APAC Community Grapples With Soldier’s Decision to Refuse Deployment to Iraq

When 1st Lt. Ehren Watada refuses to deploy to Iraq later this month, he will become the first military officer to take this position. He will also be the first APA officer to do so.

By CAROLINE AOYAGI-STOM

In a community that has long revered its heroic World War II veterans, Japanese Americans are voicing a diverse range of opinions about the recent decision of a JA soldier to refuse deployment orders to Iraq, an order that is likely to come from his superiors later this month.

The Rise and Fall of the Kwan Dynasty

It takes grit to become a champion. She conquered the amateur world, but will she become a force as a professional boxer?

By LYNDI LIN

Christina Kwan came out of the womb with closed fists. The way she tells it she has a lifelong habit of locking a target and charging forward with blinding ambition. Deck. Turn. Keep your feet moving. Swing.

She likes to turn on an angle to confuse her opponents, who are usually surprised by the power of the blows behind her tiny frame. As an amateur, she jabbed her way to a world title and a U.S. national amateur championship in the 95-pound division in 2004. The belt for the latter award didn’t even fit around her waist. She has to wear it around her shoulders; said, “Who was the Chinaman on the mound the other day?” Christina said, “I got dropped with a left hook in the first round.”

Christina was dropped was during her first ever fight in 2002, but she was off balance. “I was dropped with a left hook in the first round,” Christina said, “I got dropped with a left hook to my head.”

Pressing the Fight

Call it fresman jitters, but this turnover debate. Watada, currently stationed at Fort Lewis, Washington, did his best to explain the process he went through before coming to his decision. With his family and supporters, Watada released a pre-recorded statement at simultaneous press conferences in Tacoma, Washington and Honolulu on June 7. He was not permitted to attend the nearby Tacoma conference in person by his superiors.

His thoughts: “I refuse to be silent any longer. I refuse to watch families torn apart, while the President tells us to ‘stay the course.’ I refuse to be party to an illegal and immoral war against people who did nothing to deserve our aggression.”

— 1st Lt. Ehren Watada

Too Young to Understand Lessons on Racism?

A children’s book about baseball for an internment camp strikes out with some parents because of its use of a racial slur.

By LYNDI LIN

From cover to cover, “Baseball Saved Us,” a children’s book about the World War II internment, seeks to teach its intended young readers about tolerance. “The government thinks that Japanese Americans can’t be trusted,” said the father, a pensiveiy

Calling the lead-up to an internment camp living in Chinatown’ who are Italian. “The Jap’s no good!” cried the plate, Shorty stepped into the swing and hit the word — and his self-doubt — into the puffy clouds. Parents of a student, last month, requested the Board of Education review the award-winning book, which is on the district’s second grade reading list, questioning the Japanese and non-Japanese Americans.战国 Americans are often called war criminals in the face of the school district’s reading list. “We’re Americans too!”

North was commenting on Ryu’s performance in one game where he has happened before. The other time Christina was dropped was during her first ever fight in 2002, but she was off balance. This time Christina attributes the pictures a wnc Kwan wants to bring credibility to women’s boxing.

See KIAN/Page 6

JACL to CBS Radio: An Apology is Not Enough

A radio host slings a racial slur at a Cubs pitcher and now braces for counterattacks from APA groups.

By Pacific Citizen Staff

Chicago sports radio host’s comment about Cubs right-handed pitcher after wiring criticism from the JACL and other Asian Pacific American groups.

North was commenting on Ryu’s performance in one game where he gave up four home runs and six earned runs in 1 1/3 innings. When representatives from the Organization of Chinese Americans of Greater Chicago demanded an apology, North told a Chicago Tribune column that he didn’t know the word “Chinaman” was offensive. “I don’t get it,” he was quoted as saying in the June 2 column. “I grew up in the streets, and we used to say that all the time. I’ve got buddies living in Chinatown who are Italian. Wait, can I say ‘Chinatown’?”

“I don’t mean any ill will and I don’t want to hurt anybody’s feelings, but every five years it’s something different. You used to be able to say ‘Oriental Theater anymore?’ said North. Paul Agase, WSCR general manager, has gone on the record with an apology, calling North’s comments inaccurate.

See RACIAL SLUR/Page 2

To see the full publication, visit www.pacifcitizen.org.
SPRING CAMPAIGN
Taking the Pacific Citizen from Print to Cyberspace
By SHARON KUMAGAI

Have you logged on to www.pacificcitizen.org? If you do log on, this is the product of the fundraising from the 2005 Spring Campaign. This year’s Spring Campaign goal is to take www.pacificcitizen.org to the next level.

As my fellow Pacific Citizen board member, Gil Asakawa wrote earlier in this issue, the printed P.C. this year will be entirely dedicated to improving and expanding the P.C.’s Web site.*

For those of you who have not logged on or do not have a computer, the P.C. is on the Internet. With the help of our Japanese American community, readers can visit the Web site at www.pacificcitizen.org and discover the information posted on the P.C. Web site.* People can read about JACL activities and JACL's position on issues affecting the civil rights of individuals. People have the opportunity to read columns written and researched by Executive Editor Caroline Asayi-Storn and Assistant Editor Lynda Lin. Their hard work and dedication to the P.C. was recognized this past year with both Caroline and Lynda receiving New America Media Awards.

The P.C. Web site is already a wonderful accomplishment... your donations for the Spring Campaign this year can assure the ongoing development of the site so that it can be the best resource possible for news and information, and coverage of issues that are important to Asian Pacific Islander Americans.—Gil Asakawa, chair

*This year the P.C.’s Web site was taken over entirely by taking the P.C. Web site to the next level and adding more functionality and features... So if you haven't given before to the P.C. Spring Campaign, send a $20 bill in an envelope, or write a check for $25, $50 or join me on the Web at $150. —Sheldon Asakawa, P.N.

RACIAL SLUR
(Continued from page 1)

disrespectful," but many APA leaders are saying that is not enough.

