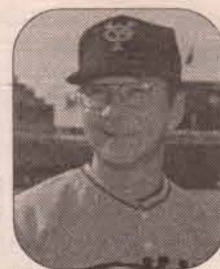




Lady in the Picture
Fumiko Hayashida's face was immortalized. Now she urges Congress to memorialize history.
PAGE 3



Get Your Dukes Up
Get used to seeing Jet Li with a full head of hair and modern attitudes.
ENTERTAINMENT PAGE 9



True Pioneer
Wally Yonamine is honored by the 49ers.
SPORTS 7

Since 1929

PACIFIC CITIZEN

The National Publication of the Japanese American Citizens League

#3066/ Vol. 143, No. 7 ISSN: 0030-8579

OCT. 6-19, 2006

Chinese American Has Found a Home at the NAACP

Peter Leung, 57, is the first-ever Asian American chapter president in the national organization, a group better known for serving the African American community

By CAROLINE AOYAGI-STOM
Executive Editor

When Peter Leung, 57, first attended a national convention of the NAACP (National Association for the Advancement of Colored People) he may have looked like an anomaly to many of the African American attendees — and there were admittedly a lot of shocked double takes — but for the first generation Chinese American he felt right at home.

For the past six years Leung has been an active member of the NAACP and in 2000 became the first Asian American to serve as a local chapter pres-



Peter Leung with Henry Luvert, president of the Eugene/Springfield NAACP chapter and his wife Arbella on a recent trip to China.

See PETER LEUNG/Page 6

Minnesota Campaign Staffer's Use of Racial Slur Revives APA Community's Anger

Twenty-four years after Vincent Chin was murdered, Mike Osskopp is caught yelling out 'another Jap car.' Is history going to repeat itself?

By LYNDALIN
Assistant Editor

In front of a camera, Mike Osskopp, the district director for Minnesota Rep. John Kline, pointed to a line of cars, looked directly at the camera and said, "Your buddy is supporting all of these 'Jap' and German cars." That was right after Osskopp was recorded screaming "another 'Jap' car" twice.

Footage of the Sept. 17 incident, which happened outside an event for Kline's opponent Coleen Rowley, found its way onto Web sites and



MIKE OSSKOPP

local news reports prompting Osskopp to apologize for his outburst two days later.

"I apologize if my words offended any

Americans of Japanese descent, including my sister-in-law. I allowed my emotions to get the better of me and used a phrase commonly used in my youth, but which is now inappropriate and offensive," said Osskopp

See RACIAL SLUR/Page 12

IN MEMORIAM Iva Toguri, Accused of Being Tokyo Rose, Dead at 90

By NATE HERNANDEZ
Associated Press Writer

CHICAGO— Iva Toguri D'Aquino, who was once accused of being World War II broadcaster



Tokyo Rose, died Sept. 26 in Chicago at age 90, a relative said.

D'Aquino, who spent the years following her release from prison living a quiet life on Chicago's North Side, died of natural causes at about 12:30 p.m. at Advocate Illinois Masonic Hospital, said William

See TOGURI/Page 11

National Board Debates Watada Controversy

After two days of discussions, the national JACL board votes to reaffirm the organization's earlier statement but agrees to continue discussing the issue with the districts.

By CAROLINE AOYAGI-STOM
Executive Editor

SAN FRANCISCO—It may have gotten ugly at times, but the Watada controversy — whether for the good or bad of the community — continues to be hotly debated amongst Japanese Americans. And the issue landed smack-dab in the middle of the national JACL board meeting this past weekend.

At the center of the debate is 28-year-old 1st Lt. Ehren Watada and his decision this past June to refuse deployment to Iraq. In July, national

'I personally think [Watada's] absolutely right and history will show he's right but he will have to face his punishment.'

— John Tateishi, JACL executive director



PHOTO: JEFF PATERSON

First Lt. Ehren Watada speaks to the media during a pre-trial hearing break in Ft. Lewis Aug. 20.

JACL issued a statement expressing concern over some of the charges facing the Hawaii native — including contempt and conduct unbecoming an officer — but did not take a

position on his refusal to deploy.

But now some JACL members are asking the national civil rights organization to take their statement a step further and show stronger support for Watada, the first Asian American officer to refuse deployment to Iraq.

In a show of solidarity, members of the Berkeley JACL chapter brought their message to the national JACL board Sept. 30.

"We urge the JACL to take a stronger stand in support of Watada. His Constitutional rights have been violated," said Jim Duff, a member

See WATADA/Page 6

JACL Closes Third Quarter with Another Surplus

Board members strengthen efforts to fill empty staff positions.

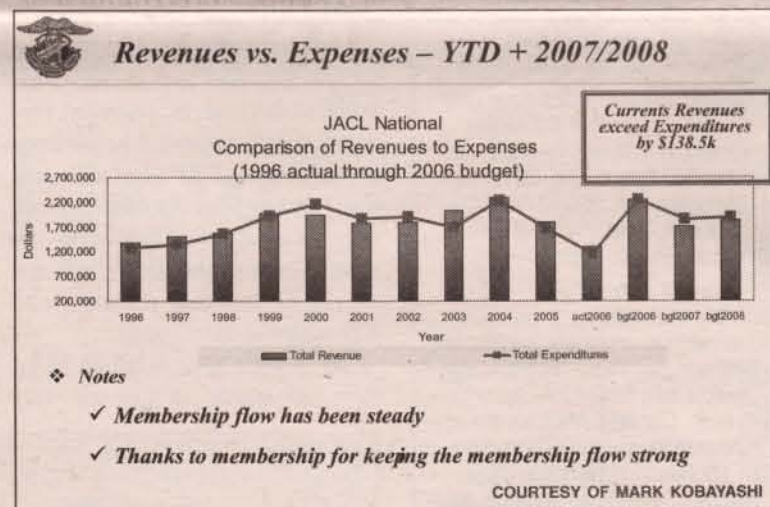
By LYNDALIN
Assistant Editor

SAN FRANCISCO—Closing out the third quarter JACL currently has a surplus of \$138,481, making it the third year in a row the organization's revenues have exceeded its expenditures.

After so many lean years, being in the black is a welcome relief, but for JACL National President Larry Oda the surpluses raise a red flag.

"When we end up with a surplus, that's not a good thing for a nonprofit. We're not doing something. One of the things we haven't been doing is hiring staff," said Oda to the *Pacific Citizen* at the Sept. 30-Oct. 1 national board meeting.

Currently, the national board is working to fill the long vacant



Pacific Southwest regional director position for a Jan. 1, 2007, start date and hiring a replacement for JACL Executive Director John Tateishi, who announced his resignation in June.

"The priority is to fill the vacant positions. We have some time with the national director, but the other

one that has been hanging out there for the longest time is the executive assistant. It's been funded and there's been no movement on it. Let's throw this one in there too," said Oda.

The executive assistant position — which is included in the 2005-

See BUDGET/Page 2

JACL Headquarters in Washington, D.C.?

The national board charges the formation of a committee to study the feasibility of moving JACL headquarters from the Bay Area to the nation's capital. Not far behind may be a legislative office in Sacramento.

By LYNDALIN
Assistant Editor

SAN FRANCISCO—Starting in the New Year, a new committee will look into the feasibility of moving JACL's national headquarters from San Francisco to Washington, D.C.

The national JACL board unanimously approved the formation of the committee at its Sept. 30-Oct. 1 meeting citing a need to provide an



answer to this often raised question.

"It's been brought up, so let's finish the conversation," said JACL National President Larry Oda referring to several times in the past the question of a move has been raised including a 2001 Blue Ribbon

Committee report.

Oda wants the committee to study the feasibility of moving headquarters to the East Coast and bring recommendations and alternatives to the board. District council governors have been asked to nominate individuals to make up this committee.

In order for the move to take place, a bylaw amendment passed by the national council is needed. The JACL constitution says the national director must reside in the city designated by the national council as the headquarters. This may also be a factor in the

See JACL H.Q./Page 12



PACIFIC CITIZEN

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Publisher: Japanese American
Citizens League (founded 1929)

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Francisco, CA 94115, tel:
415/921-5225 fax: 415/931-
4671, www.jacl.org

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NEWS/AD DEADLINE: FRIDAY BEFORE DATE OF ISSUE.

Editorials, news and the opin-
ions expressed by columnists
other than the national JACL
president or national director
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Citizen* do not carry the implicit
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this publication. We reserve
the right to edit articles.

PACIFIC CITIZEN (ISSN: 0030-
8579) is published semi-monthly
except once in December and
January by the Japanese
American Citizens League, 250
E. First Street, Ste. 301, Los
Angeles, CA. 90012 OFFICE
HOURS — Mon.-Fri., 9 a.m.-5
p.m. Pacific Time. ©2006.

Annual subscription rates:
NON-MEMBERS: 1 year—\$40,
payable in advance. Additional
postage per year — Foreign peri-
odical rate \$25; First Class for
U.S., Canada, Mexico: \$30;
Airmail to Japan/Europe: \$60.
(Subject to change without
notice.) Periodicals postage paid
at Los Angeles, Calif.

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POSTMASTER: Send address
changes to: *Pacific Citizen*, c/o
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BUDGET

(Continued from page 1)

2006 biennial budget — primarily
aids the national director and the
bare staff at national headquarters,
but has not been filled.

For the next biennium, Oda wants
to be more proactive.

"When you wait until you have
the money to do something, that's
not what budgeting is. Budgeting is
when you make projections of what
you are going to be making in your
revenues to allocate your spending
accordingly. You don't wait until
you have the money and then spend
it," said Oda citing several occa-
sions in the past when this has hap-
pened including the disbursement of
the cost of living adjustments
(COLA) to the staff only at the end
of the year after a surplus was deter-
mined.

"Well, you should've done it at
the beginning of the year," said Oda.

"In a sense, what you would like
to do for any budget is get to zero
because that means you hope that
you've done everything that you
said you were going to do and got in
all the resources that you need and
applied them exactly to plan. When
you have a surplus that means
something didn't happen or some-
one didn't get hired or whatever the
case may be," said National JACL
Secretary/Treasurer Mark Kobaya-
shi.

But this doesn't mean any less
work was done.

"We delivered every single thing
that was promised or proposed con-
sistently. I would never let a project
go unfinished," said Tateishi.

2006 Outlook

JACL currently has a surplus, but
there's potential for a cash flow
problem because of restricted rev-
enues and revenue that hasn't been
realized. Using 2005 as a barometer,
some money from the Reserve Fund
may be needed to balance out the
year, but the probability is low and
should be less than \$50,000, said
Kobayashi at the meeting.

The JACL Reserve Fund as of
Sept. 30 stands at approximately

\$464,000. In prior years, the reserve
fund consistently stayed at about
\$4,000 before the surpluses were
transferred on Dec. 21, 2005.

"Generally we're looking pretty
good for 2006. We did uncover that
there are some actuals or liabilities
that we need to pay off, but it looks
pretty decent," said Kobayashi.

The surplus is attributed to steady
membership numbers and public
support. Fundraising is also higher
than in 2005.

As of Aug. 31, some larger rev-
enue line items include membership
at \$736,978, fundraising at
\$261,929 and grants at \$65,238.
Some of the larger expenditures are
personnel at \$496,241, contract
services at \$190,148 and occupancy
costs at \$64,745.

The Legacy Fund as of Sept. 28
stands at \$6.1 million while the Life
Trust and the National Endowment
Funds stand at \$470,845 and
\$420,727, respectively.

Investment Policy Committee
Chair Ted Tsukahara reminded the
board that the function of the
Reserve Fund is for emergencies not
as a piggy bank.

However, the next biennial bud-
get reflects the more aggressive
stance taken by the board to use
more of the budget for programs,
said Kobayashi.

Looking Forward to the Next Biennium

Some of the milestones accom-
plished this biennium will be built
upon in the next.

The last time JACL underwent an
audit was 1999, but with the help of
members of the audit committee
and Business Manager Clyde Izumi,
the audit is now complete and JACL
was found to be in conformance
with the current tax laws.

