Asian American Student Fights School Over 'Kung Foo' Parody Costumes

By CAROLINE AOYAGI-STOM Executive Editor

When it comes to Halloween costumes, the Asian American community was dismayed when Disney, Inc. distributed its "Kung Foo" costumes with back teeth, slanted eyes, and a headband with the Chinese character for "loser." This year it's Halloweenmart.com's Web site are accompanied by phrases like: "Did someone call for Sushi?" "Ready to serve her master," and "The Oriental Geisha Princess always beautiful and silent.

These days it can be all about tasteless, too. There is tasteless and there is racist. A distinction exists," said Gail Price, an Asian woman who was offended by Halloweenmart.com's Asian-themed costumes after doing a Google search. "Have you noticed account for the shortage of staff," said JACL National President Ken Inouye. "People think that because we have a surplus, that means we're okay. We're not spending more than what we're bringing in, but we've had to service the community with much less personnel."

In these difficult financial times, a surplus is short-lived.

"Whatever surplus we're able to create will invariably be used very quickly in the next quarter because we're unable to get ahead of the budget enough to build reserves," said JACL Executive Director John Tateishi. To strike, and even get ahead, of the delicate balance is a battle dependent on the members.

"...we are still very dependent on the generous donations of our members and those companies and individuals who support JACL.

JACL is functioning with the bare minimum of staffing and resources and provided aide to others with familiar faces. They did as they usually do - they banded together, pooled their resources and provided help to others with familiar faces.

"People thought that because we had a surplus, we didn't have to do anything. But we're still very dependent on the generous donations of our members and those companies and individuals who support JACL."

JACL to Sign Onto Amicus Brief in Support of Same-Sex Marriage

Just as JACL fought against anti-miscegenation laws in the 1960s, its stance in support of same-sex marriage remains firm.

By CAROLINE AOYAGI-STOM Executive Editor

SAN FRANCISCO—Almost 40 years have passed since the last anti-miscegenation laws were stricken from the books—a hard fought battle that finally gave interracial couples the right to marry. And JACL was front and center.

In 2005 JACL continues to fight for the right of same-sex couples to marry but this time on a different playing field: the right of same-sex couples to marry in the state of California.

Inouye. "People think that because we have a surplus, that means we're okay. We're not spending more than what we're bringing in, but we've had to service the community with much less personnel."
BUDGET

(Continued from page 1)

organizations that donate toward helping us accomplish our goals," said Kobayashi.

Getting Rid of the ‘Hiccup’

The operational budget went through a series of revisions, which included Kobayashi’s prediction at the quarterly meeting of a possible $81,000 deficit. However, with a more careful review of revenue sources during the Sept. 24 budget balancing session, board members were able to get a clearer picture of the financial situation.

“In the operation budget discussions, we began by reviewing our revenue streams and put in much more realistic numbers, which in turn was realized in a surplus for the JACL,” said Kobayashi.

The revised budget was adopted Sept. 25 by a narrow 6-5 margin with three abstentions and JACL National President Ken Inouye issuing the tie-breaking vote. NCWNP District Gov. Toshiki Saito, MDC District Gov. Ron Katayama and Kobayashi abstained.

“I abstained from the revised budget because I didn’t feel that we, the national board, had gone through a full program management review of each program,” Kobayashi explained. “I hoped that the board would carefully consider whether what has been done and what is to be done to reflect the desires of the national council as directed via the program for action.”

Board members who voted to adopt the revised budget were: PWN District Gov. David Masuo, National Youth Council Chair Josh Sty, Youth Rep. Todd Sato, IDC District Gov. Silvana Watanabe and EOC District Gov. Hiro Nishikawa.

Board members who voted not to adopt the revised budget were: CCDC District Gov. Bobbi Hamada, Vice President of Membership Edwin Endo, Vice President of Planning & Development Carol Kawamoto, PSNW District Gov. Hiroshi Ueba and Vice President of Operations Larry Oda.

Inouye said he voted to adopt the revised budget because the issue was a question of allocation, not a question of expenses.

“The reason why I wanted to approve it was because based on our analysis, we were not going to incur any additional personnel cost. We had spent a lot of time making sure that we made responsible financial decisions that would keep us on course,” he said, adding that the most sound fiscal decision was to not incur any more expenses for foregoing the hiring of new staff and putting programs that do not have enough funds on the shelf.