In a June 6 letter to parent company CBS Radio, the JACL demanded more action.

"You need to enlighten us about the boundaries of those standards and the sanctions for crossing those lines," said JACL Mid-West Director Bill Yoshima in the letter.

"Mike North may not be the worst of broadcasters or talk radio hosts who, while not necessarily espousing the bigotry in our society. But, he is unapologetic, having no compunction about perpetrating racial stereotypes," said Yoshima.

Not mention to Ryo is actually of South Korean descent.

This isn’t the first time North has landed in hot water. On the WSCR 670 AM Web site, North posted a question about the treatment of the biggest nostrils. And on his personal Web site, North who also hawks goods and CDs through his "Caucasian Man" brand, wrote: "Secret Asian Man," a parody of the Johnny Rivers' song "Secret Agent Man."

The North incident is disturbing because it follows a similar incident on another CBS radio station, said Radio Host Mike North jabbed at Ryo’s recent poor performance by calling him a "Chimpanza."

Yoshino. In January, Los Angeles radio host Adam Carolla enraged listeners when he mocked the Asian Excellence Awards. Carolla has since apologized.

I’m not sure APA groups are calling for more accountability.

"Station and corporate management carry a better responsibility to ensure that their broadcasters adhere to an acceptable level of civility," said Yoshino.

On the Web: www.670theScore.com

Discovering Your JA Roots

I enjoyed reading your article "Discovering Your JA Root." I am a Sansei who never dreamed of researching my family's genealogy. I got involved by accident in 1999. I created a 125-page book and gave a copy to each Sansei and Nisei at a family reunion in 2000. I visited Kumamoto to continue my search in 2002. I met an 84-year-old man who took me to the place of my family owned and grew up on. He now owns the land and his family and my family once lived side by side. Since 2001, I have been involved by the Japanese Cultural Center of Hawaii to share my experiences at their annual genealogy workshops. I hope you do more articles on genealogy. Great stuff.

Rene Chang

Via e-mail

PACIFIC CITIZEN, JUNE 16-JULY 6, 2006

LETTERS/SPRING CAMPAIGN

A Worthy Read

The San Diego and SELANOCO JACL chapters are recommending that all JACL chapters in the country participate in the promotion of the following book: "Dear Miss Breed" because it describes in an accurate and interesting way the incarceration of Japanese Americans during World War II.

Claire Breed was a children's librarian in San Diego who asked "her children." to write to her when they were at the San Diego train station and being sent to camps. She preserved these letters and also while sending them through their ordeal. She not only sent them books, but other gifts along with all of the details and personal items that they asked her to send. Most importantly, she saved all of the letters they wrote to her.

Joanne Oppenheim quotes many of these letters and weaves together other research material in this book, which is excellent for students at the middle and high school levels and for adults as well.

Also notable for librarians is the SQ rating in the review in the February 2006 "VOYA," which means it "could not have been better written." The San Diego Union-Tribune and other so impressed with the research that they are nominating Oppenheim for the Betty Award which honors the author of a distinguished book for children or young adults that best promotes an awareness of California and its people.

Recognizing the budget problems at all schools, it is recommended that the book be donated to libraries of middle and high schools. It could be more effective if individuals personally donate the books to the librarians. Information about "Dear Miss Breed" has been delivered to all of the JACL districts for distribution to each chapter. Each chapter is encouraged to contact their district chair or Education Committee member to coordinate their purchases and donations of the book.

Richard "Babe" Karras

Whittier, Calif.

Letters to the Editor

WANTED

A former student of the JACL is looking for other students who attended the same schools or Glendale, CA from the 1950's. I have some photos from the 1950's that I would like to share with other students who were there. If you would like to get in touch with me, please write to me here:

JACL MEMBERS

Change of Address
If you have moved, please send information to:
National JACL
1765 Sutter St.
San Francisco, CA 94115

Allow 6 weeks for address changes.

To avoid interruptions in receiving your P.C., please notify your postmaster to include periodic changes in your address on all change of address cards (Form 3579)

Calling All Interns!

Wanted: part-time summer intern for the Pacific Citizen:
Rewrite work with an enthusiastic staff and gaining experience in a workplace environment.

The Pacific Citizen newspaper, the national publication of the Japanese American Citizens League, is currently looking for an intern. The newspaper is located at Los Angeles office part-time, including some evenings and weekends. Various duties include reporting, researching, rewriting of press releases and production duties. Knowledge of the Japanese American community and the JACL, a plus. College or grad students currently majoring in English or Journalism preferred, but not required. Applicants should also have a California driver's license.

The deadline for this issue is June 19.

If interested, please send a resume and a writing sample to the Pacific Citizen, 250 E. First Street, Suite 301, Los Angeles, CA 90012 or email: editor@pacificcitizen.org, attention: Caroline Asayi-Storn.

NATIONAL JACL

Fiscal Year 2006 WINNER!
NEW MEDIA

PACIFIC CITIZEN

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PACIFIC CITIZEN

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Special Notes: "Short expressions" on public issues, though they may not reflect the views of the chapter, are selected to reflect the views of the chapter, are selected to reflect the views of the chapter, are selected to reflect the views of the chapter.

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PACIFIC CITIZEN, JUNE 16-JULY 6, 2006
**National Newsbytes**

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

**Canadian Prime Minister to Apologize to Head Tax Payers**

VANCOUVER—Prime Minister Stephen Harper will apologize to Chinese head tax payers and their families on behalf of a government that forced Chinese immigrants to pay the admission tax between 1885 and 1923.

Fewer than 20 Chinese Canadians who paid the racist tax are still alive. A redress package will also be announced in parliament within the next month.

**Pinendale Memorial Is Delayed**

FRESNO, Calif.—Plans are on hold for a memorial to JAs who were sent to internment camps. Organizers had to postpone the May 29 groundbreaking ceremony. They’re still waiting on official approval from the Fresno City Council.

