A Little Tokyo Rooted in the Philippines

Davao City, as the Japanese enclave was called before WWII, is a symbol of the evolving international Japanese identity.

By LYNDA LIN
Assistant Editor

In Davao, a bustling city on the Philippines' southernmost island of Mindanao, vestiges of its former life as a Little Tokyo still persevere in the city's fabric of life.

From the early 1900s to the beginning of World War II, Japanese sojourners lured by the financial promise of abundant country cash crop, set up a small enclave in the city and called it Davaokuo. Back then, Japanese restaurants, hotels and even a movie theater lined the streets surrounding San Pedro Cathedral, but today the only small imprint are in ruins.

An old monument of pioneering Japanese-Filipina parentage left behind in Davao just after the end of WWII. Today, there are around 20,000 Philippine Nikkei-jin or descendents of Japanese Issei, said Shan Obara, a professor at Kyushu University Asia Japan.

Like many other Japanese enclaves in the United States, war directly affected the rise and fall of estimated 1,000 children of Japanese-Filipina parentage left behind in Davao just after the end of WWII. Today, there are around 20,000 Philippine Nikkei-jin or descendents of Japanese Issei, said Shan Obara, a professor at Kyushu University Asia Japan.

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Continuing the Tradition of Aikido

Students of the late Rev. Kensho Furuya hope to continue operating the Aikido Center of Los Angeles in his memory.

By CAROLINE AOYAGI-STOM
Executive Editor

The traditional Japanese dojo lined with sage-colored natural mats, a smattering of unique ceramic tiles, and a tokonoma or alcove on the far corner of the room are the same. The dozen or so students dressed in their 10-mat room. "It's better to maintain the mother tongue too," said Ikemoto, 85, who responded in Japanese. As a Nisei, he was a conduit between the old world and new, but to make sure

A Hate Incident Brought Her to JACL

A flyer targeting "Japs" left Patricia Ikeda-Nash confused and angry but her coworkers didn't understand. She turned to the Berkeley JACL and finally got the help she needed.

By BY LYNDA LIN
Assistant Editor

What Fred Korematsu, Min Yasui and Gordon Hirabayashi began during WWII, their children are continuing today in the name of Justice for all.

By KYONG AOYAGI-STOM
Assistant Editor

Their fathers courageously fought for justice during wartime hysteria, but it's for their grandsons that three Sanois with legendary last names signed onto an amicus brief in support of a class action lawsuit accusing federal officials of racial profiling and wrongful detainment.

"It's a different time and a different war, but for Karen Korensmatsu-Haigh, Holly Yasui and Jay Hirabayshi there are too many similarities between the plight of their Issei grandparent after the bombing of Pearl Harbor and the struggle of Arab and Muslim immigrants after Sept. 11th. So on April 3, Karen, Holly and Jay filed an amicus brief in support of the plaintiffs in the Turkeman v. John Ashcroft case.

Like these famous fathers who sued the government during World War II for their wrongful conviction of resisting internment, the plaintiffs in the Turkeman case sue federal officials, including former Attorney General John Ashcroft and FBI Director Robert Mueller, for targeting, abusively detaining and deporting them on alleged immigration violations after Sept. 11th. A New York federal district judge in June dismissed the plaintiffs' See AMICUS BRIEF Page 4

In Music City, Lawmakers Push for 'English-First' Chorus

All eyes are on Nashville, where the majority recently voted on a measure to make English the city's official language. With a burgeoning immigrant population, how do APA voices weigh in on the debate?

By BY LYNDA LIN
Assistant Editor

Growing up, Ted Iizumoto spoke to his Issei parents in English and they responded in Japanese. As a Nisei, he was a conduit between the old world and new, but to make sure their American son didn’t forget his native language, he was sent to Japanese school.