“Given that this was the first operational budget we passed as a national board, we definitely are going through a learning process here and will get rid of the hiccups that happened here in future meetings,” said Kobayashi.

“That said, I do believe that the budget passed taken in total will probably come pretty close to what was stated for total revenues and $1,785,000 in expenditures.”

As of Sept. 25, the revised budget shows a total of $1,800,171 in total revenues and $1,785,000 in expenditures. Membership income topped off at $960,416 and fundraising brought in $226,350. Public support, which Kobayashi noted is meeting budget goals, came in at $612,000.

Some larger expenditures included $547,799 for operations, $379,883 for the Pacific Citizen and $126,212 in community outreach and support.

JACL investments as of Sept. 19 include the National Endowment Fund at $384,637, the Massoka Endowment Fund at $312,627 and the Life Trust Endowment Fund at $443,757. The Legacy Fund is currently at approximately $562,660, said Ted Tsukahara, investment policy chair, at the meeting.

Preparing for the Future

As JACL heads into the fourth quarter, members say they are actively preparing for the challenges, citing membership and finances as the JACL’s organization’s biggest challenges.

JACL’s finances are about the same as last year’s, said Kobayashi, who is continuing his work with board members to put together a financial reporting system. Several new programs such as the Millennium Club and the ‘Spirit of 70’ campaigns are revenue generators.

The national board is also still in the early stages of the audit process to ensure compliance with California’s Non Profit Integrity Act.

“The biggest obstacle facing the JACL is a set of long-term programs that membership and leadership can easily get behind on because they are often small but in total will help re-shape the organization that lives up to the motto ‘For Better Americans in a Greater America’ for this century.”

JACL MEMBERS

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San Francisco, CA 94115

Allow 6 weeks for address changes.

To avoid interruptions in receiving your P.C., please notify your postal carrier to include periods in between your change of address (USPS Form 3578).
JACL Applauds Passage of Hate Crimes Legislation

The JACL applauded the U.S. House of Representatives' recent passage of the Local Law Enforcement Hate Crimes Prevention Act. The measure, which would expand the federal hate crime statute to include hate crimes based on gender, sexual orientation and disability, passed the House by a vote of 225-199 in an amendment to the Children's Safety Act of 2005.

"We laud the House of Representatives' recent action to expand protections to vulnerable segments of our society," said John Tateishi, JACL executive director.

"This vote recognizes that while rights and liberties deserve respect, they also require vigilance and aggressive enforcement." Tateishi said.

In 1988, the JACL provided testimony in hearings before a Judiciary Subcommittee of the Senate in support of the Hate Crimes Statistics Act, and the JACL has continued to support efforts to enact legislation to provide greater tools to the law enforcement community through the Hate Crimes Prevention Act and the Local Law Enforcement Enhancement Act.

In addition to federal advocacy, the JACL has organized a grassroots anti-hate program among its membership and recently published "A Troubling Legacy: A History of Anti-Arab Sentiment." Additional materials available through the JACL Anti-Hate Program are: "When Hate Hits You: A Hate Crime Response Guide"; "Words Can Kill the Spirit," a brochure on racial slurs; and a brochure entitled "Anti-Arab Sentiment on Campus."

Roberts Sworn In as Chief Justice

By Associated Press and P.C. Staff

WASHINGTON - John Roberts was sworn in as chief justice of the Supreme Court on Tuesday, succeeding William H. Rehnquist, who died in July.

The JACL provided a statement Tuesday on Roberts' nomination:

"The JACL has a long history of supporting hate crime legislation, and we will work actively to press the Congress to enact this bill. The Senate has passed similar measures twice before, and we urge them to do so again."

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U-M Faculty Seek Help After Asian Students Harassed

By Associated Press and P.C. Staff

ANN ARBOR, Mich. -- Several University of Michigan faculty members have asked school President Mary Sue Coleman to take action after two reported cases of ethnic intimidation against Asian students.

In a letter Sept. 22, the professors in the Asian/Pacific Islander American Studies program said the incidents "unnamed more pervasive ethnic and racial discrimination that remains undocumented," the Detroit Free Press said.

Coleman responded in a letter to the professors, saying she would "not tolerate actions that target or intimidate members of our community based on race, ethnicity, gender, gender identity ... or other personal characteristics."

About 13 percent of Michigan students are Asian.

On Sept. 15, two Asian students were walking about 11:15 p.m. when they saw a white man unclambering from his apartment balcony onto their arms, said Ann Arbor Police Lt. Chris Howley. He said the man swore at the students.

On Sept. 16, Cindy Chung, president of the school's Taiwanese American Student Association, said she was walking with two female Asian students when two white men "acts of ethnic intimidation are intolerable. Further, the alleged disgusting behavior directed at the Asian American students demands the full use of resources at your disposal."

Director Bill Yoshino, in a letter to the university, confronted them. She said the men told them "you speak good English and we speak with a white accent."

The Ann Arbor Police Department issued warrants for the two men thought to be the University of Michigan students shortly after the incident. The police are currently classifying the crime as ethnic intimidation.

The Davis Board of Education recently voted to name the school district's newest campus after civil rights pioneer Fred Korematsu. The new school will be named the Fred Korematsu Elementary School at Mace Ranch.

Korematsu passed away earlier this year leaving behind a notable legacy. His fight to resist the forced relocation of Japanese Americans during World War II and his subsequent efforts to throw out his wartime conviction made a lasting impact on successful JACL Redress campaigns.

Although several different names were proposed for the new school -- including the school's Tawascan Elementary School and the Mace Ranch Elementary School -- the board voted 3 to 2 in favor of Korematsu. Adding the Mace Ranch portion to the school name was a last minute compromise by the Davis school board members, who were already behind schedule in naming several individuals in speaking favor of the Korematsu name for the new school, including many members of the Korematsu family.

Korematsu's names was originally proposed by Madhavi Sander, a University of California, Davis law school faculty member and chair of a citizen committee to name the school.
NGUON
(Continued from page 1)

of being gay,” said Charlene, who added that Trang confirmed her love first. “Then I thought maybe I’m gay too.”

Their love story played out in pub-
lic just like any other teenage couple
—who arm slung over shoulders, and the unfair treatment left her feel-
ing so “hopeless and helpless” that
she considered dropping out. And she’s the luckier one. Trang’s tradit-
ional family has not been as sup-
portive. “It’s complicated,” said Trang, who added that the strain has forced her to stay away from home.

The lawsuit filed Sept. 7 seeks to clear Charlene’s otherwise flawless school record and calls for the school district to provide a safe learning environment for all, as required by the California non-discrimination law. SJS has also been reluctant to allow a Gay-Straight Alliance network of on-campus clubs, to form. Campus computers filter the organization’s site from the school, said Charlene.

“What has happened to Charlene is one of the worst examples of dis-
crimination that I have seen,” said Christine P. Sun, an ACLU staff attorney responsible for the school in the lawsuit. “Charlene is a straight-A student ranked in the top five percent of her
class with no prior record of discipli-
line. When news of the suspension reached Charlene’s older sister Eileen Malm, her maternal instinct kicked in to race with horrible possibil-
ties—Drugs? Sex? Violation?

But the softly spoken answer threw her off guard. “It’s not their public affair,” she said. “I’m very open-minded. I totally understand that [homosexuality] is not wrong yet, but I can’t come to terms with it.”

Under Special Circumstances
William E. Farris

Under Special Circumstances is the story of the impact of the World War II evacuation of the Japanese Americans to concentration camps upon the life of seventeen-year-old Mike Murata, a native-born citizen (Nisei), living with his family on Terminal Island in the Los Angeles harbor on December 7, 1941. SUMMARILY evicted and the only one of his group of Nisei in the camps, Mike’s exploits at the battles of Peleliu and Okinawa, his relationship with his Italian American boyhood friend, Jimmy V., and his involvement in the Katsumi Family. To follow Mike as a soldier, attorney, judge, and congressman in his way to high honors is an exciting learning experience.

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Pacific Citizen, Oct. 7-20, 2005

TATEISHI
(Continued from page 1)

in general is a thing of the past, and even the knowledge that anti-Asian racism exists and is aware of racial incidents, they don’t feel it affects their lives.

I suppose they’re right in some ways. Being part of the JACL may not serve any direct needs for today. Asians today can go anywhere, buy homes anywhere, marry anyone, compete for mainstream jobs, send their kids to the best schools and enjoy the full privileges of citizenship.

But the above, every now and then we deal with cases that are disturbing because they reflect something about us and the way we’re viewed in America. “Jap” Road and Lane in Texas, shock jocks using racially derogatory words to refer to Asians, the insulting attitudes expressed in inci-
dents such as the “Tsunami Song,” some politician saying the internment was okay, send their kids to some celebrity jobs, and anti-Asian racists continuing to call Asians “Japs,” after a long shot, in general is a thing of the past, and even the knowledge that anti-Asian racism exists and is aware of racial incidents, they don’t feel it affects their lives.

I suppose they’re right in some ways. Being part of the JACL may not serve any direct needs for today. Asians today can go anywhere, buy homes anywhere, marry anyone, compete for mainstream jobs, send their kids to the best schools and enjoy the full privileges of citizenship.

The big deal is this: racism is alive and always will be so long as we continue to be the most diverse country in the world.

It’s true, as some may tell me, that an individual Asian or Japanese American confronts any of these types of incidents probably won’t affect his or her life directly.

Maybe not directly. But racism is like a smell in the face. It’s more insid-
iuous. It’s a growing cancer; you don’t see it but it’s there, and if you don’t see it, it continues to grow unbeknown.

And what is the danger of that? There’s no language that says, in essence, language helps shape social reality. It’s that true (and I think it is), then language (i.e., “Jap”) informs social realities and dehumanize us.

It’s important that we challenge them.

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And so what’s the big deal, I’m sometimes asked.

The big deal is this: racism is alive and always will be so long as we continue to be the most diverse country in the world. Asians today can go any­

The JACL word, or any of those derogatory words we hear at ugly moments, serve only to humiliate and dehumanize all Asians.

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It’s important that we challenge them.
The Topaz Museum, Friends of Minidoka, National Park Service and the Conservation Fund are working to acquire two key properties from private landowners that will help preserve the Topaz Camp in Utah and the Minidoka Relocation Center in Idaho.

In a race against time, the partners are scrambling to raise $250,000 to purchase key lands at Topaz by Oct. 15. They are also working to raise funds to support land acquisition, restoration and education efforts at Minidoka.

The groups hope to purchase 92 acres from a private landowner at the Topaz internment camp near Delta, Utah. This land represents the largest remaining piece of land of the original 640-acre campsite, which eventually housed more than 8,000 Japanese Americans, mostly from the San Francisco area.

If the Conservation Fund can successfully raise the $250,000 necessary to acquire the property, it will donate the land to the Topaz Museum for long-term public stewardship and restoration. The Topaz Museum currently owns and manages the remaining 522 acres of the site and is working to list the camp on the registry of National Historic Landmarks.

In partnership with the Friends of Minidoka, the Conservation Fund aims to acquire more than 120 acres from a private landowner adjacent to the Minidoka Internment National Monument. Today, the 73-acre monument is only a fraction of the former campsite’s original 950-acre core area. While in operation, the camp held more than 9,000 people—mostly from Washington, Oregon and Alaska.

The National Park Service is in the final stages of a general management plan that, if approved, would allow for expansion of the monument’s boundary to include these private lands and allow for the restoration of residential bar-rack blocks and expanded opportunities for education and interpretation.

If the Fund can reach a final agreement with the landowners, and if the partners can successfully raise the funds necessary to preserve the property, the land will be donated to the Friends of Minidoka (who have agreed to hold it for the National Park Service) for long-term public stewardship and restoration.

The Conservation Fund, a national non-profit organization, has protected more than 4 million acres of America’s most important natural and cultural areas, including some of the country’s most historically significant landscapes.

To help the Conservation Fund’s Japanese American Internment Camp Protection Initiative, please visit the Web site at www.conservationfund.org to make a donation or pledge or call 703/525-6300. All gifts or pledges can be restricted to a specific camp, or made in honor of a loved one.

Relocation Camp Wins Landmark Recommendation

By ASSOCIATED PRESS

A portion of a relocation camp that housed 18,000 Japanese American detainees during World War II has been recommended as a National Historical Landmark.

Members of the National Park Service Advisory Board unanimously recommended the designation of 42 acres of the former Tule Lake Relocation-Segregation Camp in far Northern California.

The camp was designated as a relocation center in 1942 and converted to the nation’s only segregation center in 1943. The 42 acres, a small portion of the 7,400-acre camp site, includes the stockade, along with the motor pool and portions of the former military police compound. The parcels of land included are owned by the state of California or the Bureau of Reclamation.

“This when it comes to the Japanese Americans and relocation camps, these are not places where the committee spent a lot of time wondering if they are significant or not. They are significant,” said Antoinette Timi Lee, acting assistant associate director for the Historical Documentation Program in Washington, D.C.

More than 120,000 JAs, mostly citizens or legal residents, were displaced from their western United States homes and held in 10 relocation camps during WWII. Tule Lake was the largest center with a peak population of 18,789 detainees.

Lee presented the Tule Lake proposal as part of the advisory boards meeting recently in New York City. She said arguments for the designation were given earlier this year during a previous hearing.

The camp site is located just off Highway 39 near Newell.

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We Can Make A Difference In Your Life.
The National JACL recently announced its 2005 scholarship winners. The following are recipients from the freshmen and undergraduate divisions with excerpts from their personal statements. This year JACL awarded 29 scholarships totaling $60,000.

**ENTERING FRESHMEN**

**Henry & Chiy0 Kuwahara Memorial**

Choketsu Uga
New York Chapter
Princeton University
Computer Science

Since immigrating to New Jersey from Kanagawa in 1944, I remained the sole Japanese student in my grade through elementary and middle school. In 2003, I founded and am now President of the Academy of Japanese Society, and worked with the Deans of Academics to start a Japanese course at my high school. The course entitled "Global Entrepreneurship" was designed to help my schoolmates better understand the words and ways of the Japanese. Teaching this highly successful Global Entrepreneurship course has served as my way of bridging the American and Japanese cultures together.

Though only recently introduced to JACL, I have joined the New York chapter and asked as a fellow member to protest a radio station host for her disparagement of tsunami victims and racial discrimination against AA.

**Henry & Chiy0 Kuwahara Memorial**

Christine Hirnoka
Berkeley/Chap­ter Stanford University
Pre Med, Japanese Language, or History

As the daughter of two Sansei parents, I was surrounded by the JA culture my entire life. As a student, I loved the curricu­lum and activities of the Daruma-No-Gaku-a Japanese culture and language school and I later enjoyed these activities with younger Daruma students when I returned as a Daruma teacher's aid. However, when I think about JA culture, I cannot forget JA history: Pearl Harbor, Executive Order 9066, internment, 442nd and the atomic bombs — just a few of the many events that immediately come to mind.

Mr. & Mrs. Takashi Moruchi

Katherine Thomas
Sacramento Chapter
Mass Institute of Technology
Mathematics and Biology

Since the age of six, I have attended the Port of Sacramento Japanese

**SCHOOL**

**Learning the Japanese language to the fullest extent possible has been a large part of my life and I have enjoyed the journey. After graduation from the school, I have continued to enjoy the very intimate community surrounding this school by continuing to volunteer five hours a week for the lower grades.

In addition, I have founded a Japanese Culture Club at my school. The club itself is built to combat Japanese stereotypes and to provide an ample opportunity for those in the Japanese class to learn more about Japanese culture than that of which just Anime and Manga can teach.

**Sam S. Kuwahara Memorial**

Christine Fujimaka
Los Angeles Chapter
Undeclared

In his speech to the 57th session of the United Nations, in President, Mr. Jan Kavan, stated, "The cultural heritage of a people is the memory of its living culture... The protection of the heritage and its transmission to future generations are ethical imperatives." I firmly support this statement and believe that by partaking in JA community activities and learning about Japanese culture, our heritage and traditions will continue to live on and enrich lives.

Participation in JACL, the Sister City Student Exchange Program, and other AA activities has provided me with the precious opportunity to experience and learn more about my Japanese heritage and has opened the path to learn first hand about new and exciting aspects of my culture.

**Patricia & Gail Ishimoto Memorial**

Christopher Mukai
Fowler Chapter
UCLA
Undeclared

My involvement in JACL has been through my membership as a junior member. I have been enrolled as a student/youth in the organization and have participated in the Fowler JACL's annual picnic. I am also involved in the Fowler Buddhist Church and its Young Buddhist Association. Our group has participated in Coats for Kids, Toys for Tots, Shoeboxes for Soldiers, and the Make-A-Wish Foundation. We support the Nikkei Senior Center and help with its annual Casino Night fundraiser and have recently given aid to the Tsunami Relief Effort.

Masao & Sumako Itano Memorial

Christina Shigematsu
West LA Chapter
UC Berkeley
Undeclared

"People should not hate that which they do not understand." These sage words came from a teenage girl, not much older than me. Raised in a predominantly white community, I had never experienced a hate crime. However, an incident at school changed this thought immediately before I had anticipated. One particular English class offered at my school is entitled Japanese Literature, abbreviated as "Jap. Lit." on the students' schedule. One student asked, if I was in "Jap. Lit." and I was bewildered beyond words. Without malicious intention, this student had backtracked decades of advancing JACL by disparaging cultures. I carefully explained to the student the consequences of her words and how they affected me and other students of race in the school.

Gongoro Nakamura Memorial

Traci Kuratomi
San Fernando Valley Chapter
Smith College
Undeclared

I am a student member of the JACL and am very involved in the JA community. I love reading the newspaper and learning about all the issues that are facing JAs. It's really empowering to see the difference we are making in the world and the prejudices we are overcoming.

My interaction with the JA community brought me one incredibly important thing, to have pride in my heritage and myself. My interactions with other JAs and learning about my future has given me pride in being JA. In the future, I want to remain part of the JA community, whether through church, camp, or other programs.

Shigeki "Shake" Ushio Memorial

Michael Ishii
Fresno Chapter
University of Pennsylvania
Business

I am involved with the Fresno JACL chapter and most recently have participated in the Japanese New Year's Festival held at the Ruth and Sherman Lee Institute for Japanese Art at the Clark Center in Hanford, Calif. In addition, I have volunteered for several events for both the Fresno and Clovis chapters including the Clovis JACL, Shrimp Dinner, and various duties at the ShinnZen Garden Run Fundraiser for the Fresno chapter.

Throughout high school, I have been involved with both the AA community and Fresno community. We have reached out to less privileged areas of the city through home visitations, Christmas package deliveries, and work at a participating community food bank. In addition, I have participated in activities to provide school supplies and clothes during the fall and winter for the Southeast Asian Refugee Community in Fresno.

**UNDERGRAD**

**Henry & Chiy0 Kuwahara Memorial**

Margaret Reed
Washington, D.C. Chapter
George Washington University
History

I plan to pursue my education in history until I receive my Ph.D. and as I narrow my field of study I find my mind has been turning towards my Japanese heritage as well as my own experience as a JA woman. I am currently heading both the National Committee and Speaker's Bureau for the Washington, D.C. JACL chapter. I am working to recruit the next generation to continue to educate the youth of America about JACL and the rich history and culture of the JACL legacy. My knowledge of the JACL has just started and I plan to continue to broaden my knowledge of the organization and everything it stands for. As a history major, I plan to enter into the fields of research and education and I plan to pass on my knowledge of JACL and of the JA heritage.

Kenji Kajiwara Memorial

Michael Morita
Sacramento Chapter
UCLA
Mechanical Engineering

I have met so many dedicated community leaders who have other primary responsibilities but who I hope to also establish myself in my profession and use my influence to strengthen the JA community. I would like to join the Board of Directors of a JA organization and help coordinate fundraising events. But at this stage in my life, the best way I believe I can make a difference is to promote youth involvement and let my voice be heard. In order to preserve the JA environment that I remember so clearly and that played such a significant role in my life, I must now do my part. I owe it to our ancestors who forgave the way and the future youth who need the help of my generation, will be missing out on a very influential part of growing up — a sense of community.

Nobuko R. Kodama
Japanese Food Makes ‘Miso’ Happy

A
don meals and proximity to cam-
of the many quirky and subtle
contemplation about adult responsi-
tuous freedom of having my own
festivals, and learning cultural activi-
ting involved with community fes-
bilities and moving away from
or an Issei. Heck, you don’t even
are a Yonsei, a Shin Nisei, a Hapa
the subtle genius of Spam musubi.
dorm food
them. Like moving away from
plans. granL<; you some freedom to
Japanese food more than anything
heartbreaking significance only
when you are suddenly deprived of
Japanese dishes that required mini-
mal cooking knowledge (steamed
rice with wasabi fish flakes, curry
rice, gyoza pan-fried with vegetable
oil, spaghetti with fish sauce ...). I realized that I was missing
the home away from home kitchen environ-
ment that I’m sure my mother experienced upon moving
to America: the long pilgrimages to the few Japanese food markets scat-
tered around the city, finding soy sauce bottles at Ralphs, and going
through a bag of Japanese shrimp chips. I’m still attempting to recap-
ture the elusive memory of a taste that has followed you since the
beginnings of childhood.

Just last night, my friends and I
watched a Japanese movie on my
laptop on our apartment’s kitchen
table. An old movie from the late
1980s, it is a movie called “Tampopo,” which follows the
story of a man helping a middle-
aged woman achieve her goal of
making the best ramen shop in
town.

More than that, it is a cinematic love
letter to the primal yearnings and
desires that food has the power
to awaken among ordinary people.
Without a love for the basic sub-
stance that feeds us, whether it be
miso soup or okonomi, we lose
track of who we are.

We huddled around the kitchen
table in the darkness of the night as
the movie flickered on the comput-
er screen. Tantalizing close-up shots
of ramen bubbling with pork fat
and spring onions on its amber sur-
face hovered before our eyes. As a
Japanese narrative waxed poetic on
the perfect way to eat a bowl of
ramen, you could’ve heard the
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Since 1947 the JACL HEALTH TRUST has offered Health Care to AUC members coverage to Californians for over 65 years. Blue Cross is Kayo HaHa Rising Dawn In accidents and illnesses the JACL HEALTH TRUST To protect you and your family from even common Blue Cross of California has been providing health Since 1947 Blue Cross of California has offered Health Care the JACL HEALTH Exploring · the Kayo Hatta, the 'actor's director,' spotlights 'Nitty Gritty' Hawaiian society in her last film project. WHAT'S THE RAW THERE ARE A WHOLE LOT OF YOUNG AA HIP-HOP FANS OUT THERE AN AND MORE AND MORE RAPPERS BECAUSE THE WORLD OF ALL OF THIS ... " said another universe kid. "I remember she had me read 'Wild Meat and Bully Burgers' by Hawaiian writer Lois-Ann Yamada, a book that attracted to the lyricism of Pidgin, a plantation language long regarded as inferior to standard English. Lovey Nariyoshi's world at the end of the Rainbow, life is dappled with splotchy fish in a fishbowl filled with radiant golden fish like Lori Mitsunaga. Lovey (played by newcomer Mie Omori) is like the head of a popular girls club and the pretty girls in the head of a popular girls club and the pretty girls in the head of a popular girls club. And for Lovey and best friend Jerry (Billy Lam), finding a cluster of Hawaiian Pidgin dialogue is spoken entirely in Pidgin, a language that's often absent from the big screen and the classroom. "Fishbowl" was shot in Oahu with an on set dialect coach. Between films, Hatta developed a talent for finding the right words at the right time. "She was an 'actor's director,'" commented the director of Hawaiian Homecoming tribute screening along with "Picture Bride." She was an "actor's director," said producer Linda Barry. "I was a fan of Yarnanaka's work and wanted to bring the colorful stories and people of Hawaii to the screen." The film's voiceover and dialo...
**Midwest**

**MINNEAPOLIS**

Sat., Oct. 15—Nineteen Cities JACL Afternoon at the Theater; 2 p.m.; In the Heart of the Round Playhouse, 1950 E. Lake St.; "The Pink Dress"; Q&A sessions with local interns and receptions to follow; $10-14/adult; $8-12/student; 612-920-1217.

**Northwest**

**BAINBRIDGE ISLAND**


**PARKS, TIDES AND TIMES**

Sat., Oct. 15—Japanese Art Festival; 10-4 p.m.; First United Methodist Church, 1880 Golden Gate Dr.; free; call 415/661-9800 or e-mail info@artandtimes.com.

**The Pink Dress**

A puppet theater piece about Tsuki, a young Japanese American girl living in the Amache Internment Camp in Colorado during WWII. "The Pink Dress" is written and directed by Leslie Kitashima-Gray.

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To insure delivery before Christmas, all orders should be submitted by December 1.
Evacuees try to make ends meet, but resources are dwindling.

HURRICANES

(Continued from page 1)

underrepresented,” said Minh Nguyen, a 21-year-old New Orleans native who evacuated the city shortly before the first storm.

The news of their frustration spread through the national APA community creating a network of support from some unlikely sources.

Dennis Ngin, a 21-year-old student from the University of Florida, was moved to action by the lack of news coverage focused on the plight of APAs and an influx of appeals in his e-mail inbox to assist the displaced Vietnamese community in Louisiana.

An estimated 50,000 APAs, mostly Vietnamese Americans, lived in the flooded areas.

Ngin called upon his fraternity brothers at Pi Delta Psi to lend a helping hand. They decided to create a Web site (www.thefugeereef.com) to channel all of the information into a one-stop shop.

“We saw this as an opportune time to assist the refugee community,” said Nguyen, 21, “The site functions as a symbol that we care about the refugee community. These people are not alone. Even more, it is young Asian Americans who have taken the charge in helping the refugee community.”

With a stark photo of displaced refugees on its homepage, the site provides a directory of organizations working on the relief efforts and information on how to donate. It is a case that the national APA community had not dealt with one of the pillars of their brotherhood — cultural awareness.

According to Ngin, who is Cambodian American, the site was created specifically to assist the refugee community, many of whom are working-class shrimp fishermen with limpid English skills.

And it goes far beyond just listing resources. Countrywide, APAs have answered the clarion call for direct assistance.

Congressman Mike Honda wrote a letter to the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) Secretary Michael Chertoff expressing his concern over reports of the DHS using information about the legal status of hurricane victims seeking government assistance. The Asian Pacific American Labor Alliance (APALA) along with the American Federation of Labor and Congress of Industrial Organizations (AFL-CIO) has set up work desks across the country to help evacuees find jobs. Musical performances dropped notes to raise money and groups set up relief funds.

For the APAs who are picking through the rubble, trying to get back on their feet, a familiar helping hand is the most support they will receive.

“It’s the cultural camaraderie,” said Tram Nguyen, Katrina relief program manager for Bou People SOS, a national organization that provides assistance to the Vietnamese American community.

After the Katrina devastation, the BPSOS office in the Belaireia district of Texas overenrolled with APA evacuees who flocked to the office’s location inside the Hong Kong Mall rather than to shelters. The numbers were so overwhelming that BPSOS, which operates seven shelters, signed a temporary lease to open up an annex office down the hall.

After Katrina, they saw several hundred evacuees per day and dispersed up to 300 Hepatitis A vaccines — a Federal Emergency Management Agency requirement — from its medical center each day. But after Hurricane Rita, BPSOS re-opened its doors to 400 additional displaced families from the Beaumont and Port Arthur area.

Costumes

(Continued from page 1)

that Asians are the only people that it is okay to parody!

In total there are six geisha and samurai costumes worn by non-Asian models on the Halloweenmart.com site. The offering phrases are in large print beside the photos in an attempt to entice the costume buyer: Ironically, many of the costumes confuse the Chinese and Japanese cultures so much that many of the buyers do not even realize that the character they are actually a chausongsin, a Chinese scholar-dramatic character. "Sakura Samurai" costume looks more like a Chinese warrior.

"Each year, we seem to deal with this kind of problem with costumes," said John Tateishi, JACL executive director. "We don’t see those awful Sambo costumes because they were so obviously racist. Only if we continue to bring pressure on Halloweenmart.com will they get it; but obviously they don’t get it right now.

"These cultural faux pas are most offensive," said Price, who hopes that Halloweenmart.com will correct their cultural references and rewrite their marketing slogans to be less offensive, especially to Asian American woman. "Cultural distinctness is not only for Europeans," she said.

Halloweenmart.com President Ann Siegel said her company has been selling the geisha and samurai costumes for 12 to 15 years and does not see any problems with them. "We feel that the costumes provide an important cultural learning experience," she said. "We think that it’s better getting out that their resources had sufficiency may be its own undoing. But even in this hour of chaos, Katrina victims are not. But that doesn’t mean Rita victims are better off. They are still without their resources," said Nguyen.

And even in this hour of need, many victims are still looking for help from their own community.

"It’s a trust issue . . . that makes them think that it’s better helping get from their own community," she added.

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Search of the Halloweenmart.com site shows a vast array of Egyptian-themed costumes, Arab dancers, Native American dresses, and French maid outfits. These costumes may also be considered offensive since APAs are being overly sensitive when they voice their displeasure with Asian-themed costumes.

"As far as anyone calling me ‘aunt Jemima,’ the saying ‘big fat lazy mammy making you some pancakes, fo shizzle’ Or a Shylock outfit replete with skullcap and curly locks Jewish Merchant makes a profit,” said Price. "These are tired ethnic stereotypes. The ones about Asians are no less funny than ones about other people."

"We think that this is perpetuating obviously have no understanding of what it’s like to be the brunt of racist or cultural jokes," said Tateishi. "I have no objection to costumes that, for example, might be of a samurai or a geisha, but what I do find objectionable is when such costumes become caricatures or are used to stereotype attitudes."