty (Kazuhiko) Sato; 4 gc.; 6 ggc.; and brother, Tom (Kay) Takahashi.

Hirata, Tsutomu "Tom," 76, Long Beach, June 28; survived by wife, Yoko; sons, Mike and Chris (Dayna); 2 gc.; brothers, Kiyoshi and Shigeru (Carole); and sisters, Yoshiko (Tom) Seto, Bernice (Shiro) Nagaoka and Jean Hirata.

Horiuchi, Tsutomu, 80, Salt Lake City, July 8; interned at Minidoka; WWII veteran, 442nd Regimental Combat Team; recipient of two Purple Hearts, well-loved Little League coach and first Asian American to serve as a Salt Lake County Sheriff's deputy; survived by sons, Wayne (Cathy), Randy (Frances), Sherman, and Vince (Kim); brother, Masaru (Ruth); and 4 gc.

Ichikata, Kiyoko, 91, Los Angeles, May 31; survived by daughter, Sally (William Jr.) Kimura; daughter-in-law, Marilyn Sasai; 7 gc.; and 4 ggc.

Kikuta, Masa, 87, Monterey Park, June 29; survived by husband, George; son, Tamio (Carole); daughters, Margaret (John) Olivarez and Jane Kikuta; 4 gc.; 6 ggc.; two brothers and 2 sisters.

Konya, Miyoko, 87, Los Angeles, July 3; survived by son, Walter (Agnes); daughters, Emiko (Robert) Kondo, Keiko (Bob) Miho, Sakaye

(Henry) Watari and Chiye Konya and Lou Vega; 9 gc.; and 4 ggc.

Kubota, Ken, 76, June 22; survived by wife, Sayeko; sons, Miki (Dulce) and Steven; daughters, Naomi (Hide) Fujishima and Tami (Tim) Williams; and 5 gc.

Matsutsuyu, Janice Setsuko, 71, Los Angeles, June 1; survived by brothers, Ichiro (Emiko), Toshiro (Sachi) and Yuzo (Gene).

Mayeda, John, 83, Longview, Wash., July 17; WWII Army veteran, served as an interpreter; graduated from Kelso High and owned and operated the Troy Laundry and Dry Cleaners in Kelso with brother Tosh; survived by wife, Mary; son, Denny; daughters, Frances Croco and Arlene Park; 5 gc.; and 10 ggc.

Morimoto, Kay Kinu, 88, Gehring, Neb., June 23; Poston internee; survived by son, Dennis; brother-in-law, Gene Morimoto; and sisters-in-law, Alyce and Ruby Morimoto.

Murakawa, Kiyoshi "Jimmy," 87, July 3; survived by wife, Shizuko; sons, John (Emiko) and George (Mimi); daughter, Mary (Eric Lew); and 10 gc.

Osaka, Toshiko, 84, El Monte, June 30; survived by husband, Toshii; son, Dennis; daughters, Janet and Carol (Rex) Namba; brother-in-law, Mitsugu Osaka; and sisters-in-law, Chiyeo Kawashima, Haruko (Tokutaka) Harada and Helen Tsuyuki.

Ritchie, Sue, 101, Northridge, July 3; survived by daughters, Edith Rothschild, Joan (Roy) Doi, Irene (Ralph) Lum and Lois (Victor) Muraoka; son, Ricardo (Taka); 15 gc.; and 30 ggc.

Saisho, Yuriko Lillian, Monterey Park, June 30; survived by sons, Rodney and Robert (Kathy); daughter, Sandra; 2 gc.; and brother, Ichiro (Ruth) Nakashima.

Salva, Shannon Lee, 35, Buena Park, July 2; survived by husband, Les; daughter, Charlie; mother, June Mano; grandmother, Kiyoko Kinoshita; sisters, Jenny (David) Rodas and Susan (Kanji) Miyake; and brother, Jeff Mano.

Taniguchi, Ayami, 96, Sebastopol, June 27; JACler; survived by daughter, Rose (Dr. Tetsuro) Fujii; son-in-law, Tak (Yasuko) Yamamoto; 9 gc.; and 11 ggc.

Tanihana, James Tsugio, 74, Sacramento, July 6; survived by wife, June; daughters, Jami (Randy) Tanihana-Tomita and Jill (Russell) Kanemasu; son, Jody (Shari); 6 gc.; brothers, Chester and Kumi (Aileen); sister, Lilian (Aki) Kushida; and sister-in-law, Eiko Tanihana.

Tatsumi, Teruyoshi, 79, Monterey Park, July 12; survived by wife, Shizuko; daughter, Julie; sister, Josie (Jim) Oda; brother-in-law, Yuji (Michie) Kohyama and Keizaburo (Atsuko) Kohyama; and sisters-in-law, Miyoko Nakano and Kazuko (Kohji) Nagata.