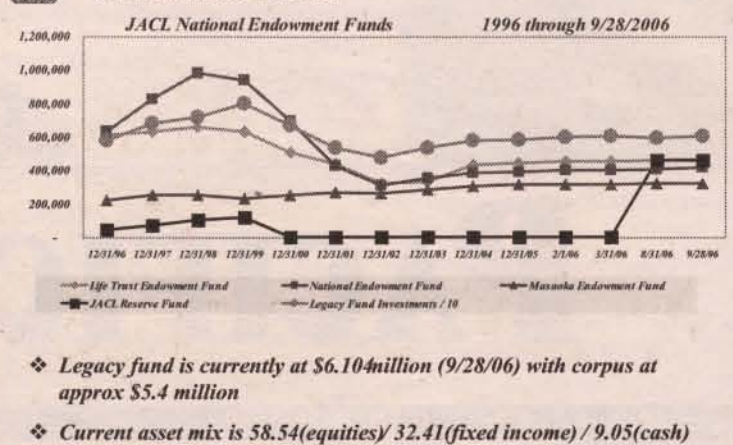
The national board unanimously
approved a motion to accept the
2005 draft audit report contingent
on the approval of the audit commit-
tee.

Other aggressive fundraising
measures for the next biennial bud-
get include a \$5 dues increase in three
membership categories:
regular/individual, couple/family



Endowment Funds

COURTESY OF MARK KOBAYASHI



and student/youth. This dues
increase becomes effective as of
Jan. 1, 2007.

An annual fundraising gala din-
ner in Washington, D.C. and an
annual golf tournament are also slated
as moneymakers.

In the New Year, it will also cost
more to become a life member. To
become a life member, an individual
pays a one-time lump sum. The new

amounts are:

- Century - \$5,000
- Life Trust - \$3,000

"The projections were consistent-
ly very dreary at the beginning, but
we've come in with a surplus. I'm
always optimistic on the budget
because I knew we could always do
well or we could always do better
and we always try to make the
budget work," said Tateishi. ■

Letters to the Editor

Reader Thanks Watada

I respect and support 1st Lt. Ehren
Watada on refusing to go to Iraq and
his decision to face court martial and
imprisonment for a long time. I
believe he is a man of high moral
character who would give his life if
the cause was right.

Because of the great injustice, suf-
fering and genocide of Asian
Americans in general, because of the
destruction of cultures, morals, fam-
ilies and communities and because
of the denial that hides the truth, it is
inevitable that conscientious men
and women speak the truth. First Lt.
Ehren Watada is the manifestation of
that truth.

At 61 years old and a Vietnam war
vet, I am truly sick, physically and
mentally, of all the lies, hypocrisy,
politics, selfishness, self-debase-
ment, anger and racism. It's time for
the truth.

I want to thank 1st Lt. Watada for
standing up for the truth and for his
moral conviction.

Roy Shuyo Matsumoto
Portland, Oregon

Don't Condemn One of Our Own

First Lt. Ehren Watada's objec-
tions to military service in Iraq
should be examined in this election
year. It is not Lt. Watada's decision
that should divide the JACL, but
President George Bush's lawless-
ness.

Our troops in Iraq are not serving
an American president or the U.S.
Constitution. Our troops serve the
United Nations. Let's examine the
facts before we condemn one of our
own.

I believe Lt. Watada has the right
to dissent under the First
Amendment to the U.S.
Constitution. He may seem wrong
today, but in 25 years he may be
right.

Margaret Okagawa
Denver, CO

Unconditional Support for Watada

All things considered, I fully

support 1st Lt. Ehren Watada —
UNCONDITIONALLY— as he
faces a court martial for his
actions in speaking out against the
illegal and ill-conceived Iraq war.
As an Army officer, we must
assume he was indoctrinated in the
Uniform Code of Military Justice
as part of his training.
Accordingly, he had to have been
aware of the potential conse-
quences of his actions.

Yet Watada chose the path he
did, standing up for moral princi-
ples, knowing full well what
might happen to him, including a
dishonorable discharge, imprison-
ment, or worse. If that doesn't
come under the heading of
courage, I would challenge those
well-intentioned Japanese
Americans who have branded him
a coward to come up with their
definition of courage in similar
circumstances. The well-docu-
mented heroics of JAs in World
War II and subsequent military
conflicts have nothing to do with
Lt. Watada's actions.

What lies ahead for Lt. Watada
is appealing the predictable court
martial decision. Who knows, we
could be looking at a test case here
which could be the basis for chal-
lenging future U.S. governments
for their illegal war-making acts. I
do realize that congressional
action may be required as a pre-
condition for appeal, but let's start
thinking outside the box.

George Kodama
Marina del Rey, CA

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views of those who take the time to send us
their comments.



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National Newsbytes

By P.C. Staff and Associated Press

'Survivor' Ends Segregation Game

NEW YORK—After only two episodes, "Survivor" has ended its so-called ethnic experiment. The Asian Pacific American, Caucasian, African American and Latino tribes were integrated into two mixed-race gangs on the CBS reality show Sept. 28.

No explanation was given for the quick abandonment of segregation; it seemed to pass by so quickly as to mean nothing. The race-based angle to this season's show had brought a firestorm of criticism down on the show and CBS Corp. Several major advertisers pulled out.



Radio Station Apologizes for Racist Comments on Asian Men

PHOENIX—101.5 KZON FM management has apologized for racist remarks made on the "Big O and Dukes" program last month.

During a Sept. 14 broadcast, comedian guest Greg Fitzsimmons and hosts Big O and Dukes (Oscar Santana and Chad Dukes) took calls from women to prove their theory that Asian men are not desirable.

"Big O and Dukes personally addressed the issue on their show," said Marco Camacho, KZON senior vice president in a statement, "admitting that the segment crossed the line, and expressing regret for the offense it caused to the Asian American community. Also, their guest, comedian Greg Fitzsimmons, will not be invited back to the show in the future."

Celebrity Cruises Removes Ad that Offended Hawaiians

HONOLULU—Celebrity Cruises will no longer use a magazine advertisement that showed King Kamehameha's statue holding a glass of champagne to promote trips to Hawaii, the company said.

The ad, which appeared in the trade publication *Travel Weekly*, caused outrage among Native Hawaiian groups who were insulted by the photo illustration.



Kamehameha is known for establishing the Kingdom of Hawaii in 1810.

The ad also shocked Hawaii tourism leaders, and it underscores the need for more efforts to educate tourism companies about Hawaii's culture. ■

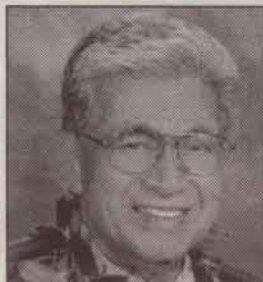
APAs in the News

By Pacific Citizen Staff

Akaka Defeats Case in U.S. Senate Race in Hawaii

U.S. Sen. Daniel Akaka defeated U.S. Rep. Ed Case, leading 55 percent to 45 percent with all but one precinct reporting. Akaka had 128,927 votes to Case's 106,968.

Akaka, 82, has served in Congress for 30 years and drew on his experience to boost his candidacy. Case, 53, who did not win on any of Hawaii's islands, had argued that the state needed a younger, more moderate senator.



Niiya Joins Japanese Cultural Center of Hawai'i Administration

Brian Niiya, former staff member at the Japanese American National Museum in Los Angeles and the UCLA Asian American Studies Center, has been hired for the newly created position of resource center director at the Japanese Cultural Center of Hawai'i (JCCH).

Niiya has served as curator of numerous exhibitions. He co-founded Historyworks LLC, a company that provides project management and consultations for museum services.

Igasaki Joins Equal Justice Works

Paul M. Igasaki has joined the Equal Justice Works staff as deputy chief executive officer. He is responsible for the day-to-day operations of the organization and overall leadership of staff.

Igasaki recently served as executive director of the Rights Working Group, a nationwide coalition of groups and individuals committed to ensuring liberty and justice for all. He also served as vice chair, chair, and commissioner of the U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission from 1994 until 2002 as the result of an appointment by President Bill Clinton. ■



"The years we experienced in Minidoka and Manzanar changed our lives. Our family lost everything."

— Fumiko Hayashida, 95, pictured (left) during evacuation and (below) with Rep. Jay Inslee



Oldest Internment Camp Survivor Urges Passage of Bainbridge Memorial

By P.C. Staff and Associated Press

WASHINGTON—Fumiko Hayashida is 95 now, but she remembers the day 64 years ago when she and her infant daughter, Natalie, were taken from their home at gunpoint and imprisoned under presidential order.

The pair were among 227 Japanese Americans forced from their homes on Bainbridge Island, Wash., on March 30, 1942, under order of President Franklin D. Roosevelt.

The men, women and children — two-thirds of them U.S. citizens — were marched to the Eagledale Ferry Dock on their way to internment camps in Idaho and California. They were the first of what eventually became more than 120,000 JAs imprisoned on the West Coast.

On Sept. 28, Hayashida — described as the oldest living Bainbridge Island survivor — appeared before a House committee to urge Congress to include the Bainbridge site in the national park system.

"I hope to live long enough to see the Bainbridge Island Japanese American Memorial earn the honor and recognition from our federal government and become a unit of the National Park Service," Hayashida told the House Resources Committee.

"Please act quickly so that Americans can learn from and remember the meaning of the memorial's name: 'Nidoto Nai Yoni — Let it not happen again.'"

Wearing a bright yellow lei, the

slight, soft-spoken Hayashida said the day she was taken into custody was the saddest of her life. A photo now on display at the Smithsonian Institution shows a solemn Hayashida holding her sleeping daughter in her arms. Both are wearing tags identifying them as prisoners. Natalie's stuffed toy dog dangles above her mother's purse.

Hayashida's husband, a Japanese native, had been taken into custody earlier, following the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor on Dec. 7, 1941.

"I don't want it to happen again for anyone," she said to the Associated Press. "I'm just glad I got to come here, since I'm still living. No one else is old enough to know what happened."

Asked for her memories of the internment camps, Hayashida said simply, "Nothing pleasant."

She and her family were held for nearly three years. Her son, Leonard, was born at Manzanar. He later served in the U.S. Army in Vietnam and died earlier this year.

After being freed in 1945, the family tried to resume its strawberry farm, but could not make a go of it. Her husband, Saburo, took a job at Boeing and the family moved to Seattle, where she still lives. Her husband died in 1983.

"The years we experienced in Minidoka and Manzanar changed our lives. Our family lost everything," Hayashida said.

While she is grateful for the apologies of a series of U.S. presidents, Hayashida said the memorial would be a lasting testament to a "shameful

period in American history."

Under a bill sponsored by Rep. Jay Inslee, D-Wash., the Bainbridge Island dock would become a satellite of the Minidoka Internment National Monument in southern Idaho, established in 2001. The monument is one of two U.S. internment camps designated as a national park; the other is at Manzanar, in central California.

"This is a story that needs to resonate throughout the decades," he said. "We need to ensure the power of fear never again overcomes the promise of liberty."

Inslee said he is optimistic that the bill, co-sponsored by Rep. Mike Simpson, R-Idaho, will be approved before the end of the year. A companion measure sponsored by Democratic Sens. Patty Murray and Maria Cantwell of Washington is pending in the Senate.

"Both Congressman Simpson and Congressman Inslee are to be commended for their work with the Japanese American community in preserving and developing critical aspects of preserving the lessons of internment for all Americans," said Floyd Mori, JACL director of public policy. "The Eagledale Dock Memorial and the lands transfers at the Minidoka camp site are two more important elements in telling the story of detention without due process and the importance of our basic rights under the Constitution." ■

On the Web

Information on the bills, HR 5817 and SB 3905, is at <http://thomas.loc.gov/>

Voter ID Bill is Another Burden for APA Voters, Critics Say

By Pacific Citizen Staff

The "Federal Election Integrity Act" (HR 4844) is being denounced as another burden on citizens and disenfranchised voters.

The bill passed the House Sept. 20 with a 228-196 vote. If enacted into law, it would require any individual who desires to register and vote in a federal election to provide government-issued identification. Critics argue such a requirement could create a hardship on minority communities, the elderly, students and persons with disabilities. It would also create new opportunities for discrimination at the polls against Asian Pacific Americans and other minorities.

APA groups like JACL and the Asia American Justice Center (AAJC) oppose the measure, which they say does not fix election problems.

"HR 4844 places an unconstitu-

tional burden on every American citizen, and does nothing to address the integrity of elections," said Rep. David Wu, D-OR. "We should instead focus our efforts on increasing voter participation by encouraging all Americans to participate in the democratic process."

Opponents of the measure say getting a photo ID, such as drivers' licenses and passports or a birth certificate costs money and time. And even if a photo ID were presented, many eligible voters will be turned away. If an ID card such as a driver's license does not contain the voter's current address, which is true of millions of Americans, he or she is likely to be turned away from the polls.



SHOW YOUR ID: A new law will require voters to show some form of identification at the polls.