"It’s better to maintain the mother tongue too," said Iizumoto, 85, who spoke ENGLISH-ONLY PAGE 12
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PACIFIC CITIZEN, 90-305, 2007

FLOYD MORSI
WASHINGTON WINDOW

Filling Some Big Shoes

So on after the last national JACL board meeting, I was appointed to try to fill the shoes of our national director for the past seven years, John Tateishi. While I was serving as a vice president of the JACL, the national meeting at that time was able to hire John as our director. He served well in that capacity and did a lot for the organization, above and beyond what could be expected.

After John became ill last fall and had to suddenly leave the post from which he had so many months before announced his intent to resign, I became the interim national director. John and his wife, Carol, and their children sacrificed much for the JACL over the years while John served as national director and previously as red chairman. We owe John and his family a debt of gratitude for all he did for the organization, and we wish him a complete recovery.

It has been my privilege to have known and worked with John for many years. We grew up in an era before the emergence of the San Francisco Bay Area, where John still lives. John reminded me that when I was young, my mother was forming the new JACL Marin chapter, he had asked me to speak at the chapter’s newly elected California State Assemblyman at the time.

I have had the opportunity to work closely with John for four years as national president and more recently while I have been the JACL director of public policy in D.C., I felt the transition into the position of national director would be a fairly easy one. It has been extremely busy, but I am enjoying the work I am committed to the goals of the JACL, and am glad to be able to serve in this position.

Unfortunately, I am the place where major issues affecting our organization are brought to the forefront. There are many Asian American organizations now, and most have their national directors located in D.C. which is also the center of fundraising activity which has become a vital part of the national director’s work.

For these and other reasons, I will currently stay in D.C. for the major portion of my work. The JACL headquarters will remain in San Francisco under the able guidance of Clyde Izumi, our business manager. I have generally daily contact with headquarters and will make regular visits to San Francisco.

Staff positions which have been unfilled for some time have been or are in the process of being filled. The PSWD regional director, member-ship coordinator, and the new director of public policy should be announced in the near future.

After I came to D.C. and before John became ill, he and I had discussed the possibility of holding a major JACL event here. “A Salute to Champions,” national JACL gala dinner, will be held at the J.W. Marriott Hotel in D.C. on Sept. 12. The Honorable Norm Y. Mineta is honorary chairman of the event. This will be an opportunity to highlight the JACL in the nation’s capital and to honor some deserving people who have been champions of JACL causes as well as a major fundraising event.

All who can make it to D.C. this fall are encouraged to try to join the JACL in this celebration which is intended to become an annual event in D.C.

While the major focus of the JACL has always been civil rights through online sources. The P.C. Web site is an accessible and convenient medium to articulate beliefs and express their ideas. For example, the 2006 Holiday Issue of the P.C. featured the voices of JACL youth members. Like many other young writers, I utilized this opportunity to share my stories and perspective to a national audience. The P.C. amplified youth members’ voices and revealed the diverse viewpoints of a rising generation.

In addition, your donations will contribute to the P.C.’s dynamic Web site. The P.C.’s Web site (www.pacificcitizen.org) recently received a fantastic makeover! It features top news, entertainment, and sports stories that are available 24/7. In our technology-laden society, providing the public with a professional and polished Web site is extremely important! As a youth member and college student, I satisfy most of my news cravings by reading the Pacific Citizen online.

The 2007 D.C. Leadership Conference was held in March. From that gathering, some of the younger members of the “attendance” developed the idea for and formed a group of Young Professionals. These are mostly regular JACL members who range in age from 21 to 35, generally college graduates who are in the work force. Anyone interested in learning about this group and getting on their mailing list should send an email to ericnakom@mac.com.

This is my way to say everyone. I realize there are and will be those who oppose me or do not agree with me and decisions which I make. I would love to talk to everyone to do all in my power to work diligently for the benefit of the JACL and its members. Thank you for this opportunity!

Floyd Morsi is the JACL’s current national director.

SPRING CAMPAIGN Dreaming Big...

by LISA HANASONO

What do you want to be when you grow up?

This classic childhood ques-
tion has great power into the dreams and ambitions of every American generation. While many of my peers went on to become firefighters, surgeons, and lawyers, I subscribe to a different vision. When I grew up, I want to be a civil rights activist, a communications professor, and a soccer mom. As a JACL youth member, I continue to strive toward this unique dream.

Growing up in the Midwest, I often felt isolated and detached from my Japanese American heritage. I grew up in an era before the emergence of cell phones, instant messen-
gers, and the internet. Although I learned to become more involved in civil rights activism and cultural education, I felt geographically dis-
connected from many Asian American communities. How could I become an effective civil rights activist and professor, if I lacked access to current news and informa-
tion about AA issues? Fortunately, I came across the Pacific Citizen.

The P.C. serves as a common thread that connects and strengthens the fabric of AA communities. It has played a vital role in the communi-

ication of AA issues nationwide. I am writing this article to ask you to help make the P.C. thrive as a premier publication by donating to the Spring Campaign.

Why should you participate in the Spring Campaign?

Each year, the P.C. must raise thousands of dollars to cover expenses that pertain to the production of top-notch newspaper issues. Your active support plays a vital role in the P.C.’s ability to remain an award-winning publication. With your help, the P.C. will continue to connect our communities and rights groups, and redirect the public’s gaze to AA issues.

Unfortunately, many forms of mainstream media do not adequately publicize AA issues. The P.C. covers stories that are traditionally under-represented in other news media.

In addition, it provides a forum for AA to articulate their beliefs and express their ideas. For example, the 2006 Holiday Issue of the P.C. featured the voices of JACL youth members. Like many other young writers, I utilized this opportunity to share my stories and perspective to a national audience. The P.C. amplified youth members’ voices and revealed the diverse viewpoints of a rising generation.

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Two Offensive Ads, Two Very Different Responses

A Chinese restaurant owner in Tucson refuses to stop an offensive flyer but a car dealership in Salt Lake City agrees to stop running a similarly offensive TV commercial.

By Pacific Citizen Staff

You decide for yourself.

If you received an advertising flyer from Eggrolls Etc., a take-out and delivery Chinese restaurant in Tucson, Arizona that read — "Every order is delivered via rice-hawk by first generation Chinese immigrants... We know how long it takes for delivery, old Chinamen are getting expensive these days" — would you be offended?

Local Asian American groups including the Pan-Asian Community Alliance, the Tucson Chinese Association, and the Chinese American Citizens' Alliance say yes and have all sent letters of complaint to the restaurant's owner Mike Reynolds.

Part of their letters read: "...humor is never an excuse to deceive any person as to the nature of the ads are very offensive, insulting, and hurtful..." But in response to the complaints, Reynolds has taken a defiant position, saying that he has a right to spend his money where he sees fit and insists that those who are complaining are only a minority. "I don't see why I would be required to stop doing what I spend my money on, because a minority of people are upset," he said in an interview with KOLD News 13.

National JACL is supporting the local community efforts and Bill Yoshino, Midwest regional director, sent a letter to Reynolds encouraging him to pull the offensive flyers. "Your logic in maintaining the ad is clearly protected, but at what price? The minority of people you mention constitutes the Asian American community throughout this country who do not consider the use of this racial slur as a joke. You are playing a game of racial arrogance that only cause harm to an entire group of people," writes Yoshino.

A similarly offensive ad by a Salt Lake City car dealership received a number of complaints from local AAAs.

Soon after Imus' remarks were aired on "Imus in the Morning," several national civil rights groups, including the NAACP, the Rainbow Coalition, and Rev. Al Sharpton - took to the airwaves and newspapers demanding his apology and firing. Although Imus apologized several times, including on the Today show and in a radio show, the issue continued to be propelled by the African American community.

Before long advertisers like General Motors, Corp., American Express Co, and Premer & Co-makers of the controversial "crack ads" started pulling their ads and CBS initially gave Imus a two-week suspension. Local civil rights group, including the Oriental Civic Association, then convinced CBS to announce his firing on April 12.