Toda, Jack Seiichi, 85, July 5; survived by wife, June; daughter, Jacquelyn (Stan) Yonemura; 1 gc.; and brother, Lloyd (Michiko).

Uyenishi, Harry Masaru, 84, Los Angeles, July 2; survived by wife, Chitomi; son, Michael; daughters, Judy and Marian; sisters, Emi Yamamoto, Hannah Yamamoto and Michiko Morrell; and brother, Ben Uyenishi.

Yamanaka, Dr. Gregory Arata, 51, June 27; survived by parents, Ben and Hisako; and sister, Gail. ■

DEATH NOTICE

ELEANOR GERARD SEKERAK

Eleanor Gerard Sekerak, daughter of May Bell Masterson and Ausut Gerard, born April 20, 1917 in Sacramento, Calif., died July 4. Raised in Oakland, graduated from University High School, and UC Berkeley with an M.A. in Political Science and General Secondary Teaching Credential. As a college student she worked for Oakland Parks and Recreation, then served as assistant and executive of Big Sisters of Alameda County. During World War II she taught for the War Relocation Authority at Topaz, Utah. From 1947-1977 she was a Social Studies Teacher-Counselor at Hayward High School. At one time she was an active member and officer of Delta Kappa Gamma, Dunsuir Historic Estate, honorary life member of PTA, Life Deacon of Eden United Church of Christ (Congregational), member of HACS, Hayward Historical Society area museums, conservation and historical preservation organizations. Her hobbies were reading, oil painting, flower arranging, and embroidery. She was preceded in death by brother Robert Paulsen Gerard, and by husband of 52 years, Emil E. Sekerak. Emil was a graduate of Ohio's Antioch College and Education Director of the legendary Berkeley Co-op. Eleanor is survived by daughters, Constance S. Austin and her husband, Darrell of San Diego, Nancy Clem of Stockton; son, Norman Sekerak of Honolulu; 4 gc., nieces, nephews, cousins, and an honorary granddaughter, Jana Chinn and husband, Corey. Contributions to Scholarships, Inc., P.O. Box 5000, Hayward, CA 94540 are preferred in lieu of flowers. A memorial service at Eden UCC Congregational, Birch Street and Grove Way, Hayward, Sat., Aug. 27

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AFGHANISTAN

(Continued from page 1)

achieved what it has thus far is because of those volunteers who share the same vision and heart."

Kwon first visited Afghanistan in May 2003 where he led seminars on health and nutrition for Afghan community leaders in Mazare-Sharif. Kwon introduced milk-based and soy-based products to supplement the nutritionally depleted Afghan diet which mostly consists of naan bread and chai tea. Surprisingly, all of the Afghans who attended the seminars favored the soybean products.

Kwon founded NEI shortly after his first visit to Afghanistan and for the past two years he has been racking up air miles flying back and forth to Afghanistan to work with local farmers in the development of soybean production. Currently he is working to develop soybean fields in 12 Afghanistan provinces in collaboration with the Ministry of Agriculture and Animal Husbandry.

"The Afghanistan people and the government are aware of the malnutrition problem among Afghan women and children who need an increase of protein in their diet to regain their health. With that understanding, they are fully supportive of NEI's nutrition initiative," said Kwon.

There are approximately 21-26 million people who live in Afghanistan and most suffer from a lack of nutrition. Sadly, one out of six women die during childbirth and one out of five children do not live to reach the age of five. Most of these deaths are due to a lack of protein in their diet and will likely be avoided in the future with the help of Kwon's soybean cultivation.

Although tensions between the Muslim world and the United States are currently high after the recent London terrorist bombings, Kwon has learned much from his work in Afghanistan.

"No matter the religion or the ethnic background of people, their basic needs and will to live are essentially the same," he said. "The differences are certainly there, but we must be more tolerant of each other to overcome these differences and live harmoniously together."

"In my own experience interact-

'No matter the religion or the ethnic background of people, their basic needs and will to live are essentially the same,'

— Kwon

ing with many Afghans who are Muslims, I learned that they are whole-heartedly welcoming me when I approach them with understanding and a caring heart," added Kwon. "If we can respect that, then we can have a society that is more tolerant of each other."

Kwon's dedication to the people of Afghanistan and to NEI has extended to his immediate family. Although his wife Annie and daughter Sonia were at first worried about Kwon's safety in Afghanistan and skeptical of his decision to spend their savings, they have come to understand the importance of his mission.