"The gains made for Asian American voters across the country with the Voting Rights Act victory have been undermined by the new barrier erected to impede their ability to vote with the passage of this bill," said Karen K. Narasaki, AAJC president and executive director. ■



PHOTO COURTESY NAKASEC

FIGHTING FOR RIGHTS: Immigration rights leaders rally in front of the Southern California office of Dianne Feinstein before the Senate passes immigration bills.

APA Groups Denounce House-Passed Immigration Provisions

By Pacific Citizen Staff

Asian Pacific American groups are pressuring the Senate to reject three immigration bills that they say systematically attack immigrants, the elderly and low-income communities.

HR 6094 the "Community Protection Act of 2006," HR 6095 the "Immigration Law Enforcement Act of 2006" and HR 4830 the "Border Tunnel Prevention Act of 2006" passed the House Sept. 21 to increase border security and decrease crime, but opponents say the measures would also have a detrimental impact on the APA community.

If enacted into law, HR 6095 would encourage state and local law enforcement to arrest, detain or transfer to federal custody immigrants who they suspect of violating immigration laws. Opponents argue this provision could open up possible racial profiling of APAs.

Similarly, HR 6094, which would

deport or exclude suspected gang members from citizenship, could also lead to racial profiling of APAs.

HR 4844 would create criminal penalties of up to 20 years in prison for constructing or financing an unauthorized border tunnel.

In December 2005, a more comprehensive HR 4437 passed the House and sparked massive protests and marches around the country as immigrant communities protested the enforcement-only approaches to immigration reform.

The following September, Rep. James Sensenbrenner, R-WI, introduced the three provisions, a move that APA groups denounce as an attempt to push provisions of HR 4437 through piecemeal legislation and political maneuvering.

"These harmful and draconian policies will become law unless Asian Americans make our voices heard in Congress," said Traci Hong, director of immigration program for the Asian American Justice Center (AAJC). ■

Civil Rights Groups, JACL Condemn Detainee Legislation

By P.C. Staff and Associated Press

Several civil rights groups are condemning the Senate's recent decision to approve legislation establishing military tribunals and empowering the president to set guidelines for aggressively interrogating suspects without violating international prohibitions on prisoner abuse.

The legislation goes back to the House for a vote on the technical changes made by the Senate and onto Bush for his signature.

Civil rights groups including the JACL have been vocal in criticizing the detainee legislation that would establish military tribunals to try terrorist suspects and adopt the British system of jailing suspects without charge for up to 28 days.

"This legislation gives the president new unchecked powers to detain, abuse and try people at Guantanamo Bay and other government facilities around the world," said Caroline Fredrickson, director of the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) Washington legislative office.

Citing the injustice experienced by Japanese Americans during World War II, JACL in a letter called the legislation "a maneuver by the administration to side-step the Supreme Court's ruling in June that struck down military tribunals ..."

Congress has been under pressure to pass a comprehensive detainee plan since the Supreme Court ruled 5-3 in June that the system President George W. Bush created to handle terrorism cases violated U.S. law.

Before the Supreme Court's ruling, the president took the position that the international Geneva

Conventions of 1949, protecting prisoners of war, didn't cover so-called "enemy combatants" seized in the war on terrorism, enabling the CIA to use aggressive interrogation techniques that are widely considered equal to torture.

'Such treatment is a stark and dangerous reminder of the treatment of Japanese Americans during World War II, when they were denied due process and falsely accused of being a threat to the security of the United States.'

— John Tateishi,
JACL Executive Director

"This nation's judicial system was established to ensure fair, unbiased proceedings in our courts of law, whether civilian or military, and is a hallmark of the American justice system," said JACL Executive Director John Tateishi in the statement.

"Under the administration's current proposal, however, the use of evidence obtained under duress or torture, as well as the use of evidence denied to the accused, would undermine these basic values. The JACL believes that in the treatment of prisoners, the United States should be held to the same legal standard as other nations," he added.

An agreement was forged between the White House and lawmakers in late September with both sides saying the compromise would ensure that prisoners would be questioned aggressively without subject-

ing the prisoner to abuse.

Tens of thousands of U.S. detainees now have passed through U.S. detention. Many say they were caught up in U.S. military sweeps, often interrogated around the clock, then released months or years later without apology, compensation or any word on why they were taken. Seventy to 90 percent of the Iraq detentions in 2003 were "mistakes," U.S. officers once told the international Red Cross.

Defenders of the system, which have only grown since soldiers' photos of abuse at Abu Ghraib shocked the world, say it's an unfortunate necessity in the battles to pacify Iraq and Afghanistan, and to keep suspected terrorists out of action.

"Such treatment is a stark and dangerous reminder of the treatment of Japanese Americans during World War II, when they were denied due process and falsely accused of being a threat to the security of the United States. What was argued as the exigencies and necessities of the times ultimately proved only to weaken the foundations of democracy in America," said Tateishi.

Civil rights groups say the compromise agreement does not protect due process and leaves the door wide open for abuse.

Critics also say the bill would empower the military to seize legal aliens in the U.S. and hold them indefinitely before they are declared enemy combatants. These detainees wouldn't be allowed to challenge their incarceration in federal court.

"Detention without charge flies in the face of American laws and values," said Fredrickson. ■

Parents of 1st Lt. Watada to Tour Southern California in October

Bob Watada and his wife Rosa will travel from Honolulu to Los Angeles to speak on behalf of their son, 28-year-old 1st Lt. Ehren Watada, who awaits a decision on his court-martial and imprisonment at Ft. Lewis, Washington. The tour, organized by Nikkei for Civil Rights and Redress (NCR) will run through Oct. 19 with speaking events in Los Angeles, Santa Barbara/Ventura and San Diego.

In June, Lt. Watada refused to deploy to Iraq believing the Iraq war to be "illegal and immoral." Watada was charged with missing a movement, contempt toward officials and conduct unbecoming an officer. It is the first military prosecution of an objector for First Amendment speech since 1965.

Bob Watada is a well-known activist in his own right. As former executive director of the Hawaii Campaign Spending Commission, he exposed a vast system of corruption by both the Democratic and Republican parties.

Bob refused to serve in Vietnam, believing that war to be illegal and instead, served in the Peace Corps in Peru. Six of his brothers served in the military, one of whom was killed in the Korean War.

Bob explains his goals for the tour: "... there needs to be a court of public opinion that sends the ... message of an illegal and immoral war. The purpose of my going out and speaking to as many people as possible is to get this message out. Some people do not understand that an officer swears allegiance to the

Constitution, and has a duty to disobey an unlawful order."

"NCR has already gone on record opposing the illegal and unjust war in Iraq. We now have the chance to support someone who has the courage and integrity to stand up for his convictions," said Kathy Masaoka, co-chair of NCR. "We hope people in the Japanese American community will attend one of the events and open up their hearts and minds to this brave young man."

NCR and Asian American Vietnam Veterans Organization will co-sponsor a reception with Bob and Rosa Watada at the JACCC Garden Room, 244 S. San Pedro St., Los Angeles on Oct. 7, from 2-4 p.m. A video of Lt. Watada explaining why and how he came to his decision will be shown. The Watadas will answer questions about their son's decision, the current status of his case and how people can support him. A donation of \$5 is requested.

For tour and event information, contact 213/680-3484 or ncr-la@yahoo.com. For information on the Watada case, see www.ThankYouLt.com. ■

Partial List of Bob Watada Tour Events:

- Oct. 6**
- **7 a.m.**, Interfaith Communities United for Justice and Peace (ICUJP), Immanuel Presbyterian Church, 3300 Wilshire Blvd., Los Angeles, Contact: Thia 626/683-9004; icujp@pacbell.net
- **12:30 p.m.**, San Fernando



PHOTO COURTESY WWW.THANKYOU.LT.ORG

TALKING TOUR: Bob and Rosa Watada (center and right) will travel the country to speak on behalf of their son Ehren (left).

Valley Japanese Community Center, SFV Japanese American Community Center, 12953 Branford St. Pacoima 91331, Contact: Phil Shigekuni 818/893-1581, cell: 818/357-7488; pshig2000@yahoo.com

• **4-6 p.m.**, CODEPINK Cocktail Party Fundraiser with Jane Fonda, (\$100 reception) RSVP Anedra@codepinkalert.org, 310/827-4320

Oct. 7

- **2-4 p.m.**, Welcome Reception for Bob Watada, JACCC Garden Room, 244 S. San Pedro St., Los Angeles, Contact: NCR 213/680-3484; ncr-la@yahoo.com

Oct. 8

- **2-5 p.m.**, Town Hall with Bob Watada, Nat'l Center for the Preservation of Democracy, 111 N. Central Ave, Los Angeles, Contact: Ellen Endo 213/629-2231 or Mo 323/371-4502

• **6-8 p.m.**, An Evening of Discussion and Learning hosted by Rev. Phyllis Tyler, 11326 Cherry Lee Dr., El Monte, Sponsored by the Nat'l Japanese American UM Church Caucus and NCR, Contact: NCR 213/680-3484; ncr-la@yahoo.com

Oct. 9

• **9:30 a.m.-2:05 p.m.**, Political Sciences and Communications Classes Santa Barbara City College, 721 Cliff Dr., Santa Barbara, Contact: Gil, grobl@cox.net

• **7 p.m.**, Veterans for Peace (Chapter 112) and Citizens for Peaceful Resolutions, E.P. Foster Library, Topping Rm., 651 E. Main St., Ventura, Contact: Michael Cervantes 805/486-2884; mcervant@mindspring.com

Oct. 10

• **7 p.m.**, An Evening Discussion

hosted by Veterans For Peace (Ch# 54), Unitarian Society, 1535 Santa Barbara St, Santa Barbara, Contact: Donnis Galvan 805/453-6374; galere@sbceo.org

Oct. 11

• **7-9:45 p.m.**, CSULB Asian American and Chicano & Latino Studies Classes, Dr. John Tsuchida and Dr. Juan Benitez, 1250 Bellflower Blvd., Long Beach

Oct. 12

• **6 p.m.**, Whittier Area Coalition for Peace & Justice, Mark Twain Club Potluck, (\$3 donation)

• **7 p.m.**, Bob speaks at First Friends Church of Whittier, 13205 E. Philadelphia St., Whittier, Contact: Robin 562/943-4051; rmlaren@charter.net

Oct. 14

• **6 p.m.**, Lt. Watada Dinner San Diego (suggested donation: \$15), Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of San Dieguito, 1036 Solana Drive, Solana Beach, Contact: Reiko Obata 858/483-6018; wata-da@san.rr.com for San Diego events

Oct. 16

• **4:30-5:30 p.m.**, National Lawyers Guild of San Diego, Room 300, Thomas Jefferson Law School, 2120 San Diego Ave, San Diego

To donate, make check payable to "ECCOR," P.O. Box 235511, Honolulu, HI, 96823. For tax-deductible donations, make check to "Hawaii People's Fund," 810 N. Vineyard Blvd. Honolulu, HI, 96817. Write on the memo line: "Lt. Watada legal defense."

PSW District Honors Its Selfless Volunteers

By Pacific Citizen Staff

In an organization that was founded by and continues to thrive because of its volunteers, the Pacific Southwest District of JACL honored some of these selfless individuals at the district's 10th annual awards dinner with the theme of "Dedication."

"We are gathering to honor a very dedicated group of individuals," said PSW Governor Alayne Yonemoto, who credited the awardees for helping the district continue to be an active participant in the community. "This dinner is to recognize their work."

Close to 250 individuals and family members gathered at the Torrance Holiday Inn Sept. 16 to honor the following individuals:

Ted Namba of the Arizona chapter recently chaired the successful national JACL convention in Chandler, Ariz. He serves on several boards and commissions including the Governor's Asian American Advisory Council and the City of Phoenix's Pacific Rim Advisory Council.

Ted enjoys running marathons in his spare time and improving his golf game. He is married to Michele and they have two teenage children: Lauren and Bryan.

Sisters **Kaleigh and Kimberly**



PHOTO: JASON STOM

The JACL Pacific Southwest district honored 14 of their selfless volunteers at their annual dinner Sept. 16.

Komatsu of the East Los Angeles chapter are co-authors of the award-winning children's book "In America's Shadow," a book that takes a look at the World War II internment.

Kaleigh, a graduate of the University of Southern California, serves as the chapter's president and has served two terms on the PSW district board. **Kimberly** is also a graduate of USC and currently serves as the chapter's treasurer.

Janet Okubo joined the Greater L.A. Singles chapter in 1986 and has served as program chair, recording

secretary, treasurer, and has been the chapter's president for the past 10 years.

Janet has helped organize several successful events including the National JACL Singles Convention and the Annual Scholarship Fundraiser Dances. She recently retired after 33 years of working for the federal government including the Secret Service where she was the Supervisory Support Coordinator.

May Doi of the Gardena chapter has served as the chapter's president and helped organize the national JACL convention of 1982 held in Gardena. She currently serves as the chapter's secretary/treasurer. In addition to numerous awards and commendations, in 1981 she was awarded the National JACL Recognition Award.

May was elected Gardena City Clerk in 1980 and was reelected four times. She retired from this position in 1999 and is currently the City of Gardena's City Clerk Emeritus.

The Greater Pasadena Area chapter's **Fred Fukutaki** — a graduate of UC Berkeley and a former engineer with the Los Angeles County Public Works Department — has been retired for over 20 years but has spent much of the last 10 years volunteering with JACL and the local community.

Largely because of Fred's enthusiasm and active participation, the Greater Pasadena Area chapter's membership has held steady year after year. As vice president of Pasadena Nikkei Seniors, he helps organize several events each year such as bus trips to Stateline.

Larry Shimamoto has served as the Imperial Valley chapter's president (1993-2002) and has been a member of the chapter's executive board since 2002. In 2005 Larry was the honorary valedictorian for the Imperial Valley ceremony of the

California Nisei Project.

Larry has been married to **Irene Nishitsuji** since 1958 and they have three daughters and two grandsons. **Larry** is renowned for his homemade pies, often donating his cooking creations. One of his pies sold for over \$300.

Former elementary school teacher **Michiko Yoshimura** taught in the Riverside Unified School District for 36 years. In 1996 she was honored with the WHO (We Honor Our Own) award.

A member of the Riverside chapter since 1967, she has served as president for five terms, recording secretary, membership chair, and newsletter editor. She has also served as chair of the scholarship committee for 25 years.

Vernon Yoshioka first joined JACL in 1958 and has been an active member since joining the San Diego board of directors in 1970. He has served on the PSW district board and was a member of the national board as a vice president from 1980-1983. In 2002 Vernon was elected president of the Japanese American Historical Society of San Diego (JAHSSD) and currently serves on its board.

Vernon graduated from MIT in 1960 with a degree in aeronautical and astronautical engineering. He worked for General Dynamics Astronautics where he was recognized with 25 years of service in 1988.

Tom Doi has been a member of the San Fernando Valley chapter since 1988. Her has served two terms as chapter president and for the past eight years he has filled the role of chapter treasurer.

Tom is a World War II veteran having served with the Military Intelligence Service. After he was honorably discharged from the U.S. Army he went on to major in

Metallurgy with the University of Minnesota. He retired from Marquardt Aviation as director of research and development after 12 years.

Deni Uejima joined the San Gabriel Valley chapter in 1963 and has attended every national JACL convention since 1966. He has served as chapter president and membership chair where he has been responsible for increasing membership numbers substantially.

On the district level he has served on the PSW district board and for four years he was a member of the *Pacific Citizen* editorial board. **Deni** also runs the chapter's scholarship program.

Jun Fukushima is a charter member of the SELANOCO chapter and has fulfilled several roles including treasurer and since 1974 he has "continuously served as the financial leader of the club."

Jun is a WWII MIS veteran and served in Australia and the Philippines as an interrogator for the U.S. **Jun** also took part in the hearings of the Commission on Wartime Relocation and Internment of Civilians (CWRIC).

Hitoshi Shimizu has been a member of the JACL Thousand Club since 1964 and has been a longtime member of the Venice Culver chapter serving as treasurer for several years and also as president. He has also served as treasurer for the PSW district and was a member of the *P.C.* editorial board for several years.

Hitoshi helped establish and maintain the George J. Inagaki Citizenship Award given by the Venice-Culver chapter at the national JACL convention. He has also served as treasurer for the Go For Broke National Veterans Association and for the National Japanese American Memorial Foundation.

Anne Chilcott has been an active board member of the Ventura County chapter since 2000. She spearheaded the chapter's Web site and established its e-mail address. She has served as the chapter's vice president of membership of became editor of the quarterly newsletter. **Anne** has also been active with the Culture Day committee for several years, the largest event hosted by the Ventura chapter.

In addition to the PSW district honorees, there was a special tribute to **Hiromi Ueha**, former PSW district governor, who passed away earlier this year at the age of 33. In attendance were her family members including her son **Chandler**, 16. ■

GLAS Awards Hana Uno Scholarship



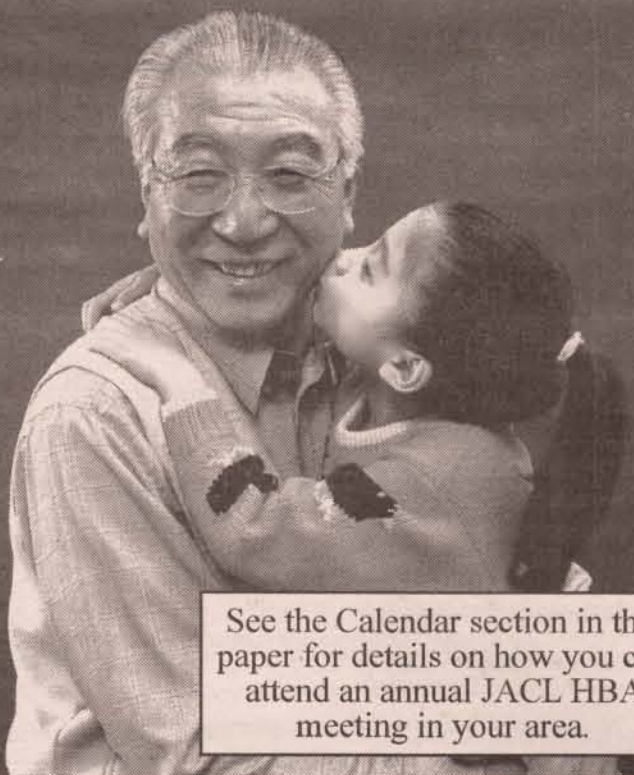
The Greater L.A. Singles JACL recently sponsored a fundraiser scholarship dance in honor of **Emily Mayemura**, this year's winner of the Hana Uno Scholarship.

The scholarship is given every year to a graduating senior from a single parent home. After her father passed away in 2004 from lymphoma, **Mayemura** organized a car wash and raised \$800 for the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society.

She will be attending UC Irvine this fall with a major in English to pursue a career as a teacher. ■



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First Lt. Ehren Watada (left) with his father Bob Watada, step-mother Rosa and Ehren's lawyer Eric Seitz during a pre-trial hearing break on Ft. Lewis.

AP PHOTO:
PETER HALEY

WATADA

(Continued from page 1)

of the Berkeley JACL Civil Rights Committee.

With letters of support from various community members — including a World War II 442nd veteran and famed attorneys who worked on the *coram nobis* cases — the Berkeley chapter pressed the national JACL to show further support for Watada. They also pointed to a recent amicus brief filed by the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) showing support for the first lieutenant.

"We are seeking your guidance and leadership. We really need your direction. We need to know from you what actions we can take on a local level," said Alison Satake, chair of the Berkeley chapter civil rights committee, who stressed the urgency of the matter in light of a possible pending court martial for Watada.

But many of the national JACL board members were not swayed by the presentation, voting unanimously to reaffirm its already stated position of concern and instead go back to its members to further discuss the issue.

"We do not have enough information. We will go back to our districts and not make a decision today," said Silvana Watanabe, IDC governor.

Although some board members indicated that in the future a stronger statement of support for Watada could be possible, they needed to take a look at both sides of the argument. Many noted that the veterans groups — several of whom have come out strongly against Watada including Japanese American Korean War Veterans and Americans of Japanese Ancestry WWII Memorial Alliance — were not present at the recent meeting.

"It's important to include a larger audience. We want them to be a part of the dialogue," said Ron Katsuyama, MDC governor.

"We have heard nothing from the veterans groups. This is an emotional issue and we need to hear from both sides," said Floyd Mori, former national JACL president and current Washington, D.C. representative.

The board also agreed that the issue needs to be more narrowly focused, possibly framing the Watada debate around the rights of free speech instead of the legal issues surrounding the Iraq war.

John Tateishi, JACL executive director, believes the decision national JACL makes today on the Watada controversy will have far-reaching ramifications on how the organization will be viewed in the future. He believes the national JACL should make a decision on the morality of the war, not its legality.

"The decision we make now will affect the organization for a long time to come. As a civil rights organization our mission is the human rights of everybody. It is not the legality of the war but the morality of the war," said Tateishi. "We need

to bite the bullet and make a decision.

"I personally think [Watada's] absolutely right," he said, "and history will show he's right but he will have to face his punishment."

Watada currently faces the possibility of a court martial and could face up to eight years in prison for his belief that the Iraq war is not only illegal but immoral. The U.S. Army has charged him with several offenses including: missing troop movement, conduct unbecoming an officer, and contempt towards officials.

In September the U.S. Army added another charge against the first lieutenant for remarks Watada made at a national convention of Veterans for Peace in Seattle in August. The additional charge is another specification under the charge of Conduct Unbecoming an Officer and a Gentleman.

Although Satake was personally disappointed that the national JACL did not strengthen their support for Watada, she believes the ongoing dialogue is important especially in light of a possible court martial.

"It's important that we keep the dialogue and debate alive," she said.

"I personally would like national JACL to support Watada," she added noting that in addition to the Berkeley chapter's statement of support, Honolulu JACL has also given Watada their full support.

The next national board meeting will ironically be held during the Veterans Day weekend Nov. 11-12 and the Watada controversy will likely be hotly debated once more.

"JACL can be a leader," said Tateishi. "This is an issue that's going to face us; it's inevitable. People in the community are demanding we state where we are."

PETER LEUNG

(Continued from page 1)

ident in the organization's 97-year history. And today, he is still the only AA to have ever taken on this role.

"People couldn't believe it. I shocked them," said Leung with a chuckle. "Historically all the chapter presidents have usually been all Blacks. There has never been an Asian."

Leung currently serves as a first vice president of the Eugene/Springfield, Oregon Branch of the NAACP and has been asked to take on the chapter's presidency later this year, a task he is considering but has yet to commit to.

Leung made history when he became the first AA chapter president for the NAACP's Corvallis, Oregon Branch in 2000, a position he was asked to take on by local members of the NAACP.

"It was not a surprise. He's really dynamic, a real politician, in a good way. Everyone knows him," said Esmeralda Allen, current Corvallis chapter president who worked with Leung as the membership chair. "I love the man. He's a beautiful person, a wonderful and admirable man."

As the former chair of the Oregon Commission on Asian Affairs, Leung has worked with and developed close relationships with both the local Hispanic and Black communities, finding a kinship based on similar needs and issues.

So for Leung, a former restaurant entrepreneur and current expert on U.S.-China relations, getting involved in the NAACP was a natural and easy fit.

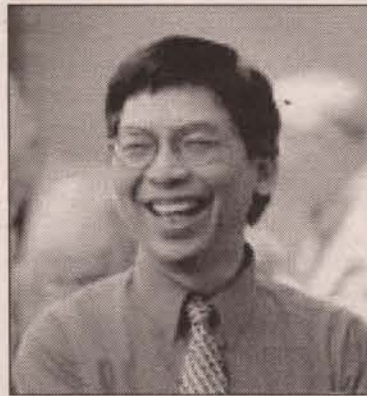
"When I served on the Oregon Commission on Asian Affairs I noticed that we had the same issues. I did a lot of work with the local Hispanic and Black communities," he said. "I was in the paper all the time; there was name recognition. So the local branch of the NAACP thought I would be the perfect person."

Leung believes the NAACP has been an excellent training ground for furthering his work in the civil rights arena. In the NAACP, he has managed to find his voice and outlet for his activism.

"I could relate to other minorities.

'My mission is to unify Asians. We can do the same things as the NAACP.'

— Peter Leung



My voice could be heard and I could make effective change," said Leung.

"Peter gives his all. Once he takes something on he gives 100 percent," said Allen.

Leung was born and raised in Hong Kong where he was an outspoken student activist fighting for equal rights and the rights of the underprivileged. In 1972 he came to the U.S. to attend schools in both the U.S. and Canada, earning degrees in computer science and sociology and a Masters in social psychology.

Ironically, Leung has never been active in the various AA civil rights groups like the Organization of Chinese Americans (OCA) and the JACL but in the future he hopes to be able to work with these various groups.

"The NAACP has been a training ground for working with the Asian American community," he said. "I would love to work in other Asian American organizations. It's probably time that I do that and I'm looking forward to doing that."

Leung believes AAs in general have been slower to take on and be concerned about human and civil rights issues. He sees the AA community's focus centered more on economic development issues. He also sees too many factions within

the AA community and hopes in the future the community will learn to work together.

"The problem is that not too many Asians are involved in civic issues and civil rights issues," he said. "Asians are more content in a relative sense in what they have, what they have earned. Civil rights are not as big of an issue."

"It's an unfortunate situation," said Leung. "Asians have the ability to make changes but we need to work together."

His latest efforts within the NAACP have been to develop a closer relationship between the local NAACP chapter in Oregon and China through various events such as annual cultural exchange trips to China and student exchange programs.

Leung recently returned from one of his many trips to China where he toured the country with a delegation of local NAACP representatives working to develop closer ties with the Pacific nation.

"This is something that has never been done in the past," he said.

Leung believes the younger generations within the AA community are becoming more informed about civil rights issues, something he has consciously tried to pass on to his children.

His three sons were with him on the recent trip to Henan, China. His youngest son Aaron, 11, is already working on a paper about China's educational system to present to state officials.

"My boys, especially the youngest one, are good on political issues. [Aaron] will be a youth leader for the NAACP leadership here."

For now, Leung plans to stay involved with the NAACP while at the same time bringing concerns of the AA community to the table.

"My mission is to unify Asians," he said. "We can do the same things as the NAACP." ■

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From Florida to Los Angeles. HOLLAND AMERICA CRUISE

HOKKAIDO SNOW FESTIVAL TOUR FEB 4-12
Abashiri, Soukko, Asahikawa, Sapporo, Otaru, Noboribetsu. Ice-breaker ship cruise and 5 Snow Festivals.

INDIA HOLIDAY TOUR FEB/MAR
New Delhi, Agra, Bodhgaya, Patna, Rajgir, Varanasi, Lumbini/Kushinagara, Bombay, Aurangabad-Ajanta/Ellora Caves.

COPPER CANYON ADVENTURE HOLIDAY TOUR MAR 25-APR 2
Tucson, San Carlos El Fuerte, Copper Canyon, Chihuahua, El Paso.

SOUTH AMERICA HOLIDAY TOUR APR 26-MAY 11
Buenos Aires, Iguazu, Rio de Janeiro, Sao Paulo. Extension to Lima, Machu Picchu. Meet Local Nikkels.

JAPAN SPRING COUNTRYSIDE HOLIDAY TOUR MAY 20-31
Tokyo, Lake Kawaguchi, Matsumoto, Takayama, Kanazawa, Noto Peninsula, Amanohashidate, Tottori, Matsue, Kyoto.

GRANDPARENTS/GRANDCHILDREN JAPAN TOUR JUN 24-JUL 3
Tokyo, Hakone, Lake Hamana, Hiroshima, Kyoto.

AFRICA WILDLIFE SAFARI HOLIDAY TOUR AUG 1-13
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SAN FRANCISCO-NAPA VALLEY-LAKE TAHOE HOLIDAY TOUR SEPT 19-25
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FOOTBALL

Yonamine Honored by 49ers, Unity Award

The San Francisco 49ers recently announced the Joe Perry/Wally Yonamine Unity Award in honor of the team's 60th anniversary season.



The honor will be awarded to a 49ers player, a youth football coach, and a local business that through volunteerism establishes close ties in the community.

Yonamine, 77, was the first

player of Asian descent to play for a professional football league when he joined the 49ers for one season in 1947. He joined the team right after high school and playing in the semi-pro leagues. He was born and currently lives in Hawaii.

Yonamine had signed a two-year deal but it was nullified in 1947 after he broke his wrist playing baseball. He went on to play for the Japanese baseball league where he played for 12 years.

He was the first American to be inducted into the Japanese Baseball hall of Fame in 1994. ■

BASEBALL

Former Blue Jay Pitcher Nakamura Sets Save Record in Japan

SAPPORO, Japan—Former Toronto Blue Jays pitcher **Michael Nakamura** recorded his 39th save Sept. 27 to set a new single-season record in Japan's Pacific League.



Nakamura, who played for the Blue Jays in 2004 after a season with the Minnesota Twins, retired the Softbank Hawks in the ninth inning at Sapporo Dome

as the Nippon Ham Fighters claimed a 4-1 win to secure first place in the Pacific League standings.

The previous single-season mark of 38 was set in 2002 by former Seibu Lions closer **Kiyoshi Toyoda**, who now plays for the Yomiuri Giants of Japan's Central League.

Nakamura was born in Japan and attended the University of South Alabama. ■

Stories by Associated Press and P.C. Staff

BASEBALL

Hawaii Winter Baseball Back in Action

By JAYMES SONG
AP Sports Writer

HONOLULU—With new teams, restructured finances and fresh faces, Hawaii Winter Baseball returned Oct. 1 after a nine-year hiatus.

The league that boasts alumni like Seattle Mariners star **Ichiro Suzuki** and New York Yankees slugger Jason Giambi features 126 prospects from around the world.

Ten professional Japanese teams and 21 of the 30 Major League organizations have sent their farm players to spend two months in paradise, developing their skills and competing against some of baseball's best up-and-comers.

The 40-game season runs through Nov. 22.



"You would love to follow in the footsteps of the Giambis, the Ichiros and guys who have come here, worked on their game and became elite players in the big leagues," said West Oahu Canefires outfielder John Mayberry Jr., the Texas Rangers' first-round selection in 2005.

Suzuki and Giambi were among 136 players in the short-lived Hawaii Winter Baseball league during the mid-1990s who eventually made it to the majors.

Other HWB alumni include

Kenji Johjima and **Tadahito Iguchi**.

One of the top pitching prospects here is Honolulu Sharks' 18-year-old lefty **Takanobu Tsujiuchi**, who is on the minor league club of Japan's Yomiuri Giants. His fastball has reportedly been clocked in the mid-90s.

The 6-footer said he's pitched in high school against players from Asia, but is looking forward to testing his stuff against American hitters.

Hawaii Winter Baseball was ahead of its time in promoting international players. They were mixing American and Asian players years before Japanese and South Korean players dotted Major League rosters. ■

SOFTBALL

Kelly Inouye-Perez to Take Over as UCLA Softball Coach

LOS ANGELES—Assistant softball coach **Kelly Inouye-Perez** will take over the team as just the third coach in the 32-year history of UCLA softball.

The former coach Sue Enquist is giving up her coaching position on Jan. 1 to be a director in the school's athletics external relations office, UCLA announced Sept. 26. She went 887-175-1 during her tenure.



Inouye-Perez was a catcher on UCLA's championship teams in 1989, 1990 and 1992. She has been a Bruins assistant for 13 years.

Her staff for next season will include three-time Olympic gold medalist and two-time NCAA champion **Lisa Fernandez**; eighth-year assistant **Gina Vecchione**; and

Olympic gold medalist **Natasha Watley**, who will be a volunteer assistant.

"Kelly Inouye-Perez is prepared and ready to carry on the Bruin Tradition," said Enquist. "She has surrounded herself with an outstanding group of Bruin Alumnae in **Gina Vecchione**, **Lisa Fernandez** and **Natasha Watley** and they will provide our student-athletes with an excellent experience. Kelly has played at the highest level in a Bruin uniform. She is a champion on and off the field. She has the knowledge, integrity and passion for what it means to be a UCLA softball player.

Inouye-Perez helped lead UCLA to the NCAA title game all four of her active seasons, starting at catcher for the 1989, 1990 and 1992 NCAA title teams. The Bruins fell in the national title game in 1991, when she sat out the season due to injury, and also advanced to the title game in her final collegiate campaign of

1993. In addition, UCLA captured four Pac-10 Conference titles in her five seasons (1989, 1990, 1991 and 1993).

A three-time All-Pac-10 selection (1989, 1990, 1992) as well as an All-Women's College World Series honoree in 1992, Inouye-Perez turned her attention to coaching immediately upon the end of her playing career. Since becoming assistant coach in 1994, the Bruins have added three more NCAA Championships to their record total (1999, 2003, 2004) as well as three more Pac-10 titles (1999, 2002, 2006).

"I am honored to have the opportunity to lead the UCLA softball program," said Inouye-Perez. "I am excited for Coach Enquist's new opportunities in the Athletic Department and I know she will always have one eye on the program. I look forward to maintaining UCLA softball's tradition of academic and athletic excellence." ■

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2007 TOURS

- Mar. 12 China** - \$2595 - Beijing - Xian - Guilin - Shanghai.
- Mar. 26 Japan Classic "Cherry Blossom"** \$3495 - Tokyo - Takayama - Nara - Kobe - Takahashi - Hiroshima - Isle of Miyajima - Inland Sea - Shodo Island - Kyoto.
- April 5 Panorama "Far Corners of Japan"** \$3695 - Tokyo - Hamamatsu - Yamaguchi - Kagoshima - Beppu - Cape Naruto - Shirahama - Tokyo.
- April 16 New Japan "Off the Beaten Track"** \$3695 - Fukuoka - Hirado - Amakusa - Kokura - Kushimoto - Nagoya - Shimoda - Lake Kawaguchi - Tokyo.
- April 25 Vietnam, Cambodia & Malaysia** - \$3295.
- May 27 Alaska Cruise** - NCL "Pearl" - From \$1444.
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- July 19 National Parks** - \$2295 - Denver - Mt. Rushmore - Heart Mt. - Yellowstone - Tetons - Jackson - Salt Lake.
- Aug. 12 Canada Highlights** - \$2395 - Montreal - Quebec - Ontario, Niagara Falls & Toronto.
- Sept. 2 Greece/Turkey Celebrity Cruise** - \$3695 - Rome - Mykonos - Rhodes - Santorini - Istanbul - Ephesus - Athens - Naples - Rome. **ALMOST SOLD OUT**
- Sept. 26 New England Autumn** - \$1995.
- Oct. 8 Hokkaido/Tohoku** - \$3895 - Sapporo - Sounkyo - Sahoro - Ainu Village - Hakodate - Aomori - L. Towada - Hachimantai - Matsushima Bay - Sendai - Tokyo.
- Oct. 15 Uranihon "Otherside of Japan"** \$3795 - Tokyo - Japan Sea - Sado Island - Kanazawa - Amanohashidate - Kinosaki - Matsue - Izumo Taisha - Mt. Daisen - Kyoto.
- Oct. 29 Japan Classic "Fall Foliage"** \$3595 - Tokyo - Takayama - Nara - Kobe - Takahashi - Isle of Miyajima - Hiroshima - Inland Sea - Shodo Island - Kyoto.
- Nov. 7 Okinawa/Kyushu/Shikoku** - \$3995 - 3 Days Okinawa, Kyushu - Kuratsu - Nagasaki - Kumamoto - Beppu, Shikoku - Ashizuri - Kochi - Takamatsu - Osaka.

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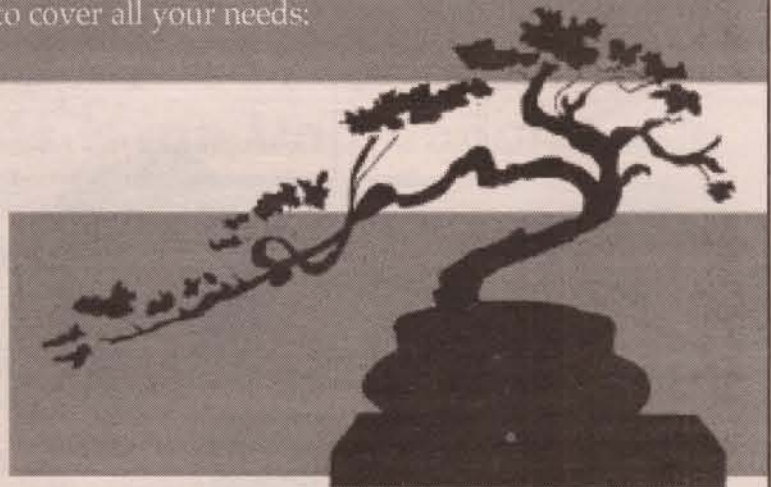
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• EDWIN ENDOW •

NATIONAL V.P. OF MEMBERSHIP

Changes in National Dues



I hope that all of you had a great summer season of work and play. This summer was a very busy time for national JACL. We just concluded our national convention in Chandler, Arizona at the Sheraton Wild Horse Pass Resort. The Arizona chapter deserves a tremendous amount of thanks for their efforts. They worked and planned for more than two years and it showed. Chairman Ted Namba and the Arizona chapter crew did a marvelous job of hosting this convention and all who attended took home great memories.

There were some changes in the membership area that came out of national council decisions. Beginning on Jan. 1, 2007, the national portion of your dues will increase by \$5 in three areas — individual, couple/family, and youth.

Here is the breakdown:

	Current	New
Individual	\$55	\$60
Couple/Family	\$100	\$105
Youth/Student	\$20	\$25

The membership dues that you pay to your chapter may not be exactly as the above, because many chapters add small additional amounts to help with local overhead expenses. These are the amounts that the chapter must send in to national JACL for your membership.

Also passed at convention were new Thousand Club Life Trust and Century Club Life Trust one-time payment amounts. You can join these cat-

egories with a one-time payment. The money is then put in a trust fund and the interest and/or dividend that it earns pays for your membership for the rest of your life.

Currently the levels are \$1,000 for Thousand Club Life Trust and \$2,000 for Century Life Trust. Beginning Jan. 1, 2007, the Thousand Club Life Trust will increase to \$3,000 and the Century Club Life Trust will increase to \$5,000.

You can still belong to the regular Thousand Club or the Century Club by paying on a yearly basis and the dues amount did not change. Those yearly dues amounts remain at \$100 for Thousand Club and \$175 for Century Club.

All other membership categories that were not mentioned remain the same. Please feel free to contact your chapter president, membership chairperson, or us at national headquarters with any questions.

If you would like to renew your membership at any level for 2007 and we receive them before Jan. 1, 2007, we will accept current rate amounts.

Finally, I wish to thank all of you for your continued support, commitment to our organization and for helping us realize our motto: "For Better Americans in a Greater America."

Below is the latest membership scoreboard as of the end of August 2006. It shows the top five chapters in numbers and percentage. Special congratulations to these chapters. ■

National JACL Membership Scoreboard

Dec. 31, 2005 - Aug. 31, 2006

-378 members, -2%

LEADING CHAPTERS BY NUMBERS		LEADING CHAPTERS BY PERCENTAGE	
Arizona	+41	Alaska	+76%
Reedley	+33	APAN	+71%
Sacramento	+27	Reedley	+70%
Watsonville/Santa Cruz	+19	Golden Gate	+44%
Alaska	+13	Japan	+24%

• YUMI SAKUGAWA •

MEMOIRS OF A NON-GEISHA

Temple-Hopping in Singapore



It is a ridiculously early Friday morning and instead of sleeping in, I have to make a trip to the other side of the small island-state of Singapore to pick up an important student card from the immigration office. Since I have an entire day to kill while I wait for the immigration office to process my request, I decide to spend time in Bughis, which is very close by.

Bughis prides itself as being one of the largest shopping hubs in Singapore, and it isn't hard to believe such a claim. In addition to high-end stores in sleek, air-conditioned spaces, there are tightly packed mazes of outdoor stalls that sell cute and trashy clothes, hokey souvenirs, poseur purses and a million other things. It strikes me as the Singaporean version of L.A.'s downtown fashion district, only bigger and with more fish balls.

It is crowded today, or maybe it always is on Fridays, or maybe it is the fact that the mid-autumn Moon festival is going on and people are simultaneously feeling more superstitious and materialistic than usual. A big golden statue of a laughing Buddha sits in front of one of the antique stores; people clamor up to it to rub his fat belly and stroke his beaming cheeks before dropping coins into a slot above his belly button for charity and good karma. Right in the midst of the mass-shopping blitz there is a Buddhist temple and a Hindu temple open to the general public.

The Buddhist temple is packed since Bughis, like the rest of Singapore, is predominantly Chinese. I decide to walk over to the Hindu temple first, which is far less crowded. I take a long time looking at all the deities enshrined in flowers and candles, and I imagine the caretakers who lovingly dec-

orate and cleanse these idols every day for the countless strangers who come in to pray. One of the men looking over the temple invites me over to stand in front of the main idol; he cups a metal bowl over my head for a moment, hands me some herbal leaves to chew on and gives me red powder to mark my forehead.

I head a few steps down to the Buddhist temple, which is packed with people burning incense sticks, kneeling on the ground and reading chants from dog-eared prayer books. Somehow, I fight against the current of people to get my own three incense sticks so that I can offer my own prayers as well. Three is a standard lucky number for incense-stick burning, but there are people who grab them in fistfuls and have a huge cloud of smoke smoldering over their heads.

When you are burning incense sticks, the very tips begin smoldering into ashes and sometimes they fall against your hands, leaving behind brief, fleeting impressions of pain.

I bow my head and start praying. I don't really make a regular habit out of praying, so maybe that's why

I stand there for a long time. My prayers aren't all that original; it's the standard wish for good fortune and good health for the important people in my life. I wonder what everyone else is praying for.

It doesn't matter whether you are rich or poor, or young or old; everyone is praying for something, and some people have tears in their eyes as they bow their heads in supplication. Maybe it does make sense that there should be two religious temples right in the midst of a shopping district. It's more convenient that way.

Eventually, I head back to the immigration office to pick up my student card and bureaucratic red tape aside, everything goes by far more smoothly than I expected.

I'm finally taking the train ride back home and at some point I catch a glimpse of my own reflection in the subway window. It isn't until then that I remember that this whole time I've been carrying the red mark on my forehead from the Hindu temple. It shines against my forehead like a small wound. ■

Yumi Sakugawa is currently an art major at UCLA.

Blue Cross of California



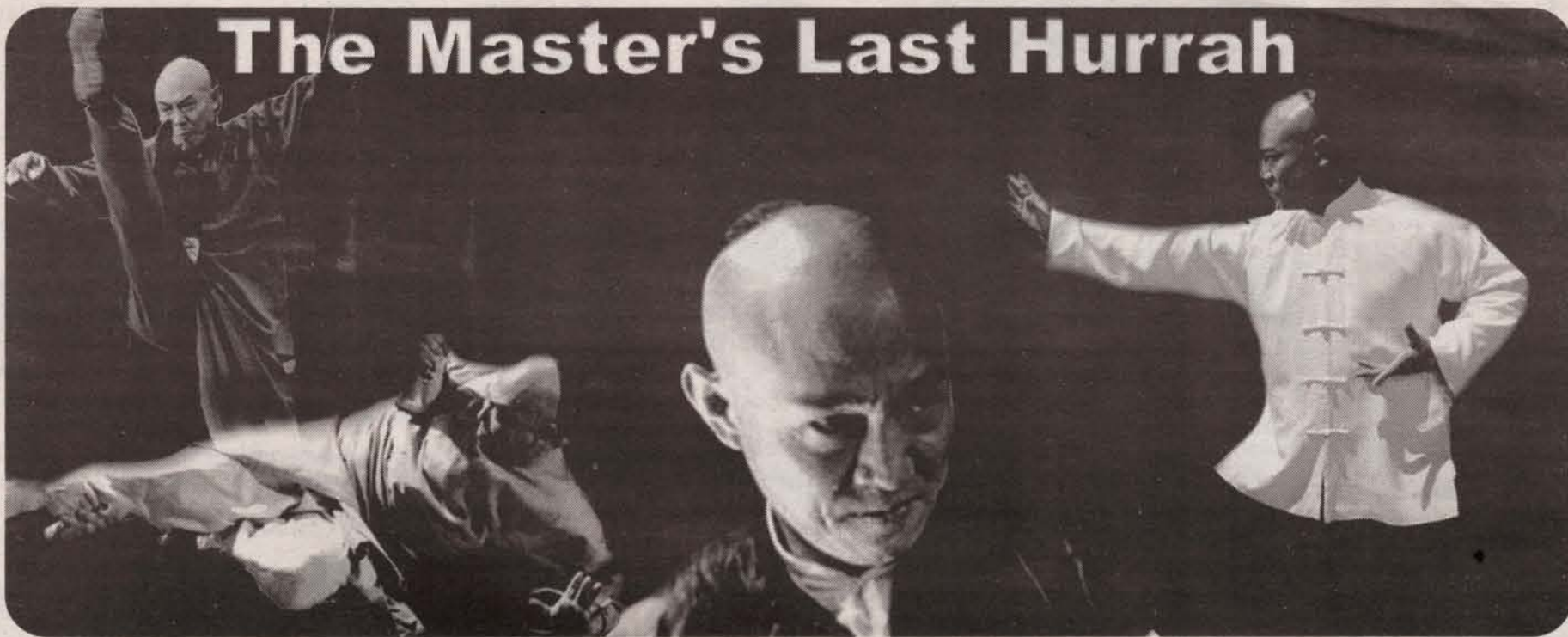
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The Master's Last Hurrah

In a one-on-one interview with the Pacific Citizen, Jet Li talks about his retirement (sort of), the lawsuit and APAs.

By **LYNDA LIN**
Assistant Editor

Saying goodbye is hard enough to do, but when Jet Li told the world his latest martial arts film, "Fearless," would be the last time he would swing a fist, fans imploded in disbelief. Could it be? Could this be the last time we see a film hero in our likeness literally kicking butt?

To answer the question, Li pauses, clears his throat and launches into a lyrical explanation of "wushu," the type of martial arts which made him an international film star.

In China, wushu is a whole idea of two parts — there's the physical part and the mental part, said Li by phone to the Pacific Citizen. The Chinese word is made up of two characters literally translated into "stop" and "war."

"In movies, there's a lot of 'war' but no 'stopping,'" said Li, 43. "Martial

arts has been important in my life journey." Everything he's learned he's put into this movie, "Fearless."

"After this I have nothing to say."

A Different Kind of Martial Arts

And what a way to go out. "Fearless," which is already a huge success overseas, grossed over \$10 million and landed in the number two spot in its opening weekend. Obviously, fans enjoy seeing Li perform gravity defying

much more emotionally limber Li. Sure, the fight scenes choreographed by "Matrix" guru Yuen Woo-ping are breathtaking, but the strength of this film lies in the emotional range of Li's character.

In the film, Li puckishly plays with his daughter, arrogantly pursues the prestige of being the number-one fighter in the region and falls into the blackest despair.

"At this point in my life, I am fearless," he said.

Taking on the Master's Family

At a time when China was being looked down upon, Huo gave his country strength. But unlike many other movies in its genre that usually resorts to pitting one ethnicity against another, "Fearless" takes a more unconventional approach — there are no real bad guys.

"The enemy is inside," said Li repeating a line in the movie.

But not everyone agrees with Li's portrayal. In March, Huo's relatives filed a lawsuit to remove "Fearless" from theaters in Asia, claiming the biopic paints an untrue and unflattering picture of the legendary fighter.

"The great grandson has a different opinion," Li said about the pending lawsuit. "If you have to introduce every detail, every single thing, then it's a documentary."

"You think I try to insult the master? The master is real. Every human being makes mistakes and learns from them. They [the great grandson's family] really wanted to show a perfect person, a super hero whose every single word is like a masterpiece. I think with art, everyone has a different opinion."

Good Guy, Bad Guy

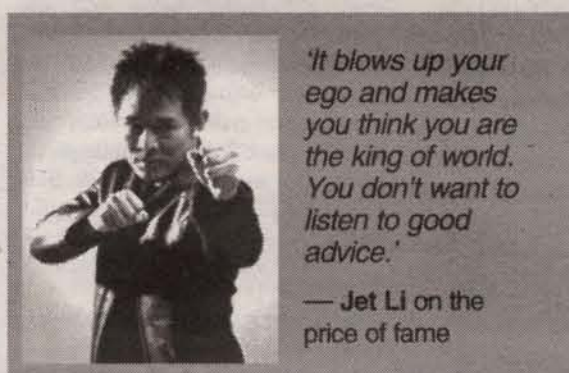
Li deals with the same dichotomy as one of China's most well-known actors. When he plays a good guy it's great, but when he plays a bad guy like in "Lethal Weapon 4," critics decried him as an insult to his country.

Similarly, in the United States Li is a sticky subject for many Asian Pacific Americans who on the one hand love seeing a strong Asian male character onscreen, but also feel uncomfortable with the stereotypes that go along with it.

"A lot of Asian Americans complain about not having representation, but when there is a good Asian film, they see the pirated version," said Li.

The movie industry is purely a profit-based business, Li added, so to support good Asian movies, "Just don't say something, do something." ■

On the Web: www.fearlessthemovie.com and www.jetli.com



'It blows up your ego and makes you think you are the king of world. You don't want to listen to good advice.'

— Jet Li on the price of fame

jumps over his opponents without displacing a single hair in his queue.

So Li clarified: this will be his last period film. He's cutting off his queue and trading Old China for modern America in his next film, "Rogue," which he argues has elements of martial arts in it.

