



Japan Remembers
Nagasaki and Hiroshima mark the World War II atomic bombings in somber remembrances.

NATIONAL NEWS PAGE 3



Sound of Music
Yes, Rich Wong made a musical. 'Colma' is surprising audiences every where.

ENTERTAINMENT PAGE 9



Fit Like a Sumotori!
Stamping, clapping, and leg stretching. A new Sumo Fitness DVD is now on sale.

SPORTS PAGE 7

Since 1929

PACIFIC CITIZEN

The National Publication of the Japanese American Citizens League



Get Your Ondo On
Little Tokyo's Nisei Week offers up food and entertainment for the entire family.

CALENDAR PAGE 10

#3063/ Vol. 143, No. 4 ISSN: 0030-8579

AUG. 18-31, 2006

Retiree Heads to Iraq

Dr. Richard Asami decided to come out of retirement to do his part in the current Iraq war.

By CAROLINE AOYAGI-STOM
Executive Editor

When Col. Richard Asami first learned that a soldier from the 34th Infantry Division currently serving in Iraq had been killed while on duty, the news hit the 71-year-old dentist particularly hard.

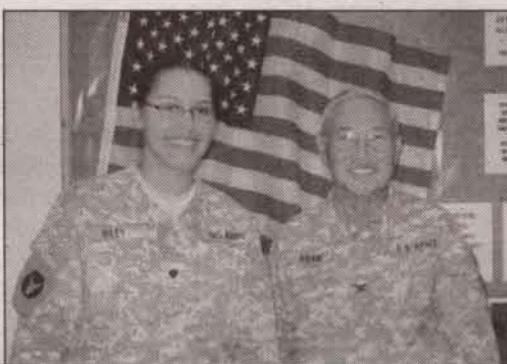
Asami had just returned from Iraq himself earlier that same month after serving in the same division.

Although Asami had never met Sergeant Kyle Randall Miller who was killed June 29, the Fresno native felt his death deeply and realized it could have been any of the men he had served with while in Iraq.

"I was on my way home when I heard that a soldier from our division had been killed," said Asami, from his home in Fresno, Calif. "It could have been anyone from our company, but it wasn't."

Like many of the soldiers currently serving in embattled Iraq, Asami just wanted to do his part. When he recently received an e-mail from the U.S. Army asking retirees to consider volunteering once again, he immediately decided to take up their offer.

Asami retired in 1999 after serving in the U.S. Army for 40 years, mostly in the reserve units and the National Guard. His service has taken him across the country, twice to Korea, Italy and to Germany. But



Dr. Richard Asami poses with his assistant, Specialist Leticia Riley, while he was serving in Iraq with the 34th Infantry Division.

when the offer to serve in Iraq came up, he dusted off his dental tools and headed to Fort Bliss, Texas to sign up.

For 90 days from March to the end of June of this year Asami served his country, mainly looking after the dental health of his fellow soldiers of the 1st Brigade Combat Team of the 34th Infantry Division. Working closely with U.S. Army dentists, he performed

See DR. ASAMI/Page 4

Rhode Island's V-J Day Holiday Called Discriminatory

Critics say the state celebrates the U.S. victory over Japan, but not Germany.

By P.C. Staff and Associated Press

The commemoration was not as jubilant as it was in 1945, but Rhode Island residents and veterans groups gathered this Aug. 14 to mark the day Americans learned that the Japanese had surrendered, ending World War II. It is a tradition that has endured since 1948 and Rhode Island is the only state that still celebrates the holiday.

The holiday is commonly referred to as Victory over Japan Day, or V-J Day, because of its association with the Japanese surrender. Critics say it's discriminatory, and would like to eliminate the holiday or at least remove any reference to the victory over Japan.



AP PHOTO/STEW MILNE

Mikki Lima, who runs the Rhode Island Japan Society in Providence, R.I., opposes the celebration of V-J Day as a holiday.

"It's curious to know that they celebrate the victory over Japan, but not VE Day," said JAACL Executive Director John Tateishi about Victory in Europe Day three

See V-J DAY/Page 8

Coming to a Neighborhood Near You: Anti-Immigrant Billboards Spread Across Country

The Hispanic community isn't the only target of the 'Stop the Invasion' campaign. Organizers want the AA community to heed the message too.

By CAROLINE AOYAGI-STOM
Executive Editor

As you drive past the San Gabriel Mountains just east of Los Angeles where the westbound 210 freeway approaches the 605 interchange, a

stark white billboard abruptly dissects the neighboring rolling hillsides. A 14 by 52 foot tall sign in patriotic red and blue colors reads: "Stop the Invasion." And in smaller letters, "Secure Our Borders."

For most Latino Americans, anti-immigrant sentiment such as this billboard is something they have become accustomed to, especially since the ongoing immigration debates recently resulted in mass demonstra-



'Stop the Invasion' billboards like this one in Los Angeles are sprouting up in major metropolitan cities all across the U.S. and are sponsored by Grassfire.org.

Although the message is largely targeted at Latinos, APAs are also affected by its anti-immigrant message.

tions in cities across the country. Often, illegal immigration equals Latinos, accompanied by television footage of people caught crossing the Mexico-U.S. border.

But largely lost in the immigration debates are Asian Americans, ironic since AAs have large numbers of immigrants and illegal immigrants number over one million, a fact many AAs themselves are unaware of. But don't be fooled; these billboards are equally aimed at

See BILLBOARDS/Page 12

Rare Color Footage of Poston Discovered

By ASSOCIATED PRESS

MESA, Ariz.—The history of the U.S.' relocation centers — where more than 100,000 people of Japanese ancestry were forced to live during World War II — has been documented in government reports, newspaper clippings and

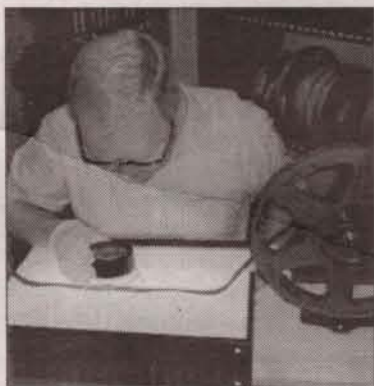


PHOTO: ASU/THOMAS STORY

Brian Davis of ASU's Hayden Library examines World War II-era film of the Poston relocation center.

black-and-white photographs.

But, until now, it is not believed to have been seen in moving color.

While taking inventory at the Arizona Historical Foundation last year, archivist Linda Whitaker found a brown film canister labeled "Poston Color Dup." Inside was 16-millimeter film showing the Colorado River camp, commonly known as "Poston," being built and receiving its first inhabitants 64

See POSTON/Page 5

Army Refuses 1st Lt. Watada's Offer to Resign

By ASSOCIATED PRESS

HONOLULU—The Army has rejected an offer by 1st Lt. Ehren Watada that would allow him to resign instead of putting him through a court-martial.

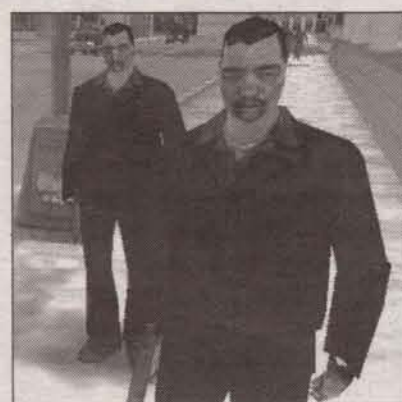


Two of his commanders rejected the proposal. And on Aug. 4 Lt. Gen. James Dubik, who now commands Fort Lewis, Wash., also turned down the deal.

The 28-year-old Kalani High school graduate decided against going to Iraq after researching the war and deciding it is illegal. Watada is a member of the Army's first Stryker Brigade Combat Team. His unit deployed for Iraq on June

See WATADA/Page 4

In Video Games the Bad Guys Come in All Shades of Stereotypes



Yakuza in 'Grand Theft Auto 3' (left) and a samurai named Lo Wang (above) are examples of stereotypes.

A college student's study reveals a string of objectionable Asian characters.

By LYNDALIN
Assistant Editor

Dishonorable samurai, kung fu masters and slanty-eyed Chinatown gang members rule the digital video game landscape whenever a storyline calls for ethnic representation. It's a pervasive problem, according to one university student, and he's

calling the video game industry out on it.

Robert Parungao, 23, is a self-described avid gamer who spent most of adolescence perched in front of the television set playing popular games like "Shadow Warrior," an action game where the players assume the identity of Lo Wang, a sinewy Japanese henchman who guzzles fortune cookies for power. At first, the fifth generation Canadian who is half Filipino

See VIDEO GAMES/Page 4

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Letters to the Editor

Readers Continue to Debate Watada

If the JACL is not one of the many civil and human rights organizations in the United States to speak out against unlawful killings by our government, please name me the proper organization(s) recognized by you and the White House to protest.

Today's JACL is responding almost exactly as it did in regards to the 63 men of conscience who were tried in the Federal Court in Cheyenne, Wyoming during WWII. That trial too had to do with an unlawful act committed by our government.

Lt. Watada's civil and human rights to refuse an unlawful order according to the Nuremberg Trials are to be tried by a military court. Any organization or individual with a conscience or love for others would wholeheartedly support anyone of Lt. Watada's courage.

If the JACL is to have any respect and support, it would pay attention to the JACL Honolulu chapter.

"The JACL Hawai'i, Honolulu chapter supports Lt. Ehren Watada's thoughtful and deliberate act of conscience. We believe Lt. Watada's refusal to participate in a war that violates the U.S. Constitution and international law is a principled act of patriotism," the chapter said in their statement. "We believe a staunch defense of the Constitution is in keeping with JACL Hawai'i's primary mission of protecting the civil and human rights of all."

Hisashi Ishizaki
VFW lifetime member

Thank you for the thoughtful statement issued by National JACL on July 20.

As a retired Marine officer and a former Marine judge advocate you have captured my sentiments and those of many vets in Hawai'i.

As a vet having served combat tours in Vietnam, the statement also is supportive of the thousands of Asian and minority soldiers, sailors, Marines and airmen in Iraq or are about to deploy.

Well done.

Ernie Kimoto
Via e-mail

I am George Aki, a retired minister. I had the distinct privilege of serving as a chaplain with the 442nd Combat Team during World War II. Working with chaplains Yost, Yamada and Higuchi was a memorable joy.

I wish to pen my thoughts on 1st Lt. Ehren Watada and his decision not to be deployed to Iraq. He honestly believes that the war against Iraq is not only illegal but immoral. For anyone to come to this decision and proclaim it publicly took courage for there are many who truly believe in this endless war.

Lt. Watada came to this conclusion after a long soul-searching study of the facts, speaking with so many people, especially with his parents. He knew definitely that this would end his Army career with a possible court-martial.

I surmise that the lieutenant is a

fine person with a high I.Q. and an excellent soldier. For an Army officer to come to this conclusion and swear by it is truly amazing. Yes, there are many who oppose this war, but very few who would stand and be counted to it publicly and to jeopardize his future.

Lt. Watada has taken a position asserting a higher loyalty than to patriotism, which is the guarantee of our Constitution. He deserves to do his patriotic duty but defines his loyalty to the principles which are truly the foundation of our democracy.

George Aki
Retired Clergyman
Former Chaplain (Major),
442 R.C.T.

Our involvement in Iraq stems from the 9/11 terrorist attack which killed over 2,000 people. The post-war effort to stabilize the Iraqi government and to establish our position in the Middle East was a tough endeavor from the very beginning. Whether this can ever be established remains to be seen.

During WWII, any person in uniform not at a designated place of deployment was considered AWOL and immediately sent to a brig for a designated amount of time when found. It happened to a disoriented GI occasionally, but an officer disobeying an assignment was very, very rare if at all, regardless of nationality, race or creed.

Those who refused to serve during WWII, given an enemy-alien status, incarcerated like a POW, had their own personal reasons and is also a subject of a different matter.

The whole concept of the motto "Go For Broke" of the 442nd Combat Team of WWII fame stems from orders from their parents that instilled the thought, "Whatever you do, do not bring shame to the family."

Most of all, do not bring dishonor to the thousand of GIs of Japanese decent who have died for the nation.

Harry Nakata
Kingsburg, CA

A division of opinions exists among Japanese Americans regarding 1st Lt. Ehren Watada's refusal to serve in a war he believes to be illegal and immoral.

There is a lesson from the life of Chiune Sugihara, the Japanese diplomat who refused to obey his government's order during World War II. Sugihara continued to write travel visas for approximately 2,000 Jewish families who escaped certain death at the hands of the Nazis in the Holocaust.

When asked why he disobeyed, Sugihara replied, "Always do right because it is right."

Life was difficult for Sugihara and his family during the war and the post-war period. We can only imagine how difficult life will be for 1st Lt. Watada and his family.

Mas Hashimoto
Watsonville, CA

This letter is in response to the Pacific Citizen's interview with 1st Lt. Ehren Watada. What is heart-breaking to me is the lack of outrage and anger expressed by the JA community thus far for this "punk" who thinks he alone can decide the legality of an on-going war just to cover-up his personal shortcomings and selfishness.

Watada states that his decision "brings honor to veteran JAs." As an Army veteran, I find it repulsive that he throws around "honor" and "loyalty" so casually and conveniently when he clearly possesses neither. His supporters admire his "courage" while I find this OFFICER's "lack of courage" harmful and destructive to military order and morale while providing misleading publicity for use by our enemies.

For whatever reason, Watada, VOLUNTEER leader of young American men and women, got cold feet, chickened out and abandoned his unit prior to deployment. But to utilize left-wing talking points, legal and media support to masquerade his desire to escape out of harm's ways is even more disgusting, despicable and unforgivable.

Watada's actions have brought permanent shame and disgrace to the superb reputation of Asian American veterans, past and present, who have served with pride and distinction, many giving the ultimate sacrifice for their country. Nothing he says now can reverse the damage already done.

You definitely don't speak for me Watada; but you may be right about "the quiet, obedient Japanese" stereotype you label us in your interview. The silence from all JAs is very disturbing and troublesome. Why isn't there a clear and vocal response in opposition to Watada's antics? Will those JACL members who feel strongly against his behavior please come out and write to the P.C. or JACL? Or is it just a handful of us Spartans who are willing to stand up to Watada's unjustified, anarchic, anti-America propaganda campaign?

Wayne Yamato
West Los Angeles

Re: 'A J-Pop Culture Identity'

The Pacific Citizen article titled "A J-Pop Culture Identity" (July 21-Aug. 3, 2006) was an interesting read for us who are Japanese born and living in Japan. The piece helped us to understand the new trends amongst the younger generations of Japanese Americans. We are grateful to know that J-Pop or the media help JAs get a glimpse of their roots in Japan.

Whatever opportunity, let the Yonsei or Gosei have an interest in Japan. We should be more aware of the power of culture beating strong amongst the youth. Culture can be a bridge to cross over between the two countries where our brave ancestors came from and in which they made their journey.

Asako Suzuki
Yokohama, Japan
JACL Japan Chapter

Thank You Arizona Chapter!

To all the members of the Arizona JACL, and in particular to the hard-working and completely dedicated members of the host chapter's convention committee, thank you for all your hard work and sweat and commitment that made the 2006 convention the great success it was.

JACL 2006 went without a single hitch, not a detail out of place and not one thing that went even slightly askew. That accomplishment was remarkable and was the result of a group of hard working, dedicated volunteers from the chapter who never lost their cheerful and bright spirits.

Thank you Arizona JACL for your remarkable achievement in putting on such a great convention.

John Tateishi
JACL Executive Director

A New Leadership

With the retirement of John Tateishi, now is the opportunity to change course from a fading past and look to the brighter future by selection of a person not connected with the past.

There are many learned men who have spent many years in the JACL. But does knowledge of the organization alone necessarily prepare one for community leadership? We think not. The JACL community across America is in desperate need of a level-headed, well educated and young-spirited leadership.

The Nikkei community needs strategic thinkers and fearless leaders. We need to create a new generation of modern civil rights leaders who can guide us in the civil rights arena and understand the value of our cultural heritage.

We need to pump the veins of JACL with fresh blood. We need to look for young (20s-30s), preferably Yonsei women, a law school graduate, in contrast to the current custom of choosing an old Nikkei with a JACL connection.

A selection of a youthful leader is necessary. Remember that Mike Masaoka was in his 20s when he led the JACL during its deepest crisis.

Takasumi Kojima
Berkeley, CA

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* "Voices" reflect the active, public discussion within JACL of a wide range of ideas and issues, though they may not reflect the viewpoint of the editorial board of the Pacific Citizen.

* "Short expressions" on public issues, usually one or two paragraphs, should include signature, address and daytime phone number. Because of space limitations, letters are subject to abridgement. Although we are unable to print all the letters we receive, we appreciate the interest and views of those who take the time to send us their comments.

National Newsbytes

By P.C. Staff and Associated Press

Two Charged with Racist Attack on Asian Youths

NEW YORK—Officials said they have charged two men with hate crimes, after four Asian youths were seriously beaten in what prosecutors say was a racially-motivated attack.

The incident occurred Aug. 12, when the two defendants, aged 19 and 20, allegedly pulled up beside the four Asians and started shouting racial slurs, according to the charge sheet. The two defendants are alleged to have rammed the car the four men were in before attacking one of them with a steering wheel lock and punching another about the head and body. The alleged attack left one of the men with lacerations requiring multiple stitches and another with a possible fractured skull.

Both defendants are being held pending arraignment on various counts, including hate crime charges, and face between eight and 15 years in prison if convicted.

Poll Shows Akaka Leads Case in Race for Democratic Nomination

HONOLULU—A poll of likely Democratic primary voters says U.S. Sen. Daniel Akaka has a large lead over U.S. Rep. Ed Case in the race to be the Democratic nominee for Senate. Fifty-five percent said they supported Akaka against 35 percent who said they backed Case. Ten percent were undecided.

But another poll of all Hawaii voters — not just Democratic primary voters — shows the two neck-and-neck.

Pakistani Born Pilot Sues JetBlue

NEW YORK—A Pakistani-born pilot is suing JetBlue Airways Corp. for discrimination, claiming the airline rescinded a job offer and told him it was because of his background.

Faisal Baig, a U.S. citizen who was raised in Yonkers, claims in the suit that an airline manager told him in March that he was a "security risk." According to the suit filed in Manhattan Supreme Court, Baig asked, "Are you saying that you are not hiring me because of my name or my religion? ... Are you saying you are not hiring me because of where I'm from?"

The manager answered, "Yes, and JetBlue considers you a security risk," according to the suit.

Baig, whose suit seeks an unspecified amount of money, is now living in Raleigh, N.C., where he is continuing to look for work as a pilot.

Councilmember Liu Sued by Disc Jockey

NEW YORK—Queens City Councilmember John Liu is facing a \$55 million defamation suit from a radio disc jockey for calling the man a pedophile.

Troy Torain, 42, was recently fired from the hip-hop station Power 105.1 FM as a result of a feud he was carrying on with rival DJ Rashawn Casey (DJ Envy) of Hot 97 FM. Torain allegedly made sexual and racist remarks about his rival's four-year-old daughter. Torain was then arrested by the NYPD Hate Crimes Unit on May 12 and charged with harassment and endangering the welfare of a child. ■

APAs in the News

By Pacific Citizen Staff

Inouye Receives High Honors from DND

The Department of Defense awarded its highest recognition to Sen. Daniel Inouye for his continual fight for the rights of Filipino World War II veterans. Inouye received the Outstanding Achievement Award while visiting the defense department in Camp Aguinaldo. Inouye is also lobbying to amend U.S. immigration laws that would grant children of Filipino World War II veterans special immigrant status.

Spokane JACL Honors the Takaokas



HONORING (l-r): Doug Heyamoto, Senior Consul Hidehiro Hosaka, Hiroshi and Michiko Takaoka, Spokane Valley Mayor Diana Wilhite, Spokane Mayor Dennis Hession and Ed Tsutakawa.

The Spokane JACL honored Hiroshi and Michiko Takaoka at a luncheon recently celebrating the couple's 16 years of support to their chapter and to the Spokane community.

The chapter's annual Nikkei Appreciation Lunch was held at Mukogawa Fort Wright Institute (MFWI), a branch of the Mukogawa Women's University in Nishinomiya, Japan. Hiroshi is MFWI's executive vice president while Michiko is the director at the Japanese Cultural Center at Mukogawa. Spokane JACL presented them with an original framed picture of the city of Spokane and the waterfalls that run through it. ■



'I will never forget what happened 61 years ago.'

— Kikuyo Nakamura, 82, a Nagasaki atomic bomb survivor.

Each year, participants observe a moment of silence (left) to remember the tragedy of the bombs.

In Japan, Nagasaki and Hiroshima Observe 61st Anniversary of Atomic Bombings

By CHISAKI WATANABE
Associated Press Writer

TOKYO—The mayor of Nagasaki, the second of the only two cities attacked with an atomic bomb, marked the 61st anniversary of the bombing Aug. 9 by criticizing the world's nuclear powers for their stalled efforts to disarm.

Mayor Ichio Ito criticized those countries for not working earnestly for atomic disarmament. He spoke at a memorial service attended by about 4,800 survivors, officials and guests at Peace Memorial Park, just a few hundred yards from the center of the blast at the end of World War II.

Ito said the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty, the international pact to prevent the spread of nuclear weapons, was "on the verge of collapsing."

Ito said North Korea, which claims to possess nuclear weapons,

is threatening the peace and stability of Japan, which is a participant in stalled six-nation talks on curbing North Korea's atomic program.

On Aug. 6, 1945, the U.S. bomber Enola Gay dropped the "Little Boy" bomb on Hiroshima, killing at least 140,000 people in the world's first atomic attack.

Three days later, the B-29 Bock's Car dropped a bomb dubbed "Fat Man" on Nagasaki, with estimates of the immediate death toll ranging from 60,000 to 80,000.

Participants in Nagasaki observed a moment of silence at 11:02 a.m., the exact time the atomic bomb was dropped on the city.

Kikuyo Nakamura, 82, said she was concerned the attack could soon be forgotten because many of those who survived have passed away.

"I will never forget what happened 61 years ago," she said. "Now I feel compelled to tell others how stupid, scary and cruel the war

was."

Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi said Japan would honor its pacifist constitution and uphold the principle of nuclear nonproliferation. Japan is a signatory to the nuclear treaty but also has its own moratorium on seeking or developing atomic arms.

The Aug. 9 ceremony followed a memorial service Aug. 6 in Hiroshima, where about 45,000 people gathered in the city's peace park. Embassy officials from seven countries, including Germany, Russia and Australia, were among those who attended in Nagasaki; city officials said. American diplomats did not attend, according to a city statement.

Nagasaki this year added 2,831 people to a list of those who have died from aftereffects of the attack, raising the total number of fatalities blamed on the atomic bomb to 140,144. ■

MANAA Upset Over Racial Slur in Movie 'Night Listener'

Media Action Network for Asian Americans, an AA media watchdog group, is upset over a line in the new Robin Williams film "Night Listener."

In one scene actress Sandra Oh (who plays an accountant) calls William's father "a nice old coot."

Williams shoots back: "And if he ever met you he'd call you 'that cute little chink girl' behind your back." Oh responds: "I AM a cute little chink girl." Williams just says, "Mm hmm."

In a letter to Miramax President Daniel Battsek, founding MANAA President Guy Aoki wrote: "What were executive producer Terry Anderson and his writers thinking?"

"It sends out a horrific message — That it's OK to call someone by



LISTENING: Sandra Oh in Miramax Films' 'The Night Listener.'

a racial slur. And that it's also OK for viewers to use it (after all, the recipient of the slur wasn't bothered by it; in fact, she claimed ownership of it)."

Aoki said the dialogue would not

have been tolerated if the slur "nigger" were used instead.

The clip was shown Aug. 1 when Oh was a guest on ABC's late night talk show "Jimmy Kimmel Live."

A Miramax publicist told Aoki they'd given ABC the choice of airing one of two clips featuring Oh and warned them to bleep out "chink" if they used the clip that included that slur, but they didn't.

MANAA asked both Miramax and ABC to make public statements addressing the controversy, but both refused, although Miramax said they removed the clip from future electronic press kits. ■

'We have so many dreams, but this one has come true.' — Maureen Swartwood, a native of Fiji about Alaska.

Immigrant Shift Seen in Alaska Job Market

By ASSOCIATED PRESS

ANCHORAGE, Alaska—Over the past 20 years, a wave of immigration has washed across the West Coast, and it has extended to Anchorage, where minority and immigrant populations have grown rapidly. What sets Anchorage apart from many cities is the diversity of the minority and immigrant groups — it's not just one or two or three groups. It's many.

For example, Anchorage now ranks third in America in the per capita population of Pacific Islanders and Native Hawaiians (behind only Honolulu and Sacramento). The city ranks 19th per capita for Asians, ahead of bigger cities like Chicago, Minneapolis and Washington, D.C. Anchorage is

second in the country in the number per capita of people who are two or more races. For Alaska Natives or Native Americans, it ranks first.

While the black and white populations stayed relatively constant in the 1990s, thousands of Pacific Islanders from Samoa, Western Samoa, Tonga and other states, especially Hawaii, moved to Anchorage. Already-established communities of Koreans, Filipinos, Mexicans, Southeast Asians and Central Americans grew through immigration and births.

Since 2000, hundreds of Hmong refugees and their families, from Thailand and other states, have settled here. There are small but growing communities of Africans, Middle Easterners and Eastern

Europeans.

What's the draw? The biggest pull may come from the promise of work, especially in small businesses and service economy jobs at hotels, restaurants and big-box retailers.

Maureen Swartwood, 24, came to Anchorage from Fiji five years ago, after her father was selected in a green-card lottery.

The family, which has Indian roots, is Muslim and was part of a religious minority in Fiji. Alaska offers more religious tolerance, Swartwood said. She looks forward to starting a family here and expanding her business.

"I always wanted a shop for myself," she said. "We have so many dreams, but this one has come true." ■

VIDEO GAMES

(Continued from page 1)

and half Chinese, was happy just to see a character that looked like him, but as his cultural awareness heightened he began to notice a problem.

Mainly, Lo Wang stereotypes were rampant in a six billion dollar industry that capitalizes on riveting young minds. So he made race representation in video games the topic of his honors thesis at the University of British Columbia, and suddenly he was being interviewed by BBC News and maligned by other gamers who accused him of pulling the race card.

Obviously, Parungao hit a nerve.

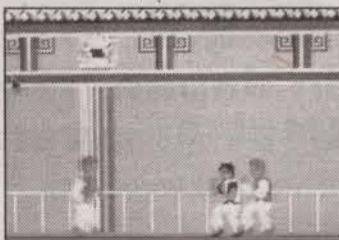
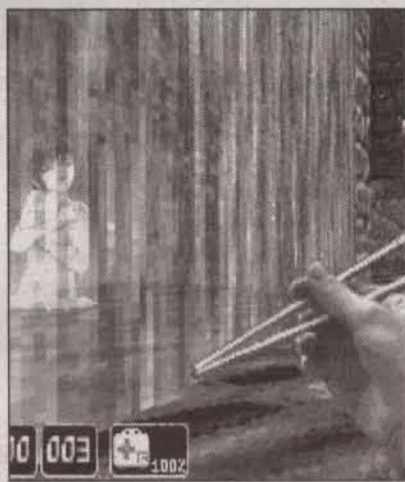
The gaming industry is used to weathering criticism about violence and sexism, but racism?

"I'm raising issues that have never been looked at before," he said.

Academic Reading Meets a Culturally Mixed Up Samurai

"I was coming at it with gamer sensibility," Parungao said about his research, which involved eight months of academic reading and video game playing — two of his greatest passions. He is now pursuing a master's degree in sociology.

For his thesis, Parungao chose four video games: "Kung Fu," "Shadow Warrior," "Warcraft 3" and "Grand Theft Auto 3" (GTA 3). He initially borrowed the research model of race representation from film and television and applied it to video games, but found that it really didn't fit. Games speak to its audience interactively, he explained, not like in television and movies where stories are being told to you.



Rob Parungao (top) spent months researching stereotypical characters like kung fu masters (top right) and Lo Wang (left) who accosts women with chopsticks.

"It's the aspect of play. You yourself are the protagonist. You're the one in [Grand Theft Auto] that picks up the baseball bat, runs through Chinatown and kills a Triad [gang member]," he said.

In "Kung Fu," the main character chops and kicks his way through a temple to save his lover, giant pandas fight an army of demons in "Warcraft 3" and Chinese gangs vie with the Yakuza for territory in GTA 3. But Parungao said the most blatantly offensive is the culturally mixed up Lo Wang character, who throws grenades and yells, "Just like

Hiroshima!" and preys on bathing girls, sometimes with chopsticks.

Stereotypes like those in "Shadow Warrior" are so blatant that they can be held up to ridicule, but it's the subtle racism that slowly seeps below the skin. The ever present danger in these representations lie in the continued reiteration of a lot of stereotypes of kung fu masters and "Me love you long time" exotic women, said Parungao.

"I've never seen an Asian character portrayed as a person as opposed to a Shaolin master or a samurai. In video games, their actions are dic-

tated by their skin color," he added.

Reading Into a Pastime

Reaction to the thesis has been mixed. Panicked parents have asked how to deal with the new study and gamers have lashed out in online forums.

"If this guy is going to base his 'thesis' off of a game like 'Kung Fu,' then he seriously needs to quit college right now. I wonder what he would say about 'Zelda II: The Adventure of Link'? Remember when you enter certain palaces; you had these white magicians with pointy hats that disappeared? They looked like Klan members ... I wonder what he would have said about that," said one gamer on gamespot.com.

Others have, of course, accused Parungao of reading too much into a recreational pastime. But blame should be placed on both the industry and its consumers, he said.

Texas-based 3D Realms, which made "Shadow Warriors" in 1997, called their game "an attempt to parody all of those low budget kung fu movies we all loved as kids."

"Anytime you create a non-Caucasian character, you're going to have people who believe you've portrayed them in a bad light. It is to be expected," said Scott Miller, vice president of Action Entertainment, a 3D Realms affiliate.

Nintendo, Blizzard Entertainment and Rock Star Games, which made "Kung Fu," "Warcraft 3" and "GTA 3" respectively, did not respond to requests for comment.

Parungao reflects on all the attention with a sense of bemusement. What started out as an honor's thesis he wrote to get good grades and get into graduate school became a lightning rod for discussion on race representation.

"I don't think there is much racism in video games to begin with, and wherever it may exist I think overall, video games balance out whatever stereotypes they create for various ethnicities. Like in GTA 3, Chinatown is the center of the Triads, a Chinese gang, but there are also Italian mobsters and other gangsters around so 'it's not like they're saying, 'Hey look, dirty evil Chinese gangbangers!'" said Artie Lee, 21.

Lee, a student from UC San Diego, said video games don't introduce racism or stereotypes to children, but he doesn't think positive Asian Pacific American video game characters exist.

"As an Asian American who grew up playing lots of video games, I have to say that none of it ever felt racist to me and I don't think I've met anyone who thought less of me because of something he saw in a video game," Lee added. ■

DR. ASAMI

(Continued from page 1)

routine dental work such as cleanings and restorations.

"I had to do my part," he said. "I had to do something. I couldn't just stay at home. I knew they needed medical personnel and I needed to help."

"I just went, did what I was supposed to do, and I came back."

Asami was stationed at the 34th Division's compound at Camp Adder, Iraq. Although this was Asami's first time being deployed to a designated combat zone, he says he was never in any real danger. Unlike his fellow soldiers, Asami was never in combat nor did he drive any convoys.

"Moral was good," he said of his fellow soldiers. "They kind of adopted me."

Still, his family wasn't too thrilled at first with his decision to come out of retirement to head to Iraq. But eventually his wife and three kids came around and are extremely proud of his service.

"At first they had different opin-

ions of my signing up from 'that's great' to 'don't go,'" said Asami. "But they're happy that I made it back. They feel fortunate that I made it back, because a lot didn't."

Many of his fellow soldiers also spoke to him of the famed Japanese American units of World War II — the 100th Battalion and the 442nd Regiment — units that ironically are part of the 34th Infantry Division and in which two of his uncles served.

"They knew about the record of the unit," said Asami, who was interned at the Poston III internment camp during WWII. "They realized what they went through, some of the fierce fighting. They are all grateful of their service."

Asami has been reading the extensive coverage of the controversy surrounding 1st Lt. Ehren Watada's recent decision to refuse deployment to Iraq but is not eager to get involved with the debates.

"It's an individual thing. You can understand his side, but you can also understand the military's side," he said. "I guess he had his reasons but there's no way of judging how he

came to his decision."

Asami was hoping to see more Asian Pacific American faces while serving in Iraq but was disappointed with the lack of participation.

"It was disappointing to see so few APAs. I thought there would be more but I guess times have changed," he said.

"This country did a lot to us but they did a lot for us later," added Asami. "We owe this country to serve."

Asami hopes to see more retirees return to service and encourages them to consider helping out in the war with Iraq.

"Retirees have the training, the background, and experience," he said. "They are a great asset to the Army ... and I wish more would volunteer."

Asami is now back in his hometown of Fresno. He still volunteers his dental services locally and is enjoying time with his only grandchild. But if asked, he would not hesitate to volunteer for service again.

"I would go back to Iraq," he said. "I can still do some good." ■

going to be detrimental in the long run to Lieutenant Watada," he said.

Watada made an offer last month to face a nonjudicial hearing, resign his commission and accept a less-than-honorable discharge has been rejected by his commanders.

The Army appears set to have Watada court-martialed and sent to prison, Seitz said.

Watada has been charged with missing a movement, contempt toward officials and conduct unbecoming an officer.

Watada could face up to 7 1/2 years in prison, forfeiture of all pay and dishonorable discharge, Seitz said.

Based on this week's pretrial hearing, Dubik will decide whether Watada will face a court-martial.

Watada has been reassigned to Headquarters and Headquarters Company, I Corps since his refusal to go to Iraq. Already having served on tour in South Korea, Watada has said he would not object to serving in Afghanistan. ■

WATADA


(Continued from page 1)

22.


He is now scheduled for a pretrial hearing at Fort Lewis on Aug. 17.

Eric Seitz, Watada's attorney, said the Army seems "to want to make a martyr" out of his client.

"If that is the case, then we are certainly eager to join issue with them because I think this whole episode is going to be much more embarrassing to the Army than it is



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Japanese American
Citizen's League

POSTON

(Continued from page 1)

years ago.
"Color just didn't happen then," Whitaker said.

The foundation, based at Arizona State University's library, is working to widely share this unique footage of a dark period in the nation and state's history. The 25-minute-long film has been copied into a digital file and shown to a select group at the university. Whitaker said the foundation is in talks to post the footage online for everyone.

The camp, located about 12 miles south of Parker near the California border, was constructed in a matter of months and was home to about 18,000 internees.

Due to the camp, Poston was Arizona's third largest city after Phoenix and Tucson, Whitaker said.

President Franklin D. Roosevelt ordered residents of Japanese ancestry who lived along the West Coast to leave their homes and live in relocation camps amid widespread fear and racism in the months after the Pearl Harbor attack. It was billed as a measure to protect "against espionage and against sabotage," the order states.

Nonetheless, the Japanese Americans are shown to be happy.

"It's a very interesting propaganda film," Whitaker said, noting that most of the internees are smiling despite their circumstances.

This was typical of such films, said Brian Davis, a media development associate at ASU's library. They were used by the government to prove to the public that internees were not mistreated. Davis converted the footage to digital for the foundation.

The footage was likely taken by Fred Clark, a government photographer who has an extensive collection of pictures from Poston housed around the country. Davis said some of the people in the film can be found in Clark's pictures.

The images that Clark and other government photographers captured,

however, document only a sliver of the story.

Ruth Okimoto was 6 years old when the soldiers arrived at her San Diego home to relocate her family to Poston. As they got off the train, she said only relief from the suffocating heat might have caused smiles.

"When I first saw those photographs, I cried," she said of Clark's work, "because I know what life was like for people."

Okimoto is part of an effort to preserve Poston, where she lived for three years, and build a museum about the relocation. Living in Berkeley, Calif., she has spent years researching the camp and said she was not aware of any color footage of the internees.

"They wanted to present to the public that we're treating them well, we're feeding them and they have a nice home," Okimoto said. "Home being a 20-by-24 (foot) barracks room. And our family of six lived in that 20-by-24 room with no running water, just one light bulb."

Davis said he is surprised the government would shoot a propaganda film at Poston, which was surrounded by guard towers and barbed wire. At the Gila River camp in Pinal County, he said there were no such precautions, and it was deemed safe enough for first lady Eleanor Roosevelt to visit.

The answer might have been contained in narration recorded on the film's magnetic sound strip, which no longer works, Davis said.

Though assumed to be propaganda, the film has a section of black-and-white footage spliced in that does not fit that profile.

After the JAs are shown arriving at Poston, there is footage of storefronts that were likely owned by the internees. The buildings have signs that say everything is for sale; there are no people in these shots.

Whitaker said those storefronts are thought to have been filmed in either San Francisco or Los Angeles, where thousands of JAs left behind homes and businesses to spend years in the camps. ■



Pictured at the Nikkei Community Leadership (NCL) end-of-program luncheon (back row, l-r) held in Los Angeles recently is Yoshihiro "Tom" Honda, California Account Customer Support officer with Union Bank; George Nakano, former State assemblymember, and George Tanaka, v.p./Japanese segment manager for Union Bank along with this year's participants of the NCI.

CJACLRC Receives \$14,000 Grant from Union Bank of Calif. Foundation

For the 7th consecutive year, the Union Bank of California Foundation recently announced a \$14,000 donation to the California Japanese American Community Leadership Council (CJACLRC) to support their Nikkei Community Internship (NCI), a program designed to cultivate future leaders with a statewide perspective of the Japanese American community.

The NCI, coordinated by the CJACLRC, is a statewide program which offers college students an opportunity to obtain experience by supporting the work of various community organizations while increasing their understanding of contemporary issues affecting Japanese Americans.

"This program offers young Japanese Americans the tools to sustaining the rich culture and traditions of the Nikkei heritage," said George Tanaka, vice president and manager for Union Bank's diverse markets administration. "It's very rewarding for me to work for a company which contributes to programs that will make a difference in future generations."

This year's recipients from Southern California and their schools are: Stacy Iwata from Rowland Heights, UCSD; Sally Kikuchi from Torrance, UC

Berkeley; Lauren Miyamoto from Palos Verdes, NYU; Lisa Okuda from Torrance, UCSD; Courtney Okuhara from San Diego, UC Riverside; Christy Sakamoto from Buena Park, UCLA.

The recipients from Northern California and their schools are: from Morgan Hill, Vanessa Hatekayama, UC Berkeley; Karynn Ikeda from Sacramento, Brown University; Aya Ino of San Francisco, UCLA; from San Carlos, Tenley Mochizuki, Yale University; Kim Nakamura from Oakland, UC Berkeley; Lika Sasaki from San Francisco, UC Davis; and Kristen

Yasukawa from San Jose, University of the Pacific.

Reed Nakamura from Honolulu is another recipient. He attends Loyola Marymount University.

The CJACLRC was established in 1998 by leaders of various community organizations to proactively and collectively address challenges and issues affecting the JA community. Among the highest priorities consistently identified is the need to actively foster and develop the leadership potential of young Nikkei. As a result, the CJACLRC launched the Nikkei Community Internship program. ■

Nisei Investment Club Disbands After 50 Years of Monthly Meetings

Fifty years ago in 1956, 14 Los Angeles Nisei men met upon a call from Ted Mori to form an investment club — part of a movement that was spreading across the country where a few friends would gather to pool their monthly dues and participate in the stock market.

As the years rolled by, Anzen (safe) Investment Club members resigned or passed away as new members replaced them. Wives also joined. Children of members in the 40s and 50s were admitted as they helped revitalize the club that was beginning to become more of a social club than one for investing, recounts club president Susan Nakayama.

The club met at a member's home on a rotating basis. Elaborate refreshments served by the wives usually were the evening highlight. But lately, the meetings became

quarterly luncheons at a restaurant. Every June, a new cabinet was selected: president, secretary, treasurer and social chairperson.

Every five years or so, most of the stocks were sold and the returns distributed to members. Remaining stock became the base for the following period. Thus the name, Gonen (five year) Club was chosen, but later resumed its Anzen name. Gains were modest except for one period when Qualcomm brought in a very tidy sum for every member.

Clifford Tanaka served as the club's stockbroker at the outset. Herb Kawahara, a cousin to one of the members, was broker for a short period (Soon after he became president of the Pacific Stock Exchange.) Later, various brokers from Hornblower & Weeks were assigned. Guest speakers from other companies were also invited.

Eventually the club felt they were knowledgeable enough to invest on its own and without advice from brokers. However, members had their own brokers whose recommendations were considered during the meetings.

Having reached its 50th year, the club is disbanding, will distribute its entire fund to members to enjoy their "windfall" and continue to meet periodically on a strictly social basis.

The original members 50 years ago were: Sam Higurashi, Hideo Murata, Yutaka Niisato, Fred Dozen, John Nishimura, Joe Nakai, Bill Yoshimura, Dean Hoshide, Yosh Nakayama, Yutaka Uyeno, Ken Miyamoto, Shig Nakano, Cedrick Shimo and Danny Kawahara.

Subsequent members welcomed were Harry Yamamoto, Pete Mitsui and Sam Yoshikawa. A generation later, the grown-up children, Ken and Tomi Yoshikawa, Brian and Joanne Mitsui and Susan Nakayama joined the club. ■

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10/2-10/16 Yamato Deluxe Autumn Tour to Japan - Kyoto, Takamatsu, Matsuyama, Beppu, Kumamoto, Hiroshima/Miyajima, Tokyo. Peggy Mikuni

10/11-10/22 Yamato Best of Spain Tour - 12 days/10 nights. Barcelona, Bilbao, Burgos, Madrid, La Mancha, Cordoba, Seville, Jerez, Costa del Sol, Granada and Toledo. Philippe Theriault

10/23-11/10 Yamato Tour to Italy in conjunction with the International Dry Cleaners Congress Convention - Part 1 Oct. 23-Nov. 1 Rome, Pompeii, Sorrento, Amalfi Coast, Positano, San Casciano del Bagni, Florence & Bologna. Part 2 Nov. 5-10 Venice, Verona, Simione and Milan. Tours can be taken separately or combined. Peggy Mikuni

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Dec. 2-6 Yamato Best of Branson - Including Shoji Tabuchi, Mike Ito with the Baldknobbers, Bobby Vinton, Lee Greenwood & Crystal Gayle, Yakov Smirnoff and Andy Williams. Peggy Mikuni & Lilly Nomura

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April 2-7 Yamato Washington, D.C. Cherry Blossom Tour - 6 days/5 nights plus visits to Lancaster County and Hershey, Pennsylvania.

April Yamato Deluxe Spring Tour to Japan.

June 21-28 Yamato London & Paris Tour with Collette Vacations - 8 days/6 nights. 3 nights London, 3 nights Paris.

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WEB DESIGN

The JACL PSW Website Development Committee is now accepting bids to redesign the district's current website, jaclpsw.org. Bid proposals must include knowledge of web development, samples of work, vision for the PSW website, project timeline and package cost. Bid deadline is August 31, 2006.

For further information, call (213) 626-4471 or email office@jaclpsw.org. Bid proposals can be emailed or mailed to JACL PSW, Attn: Website Development Committee, 244 S. San Pedro St. #406, Los Angeles, CA 90012. Website development funding is made possible by Southern California

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New Membership Benefits



I hope that all of you are enjoying a great summer season. I want to update you on a great new membership benefit as well as give you an update on membership numbers.

First, the Protective Tru-Script Discount Prescription Drug and Dental Programs are now available to all of you not covered by Medicare Part D. These programs are unique because they are not insurance programs but discounted price programs. Therefore, the only requirement to joining is that you are a national JACL member.

There are no restrictions on income levels, health issues, no reimbursement issues, and you do not have to pass any medical tests to qualify. AND you can join or leave the program at any time. For instance, if after three months you think that you are not saving any money on the program, you can leave. But after two more months you realize that it was a mistake or have a change in medication, you can rejoin.

This is a great opportunity to see if you can save money in your prescription drug and/or dental costs.

You can sign up for one or both of these programs by visiting our JACL Web site at www.jacl.org. The Web site link will answer your questions, give you a list of the drugs and their prices, a list of the participating pharmacies and much more. The same is true for the dental program.

If you still have specific questions, you can contact Cary

Wong, Chicago chapter member, at jaclx-dentalplan@jacl.org and he will get you your answers. Also, your chapter president and/or membership chairperson have already received an informational flyer to be mailed to you. If you haven't received one, please contact them.

Below is a membership scoreboard comparing where we are now (as of 7/30/06) compared to the end of 2005. Listed are the top five chapters by number increase and also percentage increase. Congratulations to these chapters for their fine work. Let's work hard and get your chapter on this list.

I will be writing regularly to keep you up to date on membership benefits and issues such as the JACL National Credit Union's vacation promotions and changes in dues for the next biennium.

Finally, my sincere thanks to all of you for your commitment to JACL. I leave you, as always, with our motto: "For Better Americans in a Greater America." ■

National JACL Membership Scoreboard

| LEADING CHAPTERS BY NUMBERS | | LEADING CHAPTERS BY PERCENTAGE | |
|-----------------------------|-----|--------------------------------|---------|
| Sacramento | +48 | Reedley | +82.98% |
| Reedley | +38 | Alaska | +76.47% |
| Arizona | +34 | APAN | +76.47% |
| Watsonville /Santa Cruz | +24 | Golden Gate | +38.89% |
| New York | +14 | French Camp | +20.31% |
| | | Prog. Westside | +18.18% |

COMMENTARY

'Swing For Justice' in October

By MAS & MARCIA HASHIMOTO

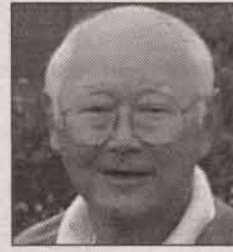
We are inviting all avid golfers to play in an exciting golf tournament — different from others in which you have played — and golfers don't have to be JACL members. Why not "swing" a golf club for justice and a chance to win the \$10,000 Hole-in-One prize?

Our tournament will be played at the beautiful Harding Park Golf Course in San Francisco on Oct. 2. You may remember that Harding Park course was made famous by Tiger Woods' win over John Daly in the World Golf Championships last October.

Golfers with handicap indexes are challenged to beat Tigers' final round score of 67. There will be several flights, including a woman's flight and a Callaway flight. Since the field is limited to 144, all golfers are encouraged to sign up before Sept. 1 to take advantage of the "Early Bird" green fee of \$200.

Harding Park's regular weekday green fee for "out-of-towners" is \$125 and carts \$26 for two. Our \$200 entry fee includes golf, cart, range balls, bento lunch, golf shirt, tee prizes and dinner. For dinners only, the cost is \$50.

The tournament's theme, "Swing for Justice," encompasses the goal of the national JACL, an organization devoted to social justice and human dignity. Its dedicated members have made the JACL a most highly respected national organization.



The Watsonville-Santa Cruz JACL is sponsoring the first hole in memory of Mike Masaoka, JACL's revered civil rights leader and author of the "Japanese American Creed," written in March of 1941. He guided us through the most turbulent period of our Japanese American history for which we are grateful.

JACL's "2004 Japanese American of the Biennium" Jeanne Wakatsuki Houston, co-author of "Farewell to Manzanar," is a tee sponsor in memory of her niece, Santa Cruz County Superior Court Judge Kathleen Akao. The county's first Asian American judge, the Honorable Judge Akao was known for her impeccable integrity that she brought to the courtroom.

Placer County JACL is sponsoring a hole in memory of their founding chapter members of 1928. The chapter continues to carry on their founding leaders' legacy.

Rinban Ken Fujimoto of the San Jose Buddhist Betsuin recently won \$10,000. John Morey, owner of The J. Morey Insurance Company with offices in La Palma and San Jose, provided that prize and is generously sponsoring the \$10,000 Hole-in-One prize for our 3rd Annual National JACL Golf Tournament.

We invite individuals, families, chapters, organizations, businesses, et al to support our tournament by becoming a donor, sponsor, volunteer and/or golfer. Let this be the tournament to support for the year! It's for a wonderful cause — civil rights — and played on a world class golf course.

For more information, visit our Web site: www.jacl.org and click on the National JACL Golf logo. Or contact our co-chairs Jim Craig at 916/652-0093, ThayaJoyce@sbcglobal.net; or Jason Higashi at 707/837-9932, jltjh@comcast.net; or our sponsor chair, Dean Suzuki at 925/212-1137, dean.suzuki@ubs.com. Swing For Justice! ■

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BASKETBALL

Wang Deals With More Tough Luck as World Championships Approach

GUANGZHOU, China—No one would accuse **Wang Zhizhi** of having things too easy.

The NBA's first Chinese player had a lackluster American career and suffered a five-year estrangement from the national association after refusing to play for China.

Now, just as he's rejoining the national team, he's on the bench with a torn ligament in his right knee. The injury likely will keep him out of action until the world championships, which begin Aug. 19 in Japan.

All this while **Yao Ming** enjoys acclaim as the NBA's best young center, and 6-foot-10 center **Yi Jianlian** is touted as China's next NBA prospect.

"There's a continuum. There's Yao, and there's Wang Zhizhi, who is currently really only a reserve," NBA commissioner David Stern said in an interview Aug. 6 in Guangzhou, China, where the U.S. national team is preparing for worlds.

Wang stretched with the team Aug. 6 and did light exercises with a heavily wrapped leg. He left the Guangzhou Gymnasium without talking to reporters.

Wang's career seems to be coming full circle with rumors of a return to his old team, the People's Liberation Army's Bayi Rockets, which he first joined at age 14.

Wang played for the team when Dallas Mavericks coach Don Nelson began to court him after spotting the towering 16-year-old

left-hander from Beijing while helping coach the Lithuanian national team.

Negotiations with the Chinese were long and difficult, but Wang eventually ended up with Dallas for two seasons. Relations soured after Wang refused to return for national team duties, breaking a promise to the Chinese Basketball Association and Nelson. Wang played on Golden State's summer league team instead, trying to adapt his field goal-centered game to the more physical NBA style of play inside the paint.

The transition was rough, and Wang found himself spending most of his time on the bench.

"He has not exceeded my expectations," Nelson said of Wang following his first season at Dallas.

Dallas declined to match an offer from the Los Angeles Clippers. Wang, who averaged 4.4 points and 1.7 rebounds per game during his NBA career, moved on to L.A. and then to Miami.

"He has the opportunity to be picked up by one team or another..." Stern said.

Meanwhile, China kept him off the national team for the 2002 World Championships and refused to allow Chinese TV to show any game in which he appeared.

Running out of options, Wang reconciled with the Chinese national association, apologizing for his past behavior.

Despite the latest injury, the 27-year-old still might have a future in Chinese basketball and play in the 2008 Beijing Summer Olympics.

Getting there won't be easy, and not everyone in China hopes he will make it. ■



SUMO

Sumo Fitness DVD On Sale in Japan

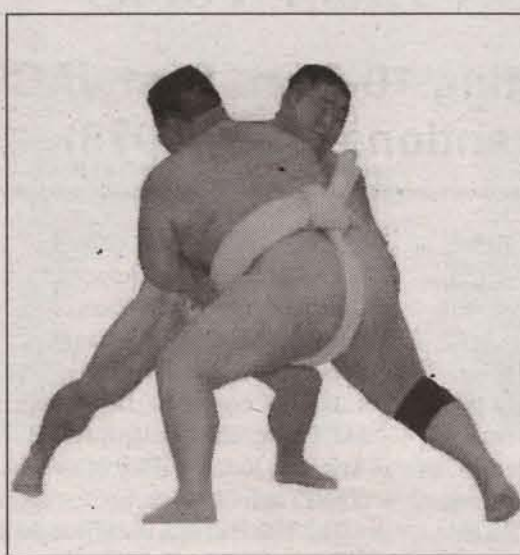
TOKYO—Exercise videos typically feature svelte, muscular models. But Japan's latest fitness program sports a figure known more for girth than grace: the sumo wrestler.

"Sumo Health Exercises," released by the Japan Sumo Association this month, contains 12 sets of stretches, squats and splits demonstrated by professional wrestlers.

These models are a world away from rail-thin yoga instructors — they include hefty wrestlers such as the 140 kilogram (308 pound) **Wakakasuga** and 116 kilogram (255 pound) **Hokutosho**.

Still, the association says the wrestlers — who compete by trying to push each other out of a circular ring — follow a rigorous exercise regime that would help regular folks.

"The exercises can help strengthen the lower back and legs," said Hideki Yazaki, an association official. "They're fun, so we hope parents can get kids to do them instead of playing com-



The 'Sumo Health Exercises' DVD was recently released by the Japan Sumo Association.

Although sumo wrestlers are often viewed as overweight and unhealthy, the wrestlers are extremely agile and have a low fat ratio.

puter games all day."

The sumo moves include squats that the wrestlers perform before and after bouts, and a ceremonial move in which a wrestler lifts his leg sideways until it is pointing at the sky.

In fact, the difficulty of the exercises demonstrates the wrestlers' legendary agility, despite their impressive body mass. Sumo stars can weigh as

much as 225 kilograms (500 pounds).

"For their size, many wrestlers have a low fat ratio," said Yazaki. "They're professional athletes, after all."

The DVD, which sells for \$22.90, might even help people achieve the sumo look: it includes tips on making chanko nabe, the meaty, calcium-rich stew that forms the staple of the sumo diet. ■

BASEBALL

South Korea's Lee Could Be Bound for Majors

TOKYO—The next major league prospect to come out of Japanese baseball may not even be Japanese.

South Korean slugger **Lee Seung-yeop** is having an outstanding season in the Central League and looks set to make a move to the majors next season.

Lee hit his 400th career homer recently and is leading the Central League with 34 homers. He also leads the league in slugging percentage (.667), hits (122) and runs (76). He is the lone bright spot for the Yomiuri Giants, who fell into last

place Aug. 4 after a 2-1 loss to the Yokohama BayStars.

Lee hit 324 homers over nine seasons with the Samsung

Lions in the Korean leagues. Not satisfied with his status there, Lee expressed an interest in playing in the U.S. major leagues in 2003.

He was said to be displeased with an offer from the Los Angeles Dodgers and signed with the Chiba Lotte Marines of Japan's Pacific League in 2004. Lee reportedly has no interest in playing for the Dodgers. Media reports in recent weeks said the New York Yankees are interested.

A South Korean position player has yet to have an impact in the majors. Pitcher Chan Ho Park has put together a solid career but no South Korean player in the field has rivaled the performance of Japanese stars Ichiro Suzuki or Hideki Matsui.

During two seasons with Bobby Valentine's Marines, Lee hit 44 homers but wasn't thrilled with being platooned at first base.



After helping the Marines to the Japan Series in 2005, the 29-year-old infielder signed a one-year deal with the Giants, a move seen by many as a stepping stone to the majors. He could have had a multiyear deal but went for just one year with Japan's most popular team.

Lee led South Korea to the semifinals of the inaugural World Baseball Classic in March. He batted .333 and led all players in the tournament with five homers and 10 RBIs.

The left-handed hitter had 30 homers last season for the Marines and is happy to be playing every day with the Giants.

"It's important for me to play everyday to get in a groove," Lee said. "I feel confident at the plate facing both right and left-handed pitchers so there is no need to take me out."

While with Samsung, Lee set the Asian single-season record of 56 homers. A run at Japan's mark of 55 set by **Sadaharu Oh** and tied by Tuffy Rhodes and Alex Cabrera is not out of the question this season.

"He's a great hitter," Yomiuri pitcher Jeremy Powell said. "I've never seen a guy get as hot as he has recently." ■

FOOTBALL

Super Bowl MVP Hines Ward Still One of Hardest-working Steelers

LATROBE, Pa.—As the Pittsburgh Steelers' all-time leading receiver, and fresh off a Super Bowl MVP performance, **Hines Ward** could probably ease into his ninth NFL training camp. But then he wouldn't be Hines Ward.

"I asked him the other day why he takes so many plays," said newcomer Ryan Clark. "I mean, he's already a superstar receiver. But he said he still has to work, still has to make the team every year. When you see a guy like that, a veteran leader, a Super Bowl MVP, there's no reason why a free agent or a young guy can't work hard every day."

Ward reported to camp at 205 pounds, which he says is the lightest

of his career. He stays after practice every day to catch passes from a machine — sometimes using just one hand to perfect his technique. Ward, a four-time Pro Bowler, just turned 30. Wouldn't simply maintaining his level of play at that age be enough work?

"Technically, yeah," Ward laughed. "But for me, that's who I am. I'm very competitive."

After averaging 95 catches for 1,124 yards each of the previous four seasons, Ward caught 69 passes for 975 yards last season. He did have 11 touchdown passes, just one off his career high, and moved into first place on the Steelers' all-time receptions list. ■

NATIONAL JAACL GOLF TOURNAMENT

"Swing for Justice"



Come golf the championship course where **Tiger Woods** won the World Cup Championship!

Harding Park Golf Course
99 Harding Road, San Francisco
Monday, October 2, 2006

EARLY BIRD REGISTRATION DEADLINE IS SEPT. 1, 2006

Golfer Information: \$200 per golfer (\$250 after 9/1/06)

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For more information, visit the National JAACL Website: www.jaACL.org and click on the National JAACL Golf logo.

• HARRY HONDA •

VERY TRULY YOURS

Highlighting 10 More Past JACL Conventions (1960-1978)



FOR A GREATER picture of the national JACL organization and conventions, Bill Hosokawa's "must read" "JACL in Quest of Justice" (1982) begins when the Nisei in the early 1920s preferred not to identify themselves as "Japanese American." In San Francisco it was "American Loyalty League." In the Pacific Northwest, the Nisei choice was "Progressive Citizens League."

Hosokawa's last chapter — "XXIII: Search for Redress" — forecasts JACL's next half century will be unlike its first half-century, "certainly far more productive than its founders ever dreamed possible." As a sequel, Mitchell T. Maki, Harry H.L. Kitano and S. Megan Berthold's "Achieving the Impossible Dream: How Japanese Americans Obtained Redress" (1999) is recommended.

Religious prejudice and persecution in view of the Middle East conflict may have overshadowed public awareness for racial discrimination. The pall over Homeland Security lingers. Eradicating drugs in America, the search for more oil, the estimated 12 million undocumented aliens in the U.S. and what happens to JACL if the big quake in California hits (as some savants have warned) are questions not to be ignored. Does JACL national have a disaster plan?

Past is prologue

The 16th Biennial in 1960 at Sacramento's El Dorado Hotel ended as the "most rugged" of conventions in order to approve a \$98,000 budget. Delegates skipped the awards luncheon for sandwiches and didn't dance at the Sayonara ball. Also junked was "chapter quotas," a specified amount to support National. The JACL youth movement was formalized with 25-cent membership cards and a 21-year age maximum.

The 17th Biennial in 1962 at Seattle's Olympic Hotel came during a rare heat wave and this hotel had no air-conditioning. Four pre-war JACL leaders were honored:

Clarence Arai of Seattle, Suma Sugi Yokotake of Los Angeles, Tokutaro Nishimura Slocum of Fresno and George Ishihara of Boise Valley. And thanks to Carnegie Corp.'s \$100,000 grant, JACL established its Japanese American Research Project (JARP) at UCLA.

The 18th Biennial in 1964 at the Sheraton Cadillac Hotel, Detroit proved a small-in-number chapter like Detroit could stage a successful convention. Maryknoll Father Clement was honored as JACLer of the Biennium for his "never-give-up" spirit as well as being an unofficial national JACL chaplain.

The 19th Biennial in 1966 in San Diego at El Cortez Hotel occurred during the major air pilot strike. Keynoter Rep. Patsy Takemoto Mink, D-Hawaii, had to deliver her speech by telephone. I met another Harry Honda (Fowler) at this convention. I later met two others at JACL meetings in Seattle and in Spokane and encountered an incident involving a fourth Harry Honda from Honolulu whose baggage and mine continued on to Philadelphia after I had deplaned in Cincinnati for an EDC-MDC convention.

The 20th Biennial in 1968 at the Hyatt House, San Jose, honored ten past national presidents: Dr. George Takeyama (1930-32), Dr. Terry Hayashi (1932-34), Saburo Kido (1940-46), Hito Okada (1946-50), George Inagaki (1952-56), Dr. Roy Nishikawa (1956-58), Shig Wakamatsu (1958-60), Frank Chuman (1960-62), Pat Okura (1962-64) and Kumeo Yoshinari (1964-66), a fitting highlight of the national JACL's 40th anniversary.

The 21st Biennial in 1970 at the Palmer House, Chicago, was saddened by the tragic murder of Evelyn Okubo, 18, (Stockton Jr. JACL) in her room on the 6th floor. Her roommate Ranko Yamada, 17, was brutally injured, immediately hospitalized and survived. This happened while 1,000 attended Mike Masaoka's testimonial dinner at nearby Conrad Hilton (formerly the Stevens) Hotel.

The 22nd Biennial in 1972 at the Shoreham Hotel, Washington, D.C., confirmed its first Sansei national JACL director, David Ushio (Salt Lake City) by 68 percent over Alan Nishio (Los Angeles). Mike Masaoka terminated his 30-year stint as full-time JACL Washington representative. Henry Tanaka (Cleveland) sat as national president, having served as "president-elect" in 1970. This novel president-elect procedure was abandoned in 1976.

The 23rd Biennial in 1974 at the Sheraton Motor Inn, Portland, was hailed the "most innovative" as the Asian American Fair of 24 AA groups displayed their community action projects. Keynote speech by Dr. Minoru Masuda (Seattle) was called a "must" text for any ethnic studies class.

The 24th Biennial in 1976 at Sacramento Inn opened with a proxy fight that lasted four hours as three proxies from PSW chapters were questioned. From a high of 102 chapters, 35 chapters (mostly in farming communities) were represented by proxy. Two ideas for redress came up: Henry Miyatake (Seattle) proposed JAS designate their federal tax dollars to a special fund for individual redress payment of \$5,000, whether incarcerated or not, and \$10 for each day of incarceration. An alternative plan, Ed Yamamoto (Columbia Basin) fostered a billion dollar reparations trust fund for organizations to promote "Japanese American understanding."

The 25th Biennial in 1978 at Little America Hotel, Salt Lake City, was a milestone — JACL's 50th anniversary. Unexpectedly, redress garnered national publicity after Sen. S.I. Hayakawa (he was the Sayonara keynoter) told the media the following day that "JACL had no right to ask the U.S. government for reparations." The council sought \$25,000 per evacuee and an apology, which Hayakawa called "ridiculous."

My personal takes on past JACL conventions conclude next month. ■

V-J DAY

(Continued from page 1)

months earlier.

The holiday, which is being kept alive by local veterans groups, could contribute to anti-Japanese and anti-Asian sentiment, added Tateishi.

There have been several unsuccessful attempts to change the holiday's name after the failed attempt to eliminate it. Each time,

lawmakers met overwhelming opposition, said Sen. Rhoda Perry, D-Providence. She introduced bills in 1992, 1994 and 1995 to change the holiday to Rhode Island Veterans Day. A second 1995 bill would have changed the name to Peace and Remembrance Day.

Perry said her bills died because veteran groups turned up in force at the Statehouse to rally against them. She received mail from veterans that she described as "vitriolic."

"It was absolutely a no-winner," Perry said. "I did not have support, period."

Though attempts to change the holiday have failed, lawmakers have tried to clarify its meaning.

In 1990, the General Assembly passed a resolution stating that Victory Day is not a day to express satisfaction in the destruction and death at Hiroshima and Nagasaki, where atomic bombs were dropped.

But the mere fact that the holiday is being kept alive is a statement, said Tateishi, who is planning on writing a letter to the governor and state leaders. Tateishi, who

announced his resignation in June, said that if he is still with the JACL next spring, he would put it on his calendar to work to eliminate the last celebration of this holiday.

Mikki Lima, who runs the Rhode Island Japan Society in Providence, said she is working to educate younger Americans about Japanese culture. Lima said she'd prefer if the holiday were eliminated, but if that

'Someday, this foolish holiday's name will be changed.'

— Mikki Lima

Rhode Island Japan Society

can't happen, she hopes it can be celebrated under a new name because of Victory Day's implicit reference to the victory over Japan.

"Someday," said Lima, "this foolish holiday's name will be changed."

"This is the way the veterans feel about it in Rhode Island," said George Panichas, a former state representative who was a gunner on a B-17 bomber during World War II. "They fought against the Japanese, and they just don't forget it."

Proponents deny that racism is attached to the holiday.

"July 4 is our national holiday because we defeated England. Do we hate the English? No," said James Brennan, a survivor of the 1942 Bataan Death March in which Japanese soldiers tortured and killed thousands of American and Filipino prisoners. "It's the same with V-J Day. We are the ones who won the war." ■

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To protect you and your family from even common accidents and illnesses the JACL HEALTH TRUST provides Blue Cross of California health care coverage.

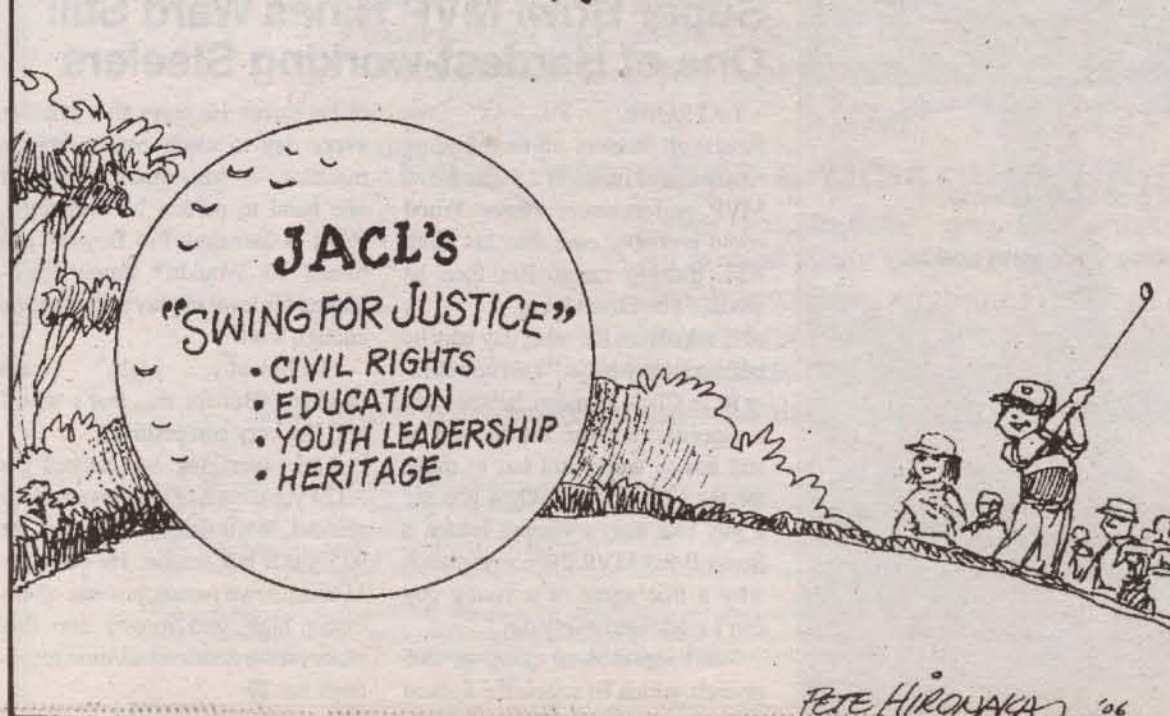
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IN THE FAIRWAY!



Colma Baby! — Reviving the Musical

Q&A with 'Colma: The Musical' Filmmaker Rich Wong



By LYNDA LIN
Assistant Editor



Rich Wong's first feature length film is a musical, and he's proud of it. The San Francisco native and friend H.P. Mendoza — who is not only one of the stars, but wrote all 13 musical numbers — made "Colma: The Musical" about a group of recent high school graduates you would usually see as the supporting roles in other films, said Wong.

Pacific Citizen: I have to say 'Colma' is surprisingly toe tapping and upbeat. I noticed other film critics have said the same — praise with the caveat 'surprisingly.' Why do you think that is?

Rich Wong: I think that would depend on what exactly 'surprisingly' refers to. If it means that they were surprised to have liked it or surprised that this movie would in any way please them, then I don't resent it. I pretty much would expect that. I think any movie that can entertain and perhaps say something AND is as small as ours is a surprise.

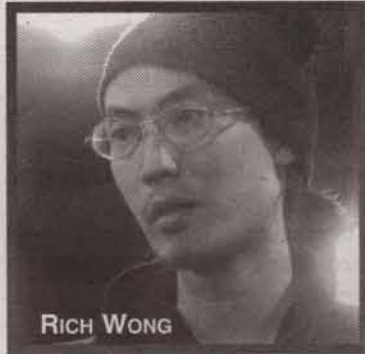
It's really flattering to have the reviews that we have had, but believe me, H.P. and I are just as surprised at the response. Don't get me wrong. This is the movie he and I set out to make and part of the reason I financed it myself was that we would have complete creative freedom. So we were fairly confident in our own aesthetic and our ability to

make a movie that we liked, but I thought it would be a bit more polarizing than it has been.

PC: Any hesitation about working with a dead genre?

RW: Considering 'Chicago' won best picture only three years prior to when we were shooting and 'Rent' and 'The Producers' were about to come out, we didn't think the musical genre was dead. We also didn't care if it were.

Musicals have been something in the world of performing arts for a very long time and I doubt it will ever actually be dead. But a renaissance I thought was in order to bring it back to the film world. Certainly the world and the public persona have changed and musicals have essentially become the genre to mock when going for laughs. But H.P. and I have always had the love of musicals in common and when we first met 11 years ago, it was one genre we would always refer to



RICH WONG

when speaking creatively.

Instead of thinking of how cool it would be to have a couple of guys flying through the air sideways with two guns firing in slow-motion, I'd be thinking about how cool it would be to have a couple of guys flying through the air sideways with two guns firing in slow-motion ... and then for a different movie how cool it would be if the world around them went into a huge dance and musical number.

PC: Just the word 'musical' has been known to induce catatonic staring and excessive drooling. What kind of reactions do you get when you tell people 'Colma' is a musical?

RW: Early on in the script phase, H.P. had talked about taking away 'The Musical' from the title because of that very reason that people tend to shy away from musicals. But I had argued to keep it because first of all, it's such a great title, but secondly, I didn't really want people who didn't love musicals to come see this movie. I had this vision of people sitting down and three minutes in, some guy would get up and scream, 'What? He's singing? Gay!' This film isn't for that guy.

I get a very interesting response every time I tell someone that 'Colma' is a musical. Most of the time it's curiosity or excitement, but more than once I've simply gotten, 'Why?' Which is hilarious. Either way, I think the musical is far enough removed from the social consciousness in film that there is a newfound novelty to it and I think

that has helped the film's visibility.

PC: Musicals usually have a squeaky clean story line with pristine stars. How much fun was it to create a song about going potty at a party?

RW: H.P. never swayed on making the lyrics and the songs about things that are real. These kids are singing but they still feel real to people. I think the language is a very big part of that and H.P. and I both are observers of language and idiosyncrasies.

There have been numerous musicals with choice profanity as part of their language ... but when we passed the script around, I was surprised at how many people thought we should hold back on the language. I wonder if it weren't a musical if they would have balked so readily. Certainly teenagers speak with foul language, I know I did and still do, along with everyone I knew and know. So if we are making a film about kids who we want to feel real, then their language would certainly be this way.

PC: The movie is being touted as 'the first Asian American musical since "Flower Drum Song,"' but race and ethnicity isn't the focal point, is it?

RW: We premiered at the San Francisco International Asian American Film Festival. The wonderful people who run that festival were gracious enough to give us a venue and a chance to be seen and it was the kind of world premiere people dream of. However, because it was an AA festival, the natural comparisons to other AA themed musicals and its own AA identity came about.

'Flower Drum Song' was an AA themed musical, but the people behind that film were not AA. 'Colma: The Musical' is not an AA themed musical, but the filmmakers are AA. I think that distinction is very important.

PC: Someone in the office

described it as 'Better Luck Tomorrow' meets Andrew Lloyd Webber. What do you say?

RW: Wow really? Wow, never heard that one before. I don't honestly see any similarities to 'Better Luck Tomorrow' except for the fact that Justin Lin and I are both AA. The kids in 'BLT' are quite different and release their angst in a different way than the kids in 'Colma.' I think my experience in high school was closer to that in 'BLT' though. I do like Andrew Lloyd Webber, but if you ask H.P. who the musical inspiration for 'Colma' was, he'd tell you They Might Be Giants and Ben Folds.

PC: Have you heard feedback from Colma residents?

RW: H.P. spent four years in Colma during high school, which the script draws from. Colma in the film represents any small town next to a big city and the dynamic between the two. [Town officials] actually asked to screen it but when the town itself saw the film they thought it would be inappropriate to show at a public gathering. Heheh.

I tend to agree. It isn't a kid's movie. I always thought of it as a film about kids for adults who had experienced what these kids are going through or something similar and can relate to in retrospect.

PC: That was you in the opening sequence wasn't it?

RW: Heheh. Acting really isn't my thing, though I was always secretly hurt that no one ever asked me to be in their projects when I was in film school. They always wanted me behind the camera.

My little role in the film was actually out of necessity. Those scenes were scheduled to be shot on separate days and we didn't have anyone who could show up for both of those days, so the only person left that would definitely be there those days was me. ■

For screening information, check: www.colmafilm.com

PACIFIC CITIZEN

National business and Professional Directory

Your business card in each issue for 22 issues is \$15 per line, three-line minimum. Larger type (12 pt.) counts as two lines. Logo same as line rate as required. P.C. has made no determination that the businesses listed in this directory are licensed by proper government authority.

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SECRET ASIAN MAN By Tak

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SAD BUT TRUE TALES

> RING <
> RING <

HELLO?

GOOD DAY MR. LIH, TAYA ... TOSHI ... TOYAMA

TOYOSHIMA.

GOODNESS GRACIOUS ME, WHAT KIND OF NAME IS THAT?

IT'S JAPANESE.

OH, WELL THEN I GUESS IT'S BEAUTIFUL, ISN'T IT?

Calendar

National

SAN FRANCISCO

Mon., Oct. 2—3rd Annual National JACL Golf Tournament, "Swing for Justice"; Harding Park Golf Course, 99 Harding Road; \$200 Early Bird registration, deadline extended to Sept. 1, and \$250 after; entry fee includes golf cart, bento lunch, tee prizes and dinner; sponsorships are available; field is limited to 144 spots; committee is also looking for golf stories from camp, email to Mas Hashimoto at hashi79@earthlink.net. Info: co-chairs, Jason Higashi, 707/837-9932, jltjh@comcast.net or Jim Craig, 916/652-0093, thayajoyce@sbcglobal.net.

Midwest

EVANSTON, ILL.

Nov. 3-5—Second National Asian American Student Conference; Northwestern University, Evanston; NAASCon 2006 theme is "Building Bridges, Connecting Movements" and seeks to explore the diverse issues that the APA community faces. Info: www.naascon.org.

ST. LOUIS

Sept. 2-4—2006 Japanese Festival; Missouri Botanical Garden, 4344 Shaw Blvd., St. Louis; Sat.-Sun., 10 a.m.-8 p.m., Mon., 10 a.m.-5 p.m.; \$10 adults, \$7 seniors, \$3 Garden members, \$3 children ages 3-12; extra charge for tea ceremonies, Chihuly's "Glass in the Garden" inside the Climatron, and Children's Garden (under age 12). Info: 800/642-8842 or www.mobot.org.

Intermountain

SALT LAKE CITY

Through Aug. 20—Exhibition, "Diamonds in the Rough: Japanese Americans in Baseball"; Salt Lake City Public Library, 210 East 400 South; Mon.-Thurs. 9-9 p.m., Fri.-Sat. 9-6 p.m., Sun. 1-5 p.m.; the exhibit chronicles 100 years of Nikkei ballplayers—their struggles, triumphs, and legacies. Info: SLC Public Library 801/524-8200.

Pacific Northwest

BELLEVUE

Sat.-Sun., Sept. 9-10—Aki Matsuri Fall Festival; Bellevue Community College, 3000 Landerholm Circle SE, Bellevue, WA; Sat., 10 a.m.-6 p.m., Sun., 11 a.m.-5 p.m.; free admission and parking; a Japanese cultural arts event featuring JACL Lake Washington chapter displaying "Eastside History Panels" and a Power Point presentation from writer, David Neiwert. Info: www.enma.org or call 425/861-7865.

PORTLAND

Through Aug. 27—Exhibit, "Big Drum: Taiko in the United States"; Oregon Nikkei Legacy Center, 121 NW Second Ave.; Tues.-Sat. 11-3 p.m., Sun. 12-3 p.m.; traveling version of JANM's exhibition; features photographs, artifacts and media arts; \$3 donation, free to ONLC and JANM members. Info: ONLC, 503/224-1458.

Northern California

SARATOGA

Sat., Aug. 19—Daruma Craft Boutique; 9:30-4 p.m.; Saratoga Community Center, 19655 Allendale Ave.; boutique will feature hand-made arts and crafts, food, children's activities and raffle/silent auction; proceeds benefit the West Valley JACL Senior Clubhouse; sponsored by the West Valley JACL; bentos and sushi tickets will be pre-sold until Aug. 9. To order: pam@yo-koo.net. Info: www.darumafestival.org.

Sat., Aug. 26—Meet Delphine Hirasuna, author of "The Art of



Non-profit hip-hop dance team "Culture Shock LA" will be one of the groups performing at the Nikkei Federation's, "New Generation Remix" concert in Little Tokyo on Saturday, August 19.

Gaman"; Chavez Central Library, 605 N. El Dorado St; autographed copies of her book will be available at a reduced price; refreshments will be served; sponsored by the Stockton Public Library, Friends of the Stockton Public Library and the Stockton JACL. Info: 866/ 805-7323 or www.stockton.lib.ca.us.

SAN FRANCISCO

Fri.-Sat., Aug. 25-26—world premiere of "Nihonmachi: The Place To Be"; JCCNC, 1840 Sutter Street, San Francisco; Fri., 7 p.m. and Sat., 11 a.m.; tickets are \$25 general admission, \$20 for seniors and students, \$15 for groups of 15 or more; a new musical journey about California's Japantowns. Info: 415/567-5505.

SAN JOSE

Sat., Sept. 30—Fifth Annual Community Recognition Dinner, "Today's Community Volunteers Inspiring Tomorrow's"; San Jose Hyatt, 1740 North 1st Street, San Jose; 5 p.m.; Tickets are \$75 per person, \$750 for a table of 10; JACL San Jose Chapter recognizes honorees that were selected for their dedication to uphold the mission of the San Jose JACL. Info: call 408/295-1250 or email sanjosejacl@sbcglobal.net.

STOCKTON

Fri., Sept. 1, Fri., Oct. 6—Stockton JACL's monthly mixer "The Linc: Leaders Involved in the Nikkei Community"; 856 Restaurant & Lounge, 856 W. Ben Holt Dr.; 6-7:30 p.m.; connecting young Asian American professionals in the Central Valley. Info: Chiyo Mayai, 209/478-0800, ext. 201 or email ckmiyai@hotmail.com.

Southern California

LOS ANGELES

Aug. 12-20—66th Annual Nisei Week Festival; events include: baby pageant, Nikkei Games, Pioneer Luncheon, Coronation Ball, the Grand Parade and more; Grand Parade at 4 p.m. featuring Grand Marshal Noritoshi Kanai of Mutual Trading Company; events held at various locations around Little Tokyo. Info: www.niseiweek.org or 213/687-7193.

Sat., Aug. 19—Nikkei Federation "New Generation Remix" concert; part of the 66th Annual Nisei Week festival; JACCC Plaza, 244 S. San Pedro St.; 2-7 p.m.; free admission; featuring Kyodo Taiko, NSU Modern, the Usual Suspects, and more. Info: Aratani Japan America Theatre box office, 213/680-3700 or visit www.nikkeifederation.org.

Sat.-Sun., Aug. 19-20—Teacher Training Workshop; Go For Broke Little Tokyo office; workshop will focus on the segregated fighting forces of WWII through personal experiences of the 100/442 RCT and the MIS; \$25 for two days and provides an optional Continuing Education Unit through CSU Dominguez Hills for an additional \$40; more workshops are scheduled for: San Gabriel Valley, Oct. 7-8; Long Beach, Oct. 21-22; LAUSD specific Manual Arts High School,

Oct. 14-15; and LAUSD specific Peary DELTA Prof. Development Center, Nov. 5-6. Info: www.GoForBroke.org or Wayne Osako, 310/222-5702.

Thurs., Aug. 24, Sept. 7—JANM's First and Central Summer Concert Series; 6 p.m.; featuring: Aug. 24, Riffat Sultana & Party; Sept. 7, Dengue Fever. Info: www.janm.org.

Sun., Sept. 10—West Los Angeles JACL Auxiliary's "Aki Matsuri Boutique"; Venice Japanese Community Center, 12448 Braddock Drive; 9:30-3:30 p.m.; free admission, cash or check only; featuring designer clothing, jackets, original jewelry and more. Info: Jean, 310/390-6914 or Eiko, 310/820-1875.

Thurs., Aug. 24—Shidara Japanese Taiko Drumming Ensemble; Japan America Theater, 224 S. San Pedro Street, Suite 505; 8 p.m.; \$30-\$35; explodes with masterful stick work and soulful harmonies of bamboo flutes, presented by Kishin Daiko. Info: box office, 213/680-3700.

TORRANCE

Sat., Sept. 16—PSW JACL Annual Awards Dinner; 5 p.m. registration, 6 p.m. dinner; Torrance Holiday Inn. Info: PSW Office, 213/626-4471 or office@jaclpsw.org.

Nevada

Oct. 27-29—JACL Singles Convention; Plaza Hotel, downtown; events include: Fri.: golf tournament at Palm Valley Golf Club, welcome reception; Sat.: workshops, luncheon and dinner dance; Sun.: brunch and free morning golf at Highland Falls Golf Club; room rates are Fri. and Sat. \$76/night for single and double occupancy, Thurs. and Sun. is \$54; open to everyone; hosted by the Las Vegas JACL. Info: www.mwt.com/jaclisingles or Yas Tokita, 702/866-2345 or Muriel Scrivner, 702/790-9547.

Hawaii

HONOLULU

Through Sept. 13—Exhibit, Japanese Design Today 100; gallery hours are Tues.-Sat. 10-4 p.m.; Japanese Cultural Center of Hawaii; exhibit features everyday objects that show the lifestyles of Japanese today; sponsored by the Japan Foundation. Info: 808/945-7633 or www.jcch.com.

Tues., Sept. 5—JCCH film showing, "The First Battle"; Hawaii Theatre; doors open at 6 p.m., film starts at 7 p.m.; tickets \$10; Tom Coffman's new film explores the battle for justice and equality in Hawaii during WW2. Ticket info: Box Office, 808/528-0506.

Sat., Sept. 30—JCCH "Celebration of Leadership and Achievement Dinner"; Hilton Hawaiian Village Tapa Room; 5:30 p.m.; individual seats \$150 each, table sponsorships available; events include silent auction and dinner program honoring Masao Kojike, leslie S. Murakami, Wally Yonamine and more. Info: JCCH 800/945-7633 or email info@jcch.com. ■

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Nisei Cadet Nurse of World War II: Patriotism in Spite of Prejudice

By Thelma Robinson



From Japanese-American Internment Camps to the U.S. Cadet Nurse Corps.

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In Memoriam - 2006

All the towns are in California except as noted.

Furuyama, Tomio, 86, North Hills, Aug. 1; survived by wife, Teruko; sons, Dennis (Terry), Steve (Diana), Ron (Nancy), Gary and Randy; daughter, Alice (David) Kuroda; 9 gc.; brother, Densaku (Akiko); sisters, Tomiye Furuyama and Miekko Kobayashi.

Hayashi, Takeyoshi "Takey", Seattle, May 15; survived by brother, Shiro Roy (Lillian).

Hirabayashi, Kiyoko, 83, Baldwin Park, July 27; survived by sons, James Paul, David Jon (LaVonne) and Timothy; 1gc.

Hsu, Sumiko, 64, Palos Verdes, July 31; survived by husband, Robert; son, Edwin; daughters, Gina and Laurie; 1 gc.; brother, Kazuo (Yasuko) Saito.

Inouye, Miyoko, 85, Moorpark, July 31; survived by 1 gc.; 2 ggc.; sister, Nobuko Yamada.

Itatani, Masayoshi, Los Angeles, Aug. 1; survived by sons, Robert (Carol) and Nelson (Patricia); daughter, Meiko (Marshall); 6 gc.; 2 ggc.

Kamo, Minoko, 84, Monterey Park, July 23; survived by son, Steven; daughters, Sayoko (Richard) Solorio and Irene Mitsue (James) Mnton; 5 gc.; 3 ggc.; brother, Bunichi

Kaneoka, Ken, 86, Monterey Park, July 13; survived by wife, Rose; daughter, Eileen (Ray) Sugiura; 2 gc.; brothers, George (Ada) and Donald (Elsie); sisters, Irene Shimizu, Chris (Robert)

Sugita, Akiko Tokoo, Joanne (John) Tao, and Helen (George) Tamayori.

Kiyasu, John Y., born in San Francisco, died on May 8, age 78. He is survived by wife Lily (née Nomura); children Patricia, Anne, Lynn, John T.; five grandchildren; sister Yulie (Nosé) and brother William; predeceased by brother Robert.

Kodama, Dr. Richard Yukio, 81, Hacienda Heights, July 24; WW2 Veteran, MIS; survived by son, Kevin (Nancy); daughters; Karen (Nelma) Low and Carolyn (Robert) McDermott; 2 gc.; brother, Robert.

DEATH NOTICE

SUNNY ISAO NISHIMOTO

Sunny Isao Nishimoto, 84, businessman and philanthropist, died Wednesday, Aug. 2 at St. Agnes Hospital in Fresno. He was born in Parlier, Ca., moved to Madera, Ca. as a child and attended local schools while working in his parents' Bridge Store established in 1928. Sunny was a World War II MIS veteran with the 1st Calvary Division in Japan.

Madera Unified School District named and dedicated a new school, the Nishimoto Elementary School, in 2005 to honor Sunny and the Nishimoto family. He also received awards and recognitions from Madera Chamber of Commerce, County Historical Society, County Economic Development Commission, Madera Tribune, The Fresno Bee, and several local nonprofit organizations.

He was Madera VFW Post 1981 post commander during 1994-95 and was a member of the military honor guard for numerous funerals for fallen comrades.

Funeral services were held at 11 a.m. on Thursday, Aug. 17 at the United Methodist Church, 500 Sunset Ave., Madera, Ca.

He is survived by his wife, Dorothy Nishimoto, son, Wally (Kathy) Nishimoto, daughters, Mary (Dave) Fedorko of Santa Barbara, Ruth (Gaylen) Thelander, sister-in-law Mickey Nishimoto, brother-in-law Keith Okamoto of Austin, Texas, 7 grandchildren, 3 nieces and 2 nephews.

Remembrances may be made to the Nishimoto Family Scholarship Fund, c/o Bridge Store, 748 North D Street, Madera, CA 93638.

This compilation appears on a space-available basis at no cost. Printed obituaries from your newspaper are welcome. "Death Notices," which appear in a timely manner at request of the family or funeral director, are published at the rate of \$18 per column inch. Text is reworded as necessary.

Nomura, Takashi, 84, Torrance, Aug. 6; survived by wife, Lilly; sons, Tom (Kara) and Jimmy (Kris); daughter, Julie (Steven) Wada; 6 gc.; brother, Babe (Kim).

Takahashi, Sam, 86, Santa Monica, Aug. 1; survived by wife, Sue Kazuko; sons, Philip (Linda) and Douglas (Erika); 7 gc.; brother, Noboru Bill (Molly).

Tsuchida, Hitoshi "Frank", 90, Salt Lake City, Utah, July 8; survived by sons, Ray and Russell; 2 gc.; 4 brothers; 2 sisters.

Umeda, Tussy, 90, Los Angeles, Aug. 4; survived by wife, Alice; sons, Glenn (Joan) and

Kenneth (Arleen); daughter, Cheryl Nimori; 4 gc.; sisters, Chizuye Yoshioka, Yatsue Tomooka, and Yoshie Okumura. ■

DEATH NOTICE

**"AUNTIE" LILY MISONO CULVER
October 22, 1930 - July 28, 2006**



Born October 22, 1930 in Delano, California, the seventh of six sisters and two brothers, Lily spent her childhood at various locations in the rural San Joaquin Valley as her immigrant mother and father pursued a living primarily in farming. During WWII, she experienced the mandatory relocation of her family to Arkansas. After the war, she returned to California, and eventually began a lengthy career as secretary to the vice president of Bakersfield College until 1968. After marrying, she moved to Sacramento, but settled permanently in Berkeley, California, where she worked at the University of California Subject A Department until her retirement in 1993.

Lily had a passion for the arts, participated tirelessly in local social programs and cared for everyone she knew while fitting in tennis, weekly scrabble groups, gardening, and fanatical recycling. Feeling weak but without pain she passed unexpectedly and suddenly, one day after being diagnosed with cancer. She is survived by four sisters, 11 nieces and nephews, her dog Wooky, a multitude of friends, and her Mini Cooper. She lived her 75 years with incredible vitality. She will be missed.

A memorial service will be held September 9 at 2 p.m. at the Berkeley Yacht Club, 1 Seawall Drive, Berkeley, California. RSVP to: Memorial, 536 Hayes St, Richmond CA 94804. Include your name, address, phone number and e-mail.

In lieu of flowers, please send donations to the American Cancer Society, your local theatre group, or your favorite charity.

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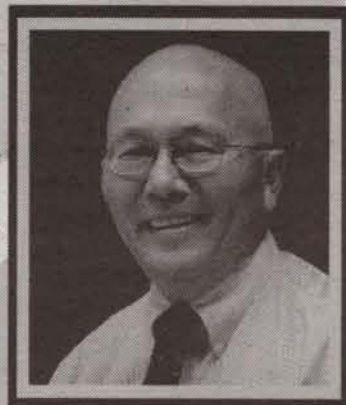
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BILLBOARDS

(Continued from page 1)

this community.

"This is something that's very negative," said EunSook Lee, executive director of the National Korean American Service and Education Consortium (NAKASEC). "It's counter to a nation that has always welcomed immigrants. We don't see it as an invasion."

"They are inflammatory and clearly meant to tap into bigotry and fear of immigrants," said Karen Narasaki, president and executive director of the Asian American Justice Center (AAJC).

The "Stop the Invasion" billboards are the brainchild of Grassfire.org, an admitted anti-immigrant, pro-life, and pro-church grassroots organization. And the signs are spreading rapidly across the nation, fully sponsored by American citizens who are contributing \$25 per square foot in donations.

Already the signs have cropped up in eight states, emblazoning neighboring freeways in cities like Dallas, Miami, Chicago, Atlanta, Houston, Phoenix, San Diego, Tucson, and Winnfield, La. And if your hometown hasn't yet received its own sign, you may not have long to wait since more billboards are planned in the near future.

Although representatives from Grassfire.org did not return *Pacific Citizen's* numerous requests for an interview, the organization's president Steve Elliott stated on their Web site: "Immigration is the biggest issue in California and these billboards represent the view of mil-

lions of Californians." Similar statements were made regarding the other U.S. cities in which billboards are currently standing.

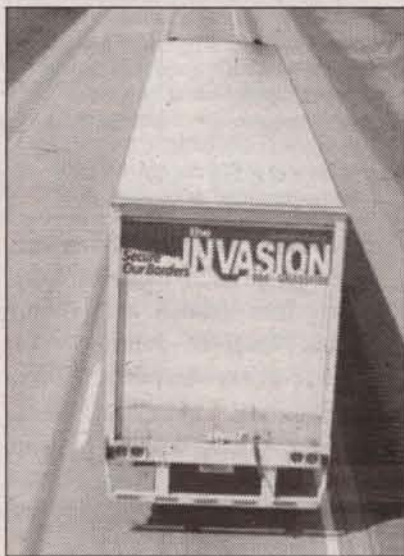
Grassfire.org is strategically timing the launch of these billboards with national field hearings on immigration currently being held by the House of Representatives. The group is hoping the signs will encourage people to speak out against illegal immigration.

But national APA groups, including JACL, are pushing for humane immigration reform and are encouraging members of the APA community to come out in force to ensure their voices are also heard.

"Asian Americans are clearly affected by the immigration debate and its outcome," said Narasaki. "An estimated 10 percent of the Asian American community is undocumented. Over 1 million are waiting for years, even decades for a family based visa. And tens of thousands seek to come legally to work in both low skilled and high tech industries. The immigration system is broken because the visa system has unreasonable quotas that do not reflect the needs of our economy or of our communities."

"The immigration system is not working right now," said Lee. "Our community should care ... we are affected by immigration issues. We realize we have an interest in the debate and we have a responsibility to contribute to the debate."

According to the National Council of Asian Pacific Americans (NCAPA), of the 15 million APAs living in the U.S., 67 percent or 8.7 million are immigrants and 1.5 million are undocumented. Many millions are also stuck in the myriad



The 'Stop the Invasion' signs are cropping up in major cities across the country.

In addition to the freeway billboards, Grassfire.org, the organization that created the campaign, is encouraging people to purchase similar signs for vehicles.

immigration backlogs, waiting years to be reunited with loved ones.

Although many of the debates and media stories focus on the illegal border crossings between Mexico and the U.S., illegal Asian immigrants often enter the country on legitimate visas but sometimes overstay after its expiration.

"Because of that, people make choices to come without documentation," said Lee of the huge backlogs. "Many are women trying to rejoin family members."

The House and Senate are currently looking at varying pieces of legislation to reform the current immigration system. The House version calls for an enforcement only immigration policy and includes a provision that would make illegal presence in this country a felony. Groups like Grassfire.org support this version and have attacked politicians not in step with them by listing their phone numbers on the "Stop the Invasion" billboards.

On the Senate side, a more

humane version is being looked at that provides a pathway to citizenship for some illegal immigrants. But most APA groups see a problem with both versions currently on the table.

"The bill passed by the House of Representatives does not do anything to address these issues and instead seeks to impose unworkable and harsh enforcement schemes that turn on taking away basic due process and other rights from immigrants," said Narasaki. "The Senate bill seeks to address some of these issues but still contains many unworkable and harsh measures."

APA groups also see problems with a recent bill proposed by Republicans Rep. Mike Pence and Sen. Kay Bailey Hutchison which they believe is biased against immigrants from Asia, excluding them from the modest temporary work measures being proposed.

Although pro-immigrant groups believe they have much more support than the anti-immigrant groups like Grassfire.org, many see the

mainstream media as contributing to the misperception that the majority of Americans are anti-immigrant.

They note that groups like the Minuteman, a group that pushes full closure of the U.S. borders, get mass media coverage even though their rallies often attract few people, usually in the hundreds. Yet it took a million people marching in major cities before the pro-immigrant side received any coverage.

"Mainstream papers cover anti-immigrant issues more so it looks like they are in the majority. We had to get one million people before we got noticed," said Lee whose group NAKASEC participated in the national May 1 marches demanding humane immigration reform.

NCAPA, a group that has a number of coalition partners including NAKASEC, AAJC and JACL, recently launched the "We Are America" picture postcard campaign featuring AAs urging members of Congress to support just and humane immigration reform.

Through the campaign, NCAPA hopes more people will begin to see the APA community as a vital part of the ongoing immigration debates.

"We have the same stake in fixing the system as everyone else," said Narasaki. "Our country's ability to successfully compete in a global economy and the kind of democracy we live in will depend on how we resolve these issues. It is about whether our country will live up to its highest ideals or allow bigotry to take over."

"The immigration reform issue is not just about immigrants. It's something for America," said Lee. ■

Don't

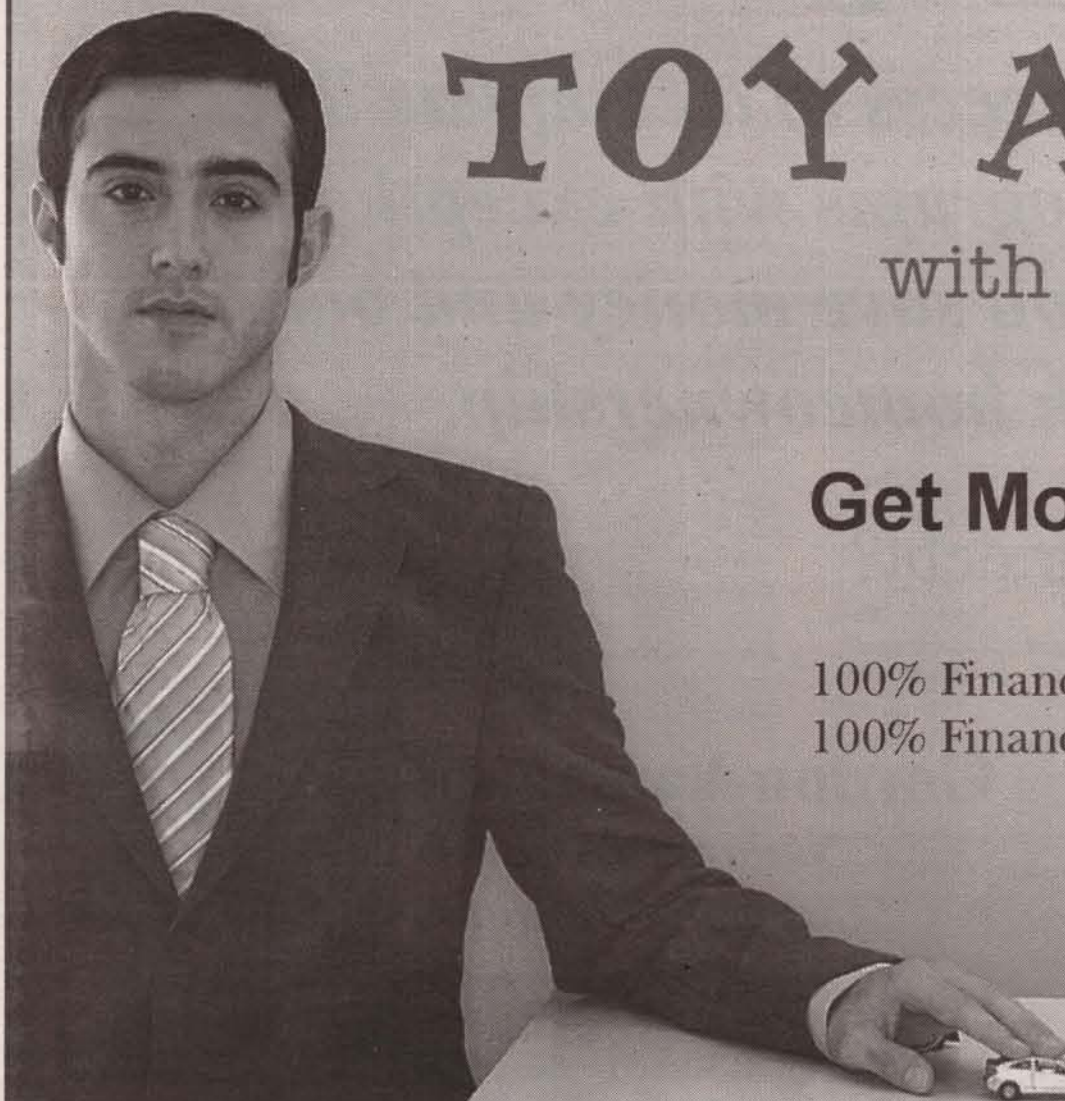
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