The Pinendale Assembly Center was a temporary holding area for 4,823 JAs during World War II.

**Senator Race Heats Up After Native Hawaiian Recognition Fails**

HONOLULU—Now that Sen. Daniel Akaka’s Native Hawaiian recognition bill has been defeated, he’s more vulnerable to attacks on his effectiveness, political analysts say.

The recent defeat of the senator’s legislation—nicknamed the Akaka bill—in the U.S. Senate could invigorate Rep. Case’s campaign to unseat Akaka in the Democratic primary election, according to several political scientists.

Case, 53, has been trying to convince voters that he would do a better job than Akaka, the 81-year-old incumbent who has represented Hawaii in Congress since 1976.

**Two More Indicted in California in Military Secrets Case**

LOS ANGELES—Two family members were charged June 7 in a federal case against a Chinese American engineer accused of trying to send sensitive research project involving propulsion systems for Navy warships.

Yui Mak is the nephew of Chi Mak, who is accused of taking computer disks containing an advanced defense contractor where he was lead engineer on a sensitive research project involving propulsion systems for Navy warships.

**APAs in the News**

By Pacific Citizen Staff

**Hirabayashi Named UCLA’s First George and Sakaye Aratani Professor**

The UCLA Asian American Studies center and department recently announced its appointment of professor Lane Ryo Hirabayashi as the first George and Sakaye Aratani Professor of the Japanese American Internment, Redress, and Community. His appointment will begin on July 1.

The endowed chair is the first and only one of its kind in American higher education.

Hirabayashi was selected after a yearlong international search. The endowed chair was established by George and Sakaye Aratani of Los Angeles.

Hirabayashi’s uncle, Gordon, was the principal defendant in one of the major U.S. Supreme Court cases that challenged the government’s decision to remove and intern Japanese Americans.

**‘From a Silk Cocoon’ Wins an Emmy**

The National Academy of Television Arts and Sciences announced that “From a Silk Cocoon,” the production team: Satsumi Ina, Kin Ina, Emery Clay III and Stephen Holsapple, is the documentary, which follows the story of a young couple whose shattered dreams and forsaken loyalties lead them to renounce their American citizenship while held in separate prison camps during World War II, was one of the five programs nominated for the award out of the 24 total submissions in its category.

**Fresno’s NBC Honors Local Heroes**

Paula Kanagawa of Sanger and Max Masumoto of Del Rey, along with Dr. William Ho, Dr. Mao-Her Flores and the Kuma Family were recently honored by Fresno’s KSEE Channel 24, the Central Valley’s NBC news station, in their celebration of May’s Asian American History month.

**Author’s Historic Childhood Home is Rescued from Demolition**

The house of “Obasan” will be saved.

The Land Conservancy of British Columbia is the official owner of the Historic Joy Kogawa House in Marpole, Vancouver. The small bungalow house was immortalized in the pages of “Obasan” by Joy Kogawa, and now the cultural landmark will be saved as part of Canada’s history for future generations.

The owners had wanted to demolish and replace the house with a “larger one.”

“The future of the Historic Joy Kogawa House is now completely in our hands, and we are proud of what we were able to accomplish with such a short deadline,” said lan Fawcett, TLC deputy executive director.

With the immediate threat of demolition gone, the next challenge is to continue raising funds to restore the house and set up an endowment to establish a writers-in-residence program.

“When we look at the urgings in our planet, here is evidence that relationships can be rehabilitated, and the formerly despised can be embraced. The dream that writers who are presently among the despised of the world can come and write their stories here fills me with hope,” said Kogawa. “Racism is a present tragedy in the world, as it has been in the past. Here is one small way that we can say in Canada, that racism can be overcome.”

TLC is also working on formal funding requests to the city of Vancouver and to the government of Canada.

To make donations to the historic Joy Kogawa House, contact the TLC at 604/779-2313 or on the Web at www.conservancy.bc.ca

**Wen Ho Lee Settles Privacy Lawsuit for $1.6 million**

By P.C. Staff and Associated Press

Wen Ho Lee, the former nuclear weapons scientist once suspected of being a spy, settled his privacy lawsuit and will receive $1.6 million from the government and five news organizations that turned into a fire over reporters’ confidential sources.

Lee will withdraw the $895,000 from the government for legal fees and associated taxes in the 6 1/2-year-old lawsuit in which he accused the Energy and Justice departments of violating his privacy rights by leaking information that he was under investigation as a spy for China.

There are still lawsuits by four other news organizations have agreed to pay Lee $750,000 as part of the settlement, which ends all of court proceedings against five reporters who refused to disclose the sources of their stories about the espionage investigation.

“We are hopeful that the agreements reached today will send the strong message that government officials and journalists must and should act responsibly in discharging their duties and be sensitive to the privacy interests afforded to every citizen of this country,” said Lee.

The payment by the AP, New York Times, the Los Angeles Times, the Washington Post and ABC is the only one of its kind in recent memory, and perhaps ever, legal and media experts said.

“We were reluctant to contribute anything to this settlement, but we sought relief in the courts and found none,” the companies said.

“Given the rulings of the federal courts in Washington and the absence of a federal shield law, we decided this was the best course to protect our sources and to protect our journalists.”

The statement noted that the accuracy of the reporting itself was “well challenged.”

Lee was fired from his job at the Los Alamos National Laboratory in 1999 and has never been charged with espionage. He was held in solitary confinement for nine months, then released in 2000 after pleading guilty to mishandling computer files. A judge apologized for Lee’s treatment.

“The judicial process has wound its way to an end—an unprecedented end in which news organizations and the government are compensating an individual, Dr. Lee,” said Congressman David Wu, D-Ore., in a statement. “I hope this matter has been brought to a just conclusion.”

**Hiroshima Memorial Honors Chinese Atomic Bomb Victims for First Time**

By HANS GREIMEL

Associated Press Writer

TOKYO—A national memorial for Hiroshima atomic bomb victims honored Chinese casualties for the first time May 31 there men who were brought to Japan as slave laborers during World War II and exposed to radiation in the city.