"In the beginning, all of my family members were concerned about my safety and financial investment, and even tried to persuade me not to go to Afghanistan," said Kwon. "However, after learning about the grave situation of the women and children, they became strong supporters of NEI. They share my own

concerns and care for the women and children."

Annie now works as a volunteer executive secretary for NEI after selling her art school business in Pasadena to help supplement their income and provide funds for NEI. Their daughter Sonia, a recent UC Davis graduate, currently works as a part-time staff member and volunteer administrative coordinator for NEI until she returns to school for her graduate degree.

The Kwons are now waiting to harvest the soybean plants in late September and mid-October. If the harvest is successful, Afghan leaders will test the soybean plants in all 32 provinces. Although the past harvest was done by hand due to the lack of funds and equipment available in Afghanistan, NEI is hoping to raise about \$25,000 to purchase thrashing equipment in time for the upcoming harvest.

Once soybean production is established in Afghanistan, Kwon hopes to establish a soybean factory to process the raw soybeans for national distribution. Eventually, he hopes to set up a nutrition university in Mazare-Sharif to educate future leaders in nutrition and health.

So far NEI has spent \$70,000 on the Afghanistan soybean endeavor and Kwon has personally tapped his resources and network of friends and acquaintances. He hopes to raise some additional funds to continue NEI's work in the country and seeks volunteers who are willing to help with NEI's non-profit work.

"We have received a few generous donations, yet additional support is greatly needed," said Kwon. "NEI will be delighted to accept any concerned citizen who would like to aid in these long-term goals ... volunteers are helping to make all these things possible." ■

RADIO

(Continued from page 1)

102.7 for broadcasting an alleged sex act in New York Catholic Church.

Todd Lynn, a former HOT 97 on-air personality, said in the same broadcast that Delgado is a talented writer who has a tendency to step over the line.

Hughes and Cumia noted that Delgado also wrote a "gay song" four years ago set to the "Sesame Street" theme song, which made fun of homosexuals living with HIV and AIDS.

Because of his track record, APA groups including the JACL and the Asian Law Caucus (ALC) are protesting Delgado's presence in a city with over 33 percent Asian residents.

"The 'Tsunami Song' was irresponsible, racist radio in its worst form," said Malcolm Yeung, ALC staff attorney, about Delgado's song, which made light of last year's Asian tsunami tragedy. "94.9 has in effect endorsed irresponsible, racist radio by hiring [Delgado]."

ALC has circulated a petition denouncing the popular radio station's hire, especially after it and parent company, Clear Channel Communications, fired members of their "Morning Doghouse" show in April for making on and off-air sexual comments.

In a July 14 letter to WILD 94.9 and Clear Channel, APA groups blasted Delgado for using the word "chink" in the tsunami parody song and requested a meeting with radio station management.

JACL Executive Director John Tateishi voiced disapproval of Delgado's presence in San Francisco

with Clear Channel Regional Vice President Kim Bryant. Almost 500 individuals have sent personalized critical letters to the radio station, said Yeung.

But Bryant praised Delgado to local media for his experience and ability to draw major guests to the show. She assured Tateishi that Delgado is an off-air member and will be closely monitored. Bryant did not respond to comment requests from the *Pacific Citizen*.

The root of the problem is radio station management, said Lynn to the *New York Daily News*. He said HOT 97 management approved the tsunami parody song before it went on air. He also criticized HOT 97's parent company, Emmis Communications, on the "Opie and Anthony Show" for encouraging their radio personalities to continually push the envelope to get higher ratings.

Others say some radio shock jocks are "equal opportunity offenders" like JR Gach on Albany's 94.5 (WRCZ-FM) who during a June 21 and 22 show, called APAs "slant-eyed gooks."

In response, 94.5 parent company Galaxy Communications CEO Ed Levine said in an e-mail to the *P.C.* that listeners know what to expect from the "JR in the Afternoon" show and are encouraged to turn the dial if they are offended.

"We may disagree with the content on JR's show from time to time. But it's important in a free society that these shows be on air," said Levine.

"Ultimately, the listeners have the final say. If the listeners don't listen, shows that are deemed 'different' and 'edgy' will not succeed," he added. ■

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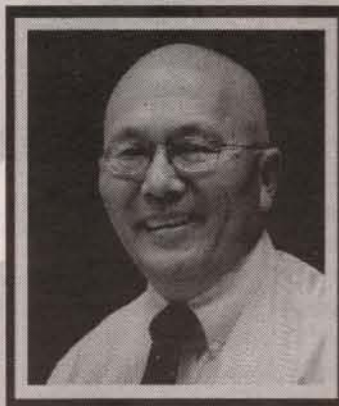
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