We are grateful to see CBS Radio and MSNBC acting responsibly — along with the corporate sponsors who have pulled their business from the show," said AAC President and Executive Director Karen K. Ischad. "This is hardly the first time Don Imus has crossed the line with his malignant racial epithets and he is not prepared with the result."

The JACL was quick to point out that national media outlets also need to be sensitive and not respond to those who do not consider the AA community, something that has been sorely lacking.

When "The View" host Rosie O'Donnell recently made her "ching-chong, ching-chong" remarks, the issue was barely covered.

The JACL would like to vigorously pursue criminal charges against the ad spokespersons involved.

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JACL Applauds Firing of Imus for Racially Inflammatory Remarks

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JACL and ACLU Applaud Introduction of Hate Crimes Prevention Bill in Senate

By Pacific Citizen Staff

The JACL and the ACLU applauded the introduction of the Local Law Enforcement Hate Crime Prevention Act of 2007 (HB 2823) in the Senate on April 12 by Sens. Edward Kennedy, D-MA, and Gordon Smith, R-OR.

This Act would help local law enforcement fight bias-motivated violent crimes by enabling the Justice Department to assist local and state law enforcement in their investigation and prosecution of hate crimes based on the victim's sexual orientation, gender identity, and disability.

Hate crimes impact entire communities and have an effect of stigmatizing that community. Asian Americans have long been the target of hate crimes since their initial immigration to the U.S. During World War II, numerous AAAs were the target of hate crimes as they were under attack solely because of their appearance and language.

"Hate nurtures long-term resentment of various groups of people who are innocent bystanders and providers of social services," said Floyd Mori, JACL national director. "Hate need no longer betolerated as a part of American life."

The bill will also provide financial assistance to help local and state law enforcement agencies meet the extraordinary costs that may occur when prosecuting a hate crime. Most of the nation's law enforcement organizations are in support of the legislation.

"We are happy to join with many law enforcement organizations in supporting this bill, which will now allow agencies to investigate and prosecute without the fear of overwhelming cost burdens," said Local Civil Rights Group, Larry Oda.

The JACL has long supported the enforcement of hate crimes legislation and has had a long standing program to educate and inform the public and public agencies on the nature of hate crimes and how to respond to hate crimes.

The JACL has a long record of support for both free speech and civil rights, and we are delighted to support a bill that brings the two together," said Caroleine Fredrickson, executive director of the ACLU Washington Legislative Office.

"This bill demonstrates that it's possible to vigorously pursue criminal civil rights violations without chilling our First Amendment rights," said.
Four prominent women in the Japanese community for women have been selected as the 2007 Women of the Year by the Downtown Los Angeles JACL, and the Philippine Nikkei Jin Kai of Southern California.

Vicky Nashimak-Leon, Former Mayor Nishibashi, Tokunaga Majikina, and Ruth Watanabe will be honored at a May 6 function at the Naniu Hotel & Garden in Downtown Los Angeles.

Nitoa, Kinoshita Receive Agricultural Society Award

Awarded Nitoa Tanaka and Kiyomasa Kinoshita for their work in land development. The award is given in recognition of agriculture-related achievements, both in Japan and the United States. National and international society in landscape gardening.

UCLA Appoints Architect Abe as Professor and Chair

Hirotoshi Abe has been appointed professor and chair of the UCLA Department of Architecture and Urban Design. Known for work that is spatially complex and structurally innovative, the work of Abe has been published internationally and received numerous awards in Japan, including the Architectural Institute of Japan Award for Reiboku Community Hall, but he is best known for his work on designing the Miyagi Stadium.

Sugiyama Receives Diversity Award from UW

The Charles E. Odegaard Award will be presented to Sugiyama at the 37th Annual Friends of the Educational Opportunity Celebration May 8.

New NOAA Fisheries Vessel Named after Shimada

A team of five students and their biology teacher from Marina High School in Marina, Calif., won the "Name NOAA's New Ship" contest. The National Oceanic & Atmospheric Administration selected the entry "Holli M. Shimada" for a 208-foot fisheries survey vessel that is currently under construction in Mississippi. Shimada was an eminent fisheries scientist who specialized in Pacific tropical tuna stocks.

Korean American Sentenced to 9 Years in Prison for Spying

A federal court convicted a Korean American of spying for North Korea and sentenced him to nine years in prison. Jang Minho, a 44-year-old naturalized American who is also known as Michael Jang, played a key role in "delivering national secrets ... to North Korea," and "was involved in setting up North Korean agents," and four other South Koreans, who were also convicted April 16 of espionage by the Seoul Central District Court.

AMY BRIEF (Continued from page 1)

Formally cleared, he wanted nothing to do with the law by making deals with local landowners. With the enriched land, they built an agricultural empire.

Among these entrepreneurs were brothers Shunzo and Sunei, who worked for the Dowa Development Company and the Furukawa Fiber Plant. Ottu and Furukawa had worked together to employ many local residents to work in the fields. Today, Ottu's legacy is found in the community and the remains of the employee barracks are still on display.

The agricultural society of Japan 's Green and White Award recently at the Yuriko. Reihoku Community Hall, but he is best known for his work on designing the Miyagi Stadium.

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AA Leaders Announce Overwhelming Opposition to Anti-Family Immigration Proposal

Asian American leaders are strongly opposed to what they see as an anti-family immigration proposal created by a group of Republican Senators and supported by the Bush Administration.

"This set of principles is a non-starter — they don't work," said Asian American Justice Center (AAJC) President and Executive Director Karen K. Narasaki. "They don't address the underlying problems leading to undocumented immigration — and, in fact, the policies would actually exacerbate the problems. They offer only false promises to the undocumented already here. And they are very anti-family."

The proposal revealed recently is an attempt to address the some 12 million undocumented immigrants now in the country, while regularizing the flow of low-wage workers. It would create new temporary visas for those who are currently undocumented, as well as new workers, but it includes no protections, and no path to citizenship for the majority of these immigrants.

One new feature in the proposal is to shift the immigration system to be almost completely based on corporate sponsorship, while either severely curtailing — or even eliminating altogether — the ability of U.S. citizens to bring their parents into the country.

These provisions would also eliminate all other categories of family visas for sons and daughters over the age of 21, as well as brothers and sisters, of U.S. citizens. This would leave visas available only for spouses and minor children of U.S. citizens and legal permanent residents.

Our communities will not accept this anti-family proposal from the White House. This is a reminder to Asian Pacific Americans that the current efforts for changing our immigration laws demand our attention and full participation," said Eun Sook Lee, executive director of the National Korean American Service and Education Consortium.

"More than 1.5 million Asians are waiting to join their close family members, many for six to 24 years," said Stewart Kwoh, executive director of the Asian Pacific American Legal Center. "Not only does this proposal do nothing to address this tremendous backlog, it would charge those waiting for long periods because of U.S. immigration policies a special gift of $500 to keep their place in line and then would eliminate the categories altogether — the ability of U.S. citizens to bring their parents into the country."

JACL Supports Legislation for Filipino War Veterans

The JACL is supporting the Filipino Veterans Equity Act, which would restore full benefits to those soldiers serving in the U.S. Armed Forces during World War II.

Out of 200,000 Filipino veterans who were recruited from the Commonwealth of the Philippines and fought under the American flag, only 20,000 are alive today, most of them in their senior years.

Initially, these soldiers were granted full pay and benefits for their service during World War II, but they were stripped of their veteran status and benefits by Congress in 1946.

"It is time that the United States honored its promise to these veterans," said JACL National President Larry Oda. "These gallant men and women served bravely and honorably throughout World War II, and the Filipino Veterans Equity Act would reinstate the full recognition that they deserve."  

"It is time that the United States honors its promise to these veterans."

President Franklin D. