Calling 911 Doesn't Always Mean Help Is On the Way

Many VoIP phone users (i.e., Internet phone) users do not realize their 911 service does not work like traditional 911 on landlines. APAs need to be especially aware since this group is the largest among VoIP phone users.

By CAROLINE AOYAGI-STOM

Peter John will never forget Feb. 2, 2005. Two armed robbers had burst into his Houston home, shooting both him and his wife Socooma in the thigh before fleeing. Now they lay bleeding in the front hallway while their teenage daughter Joyce tried frantically to reach 911 emergency services from an upstairs phone.

But after several attempts and trying different phones in the house, Joyce could only get a recorded message after trying to call 911 on their VoIP (Voice over Internet Protocol) phone. In desperation, Joyce raced over to a neighbor's home where she was finally able to see CALLING 911/Page 4

9/11 REMEMBRANCE

Personal Belongings of Fallen Sept. 11th Hero are Donated to World Trade Center Tribute Exhibit

By Pacific Citizen Staff

Alongside the picture of a beached boat still stranded on the Cook Islands in the South Pacific, will come to the assistance of others. For months now AsianBoston magazine has been backed by a number of prestigious Asian American groups and negative stereotypes have been put aside. The show has been slapped with considerable criticism. But whatever the challenge, Asia is of life. It happened to a lot of people. Last month, Jennifer, who is of Chinese descent, and her family moved back to Metairie after an 11-month stay with relatives in Virginia. Right now, home is a Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) trailer parked in front of Jennifer's parent's house. It has nowhere near the square footage of their last place, but the trailer house Jennifer, her husband Terry and their two teenage daughters Natasha and Anya. Jennifer's parents have moved on. Above a child gets tutored in school.

The Asian-focused magazine is not going to garner any literary or innovative awards but controversy surrounds the publication largely because the publisher is white.

By CAROLINE AOYAGI-STOM

As the first glossy magazine dedicated to all things Asian in the Boston area, AsianBoston magazine is not going to win any literary awards anytime soon. So what's the big deal?

For months now AsianBoston has received bashed slaps of disapproval from local Asian American groups and negative stereotypes have been put aside. The show has been slapped with considerable criticism. But whatever the challenge, Asia is of life. It happened to a lot of people. Last month, Jennifer, who is of Chinese descent, and her family moved back to Metairie after an 11-month stay with relatives in Virginia. Right now, home is a Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) trailer parked in front of Jennifer's parent's house. It has nowhere near the square footage of their last place, but the trailer house Jennifer, her husband Terry and their two teenage daughters Natasha and Anya. Jennifer's parents have moved on. Above a child gets tutored in school.

The number of APAs quadrupled this season, but critics say this 'social experiment' may go bad.

By LYNDY LIN

They've stabbed each other in the backs, formed unlikely alliances and banished teammates to exile. What's next, fans wondered, and the answer seems to be racial segregation. The show often credited with popularizing reality television is pushing its limits again in its 13th season and despite its fixture in prime time, the show and its makers have not won immunity from the backlash. For the first part of this upcoming season's "Survivor," which premieres Sept. 14, the contestants competing for the $1 million prize while stranded on the Cook Islands in the South Pacific will be divided into four teams — Asian Pacific American, African American, Hispanic American and Caucasian.

Since its new race based gimmick was revealed late last month, "Survivor" has been slapped with vehement criticism, the loudest of which has been echoing from the office of New York Councilman John Liu, who called the show, "stupidity at play." And even though the world's largest automaker said its decision to pull its sponsorship was not influenced by the show's controversial new twist, critics think their loud protest did elicit some action. In a statement, Liu urged CBS to cancel the show. But whatever the challenge, "Survivor" is coming your way with a five-member APA cast — an unprecedented number on the television landscape that usually only affords one or two ethnic tokens.
FALLEN HERO
(Continued from page 1)
5 News in a now immortalized moment of heroism.

"When the Bank of New York sent everyone home, Zack, who's also a paramedic, rushed over to the World Trade Center with his medical bag," reads a quote from Zeng's mom, Jiao Xiong, near the exhibit. "I was searching for him for weeks. Finally one of his friends called to say he had seen Zack on a Fox newscast in front of the Towers helping people." Five years after the tragedy, Zeng's personal possessions joined many others at the tribute center, the first visitors' center to open near the World Trade Center site.

Zeng was also honored by the New York City Council on Sept. 11, 2004, when members passed a bill to posthumously honor Zeng by renaming Bay Street between Mulberry and Baxter Streets in the Chinatown area of Manhattan after the fallen hero.

The street, now named "The Zack Zeng Way"...
By P.C. Staff and Associated Press

Grosses Sue Wal-Mart, Andrew Young Over Racist Remarks

LOS ANGELES — A group of Korean grocers has filed a libel suit against former U.N. Ambassador Andrew Young, who said they and other market owners "ripped off" African Americans.

PACIFIC CITIZEN

Andrew Young Over Racist Remarks

The suit, filed by the California and Korean American Grocery Retailer Association, also names Wal-Mart Stores Inc. and seeks at least $7.5 million in damages. The former Atlanta mayor resigned last month as head of a Wal-Mart advocacy group after criticism over comments he made about "asian- and poor" — which he said were owned by Jews, Koreans and Arabs — overcharged customers in black neighborhoods for poor-quality merchandise.

Allen's Lead Narrowing After 'Macaca' Ga...
And perhaps even louder than the protest over the racial segregation is human beings to be brought to emergency personnel.

(PACIFIC CITIZEN, Sept. 15-Oct. 5, 2006)

CBS' Hit Show 'Survivor' Will Divide Teams By Race

(Continued from page 1)

I feel a little uncomfortable [about the plot twist], but I think it’ll make for very interesting television.

—Bruce Kanegai, a contestant in 'Survivor' Panama

For this season's 'Survivor' Cook islands, contestants will be divided by race.

911 Services Are Always Guaranteed on VOIP Phones

(Continued from page 1)

reach 911 and help her parents. Although precious moments had been lost, the Johns survived their ordeal, but they may never have 911. Cheryl Walter of Delta, Florida could not reach 911 on her VoIP phone last March after her three-month-old daughter Julia stopped breathing. She too sought her neighbor's help but by the time she was able to reach the emergency personnel her daughter had died.

Tragic stories like these have been echoed across the country and the number of complaints have begun to build. VoIP phones that allow users to make phone calls by using an Internet connection have become more and more common, but not all customers have connection to emergency personnel.

"It was a devastating experience. My life was in danger. God protected my life. There is a danger out there. Precious moments were missed just because of technical problems."

—Peter John, Houston

In the United States, 90 percent of English-speaking AAs use broadband and IP communications such as VoIP. The highest percentage of any other group. The study also found that 80 percent of English-speaking Hispanics use IP and broadband services and 74 percent of White Americans use these services.

Currently there are an estimated 2.9 million VoIP customers across the United States, visit www.VOIP911.org for more information.

The main difficulty with VoIP is the lack of a universal 911 system. With cell phone companies already in place, providing translated materials of their instructions. To compensate, the FCC ordered VoIP companies to provide translated materials of their instructions, which is a lot of technical work. In the United States, 90 percent of English-speaking AAs use broadband and IP communications such as VoIP. The highest percentage of any other group. The study also found that 80 percent of English-speaking Hispanics use IP and broadband services and 74 percent of White Americans use these services. Although E911 is being offered by VoIP companies, it is still up to the customer to register their location and contact numbers in case of an emergency. Since VoIP phones are mobile, each time a location is changed the customer must register their location so local emergency personnel can receive the correct information.

"It is an ongoing process and we look forward to getting it working," said Ishida. But he also noted that the registration process for E911 is "too confusing" for many of the Asian customers. "They don't understand the forms."

In the meantime, Ishida helps community organizations, getting the information out in the ethnic communities. Their customers, something phone companies and cell phone companies already do. These fees help pay for 911 services, visit www.VOIP911.org for more information.

"We need to do more outreach regarding this to the AA community regarding the issues surrounding 911 service. There is no language specific information out there but we have done outreach according to the FCC order," said Ishida.

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Three Nisei Siblings Receive Their Belated Diplomas

Three Nisei siblings can finally be called "alumni" of the Redlands Unified School District after recently being awarded their belated diplomas.

Henry Wada (class of 1945) and James Sakato (class of 1942) received their paper diplomas—which would have been issued exactly like the diplomas issued in the year of their graduation—while Helen Wada (1945) was honored posthumously.

All nine Wada siblings were educated in Redlands Unified School District schools, began at the same Lincoln Elementary School and junior high school—except Robert Wada, who attended his three years of junior high school in Phoenix, Arizona. Mary Marumoto, now living in San Diego, Calif., was the first Wada to graduate from Redlands High School in 1932. But wartime hysteria and Executive Order 9066 interrupted their education.

"I have been invited to the past in all of '45 reunions by my former classmates and have been attending them without a diploma. Now I can consider myself a bona fide member of the class of '45 at the reunions," said Helen.

The diplomas were awarded under the jurisdiction of California Assembly Bill 781, which allows school districts to issue retroactive diplomas to Japanese Americans.

Along with the Wadas, a diploma for the class of 1942 was awarded to Los Angeles resident Sakato, who along with his family left Redlands during the mass evacuation while he was just three months shy of graduation.

PHOTO COURTESY OF KITAZAWA SEED CO.

Mr. Wada (right) is officially a member of the Redlands High School class of 1945 with his newly awarded diploma. His 91-year-old sister Mary (left) graduated from the same high school in 1945.

Critics were relentless and continued to be, according Ballou of exploiting Asian women.

"It seems like he is integrated with Asian women," said Nguyen who noted that several of her close friends are boycotting the magazine specifically for this reason.

"The fact that Leo Ballou simultaneously launched a 'modeling agency' affiliation of "Asian Boston" has led to suggestions that the venture is fueled by Ballou's desire to meet Asian girls—rather a complex and expensive way to get dates, if that's the case," said Yang.

The recent Asian issue, Ballou's second attempt, is definitely a toned down version. The cover features a smiling Asian couple in wedding attire and the fashion section only runs three pages. But the overall publication, to put it kindly, is not good.

The articles, some translated in Chinese and Vietnamese, cover a wide range of topics—entrepreneurial magazines, business, and health—but are obviously written by volunteers and many are abysmally short in scope. The 36-page publication, to put it kindly, is not good.

The idea of an AA-themed magazine is not new. The most successful attempt in recent years was a magazine that featured a scantily clad Asian model, a successful one for that matter," said Jeff Yang, a consultant on AA consumer culture and founder of the now-defunct AsianBoston.

"I'd like to give Mr. Ballou the benefit of the doubt, but if he'd had the best interests of both his business and his readership in mind, he would have done what any other prospective entrepreneur does before a public launch: Outreach to the target audience, identify real needs to be served, focus group varying iterations of the product—and only then release your debut, make 'em want it more, then start talking to the press."

But for some it's not about being White. The most important factor in creating a successful Asian-themed magazine is whether the publisher has taken the time to identify, research and outreach to the community he or she is targeting.

"I think people are making way too much out of his race and his city of origin. These aren't the things that..."
The National JACL recently announced its 2006 scholarship winners. The following are recipients from the undergraduate, graduate, law and arts division with excerpts from their personal statements. This year JACL awarded 27 scholarships totaling $57,000.

### GRADUATE

**Henry & Chiyô Kuwahara Memorial**

Emily Teruya
Berkeley JACL

**Milks College Business Administration**

My Kibei-Nisai maternal grandmother experienced WWII in Japan. She spent her late teens and early 20s dodging bombs, living in caves and fighting hunger. As I grew older, learning my family history was dated by teachers, so I listened to my grandma's stories knowing they were true but unwilling to comprehend. In college, I desperately sought books that would tell me similar stories. The harsh black-and-white text opened a wound I never knew I had. It tore away my veil of self-indulging in denying the language barrier that stood between my grandma and me. With my mix of experiences, I now understood every particular thing I was defined as America Japanese. I hope American society will understand that the JA experience is as much an individual story as a collective one. Everyone has a different story to tell. Each emphasizes the diversity of a seemingly homogeneous JA experience.

**Nisaburo Albara Memorial**

Kenta Nakamura
Diablo Valley JACL

**University of California, San Francisco Medicine**

The JA experience encompasses a rich spectrum of struggle and triumph spanning over one hundred years. Well beyond influencing successive generations of immigrants, the Nikkei American communities have contributed significantly and disrupted American society. From crystallizing the very ideals of the founding Constitution to defining the parameters for healthier living, Nikkei successes are both diverse and compelling. To the diverse and rich identity of American society and our own communities, I have personally learned that the instilling of strong values, the recognition of past injustices, and cultural preservation are very important aspects that make the JA experience unique and remarkable.

**Minoru Yasui Memorial**

Ann Ishinuma
Portland JACL

**Harvard University Education**

There are always gasps from the students in the audience when I tell them, "my father was born in a kind of prison." Not a prison like you might think, I add quickly. It was in the desert of Arizona, surrounded by hundreds of miles of barbed wire. It was a kind of prison called an internment camp.

I believe the internment of JAs during World War II remains a critical piece of American history whose story we must continue to tell.

I believe that American society can learn from the history and continuity of the JA community's civil rights activism.

I believe that American society can learn from the richness and growing diversity of JA history and culture.

I believe that education is the key to the ability of American society to learn from the JA experience.

**Railroad & Mine Workers Memorial**

Kenji Treanor
Mary JACL

**University of San Francisco Public Administration**

American society can learn from redress that forgiveness is powerful and necessary for all people and nations. Unfortunately, the United States has many more apologies to make, as internment is only one instance in a long history of American injustice. But our society must call for those apologies and must help the government take the steps necessary to move forward without denying our moral responsibility for the past. JAs more than any other group in the U.S. can play an active role in redress, even if JAs do not lead another charge for reparations, our redress experience has set an example of forgiveness that all Americans can employ to achieve greater success, prosperity and healing by honoring our personal, community, and national wounds.

**Reverend H. John Yamashita Memorial**

Derek Furukawa
Las Vegas JACL

**University of Nevada, Las Vegas Educational Leadership**

Life can present moments of adversity that test the human spirit. These moments are rarely repeated, but the events of Sept. 11th have eerily paralleled events during World War II. Both events imposed uncertainty on specific groups of American citizens. The JA experience during WWII included a forced evacuation and internment of over 120,000 Americans of Japanese descent. Today, over five years after Sept. 11th, Americans face the same problems of discrimination and racism that the JAs experienced following WWII. We all hope that the events of WWII and Sept. 11th will not repeat again. However, there is a regrettable solace in knowing that education has a way of emerging following times of distress. With education, all people can learn to be equal in both mind and soul and with equality comes human understanding.

**UNDERGRADUATE**

**Henry & Chiyô Kuwahara Memorial**

Marc Silliman
Salt Lake City JACL

**University of Utah Political Science**

The JA experience is a unique collection of histories, stories, sacrifices, struggles and hardships that provide JAs with an identity with strong values, and a rich culture. All of the aspects of the JA experience have added to the diverse and rich identity of American society and our own communities. I have personally learned that the instilling of strong values, the recognition of past injustices, and cultural preservation are very important aspects that make the JA experience unique and remarkable.

**Kenji Kajiwara Memorial**

Jessica Kawamura
Berkeley JACL

**Brown University Ethnic Studies/Public Policy**

For over a century and a half, JAs have made both large and small contributions to American society. From the backbreaking labor of farmers in California at the turn of the century to the work of Rep. Patsy Mink in Congress, JAs have contributed significantly to the American society. Beyond these individual contributions, the JA experience as a whole has many lessons to teach to our society. Our community's experience teaches American society of the need to combat xenophobia, the value of building interacial coalitions, and the importance of preserving ethnic cultural heritage.

**Nobuko R. Kodama Fong Memorial**

Traci Kuratomi
San Fernando Valley JACL

**Smith College Undeclared**

It only took one day for our history to be forgotten. The casualties of the attacks on Sept. 11, 2001, included more than just the buildings and innumerable lives lost, but also the judgment and reason of the American people. In all too familiar panic and fear that ensued, Americans forgot the lesson that they should have learned from the internment camps 60 years ago, that our inalienable rights need to be protected. In the days that followed, individuals lost their freedoms. They were thrown in jail without due process, but what is even more shocking was what happened to the American people as a whole. They allowed their Constitutional rights to be violated. Fifty-four days after the attacks, the U.S. Congress passed the USA PATRIOT Act, which allows the government to trample our rights without probable cause. The Constitutional rights we are provided are only words and theories unless the American citizens protect them when they are attacked. Let us make sure we are good of the international community and stand up for our rights because if we don't, who will?

**Alice Yuriko Endo Memorial**

Chokotou Uga
Philadelphia JACL

**Princeton University Computer Science**

When I came to the United States, I met "Japanese Americans." Joining JACL piqued my interest in JAs, whom I had thought mostly I fully understood, and led me to question my premature understanding of them. Flipping through what at first looked like a typical political newsletter, I found in the pages of the Pacific Citizen insightful stories that seemed to lead to a strike of this demographic. Articles highlighting the political successes of JA congressmen, the protest against Miss Jones's discriminatory comments, the movement to rename "Jap Road" — all portray JAs as actually a distinctive, crisp vegetable in the American salad bowl. When I meet Nikkeian nowadays, I see not typical Americans, but instead a beautiful legacy of the Japanese ancestors. They are here to not only add to America's rich diversity, but to also deliver the timeless virtues passed down by their forefathers. That is why this country has much to learn and gain from their history and presence. And that is why I am proud that today I too am a JA.

**Saburo Kidô Memorial**

Abigail Smith
Mt. Olympus JACL

**Brigham Young University Art History/Humanities**

Even though there remains much to learn from the historical JAs, I believe that American society can also learn a great deal from JA experiences of today. As one of Japanese descent, living in America, I (and I know of many others who do the same) strive to maintain an involvement in the Japanese culture while also experiencing my own American heritage. I have found that embracing more than one culture is a critical piece of American history whose story we must continue to tell.

**Sam S. Kuwahara Memorial**

Karín Hayashida
Boise Valley JACL

**Albertson College of Idaho Biology/Chemistry**

The JA experience encompasses many unique and notable events that are just as much a part of Japan's history as well as America's. The people who made the journey across seas to create a new world in America had to endure many hardships along the way. These people were my great-grandparents and it was their children who had to tolerate racial discrimination and relocation in a country they called home. Perseverance, understanding, and forgiveness can be realized through the JA experience. These values have become imbedded in the lives of following generations of JAs, including me. I feel that the rest of America could benefit from the JA experience by appreciating the values that have helped us prosper throughout the years of hardship up to today.

**Dr. Thomas T. Yatabe Memorial**

Leslie Tamura
Fresno JACL

**Wellesley College English & Biology**

It was through my own community, with Nisei and Sansei role models that I have been able to maintain some sense of JA pride and social responsibility. These community leaders were family members, church leaders, and classmates who understood that being American, that being a part of a country of immigrants, meant remembering that JAs are a distinct community that contributes to the nation's political, media-social, and community presence. The JA experience teaches America to be more aware and appreciative of the thousands of unique ethnic populations, through historical and social occurrences, continue to mold and shape the national American experience.
Jim's grandson grew up learning Japanese. What JAs were able to do during internment camps in Guantanamo Bay to anti-Muslim hate crime at home, America again faces enormous moral challenges today. Expedient but unjust measures against minorities or risk losing the very democracy we seek to protect. This is even more important in light of present day discrimination that is faced by other ethnic groups and with laws such as the USA PATRIOT Act which impose on an individual's rights. Right-wing organizations such as the JACL are thus so important in that they work to make sure that people learn about and remember the internment, and also work to make sure that other civil rights issues are not encroachments in the present day do not go unnoticed. Because of this, the JA experience will not only be remembered, but will be valued for the important lessons it provides for American society.

Aiko Susanna Hiratsuka Memorial

John Ryan
New England JACL
New York University
Music

An important lesson to learn from the JA experience is that this country must never sacrifice justice in the name of national security. The internment of JAs during WWII is one of the most reprehensible events in the history of this country. Even conservatives acknowledged this fact when President Ronald Reagan approved reparations payments in 1988. Unfortunately, as we enter a post-9/11 era, basic human and civil rights of minorities are again at risk. From detention camps in Guantanamo Bay to anti-Muslim hate crime at home, America again faces enormous moral challenges in the midst of war. Nevertheless, we must be ever vigilant not to repeat the xenophobic mistakes of the past. The wartime internment of my grandmother's family and thousands of JAs like them was a violation of the principles upon which our country was founded. American society must learn to denounce expedient but unjust measures against minorities or risk losing the very democracy we seek to protect.

JACL SCHOLARSHIPS

For more information, please visit www.jaclprescript.com

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JACO SCHOLARSHIPS

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* Immediate savings.

For more information, please visit www.jaclprescript.com

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\(^{\text{b}}\) Discounts are not available on all prescription medications. Preferred Drug List is subject to change without notice. Medicare Part D: Medicaid or worker comp recipient will not benefit from this program.

\(^{\text{c}}\) Savings based on program's Fee Schedule for participating general dentists (few vary by region) compared to a National Average (Average Savings 34%). Actual savings may vary.

I understand that if I am not completely satisfied, I may cancel within the first 30 days of my membership and receive a full refund of my first month's membership fee. The member activation/ enrollment fee is non-refundable except in those states where state premiums are specified by state law.
THE 26TH BIENNIAL in 1980 at the SFO Plaza Airport Inn was a last-minute venue because of the hotel strike in the city. Among the 700 delegates were JACLers from Japan and Hawaii chapters. President Carter signed S1647 (July 30) to establish the Commission on Wartime Relocation and Internment of Civilians. To balance a "bare budget" $159,000 budget, dues were raised from $16.75 to $22 (1981) and to $25.50 (1982). National Director Karl Nobuyuki (1977-80) resigned.

The 27th Biennial in 1982 at LAX Hyatt Airport Hotel, hosted by Gardena Valley, saw the membership drop from a high of 32,545 (1978) to 26,615 (1981). Dues, nonetheless, were increased $1.25 (1983) and to $1.75 (1984). Floyd Shimomura, 34 (Sacramento) was the first Sansei elected national president. Redress campaign began nationwide with John Tateishi as director.

The 28th Biennial in 1984 at Pacific Beach Hotel, Honolulu was JACL's first off-the-Mainland parlai. Keynoters were Senators Dan Inouye at the Sayonara and Spark Matsunaga at the USS Arizona Memorial. Council adopted its first million-dollar budget ($1,281,450), supported by a dues increase to $28.50 (1986), but rejected a rate for senior citizens (age 65).

The 29th Biennial in 1986 at Hyatt Regency, Chicago gave its first posthumous Japanese American of Merit award to astronomer Li Col, Ellison Onizuka. The council rejected a Gardena Valley proposal to give chapters one vote for every 300 members at council sessions, an idea previously raised in 1940. Grace Uyehara succeeded Tateishi as redress campaign director as Grant Ujifusa outlined the strategy to pass the redress bill HR 442. In a two-way race for national president, Harry Kajihara (67) won over Rose Ochi (59).

The 30th Biennial in 1988 at the Univ. of Washington campus, Seattle assured affordable convention housing. JACL leaders flew "red eye" to Washington, D.C. (Aug. 10) to witness President Reagan sign HR 442 — $2,000,000 to persons affected by E.O. 9066 plus an apology signed by the president. National Director Ron Wakabayashi (1981-88) resigned.

The 31st Biennial in 1990 at Princess Resort, San Diego had two keynote speakers: UC San Diego professor Peter Iacono (opening night) and Sen. Daniel Inouye (Sayonara) by telephonic. Council adopted Seattle JACL's resolution to heal "community wounds" and "express regret and recognize patriotism of interned draft resisters" but defeated a Chicago JACL proposal to open JACL membership to "permanent resident Issei aliens." Citizenship mattered as Issei naturalized within the University of California system, the 32nd Biennial in 1992 at Sheraton's Society Hill, Philadelphia saw the council adopt a $2,617,144 budget, recognized Japanese Consul Sugihara's dispensing transit visas in 1940 to Jewish refugees fleeing Poland, and defended ethnic studies destined to be abolished within the University of California system.

It's been enriching attending these conventions and it's been a last minute venue because of the hotel strike in the city. Among the 700 delegates were JACLers from Japan and Hawaii chapters. President Carter signed S1647 (July 30) to establish the Commission on Wartime Relocation and Internment of Civilians. To balance a "bare budget" $159,000 budget, dues were raised from $16.75 to $22 (1981) and to $25.50 (1982). National Director Karl Nobuyuki (1977-80) resigned.

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His name is Ham, a UCLA grad who made the first ever film about the Vietnam War from the perspective of the Vietnamese. Remember that name, he'll be going places.

By LYNDALIN Ooi
Assistant Editor

Three elements are missing from "Journey from the Fall," a Vietnamese American film about the April 30, 1975, fall of Saigon, South Vietnam's capital: village prostitutes, village traitors and Oliver Stone.

Absent also are the disillusioned American GIs. In fact, any American presence is gone by the time the film picks up on the tragic end to the Vietnam War and the country's reunification under Communist rule. The film, made by UCLA film school graduate Ham Tran, is strictly derived from the plight of thousands of "boat people" who had to escape their homeland under the most harrowing circumstances. Think hard labor camps, weeklong confinement in the bowels of a boat and pirates a little more menacing than the Johnny Depp kind.

The premise is simple: make a film about the experience of escaping from Vietnam to America from the Vietnamese perspective. "How long will we allow Hollywood to tell their versions about the Vietnam war where Vietnamese people are faceless, nameless background objects instead of three-dimensional living, breathing people whose lives are directly torn by war?" said Tran, 32.

Nine out of 10 Vietnamese Americans are either a boat person or knew someone who was one, he added. When Tran arrives at the Pacific Citizen building, he is all smiles and sunshine dressed casually in white to match his later model Acura. His levity is in stark contrast to the pet project he wrote and directed with funding help from Blue Cross of California has been providing health care coverage to JACL members since 1947.

END ASIAN MAN BY TAK

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

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SECRET ASIAN MAN BY TAK

AND SCENE: (clockwise) Ham Tran (far left) helps Diem Lien cry on cue for an emotional scene recreating the 1975 fall of Saigon, while the crew of Journey from the Fall films a graphic camp scene.

The merit of the film lies in its realism, the 32-year-old filmmaker has said.

The 'Fall' Gives New Rise to Vietnamese American Filmmaker

His name is Ham, a UCLA grad who made the first ever film about the Vietnam War from the perspective of the Vietnamese. Remember that name, he'll be going places.

By LYNDALIN Ooi
Assistant Editor

Three elements are missing from "Journey from the Fall," a Vietnamese American film about the April 30, 1975, fall of Saigon, South Vietnam's capital: village prostitutes, village traitors and Oliver Stone.

Absent also are the disillusioned American GIs. In fact, any American presence is gone by the time the film picks up on the tragic end to the Vietnam War and the country's reunification under Communist rule. The film, made by UCLA film school graduate Ham Tran, is strictly derived from the plight of thousands of "boat people" who had to escape their homeland under the most harrowing circumstances. Think hard labor camps, weeklong confinement in the bowels of a boat and pirates a little more menacing than the Johnny Depp kind.

The premise is simple: make a film about the experience of escaping from Vietnam to America from the Vietnamese perspective. "How long will we allow Hollywood to tell their versions about the Vietnam war where Vietnamese people are faceless, nameless background objects instead of three-dimensional living, breathing people whose lives are directly torn by war?" said Tran, 32.

Nine out of 10 Vietnamese Americans are either a boat person or knew someone who was one, he added. When Tran arrives at the Pacific Citizen building, he is all smiles and sunshine dressed casually in white to match his later model Acura. His levity is in stark contrast to the pet project he wrote and directed with funding help from Blue Cross of California has been providing health care coverage to JACL members since 1947.

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National

SAN FRANCISCO

Mon., Oct., 2—Annual National JACL Golf Tournament, "Swinging for Justice;" Harding Park Golf Course, 99 Harding, Room 280. 5:30-10 p.m. Registration deadline extended to Sept. 1, and 250$ after; entry fee includes golf cart, bent Loch, tee prizes and dinner; event field is limited to 144 spots; tournament is also looking for golf stories from campers; contact to Miss Hoshimoto at hash79@hotmail.com. Info: co-chairs, Jason Higuchi, 703/273-8932, jbhiguchi@fokuso-kai.org or akimatsu@aol.com.

NEW HOPE, Penn., Sat., Sept., 23—Worldcup-style Japanese Zen Art and Calligraphy Exhibit; 1-4:30 p.m.; Minguren Museum, Northbrook, IL 60062. 1847 Agerston Rd; including lectures by curator John Stevens, Professor of Far Eastern Religions, Tokohu Fukushi University, Sendai, Japan; free; all works available for purchase. Info and registration for Spokane, 2150-9115 or himonokido@aol.com.

EAST COAST

GAITHERSBURG, MD

Sun., Oct., 1—Moon Viewing Festival, "Dokumari," 5:30-9 p.m.; Lakemaid Park Garden Center, 666 Bellevue Ave; event will feature martial arts and koto performances, moon viewing and bent box dinner; RSVP a dinner for $15 to OFSCA, P.O. Box, 13022, Oakland, CA 94661-3022; deadline is Sept. 25. Info: www.oakland-fukuso-kaorg or 510/482-5896.

SACRAMENTO

Tues., Sept., 26—California Civil Liberties Public Education Program Advisory Committee meeting; 9:30 Capital Mall, Room 220; Info Elaine Yamaguchi, 916/051-0383 or eyamaguchi@library.gov.

SACRAMENTO

Sun., Sept., 30—Fifth Annual Community Recognition Dinner, "Celebrating Our Historical Heritage—Inspiring Tomorrow’s;" San Jose, 916/383-5710 or tosai@yakalon-line.com.

SAN FRANCISCO

Tues., Sept., 12—California Civil Liberties Public Education Program Advisory Committee meeting; 4-6 p.m. SF Main Library, 100 Larkin St, San Francisco, 94109; Info Elaine Yamaguchi, 916/051-0383 or eyamaguch@library.gov.

SACRAMENTO

Sat., Sept., 2—the Annual American Student Conference; $750 for a table of 10, under 6 are free. Info: call 408/295-1250 or e-mail san-ac@jcaw.org.

NEVADA

Las Vegas, Sat., Oct., 28 "The Four is Real"; David Henry Hwang Theater at the Union Center for the Arts, 120 Judge John A. Mabry Dr.; features a gala reception with the cast and crew; performances are Wed., Thurs., Fri. and Sat. at 8 p.m. and Sun. at 2 p.m.; previews are Sat., Sept. 16 at 8 p.m. and Sun., Sept. 17 at 2 p.m.; opening night tickets are $50; preview performances are $20, general performances are $35 for the orchestra and $30 in the balcony. Info and tickets are East West Playlants, 2136/725-3701 or www.eastwestplaylants.com.

OKLAHOMA

OAKLAND

Sun., Oct., 1—Moon Viewing Festival, "Dokumari," 5:30-9 p.m.; Lakemaid Park Garden Center, 666 Bellevue Ave; event will feature martial arts and koto performances, moon viewing and bent box dinner; RSVP a dinner for $15 to OFSCA, P.O. Box, 13022, Oakland, CA 94661-3022; deadline is Sept. 25. Info: www.oakland-fukuso-kaorg or 510/482-5896.

CALIFORNIA

PORTLAND

Fri., Oct., 2—14th Annual Autumn Tour to Japan: 5 nights Tokyo, 3 nights Osaka, 2 nights Kyoto, 1 night Beppu, 1 night Nagasaki, 1 night Fukuoka, 5 nights Honolulu, 5 nights Las Vegas.

HONOLULU

Sat., Sept., 30—JACL Health Benefits Trust Annual CCDC Chapter Insurance Program Advisory Committee meeting; 9 a.m. Hilton Hawaiian Village Tapa Room; 5:30 p.m.; individual seats $170 each, table of 10 seats $1,600; dinner includes silent auction and dinner program honoring Masako Koda, Leslie S. Murakami, Wally Yu and more. Info: JCH 800/945-7633 or email info@jcch.org.
IN MEMORIAM - 2006

All the towns are in California except as noted.

Fujii, Hidetoshi, 87, Ventura, July 19; survived by sons, Dennis (Jasmine) and Stanley (Margaret); 2 gc.; and sister, Masako Takamiya.

Fujita, Aiko, 83, Southfield, N.Y., July 14; survived by husband, Nell; sons, Kenji, David and Martin; 6 gc.; and brothers, Ray and Roger Tanaka.

Fujita, Tokamori, 83, Anahiem, July 30; survived by wife, Ginko; son, Tom; daughter, Wendy Hamasaki, Miwa, 82, Aug. 12; survived by wife, Terry; daughter, Wendy; and sisters, Nelllie Mitani, Connie Sugino, Marachie Takayuki, Morse Okazaki, Lila (Helen) Okazaki and Tomiko (Shige) Katsuda.

Kagiyama, Atsushi "Angel," Ramos, 69, Aug. 4; survived by wife, Mary; father, Duke; brothers, Jan, Leslie (Don) Stimson, Karen, Monty; sister, Tanya Bishop; and step-brother, Lloyd Mageo.

Maui, Dan, 70, Honolulu, July 23; survived by wife, Senoko; son, Ken; father-in-law, Eiji Suzuki and mother-in-law, Tiko Suzuki.

Makata, Kenneth S., 79, Rainbowridge Island, Wash., Aug. 9; WWII and Korean War veteran; survived by wife, Yoshiko; sons, Glen (Gail) and Gene; daughters, Jan, Leslie (Don) Stimson, Karen, Cheryl (Aaron) Paston, and Irene (Curt) Endow; 4 gc.; brother, Gerald; and sister, Yoshie Iwasa.

Nakaya, Tim, 49, Aug. 4; survived by wife, Yoko; sons, Benji; daughters, Leah (Masatake) Sugino, Marchie Takesuye, Morie (Ivan) Kagiyama-Yee; son, Cary; and sisters, Mary (Harry) Inouye and Kiyo Tanaka.

Ouyama, Yoshiye Takesuye, 85, Thermal (Coachella Valley), Aug. 25; survived by daughter, Karen; sisters, Kaye Minato, Sally Udo and Mary Orona; and brother, Jack Takesuye. Pre-deceased by husband, Tommy.

Sakada, Kinuyo, Dayton, Ohio, July 1; survived by sons, Dennis (Jim) and Darrel (Amene); daughter, Dawn (Bob Sadow); 4 gc.; brother, Mas (Lily) Yamakazi; and sisters, Mei (George Teranishi) and Lily Sato.

Sakamoto, Grace Kazuko, 81, Monterey, Aug. 24; survived by husband, Genzo; daughter, Michelle; sons, Dana, Byron and Wayne; 3 gc.; and 3 ggc.

Shoji, Sam, 70, Seattle, Wash., June 16; Korean War veteran; survived by wife, Haruko; sons, Jay (Rebecca) and Brian (Judy); and 5 gc.

Sano, Sadao, 87, San Gabriel, July 17; survived by wife, Yoshie; sons, Michael (Jennifer); daughter, Irene (Steven) Tanidr; and brother, Minoru (Marian) Sano.

Sansei Paying Cash

MEMORIAM - 2006

All the towns are in California except as noted.

Shoji, Mickey, 75, Los Angeles, Aug. 14; survived by wife, Mie; sons, Dana, Byron and Tim; brother-in-law, Tommy.

Sugiyama, Toku, 84, Baltimore, Md., May 14; survived by son, George; daughters, Carolyn Wasylczuk and Moeono Mendelson; 6 gc.; and 2 gc.

Tanaka, Jack Manahiko, 92, Los Angeles, July 14; survived by sons, Kelly (Barbara), Barry and John (Cynthia); 5 gc.; and 7 gc.

Tomikawa, Mitsutaro, 88, Gardena, July 23; survived by sons, Minoras and Shigemitsu; and sisters, Take, Umeko Okubo.

Vorshane Shigeoka "Grace," 95, San Jose, July 6; survived by daughters, Meiko Peterson, Janice, Charlene and Karen Yoritsune; 3 gc.; 3 ggc.; sisters, Setuko (Hano)

MIS

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NOTE: Mortgages are for purchase money of an owner-occupied single-family residence. Loans are subject to underwriting criteria. Please contact the family for details on the plans memorial service. She is survived by husband, Yukio; daughters, Deborah and Colleen; son, Roger; and three grandchildren.

AYA M. ENDO

Aya M. Endo passed away on Aug. 31, 2006 after a long illness. She lived for 91 good years. She leaves her husband of 64 years, Minoru Endo of Millford, New Jersey, and their children, Keith (Debbie) and Larry (Caron), 5 grandchildren and 1 great-grandchild. She was the oldest daughter of Kuniaki and Kazuko Mineta. She was proud of her siblings Fusa Masatka who was active in obtaining Japanese American rights, Helen Mineta who was a history teacher at San Jose High School, Albert Mitika who was a surgeon and pathologist, and Norman Mineta, US Congressman, Secretary of Transportation. Aya was educated at the University of California. She was devoted to her family, her garden and flower arrangement. During her long illness she cared for meticulously by her husband. Her ebullient personality, warm and friendly, will be sorely missed. In lieu of flowers or other donations may be made to the Japanese American United Church, 355 7th Avenue, NY, NY 10001, or Wesley United Methodist Church, 566 N. 5th Street, San Jose, CA, 95112, or Christ United Presbyterian Church, 1700 Sutter St, San Francisco, CA 94115.

NURSE MARY YANO

Mrs. Mary Yano, 11/30/25 - 8/26/06

Mrs. Mary Yano, 80, a retired administrative assistant, fashion designer, and artist, and also a beloved wife, mother, grandmother, and friend, died Aug. 28, 2006. Please contact the family for details on the plans memorial service.
"It'd be over by now," said Nguyen. They need food. They still need Jennifer with a laugh. "At least we night in their own homes. Of that, nearly 300,000 displaced by Katrina have a place to live.

"One year later, they are still in limbo," said Tran Nguyen of the Boat People SOS, an aid organization that has been on the ground helping APA victims for the last year. Images of thousands of APAs pouring into the local Hong Kong mall immediately after Hurricane Katrina are seared in many community members’ minds, and with help from within, the displaced are still trying to find their way.

We Thought It'd Be Over by Now

"We're still dealing with a fair number of people with emergency needs one year later — we thought it'd be over by now," said Nguyen. They need food. They still need emergency aid. Legal assistance is also needed to argue against benefits denial cases and immigration needs because a lot of the victims’ documents have been destroyed.

"Many of the victims feel they have to hear it from a lawyer," she added. In response, legal help is coming again. A second Community Education and Legal Clinic for APAs is scheduled Sept. 16-17 in New Orleans. The first one held last April focused primarily on assistance issues. And while that is still a need, this time organizers anticipate more problems with bankruptcy, continued insurance issues and problems of fraud, said Floyd Mori, JACL director of public policy.

"To me it is very sad and greatly disappointing that more has not been accomplished to help these victims," said Mori, who traveled to New Orleans for the last legal clinic and documented the destruction. "I am informed that the issues are now turning to depression and other health problems among the Asian American population. A lot of the hope for better things to come has dissipated and more of an attitude of gloom has entered their lives."

During this trip, Mori will assess health needs to help develop a healthcare strategy.

BPSOS currently has five full-time case managers working in the Gulf Coast to help victims access their benefits. In their Virginia headquarters, case manager Thanh Pham is currently working on 27 cases. For him, success is a relative word that is hard to gauge.

"[My clients] come back and forth to Virginia from Mississippi, New Orleans and Biloxi to search for jobs and apply for trailers," said Pham, 70. "When he asks his clients to transfer their case files back home there's still reluctance. Right now, they prefer the nomadic life. It's hard to tell if the recovery efforts are successful," he said.

We Told Them We Were Coming Back

"We try to make it," said Jennifer. "Everything is going up price wise." They rented before the hurricanes and only paid $650 a month. One year later, they are looking at apartments and houses that are upwards of $1,700.

"Everything is at an outrageous price."

A year ago, they packed up some of their belongings into their car and each took one suitcase to drive away from home the day before Katrina hit.

"We have two teenage girls ... We told them we were coming back," she said. They were thinking about driving directly to Virginia where Jennifer's brother was waiting. They stopped in Birmingham after 13 hours and watched the news huddled in a hotel room. They heard the storm was heading for their home and later they heard the levee broke.

"I told my husband, 'We have no choice but to go to Virginia now.'"

Three weeks later, they came back to Louisiana and were greeted with three-feet of mold.

"The place smelled so bad. We had no choice but to go back to Virginia. My husband lost his job. We didn't have a home."

Then one day someone from BPSOS called them. The organization had heard about the Ryan family and wanted to help. Jennifer is Chinese but lived in Cambodia until 1975 before settling in Louisiana. With the help of APA organizations, they received checks from FEMA and a church paid their rent in Virginia.

"They felt lucky," said Jennifer. "But a cloud was casting a shadow over their oldest daughter Natasha, then 17. She was particularly devastated and drifted in her own world in Virginia."

"After she saw what happened [to their home] she threw a fit," said Jennifer. It was Natasha's last year in high school and she had to leave everything behind. When Natasha got accepted to the University of New Orleans, the family decided it was time to come home. Jennifer works part time and Terry is working several jobs to make ends meet. In a few weeks, they will be moving into a three-bedroom house rented from a family friend who will only charge them $1,100 a month.

"I'm not mad it happened. No one can control the weather. We're moving slowly. It takes time," she said.