It marks the first time Chinese nationals have been registered at the Hiroshima National Peace Memorial Hall for Atomic Bomb Victims, where victims from Korea, Brazil, the United States and Canada are also remembered. Japanese government official Kaoru Fujinawa said.

Vice Mayor Udo Kawai said May 31 were Lan Xuewen, who died in 2003 at age 82; Xiu Lichuan, who died in 1992 at age 76; and Yang Xian, who was killed in the bombing at age 22, according to Fujinawa. All were brought to Japan as forced laborers in 1945.

“Many Chinese victims, but most aren’t even remembered because they were forced to work,” Fujinawa said.

The memorial, based in the western city of Hiroshima, is a national repository for those who either died in the Aug. 6, 1945, nuclear attack, or were showered with deadly radi- ation in its aftermath. The memorial was established in 2002 and has only 1,153 names to date, compared with a larger list compiled by the city that honors 242,437 victims.

At the time of the bombing, the three Chinese men were in custody at police stations in Hiroshima. They were allegedly causing disruption at a power plant construction site outside the city, according to Fujinawa.

She said she does not have estimates of how many Chinese were in Hiroshima at the time of the attack.

During the closing days of World War II, the U.S. B-29 bomber Enola Gay dropped its deadly payload over the city of 350,000. Officials estimate about 140,000 people died instantly or within a few months of the attack.

Three days later, on Aug. 9, another U.S. bomber, Bock’s Car, dropped a plutonium bomb on the Japanese city of Nagasaki, killing about 90,000 people.

The home that created “Obasan” will be saved for future readers of Joy Kogawa’s work.
WATADA

(Continued from page 1)

ately. He is not against all wars but between the three war Iraq is illegal and unjustified. His decision has the support of his father, Bob Wada, a former executive director of Hawaii's campaign spending commission, and his mother, Carolyn H. of Kamuela, Hawaii.

David Masuo of Alhambra, a former Vietnam War veteran, does not agree with Wada's decision. "As a military member who is serving his country, in my belief, he is wrong. He has sworn his allegiance and loyalty to the United States of America and he must obey a deployment order by his Commander in Chief by not going to Iraq... For the good of the country, his decision to refuse deployment to Iraq should not disqualify his deployment order," he said.

"We feel it is wrong," said Bob Wada, chairman of the Japanese American Veterans Committee. "He took an oath and he has to obey that. You don't decide for the government what we are going to fight for. We went to Korea and we didn't know why we were there.

But others were more sympathetic. "Mr. Wada's stance is admirable," said Masuo.

Add Your Voice: Do you agree or disagree with Lt. Colonel Wada's decision to refuse deployment to Iraq? E-mail your thoughts and opinions to: pc@pacijiccitizen.org.

Chinese Artifacts, Medicine Vials Found in Sandpoint Dig

By ASSOCIATED PRESS

SANDPOINT, Idaho — State archaeologists working on a highway excavation site in this northern Idaho city have found evidence of Chinese laborers who helped build the region's railroads as well as evidence that conflict between the groups of people who do not go belligerently into the Iraq War," said Jennifer Akiko Reven, 22, whose husband is currently stationed at Fort Bragg, North Carolina. "It is incredibly brave by coming out publicly on his stand, I admire him for that and I support his decision for I don't agree with the war either.

"I say props to this guy for standing up for what he believes in, but also he needs to be ready to face the consequences of his actions," said Phil Yu, creator of the Angry Asian Man Web site, a popular blog on all things Asian-American. Wada entered the U.S. Army in 2003 shortly after graduating from Hawaii Pacific University and comes from a family who has seen a number of its members join the military. His first deployment order was to Korea and upon his return he was notified that he would soon be heading to Iraq. In January, after months of soul-searching, he informed his superiors of his intention to resign. He later filed a formal application to resign but both requests were eventually denied. Wada has now informed his superiors that he will refuse deployment to Iraq.

Wada's decision will likely lead to court martial and jail time unless he is allowed to resign or is reassigned to duties not connected to the war in Iraq. He is obligated to serve his three-year term which ends on Dec. 3, 2006. At this time he is being represented by attorney Eric A. Seitz.

Recent polls have indicated that many Americans, like Wada, no longer support the war in Iraq. A Harris Interactive poll from mid-May shows that 61 percent are not confident that U.S. policies in Iraq will be successful versus 22 percent who are. A recent Zogby poll also showed that over 70 percent of people in the military want to withdraw from Iraq by the end of this year.

Many JA newspapers, including this one, have written extensively on the heroic accomplishments of the segregated WWII units, the 442nd Regiment, the 100th Battalion, and the MIS. Opinions vary on what kind of impact Wada's decision will have on the JA community and the accomplishments of its WWII heroes.

In addition to more modern finds, state archaeologists are discovering objects that likely date back to original inhabitants of the area.

The Pend Oreille River valley was originally home to the Kalispel Indians and there is strong evidence that Sandpoint, a narrow continental prairie used by indigenous people, was a semi-permanent encampment.

An arrow or spear point has been found, as has a "presumed" half-line-sized fragment created during tool making that's so innocuous looking that Weaver says it's a wonder it was even noticed at all.

Archaeologists are probing for artifacts in hand-dig holes, as well as in heavy equipment dug to expose underlying soil. That's an impossible task, Weaver says. Weaver and his colleagues have discovered numerous glass vials, which look like test tubes with squared-off bottoms. He suspects these containers might have been once held medicines used to treat diseases such as Cholera, which were often contracted by men who frequented whorehouses of the day.

In a local history, one woman, Ella Farmin, said that when she arrived in 1892, bars and brothels in the town's so-called "Restricted District" were outnumbered by more respectable hotels, stores and restaurants.

"Early Sandpoint appears to have been a fairly wild town," Weaver said. "Records mention hanging and shootings; and the saloons advertised that they were open all night."

The Pend Oreille Archaeological Society is working toward a possible museum but has been slowed by lack of funding. Weaver said, "The city has not been helpful in supporting any projects."
COMMENTARY

Floris JA CL Manzanar Pilgrimage Walking In Their Footsteps
BY ANDY NOGUCHI and TWILA TOMITA

Fifty-five sojournerst hiked the dusty, parched grounds of the Manzanar National Historic Site recently, walking in the footsteps of the 600 Florin Japanese Americans forced from their homes in 1942. Like the Nikkei before them traveling under the cloud of the Day of Infamy Pearl Harbor attack, this diverse group of Americans journeyed in the shadow of Sept. 11. Former intern Rai Ogai said the ride reminded her of a long trip to a former destination in Ola River, where she thought she'd never return.

With ages ranging from seven to the mid-80s, the assembly later absorbed the tales of camp hardship told by Tall Park Ranger Richard Potashin as they trudged through the bunkhouse foundation, mess hall, and rock garden areas.

"Who could forget the women's latrine building with pipes for the toilets placed on various nearly check-to-check? There were no partitions shielding modesty in the early years.

The walk brought back vivid memories for the dozen Nisei and olderSensei in the group, saw her name etched on the expansive Flexiglas wall listing the names of over 10,000 inhabitants.

The names of my two uncles, original Manzanar Village, stood out for me.

The five Muslim friends in our group, the American Muslim Community, represented Americans of the Islamic faith.

The competition was open to all." 100-year history of Japantown in the Western Addition to a community of the Japanese American Historical Society, San Francisco; the Nikkei Lions Club were announced May 28.

One first-place prize of $300 was presented to Richard Ngo and an unprecedented five second-place $100 prizes were given to Kyle Chao, Graciella Bonilla, Kevin Chan and Rose Gao.

The competition was open to all high school students in the San Francisco public or private school.

Participants were asked to compare the 100-year history of Japantown in the Western Addition to a community of the Japanese Americans of the Islamic faith.

San Francisco JA CL Names Essay Contest Winners

Winners of an essay contest co-sponsored by the National Japanese American Historical Society, San Francisco JACL and the Nikkei Lions Club were announced May 28.

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One first-place prize of $300 was presented to Richard Ngo and an unprecedented five second-place $100 prizes were given to Kyle Chao, Graciella Bonilla, Kevin Chan and Rose Gao.

The competition was open to all high school students in the San Francisco public or private school.

Participants were asked to compare the 100-year history of Japantown in the Western Addition to a community of the Japanese Americans of the Islamic faith.
Kwan (Continued from page 1)

loss to a weight disparity. Her previ­
ous opponent dropped out of the
match for children after all."

ous opponent dropped out of the
match for children after all."

The first round is usually the time

usually the time to feel out your opponent, notice
quirks and weaknesses, but the
clang of the bell set something off in
my head. "I'm a smart person, I understand
why he uses it
why he uses it

people told me later, 'Christina, it
had our weights been equal," she
soon as the bell rang I ran across.

charged with a much bigger girl.

People told me later, 'Christina, it
had our weights been equal," she
soon as the bell rang I ran across.

Christina who immediately decided

Christina who immediately decided

loss to a weight disparity. Her previ­
ous opponent dropped out of the
match for children after all."

第六轮

他写的是

他写的是

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Angels Make Huntington Beach Catcher Their First Pick

ANAHEIM, Calif. — The Los Angeles Angels took Huntington Beach, Calif., high school catcher Hyun Choi with their first pick in the June 6 free agent amateur draft, making him the 25th player selected.

The 18-year-old Choi, a 6-foot, 210-pound switch-hitter, batted .449 with 11 home runs and 27 RBIs in 24 games for Huntington Beach this season. He also had seven doubles, a triple and scored 25 runs.

Choi’s on-base average was .527 and he had a .975 slugging percentage. He also has played third base, shortstop, first base and outfield and had a .975 fielding percentage.

“He’s a switch-hitter with power,” Angels scouting director Eddie Bane said in a conference call, adding that Choi also has a strong arm.

“Going through the draft process was really nerve-racking, and the (Angels) called my dad’s cell phone. My dad started smiling and yelling with joy,” Choi said during the conference call.

The coach does not start getting serious about golf until four or five years ago when he began taking lessons. He was previously into judo. He was previously into judo.

The 30-year-old Matsui was hitting .200 with one home run and seven RBIs in 38 games. For three straight seasons, he has homered in his first at-bat of the year.

There’s no timetable when Matsui will join the Rockies. ■

GOLF

Mets Trade 2B Matsui to Rockies for Marrero


The cash represents the remaining balance in the players’ salaries. Mets assistant general manager John Ricco said the club had to get Matsui to waive a limited no-trade clause, Ricco said.

“We’re looking at it as a chance to get a guy who adds flexibility for us,” Ricco said. “By the same token it gives Kaz a chance to, with a change of scenery, maybe turn things around.”

The Rockies optioned Matsui to Triple-A Colorado Springs and recalled outfielder Jorge Piedra.

Signed by the Mets to a $20.1 million, three-year contract before the 2004 season, Matsui never showed the talent that made him an All-Star and MVP in Japan. He struggled at shortstop in his first year with New York, and later was moved to second base.

Though he became a target of fan ire, Matsui said he bore no ill will toward Mets fans.

“Obviously, this is a game of results and they will react accordingly,” Matsui said through his interpreter.

Fujikawa advanced to the sectional through the same local qualifier as Wie. She failed in her bid to become the first woman to play in the U.S. Open, finishing a stroke behind the teen.

“Maybe in my wildest dreams I thought about it,” he said.

Fujikawa said, “I guess I’m excited. It’ll be fun.”

According to the USGA, the youngest player to make it through qualifying was Tyrrell Gerth, who was 14 years old when he advanced to play in the U.S. Open in 1941. Fujikawa had six birdies and three bogeys in his round.

“The coach doesn’t think nerves will get the best of the youngster.”

“Tadd is very calm and patient by nature,” he said. “He doesn’t get rattled and overemotional after a bad shot.”

Even if he doesn’t win, ‘he’ll get to be inside the ropes competing with the best golfers in the world.”

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Because Wie is playing in this week’s LPGA Championship in Havre de Grace, Md., she opted to play in a sectional in Summit, N.J., instead of playing in Hawaii.

The 18-year-old Conger, a 6-foot, 210-pound switch-hitter, batted .449 with 11 home runs and 27 RBIs in 24 games for Huntington Beach this season. He also had seven doubles, a triple and scored 25 runs.

Conger grew up in Seattle, but became an Angels fan after moving to Southern California. He was excited when they selected him.

“Going through the draft process was really nerve-racking, and the (Angels) called my dad’s cell phone. My dad started smiling and yelling with joy,” Conger said during the conference call.

Bane said, “You could hear the yelling with joy,” Conger said during the conference call. “He’s a switch-hitter with power,” Angels scouting director Eddie Bane said in a conference call, adding that Choi also has a strong arm.

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HAYE YOU READ that Congress is about to approve the "IF" Prize that ultimately awards a grand prize of $100 million from the government for hydrogen power? It was the letter "IF" that caught my attention. Briefly, Rep. Bob Inglis, R-S.C., head of the House Hydrogen Caucus, hopes it breaks America's addiction to foreign oil. His bill passed 416-6 last month.

The "IF" Prize offers $1 million every second year for an advance in hydrogen production, storage and distribution technology. In the alternating years $4 million will go towards breakthroughs in hydrogen-powered vehicles (Honda has been working on this). The final prize of $100 million will be awarded for paradigm shifting "wells to wheels" technology covering everything from production to manufacturing of vehicles. With House Republicans and Democrats in agreement, and with high prices at the pumps expected to linger, we expect this prize to be bait during the mid-term election campaigns.

The presidential candidate in Peru, Humala, 43, was soundly beaten in the June 4 runoff election by former president Alan Garcia, 57, the papers reported two days later. The margin was around 5 percent.

Another H-word in the news has been the Hamar, the party in power in the state of Palestine. Only the stamp-collector in me has kept an eye on that region in the Near East when Israel, with its defeated stamps, was born in 1948. This is in hindsight, but to have secured the first 15 stamps that Israel issued in 1931 and defeated after securing $1,000 on the market today. The price one paid then wouldn't have exceeded $20. You figure what I could have gained.

Another H-word in the news is Homeland Security, couched in the political verbiage — Secure the Border, illegal immigrants, the CIA, even Hurricane Katrina, that openly bare Nikkei concerns. Recent headlines can be a guide: "San Francisco Japanese up for sale." "The annual American Asian Festival is canceled." "JACL and Gulf Coast Asian Americans offer free legal help to victims."

An Iraqi disabled war veteran (of Thai ancestry) hopes her next step will be Congress, vying for the seat of Rep. Henry Hyde, R-III., who is retiring.

JACL joins ACLU and CCR challenging NSA domestic surveillance program. "In light of the years of surveillance placed upon Japanese American communities prior to outbreak of war with Japan," JACL director John Tateishi declared, "the JACL cannot stand idly by... Heart Heart!"

Looking at Our Past
Persisting our P.C. chronology of the prewar era, anti-Japanese prejudice, discrimination, and rationing, rather than surveillance per se, affected the Nisei who came in great numbers until stopped by the 1924 Immigration Act. The term, bracero, was then born and applied to Japanese laborers sneaking across the border from Mexico.

The California alien land laws enacted in 1931 crippled farming. The Nisei of voting age in the 1920s were organized to protect and promote the welfare of JA's, deliberately choosing "New Americans" to emphasize their birthright as an organizational identity.

The Hearst papers in the Great Depression were almost always using "foreigners" to mean Japanese as "steaky, cunning and ever plotting to subvert U.S. econony."

Anti-Japanese discrimination bills on poll tax and fish-game were introduced in the California legislature in 1931 and defeated after successful lobbying by Sacramento attorney Walter Tsukamoto (nation-al JACL president, 1938-40). Representing "radical outbursts, brewing in the 1920s, became an international incident in 1934 against Japanese farmers in Arizona's Salt River Valley. It was so virulent the Japanese consul and JACL leaders from Los Angeles approached the State of Arizona for a solution. With the Japanese government wanting to avoid an international incident, the U.S. State Department killed the restriction and the Arizona Alien American bill that threatened Japanese out of farming by warning Arizona could lose federal money.

In 1940, national JACL protested the California Joint Immigration Committee's charge that Nisei were being used to fight the alien fishing bill, its passage being a matter of national defense. By this time, the American Legion, Japanese Exclusion League and Veterans of Foreign Wars, members of the Joint Immigration Committee, "were seeking to discredit the Nisei by questioning their allegiance to this country," Tsukamoto, in a memo-randum, warned. All JACL chapters to expect the Joint Immigration Committee to continue "some kind of attack on Japanese Americans in 1941."

In June 1940, the "fifth column" purge was underway in the State Department clamping down rigid restrictions upon the admission of new aliens. The Japanese ancestry were already excluded except for treaty merchants, journalists, ministers and students.

National JACL President Tsukamoto made a ringing affirmation of Nisei loyalty in the cause of national defense in his opening remarks at the 1940 national convention meeting in Portland.

"The fervent love of the citizens for their country is equal to that of any other American and certainly surpassed by no American of whatever racial origin." As a prelude for the 26th biennium next week in Arizona, Tsukamoto's few lines of his "We are Americans" speech toll once more.

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Besides cats, Jimmy Tatsuo Mirikitani likes to draw the landscape of his past mountains, desert sand, rattlesnakes and himself — a crayon figure with his signature crimson beret and scarf — enclosed in a barbed wire fence.

His life you know, he said holding the artwork up to the camera in the documentary, "The Cats of Mirikitani." At 25, the Sacramento-born artist was interned at Tule Lake for three and a half years before renouncing his citizenship to return to Hiroshima. At 80, he was a self-proclaimed grand master artist living on the streets of New York when Linda Hattendorf found him and pushed 'record' on her camera.

— Lynda Lin

Pacific Citizen: What about Mirikitani initially drew you in?

LINDA HATTENDORF: I met Jimmy on Jan. 1, 2001. It was a bitterly cold night, and the Korean doll on my corner had moved all its produce and flowers inside to protect them from the plunging temperature.

On the empty shelves barely protected from the cold by a thin sheet of plastic, I saw an elderly man wearing many layers of coats and gloves calmly drawing a picture of a cat. He had piles of other drawings displayed around him. I was curious, and concerned. I also like cats. On impulse, I asked if he was going to sell the drawing — asking a favor in return: that I take a picture of it for him.

Like any artist Jimmy wanted his artwork documented. But I soon learned there were deeper stories behind every picture. What impressed me about Jimmy, once I learned more about his past was his determination to talk about it and make it visible. What happened to him and thousands of other Japanese Americans during World War II remains only minimally visible in mainstream history today. I hope my film is an extenuation of Jimmy's desire to be seen.

PC: You decided to take Jimmy in.

LH: Yes, it was completely impulsive.

By September 2000, I had been filming Jimmy for nine months. On the morning of Sept. 11, as I prepared to leave for work, I heard a plane roar over our building, followed by a horrible echoing boom. There was an eerie silence as everyone on the street stood stock-still, staring up in disbelief. When the second tower was hit, the silence turned to chaos. Around the corner, Jimmy stood with his back turned, still drawing.

Soon the eerie silence descended again on the deserted streets. I went back to check on Jimmy, and found him still drawing, now coughing in the toxic cloud that had engulfed our neighborhood.

With a hole in the sky where the solid towers of the World Trade Center had stood, the walls between Jimmy's life and mine no longer made sense. It seemed urgent that he come inside. When he initially politely refused, I remembered a story he had told me about Hiroshima. He had told me that when the atomic bomb was dropped, "people didn't understand that the air was poison." So that night, I told him, "Jimmy, I think maybe the air is poison. You need to come inside." That got through, and he came home with me.

PC: When you first started filming you thought this was just a short film, what made you keep documenting?

LH: When I first began to document Jimmy's life, I was shocked to find such an elderly man living on the streets. I wanted to raise awareness about his situation and that of others like him. I thought I made a small portrait of the artist in four seasons and hoped that someone would see my movie and rescue him. But the more I learned, the more I wanted to know, and the more involved I became.

PC: What was the most difficult part about documenting such a complex character?

LH: Well, of course any two people trying to share a one-room apartment in Manhattan have their differences. Jimmy and I are both fairly strong-willed, and suddenly having a new girlfriend tell me when to be home at night was not easy.

On a more important level, the most difficult thing was persuading him to accept government assistance. His deep mistrust and bitterness about the past were prevalent to the help he needed in the present. Understanding his past was the key to changing the future.

PC: After hearing your personal account, how have your views about internment history evolved or changed?

LH: I know very little about internment before I met Jimmy. I knew it had happened, but had no idea of the scope of it, or the details of daily life before, during and after.

I first heard the word Tule Lake from Jimmy. He not only cited statistics, he also painted a vivid picture of life there. He called camp a "big government mistake" and talked angrily about men who told him to sign a paper to "cut citizenship" and "go home."

As I researched Jimmy's past, I learned things I never knew happened in this country — the story of the renunciation is for me the most chilling. That native-born citizens of this country could have been persuaded under duress to sign away their citizenship makes it crystal clear that any one of us can be deemed "the enemy" when it serves the government's purpose. Jimmy's story is a cautionary tale that has taken on eerie resonance in the post 9/11 world.

PC: In documenting your intersecting lives, what lessons have you learned from him?

LH: I learned so much from Jimmy, not only about the lasting trauma of war and discrimination, but about the healing power of art. After 9/11, it was hard to know what to do. Jimmy did what he always did — made art every day. I followed his example and just kept shooting video, documenting our world daily. Art was the common language that helped the two of us bond despite our many differences, and helped me process the trauma of 9/11.

PC: Has he completely come to terms with his internment experience?

LH: I think the best answer for this is to describe how his art changed after he revisited the site of the Tule Lake camp. When I met him, he was obsessively drawing the same picture of his camp over and over: the mountain, the barracks, the locked gate, and a small figure: himself imprisoned behind the fence.

After he revisited this actual site on a pilgrimage to Tule Lake in 2002, his pictures of the camp changed. He drew the gate broken, the fence in ruins, cars and trucks passing freely on the road outside... soon the fence and gate were gone completely, only the mountain remained. And most significantly: he never put himself in the picture again.

PC: Do you still keep in touch with Jimmy?

LH: I visit Jimmy once a week in his new apartment. He is doing great. He has many new fans since the film came out. He also has his own cat — they watch nature shows together, and also samurai movies.

Secret Asian Man

By Tak

SECRET ASIAN MAN By Tak

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Sho. 10-12: National Nikkei Film Festival. For information, call 626-795-1618.


May 4-7: "Japanese American History and Culture 150th Anniversary Conference" at the University of California at Santa Barbara. Info: www.ja150.ucsb.edu.


May 16-20: Conference, "Next Big Bang: The Explosion of Asian American Theatre". Keynote address by Roberta Uno with other panelists: Phil Kim, Gou Gaona, Jessica Hagen-Bristow, and Terrie Xie Chang; showcase performances June 19-20 will be at the Aratani/Japanese American Theatre at 8:30 p.m.; tickets are $10 and open to the public through the East West Players Box Office, 213/825-2000. For registration fee information is $300, register at www.neuzahigh.org or call East West Players.

May 21: "Leaves of Grass" featuring old and new photographs, artifacts and media arts; presented by the Okada Museum of Art; at the Orange County Museum of Art. Info: 850 Santa Ana Blvd., Santa Ana. Call 714/667-6634 for tickets.


COLOR: The Spirit of Design in Japanese Printmaking, spanning from JA cases in southern Idaho; a two-day symposium at the Oregon Nikkei Legacy Center, 12115 SW 385th Dr., Clackamas, Ore. Demonstrations will be featured on Saturday, June 4, and Sunday, June 5. Info: 503/224-1458.

Northern California MANZANAR


Nov. 6-10: "Japanese American History and Culture 150th Anniversary Conference" at the University of California at Santa Barbara. Info: www.ja150.ucsb.edu.


Nov. 16-20: "Japanese American History and Culture 150th Anniversary Conference" at the University of California at Santa Barbara. Info: www.ja150.ucsb.edu.

Angeles, April 26; survived by sons, Nakamura; sister-in-law, Shizuko gc.; brother, George (Lucy) Davis (Esther) Abe. Paul (Ann) and Richard (Linda); 2

PACIFIC CITIZEN,
April 22; survived by husband, Sasaki and Lynne Dohi; son, Steven (Donna); 5 gc.; and sisters, Ida Louise Fukumitsu, Kach Kashima, Morikawa; brother-in-law, Tom

Inouye, T9mmy Yoshio, 74, Las Vegas, April 23; Korean War veter­

SECOND WARS NOTICES
JUNE NORIKO YOSHIOKA
June Noriko Yoshioka; 89, passed away May 24. She was born June 19, 1916 in San Francisco to Dr. Chotoku and Alice (Tanaka) Nishi. June's great­

grandfather, Gohacbiro Namura, was the chief interpreter to the first Japanese Embassy to America in 1860. Her grandfather, Tsurukichi "Tom" Tabuchi, was in San Francisco in the 1870's, with his wife and mother-in­

law (Gohacbiro's widow). She attended schools in San Francisco, Albany,

and graduated from Oakland Technical High School. June married Gichi

"Smiley" Yoshioka, joined the Oakland Buddhist Church, and moved to

Hayward in 1955. During World War II, the Yoshioka family was interned at Tule Lake and at Topaz (Utah) Relocation Center, before moving east to Ohio and Minnesota, where Gichi joined the U.S. Army Military Intelligence Service (M.I.S.). The family returned to Hayward in 1947, where June start­

ed the florist shop to complement the Yoshioka Nursery, which lasted until

1980. In 1993, June moved into the St. Regis Retirement Center. She joined TOPS Club with her dear friend, Margie O'Brien. June had many good

friends, including Shizu Nishimura of Sacramento, Kay Dairu of Hayward, and Emily Gilligan of Castro

June is survived by two children, Vernon (Shinobu) Yoshioka of San Diego and Allena (Clinton) Donati of Santa Barbara; brother, Vernon (Eimi) Nishi of Walnut Creek; sister of Jewel Okawachi of Albany; three sisters-in­

laws, Yukie Goto of Hawaii, Toshiyo Yoshioka of Newark, and Frances Morioka of San Francisco; six grandchildren, Christine (Sam) Yoshioka­

Green, Christopher Donati, Thomas Donati, Charles (Susan) Bender, Carol (Jose) Santa, Linda (Marc) Fabian, and 5 great grandchildren. She is prede­

ceased by husband, Gichi, and brother, Allen Taka Nishi (who was killed in Italy during WWII), and received the Silver Star, while a member of the

422nd Regimental Combat Team) and many nieces and nephews.

She was a member of the Oakland Buddhist Church; (Gichi's father, Tadaichi Yoshioka, was a founding member of the Oakland Buddhist

Church.). the Eden Township Japanese American Citizens League (Gichi and Gichi were both charter members of the Eden Township JACL, and were also JACL. 1000 Club life members.), and recently the TOPS Club.

The family wishes to express their thanks to St. Regis Retirement Center, Eden Hospital (especially the ICU), Vintage Estates, Windsor Gardens, DelVal, and their staffs, for June's care.

A memorial service will be held June 25 at 7 p.m. at Christ Church of Chicago, 6045 N. Rockwell Ave. Donations, in lieu of flowers, may be given to the JACL or the

Buddhist Church.
Only the timid, would suffer discrimination and not speak out.

Only the short-sighted, would provide for their children a first rate education but not fight for their equal opportunity to achieve their full potential in the workplace.

Only those with the "slave mentality," would say that "I am living comfortably and I am content to be a second class citizen."

Fellow Japanese-Americans, you are probably not aware of the kind of statistics shown in the chart below. The chart shows that, where 2.1 million Asian Americans work, we don't enjoy equal opportunity to enter the managerial levels of private industries, universities and Federal government. Indeed, we are by far the most discriminated when compared with blacks, whites, Hispanics and women.

The above chart shows Asian Americans have only 1/2 or less the chance to rise to managerial levels as compared with the average American. Government statistics* are the sources of the above chart. Said data have also been presented to Labor Secretary Elaine Chao and EEOC Chairwoman Cari Dominguez with explicit requests for comments. On 4/12, Ron Edwards, statistics expert for EEOC, e-mailed 80-20 Educational Foundation (EF)** that the chart's "calculations are consistent with mine."

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For those willing to give money, please be generous. Contributions to EF are tax deductible. EF plans to 1) Buy a full page ad in a major mainstream paper (NY Times or Washington Post) to call our nation's attention of the inequity suffered by Asian Americans, and 2) go to court, if necessary, to force our government to enforce Exec. Order 11246 which had been used effectively to eliminate the glass ceiling for all minorities except for the Asian Americans.

Such actions will be costly. Those giving $100,000 will be listed as EF's Founders; $10,000 will be listed as Associate Founders $1,000 will be listed as Patrons.

All other amounts are welcome and appreciated.

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