"There are cops and the mafia. We still have fighting on streets using two arms and two legs to beat each other," said Li.

But there will be no return of Wong Fei Hung or a prequel to "Fearless" about China's legendary wushu master Huo Yuanjia. Li wanted his exit from martial arts period pieces to be meaningful and in many ways the epic story about the rise and fall of one man is a very personal story for Li who started his martial arts training at age eight.

"The little boy who wants to become a champion, become famous, make movies ... [with] a lot of people trying to kiss up to you and make money off of you — it makes you self-centered. It blows up your ego and makes you think you are the king of world. You don't want to listen to good advice," said Li.

"To really be fearless, you need to enjoy life. Do the best you can and let the rest go," he said. Forget about box office numbers or what fans are complaining about now.

The results of this new Zen-like approach to life is a

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Calendar

East Coast

PHILADELPHIA

Sat., Oct. 28—5th Annual Meet and Greet Potluck Dinner; 6:30 p.m.; 724 Harvard Ave; Swarthmore, Pa. RSVP to Martha Fujimoto, 610/544-5449. Info: Scott Nakamura, 610/878-2237 or Cliff Akiyama, 267/235-9426.

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.

HOUSTON

Oct. 13-15—Fall JACL-MDC meeting; Wyndham Greenspoint Hotel, 12400 Greenspoint Dr; hotel reservations, 281/875-2222, \$89/night; meeting registration fee, \$35. Info, Midwest JACL office, 773/728-7170.

ST. PAUL, Minn.

Sun., Nov. 19—Twin Cities JACL Annual Chrysanthemum Banquet and Annual Meeting; Minnesota History Center; featuring the film, "Only the Brave" at 3 p.m.

Pacific Northwest

BAINBRIDGE ISLAND, Wash.

Through Oct. 31—Exhibition, "Intersections: Contemporary Work by Japanese American Artists; Bainbridge Arts and Crafts, 151 Winslow Way E; exhibit highlights traditional techniques, materials or aesthetics as contemporary artists reinvent, re-imagine or re-discover them; exhibition honors the opening of the Bainbridge Island Japanese American Memorial.

Northern California

SAN FRANCISCO

Fri., Oct. 27—JCCCNC and JCYC annual Halloween Carnival; 6-8:30 p.m.; JCCCNC, 1840 Sutter St; enjoy arts, crafts, games, trick or treat parade and a new "Mad Scientist Lab." Info: Ken Maeshiro, 415/567-5505 ext. 239.

STOCKTON

Fri., Oct. 6—Stockton JACL's monthly mixer "The Line: 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.

Central California

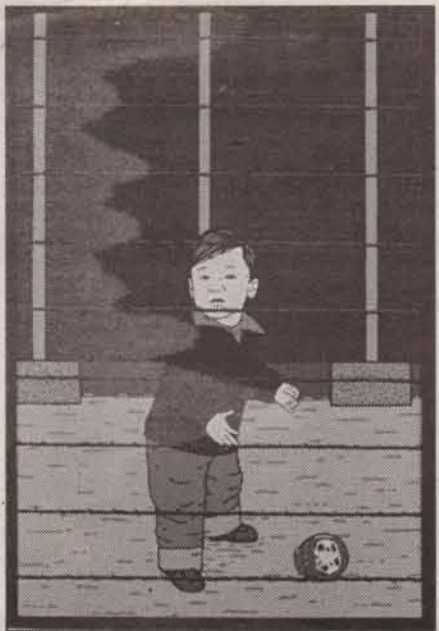
FRESNO

Sun., Nov. 5—JACL Health Benefits Trust's annual CCDC Chapter Insurance Commissioner's lunch meeting at the Radisson Hotel Fresno. This year we are encouraging the attendance of regular JACL members to learn about the JACL HBA; how it operates and how it relates to the National JACL, as well as our role in the current health care system. Seating is limited, so please call the Trust office to reserve a space for this free lunch meeting at 800/400-6633.

Southern California

ANAHEIM

Sat., Nov. 11—JACL Health Benefits Trust's annual PSW Chapter Insurance Commissioner's lunch meeting at the Radisson Hotel Maingate, Anaheim. This year we are encouraging the attendance of regular JACL members to learn about the JACL HBA; how it



Roger Shimomura's (above) 'American Alien #2' is part of the exhibition, 'Intersections: Contemporary Work by Japanese American Artists' at the Bainbridge Arts and Crafts.

operates and how it relates to the National JACL, as well as our role in the current health care system. Seating is limited, so please call the Trust office to reserve a space for this free lunch meeting at 800/400-6633.

Sat., Nov. 11—Go For Broke "Evening of Aloha" Gala Dinner; Anaheim Hilton Hotel; Registration and silent auction at 4 p.m., dinner program at 6 p.m.; \$150 general, \$125 veterans and spouses; honoring the 100th/442nd/MIS WWII Nisei veterans, featuring Chef Roy Yamaguchi and Chef Hiro Sone. Info: 310/328-0907 or email eveningofaloha@goforbroke.org.

FULLERTON

Sept. 23-Jan. 14—Exhibit, Sowing Dreams and Cultivating Lives: The Japanese American Farmer; Fullerton Arboretum at California State University, Fullerton, 1900 Associated Rd.; 10-2 p.m.; free admission; spotlighting the rich agricultural legacy of the Japanese American community. Info: 714/278-3407.

LOS ANGELES

Oct. 7-8—Teacher Training Workshop; San Gabriel Valley 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: 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

Osaka, 310/222-5702.

WEST COVINA

Sat., Oct. 7—34th Annual Akimatsuri Fall Festival; 12-8 p.m.; East San Gabriel Valley Japanese Community Center; games, raffle, food, crafts and exhibits and more; Info: 626/960-2566 or esgvjcc.org.

Nevada

LAS VEGAS

Oct. 17-19—Manzanar High School Reunion; California Hotel; Tues. Welcome Mixer 6:30 p.m. in the Ohana Room; Wed. slot tournament and buffet dinner and program; Dr. Glenn Kageyama will talk about the achievements of the researchers who developed an alternate source of latex from the guayule plant. Info and applications: Henry Nakano, 714/871-8179, Sam Ono, 310/327-5568, Cappy Iwasaki, 714/637-1412, Shig Kuwahara, 626/289-7892 or Victor Muraoka, 818/368-4113.

Oct. 27-29—JACL Singles Convention; Plaza Hotel, downtown; events include: Fri.: Welcome reception; Sat.: workshops, luncheon and dinner dance; Sun.: brunch; Golf tournament has been canceled, but tee times can be booked by contacting Yas Tokita; Room rates at the Plaza Hotel 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. For info on Los Angeles to Las Vegas bus info, contact Miyako Kadogawa, 310/839-1194. Info: www.mwt.com/jacl-singles or Yas Tokita, 702/866-2345 or Muriel Scrivner, 702/790-9547. ■

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A Lumpy Adventure from Manzanar
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Some recognitions: Rebecca Brown Award: Best Memoir of 2004, Amazon readerships' rating: 5-stars. The Virtual Readers' vote: 5-books. Check out www.sleepingonpotatoes.com and www.yuricareport.com. Book available through all bookstores, e.g., Amazon and Barnes & Noble.

United States Postal Service

Statement of Ownership, Management, and Circulation

1. Publication Title	2. Publication Number	3. Filing Date
Pacific Citizen	00308579	9/18/06
4. Issue Frequency	5. Number of Issues Published Annually	6. Annual Subscription Price
Semi-monthly, except once in January & December	22	\$40
7. Complete Mailing Address of Known Office of Publication (Not printer) (Street, city, county, state, and ZIP+4)	250 E. 1st Street, Suite 301 Los Angeles, CA 90012	
8. Complete Mailing Address of Headquarters or General Business Office of Publisher (Not printer)	same as line 7	
9. Full Names and Complete Mailing Addresses of Publisher, Editor, and Managing Editor (Do not leave blank)	Publisher (Name and complete mailing address) Japanese American Citizens League dba Pacific Citizen 250 E. 1st Street, Suite 301 Los Angeles, CA 90012 Editor (Name and complete mailing address) Caroline Aoyagi-Stom dba Pacific Citizen 250 E. 1st Street, Suite 301 Los Angeles, CA 90012 Managing Editor (Name and complete mailing address) n/a	

10. Owner (Do not leave blank. If the publication is owned by a corporation, give the name and address of the corporation immediately followed by the names and addresses of all stockholders owning or holding 1 percent or more of the total amount of stock. If not owned by a corporation, give the names and addresses of the individual owners. If owned by a partnership or other unincorporated firm, give its name and address as well as those of each individual owner. If the publication is published by a nonprofit organization, give its name and address.)	Complete Mailing Address
Japanese American Citizens League dba Pacific Citizen	1765 Sutter Street, San Francisco, CA 94115

11. Known Bondholders, Mortgagees, and Other Security Holders Owning or Holding 1 Percent or More of Total Amount of Bonds, Mortgages, or Other Securities. If none, check box	12. Tax Status (For completion by nonprofit organizations authorized to mail at nonprofit rates) (Check one)
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> None	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Has Not Changed During Preceding 12 Months <input type="checkbox"/> Has Changed During Preceding 12 Months (Publisher must submit explanation of change with this statement)
13. Publication Title	14. Issue Date for Circulation Data Below
Pacific Citizen	9/16/05 - 9/17/06

Tax Status (For completion by nonprofit organizations authorized to mail at nonprofit rates) (Check one)			
The purpose, function, and nonprofit status of this organization and the exempt status for federal income tax purposes:			
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Has Not Changed During Preceding 12 Months			
<input type="checkbox"/> Has Changed During Preceding 12 Months (Publisher must submit explanation of change with this statement)			
13. Publication Title		14. Issue Date for Circulation Data Below	
Pacific Citizen		9/16/05 - 9/1/06	
15.	Extent and Nature of Circulation	Average No. Copies Each Issue During Preceding 12 Months	No. Copies of Single Issue Published Nearest to Filing Date
a.	Total Number of Copies (Net press run)	15,155	14,950
(1)	Paid/Requested Outside County Mail Subscriptions Stated on Form 3541. (Include advertiser's proof and exchange copies)	14,888	14,657
b.	Paid and/or Requested Circulation		
(2)	Paid in County Subscriptions Stated on Form 3541. (Include advertiser's proof and exchange copies)	0	0
(3)	Sales Through Dealers and Carriers, Street Vendors, Counter Sales, and Other Non-USPS Paid Distribution	0	0
(4)	Other Classes Mailed Through the USPS	0	0
c.	Total Paid and/or Requested Circulation (Sum of 15b, (1), (2), (3), and (4))	14,888	14,657
d.	Free Distribution by Mail (Samples, complimentary, and other free)		
(1)	Outside County as Stated on Form 3541	0	0
(2)	In-County as Stated on Form 3541	0	0
(3)	Other Classes Mailed Through the USPS	0	0
e.	Free Distribution Outside the Mail (Carriers or other means)	0	0
f.	Total Free Distribution (Sum of 15d, and 15e)	0	0
g.	Total Distribution (Sum of 15c and 15f)	14,888	14,657
h.	Copies not Distributed	267	293
i.	Total (Sum of 15g and h)	15,155	14,950
j.	Percent Paid and/or Requested Circulation (15c divided by 15g, times 100)	100%	100%
16. Publication of Statement of Ownership			
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Publication required. Will be printed in the 10/6/06 issue of this publication. <input type="checkbox"/> Publication not required.			
17. Signature and Title of Editor, Publisher, Business Manager, or Owner			Date
C. Aoyagi			9/13/06
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TOGURI

(Continued from page 1)

Toguri, D'Aquino's nephew.

Tokyo Rose was the name given to a female radio broadcaster responsible for anti-American transmissions intended to demoralize soldiers fighting in the Pacific theater during World War II.

D'Aquino, whose maiden name was Toguri, was born in Los Angeles on July 4, 1916, to Japanese immigrant parents.

She had recently graduated from UCLA and was visiting relatives in Japan when she became trapped in the country at the beginning of World War II, according to a statement from a Toguri family spokeswoman, Barbara Trembley.

D'Aquino began working odd jobs to support herself while trying to find a way out of the country. That led to her work on a Japanese propaganda radio show manned by Allied prisoners called "Zero Hour," the statement said.

Using the name "Orphan Ann," she performed comedy skits and introduced newscasts.

In 1945, she was arrested in Yokohama and accused of treason. She served six years in prison following her conviction in San Francisco in 1949.

But doubts about her possible role as Tokyo Rose later surfaced and in 1977 she was pardoned by President Gerald Ford.

Ron Yates, dean of the College of Communications at the University of Illinois, is credited with helping win the pardon.

As a reporter at the *Chicago Tribune*, Yates found D'Aquino's accusers who said they were pressured by prosecutors to lie.

"Despite being convicted of treason ... and spending nearly a decade in confinement, she always insisted that her loyalty to the United States was never in question," a statement said.

D'Aquino's attorney and longtime friend Wayne Collins described her as "a great lady."

"I don't think she had any rancor ... after all she went through," he said. "For 20 years, nobody even considered the possibility of her innocence."

Even though D'Aquino was vindicated, the statement from the family spokeswoman said, she "was never able to fully escape from the shadow of Tokyo Rose."

"So many Americans have heard the myth of Tokyo Rose for so long that it has become a part of World War II history," it said. ■

In Memoriam - 2006

All the towns are in California except as noted.

Fujitani, Ralph, 67, Alhambra, Aug. 7; survived by wife, Kimi; daughter, Joy (Nathan) Becker; son, Jimmy; 1 gc.; brothers, James, Kenneth and Larry; and sister, Sharon Fujitani.

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.

Iino, Sho, 91, Los Angeles, Sept. 19; survived by sons, Thomas (Barbara), Steven and John (Eva); 9 gc.; and 3 ggc.

Ishimoto, Chiyeno, 87, Torrance, Aug. 2; survived by daughters, Jeri (Jim) Inoda, Janis (Bruce) Kato and Georgette (Bruce) Stredwick; 4 gc.; and brothers, Shigeru, Archie (Grace) and Mike Amate.

Isozaki, Kiyoshi "Rub," 82, Manteca, Sept. 18; WWII veteran, 442nd medic; survived by wife, Atsuko; son, Keith; daughters, Karen (Carl) Morita, Janice Snyder, Shirley (David) Cook and Kelli (David) Frazer; 10 gc.; and 2 ggc.

Kato, Keiko, 57, S. San Gabriel, Aug. 8; survived by husband, Gary; sons, Brian and Takumi; father, Shigeo Nakamura; and brothers, Toshihiko (Yoshiko) and Hiroshi (Miyuki) Nakamura.

Kobayashi, John Kunitaka, 90, San Pedro, Aug. 10; survived by wife, Frances; sons, Mark (Bella)

and Ross (Sharon); 5 gc.; brother-in-law, Takashi (Emily) Kudo; and sister-in-law, Sue Nakasone.

Konishi, Fumiye, 84, South Pasadena, Aug. 14; survived by sons, Fumio and Ayao (Elaine); 2 gc.; sister, Yumiko Hamamoto; brother, Kiyooki Hamamoto; step-mother, Toshiko Hamamoto; and sister-in-law, Yukie Hamano.

Kubota, Alfred Morinobu, 80, Austin, Tex., Aug. 13; WWII veteran, 442nd; survived by wife, Josephine; daughters, Suzanne Kubota and Christina Kubota Ward; and 2 gc.

Nishinaga, Masako, 92, Manhattan Beach, Aug. 10; survived by sons, Dr. Ronald (Suzanne) and Linden (Rumiko); daughters, Maya (Shigeto) Shiota, Mani Yamaguchi and Minori Nishinaga; 11 gc.; 1 ggc.; brother, Toshio (Judy) Tawatari; and sister, Fujiye (Takeo) Yamasaki.

Noble, Yukiko, 80, Lathrop, Aug. 6; survived by step-son, Frank (Bertie) Schlick.

Okamoto, Tsuneyo, 93, Gardena, Aug. 15; survived by daughter, Alice (Frank) Moriya; 3 gc.; and 3 ggc.

Sugawara, Louie Kiichi, 85, Oxnard, Aug. 26; survived by wife, Mary; son, Tom (Ellie); daughters, Marilyn (Vincent) Terada and Linda (Jim) Chikasawa; 6 gc.; sister, Michiko Furushiro; and sisters-in-law, Fusaye and Harumi Sugawara.

Yamada, Dr. Henry, 78, Chula Vista, June 29; survived by wife,

Mary; son, Dr. Rick; daughter, Lori (David) Resetco; 2 gc.; and brothers, George and So.

Yanari, Fred Masaaki, 86, Los Angeles, July 29; survived by sister, Yeiko (Kenneth) Miwa; and brother, Hiroshi (Mitsie).

Yoshikawa, Kikuye, 73, Garden Grove, Aug. 13; survived by daughters, Susan (Michael) Connell, Karen (Duane) Koyanao and Kristi Yoshikawa; son, Gary; brothers, Shig (Dorothy) and George Kawata; sister, Haruko Stanley; and 4 gc. ■

DEATH NOTICE**TAMIKO NISHIKAWA**
1920-2006

Passed away peacefully in San Jose on Aug. 26, 2006 at the age of 86. She was predeceased by husband, Sam I. Nishikawa. They were married 60 years.

She is survived by sons A. Hirotsu, Yukio, Thomas N., and Katsuhito (Kats); seven grandchildren; and six great grandchildren. She was predeceased by her brother, Chester K. Sugimoto. Her sister-in-law Dorothy S. Sugimoto, two nieces and two nephews also survive her.

She was born in Watsonville, CA but grew up in Japan. After marrying she returned to San Francisco. Her family was incarcerated in Poston, AZ during WWII, but returned to California where her husband and she ran a restaurant for eleven years in Gilroy. They then lived over 45 years in Santa Clara where she engaged in domestic service. After retirement she was an active San Jose Yu-Ai Kai volunteer for over 25 yrs.

A life-long Shingon (Koyasan) Buddhist, she was also a member of the San Jose Buddhist Church Betsuin (a Jodoshinshu temple).

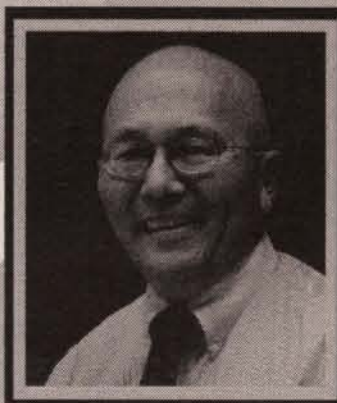
A memorial service was held on Sat. Sept. 16, 2006 at the San Jose Buddhist Church Betsuin, San Jose, CA 95112.

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RACIAL SLUR

(Continued from page 1)

to the *Star Tribune*.

Osskopp's boss, Congressman Kline, also called the J-word an anachronism for modern day sensibilities. He condemned Osskopp's remarks as "unacceptable now" and moved on with his reelection campaign with Osskopp still on his staff roster.

Kline's communication director Troy Young did not respond to the *Pacific Citizen's* request for comment.

But Asian Pacific American leaders are challenging Osskopp — the J-word is a racial slur not just an outdated word. In this case, it reopens old wounds caused so long ago by the death of Vincent Chin, a young Chinese American who was murdered in 1982 by two laid-off Ford workers in Detroit because they thought he was Japanese.

"History is repeating itself," said Helen Zia, who led the fight for justice in the Vincent Chin case. "The pump has been primed. It's indicative of how Asian Americans are being treated in the current climate."

"That was terrorism directed at Asian Americans," added Zia about Osskopp's slurs.

Community leaders say Osskopp's racist outburst is derived from the same anti-Japanese sentiment that pervaded the 1980s when the flagging domestic automobile industry inflated xenophobia, raised contempt for foreign-made cars and increased racist attitude towards Asian Pacific Americans.

"They just don't get it," said Ilean Her, executive director of the Council on Asian Pacific Minnesotans. "They say it's the Japanese over there, but history has taught us that all Asians are grouped as one."

Suddenly, the demise of one company has been put on the shoulders of the APA community. "It's easy to blame Japanese automakers when you're upset. It's easy to say 'Oh it's the Japanese companies,' but we're here and you're targeting us too," said Her, who has been fielding complaints from outraged community members.

One does not have to look far to see where Osskopp's racist attitude was derived. On the bank of the Mississippi River in St. Paul the oldest Ford plant, which still manufactures pickup trucks, is slated to close in 2008. Again, thousand of workers are expected to lose their jobs — including APAs, who make up a large portion of the minority population in Minnesota.

"We are here. We feel the impact of the Ford plant closure too," said Her. "I kind of don't think they understand. It's all a part of the consciousness here."

In a Sept. 20 *Star Tribune* article, Minnesota's largest daily newspaper reported Osskopp of "using a racial term."

"Jap" is a racial slur banned by Congress. Zia said even the local media soft peddled the issue.

According to Her, local APAs still feel invisible in the mainstream and political arenas until negative incidences make them visible for all the wrong reasons. The community is still feeling the negative effects of the Chai Soua Vang case. The Hmong American was convicted of murdering several White deer hunters in St. Paul. During the trial, Vang said race was a factor in the November 2004 killings and accused the hunters of yelling racial slurs and shooting at him first. After the trial, bumper stickers that read, "Save a Deer, Shoot a Hmong," were seen around town.

A former Minnesota state repre-

sentative, Osskopp was known to give dog biscuits to fellow legislators who voted with him and even worked in radio before joining Kline's team. His continued presence on Kline's staff is an affront to the APA community, many say.

"It tells me racism towards Asian American doesn't count," said Zia. "There's no accountability."

JACL Executive Director John Tateishi said it's important to continue to challenge Osskopp.

"I hardly think Osskopp's use of the racial slur was just a slip of the tongue and, as he later stated in his apology, a word he used as a kid but never, ever uses anymore. Words like that don't just slip out. They're part of a person's thinking. Racially derogatory words have the intent of dehumanizing people and making them targets for derision in the speaker's mind. These kinds of words don't lay about in a person's mind waiting for the right occasion. They're part of the person's thinking, the way they view us," he said.

"Given that this is the auto industry we're talking about, if you let this kind of thing go unchallenged, you can't help thinking about Vincent Chin laying on the streets of Detroit with his head bashed in. We're not going to let that happen again, ever," added Tateishi.

Bill Yoshino, JACL Midwest regional director, sent a letter to Kline condemning his staff member's use of a racial slur.

"His use of this slur is particularly abhorrant because it was a calculated attempt to gain a political advantage without regard for the harm it would cause," said Yoshino.

APA community leaders say the best way to show that racism will not be tolerated is at the polls in November. ■

See the video:
www.pacificcitizen.org

JACL H.Q.

(Continued from page 1)

search for a new national director.

JACL Executive Director John Tateishi said the move to D.C. has been discussed many times before, but talk never followed through with a feasibility study.

"It's something I think we should discuss. It's come up a number of times in the past. Things have changed from the days when we last talked about a D.C. headquarters because there are so many more organizations in the APA community now and of course their directors are in Washington.

"It doesn't necessarily mean, in my view, that we should be in Washington. I think it's something we should think about and consider and if we think that's most beneficial for our efficiency and effectiveness then yeah, we should look into putting the director back there and putting the headquarters in D.C.," said Tateishi.

This committee is part of a larger plan to possibly restructure the JACL offices. Oda also wants to look into establishing a legislative office in Sacramento similar to the existing one in Washington, D.C. currently helmed by Floyd Mori, director of public policy.

The focus of this Sacramento office would be legislative work.

"We have something in Washington, D.C., why not in Sacramento?" said Oda. "Three-quarters of our members live in California, is there a need for that? Is this what the membership wants? Is this what the board thinks is important? If it isn't let's take it off the table and not discuss it anymore. If there's a real feel that yes, we need to do this, if national council says yes

we need to do this, we do it. If it comes out that we don't really care then we let it die and next time it comes up we say we've discussed this."

Board members charged representatives of California districts and staff to decide whether the Sacramento office is worth looking into.

There are many pros and cons to moving the headquarters to D.C., board members said. APAs are primarily clustered on the West Coast and being among community members allows for direct interaction with the members the JACL serves, but being in D.C. allows for more access to legislative happenings.

Tateishi recognizes that it is a complex issue, especially with the historic building where the headquarters is currently housed.

"What do you do with [the building]? Do we sell it? What about the people who donated the money with the intent that this would be the permanent headquarters for the JACL? It's something that would add to the complexity of the whole issue whether or not we can do this and whether or not it's even feasible," he said.

The move to the nation's capital would reshape the JACL.

"It would change the way we saw ourselves if our headquarters were in D.C. because I think we would see ourselves more in terms of the events, the policies, the politics of Washington than the politics of the community.

"There are as many pros and there are cons for a movement in that direction. I'm not wedded to the idea. I just think it's something we should think about and really deliberate and consider it carefully," said Tateishi. ■

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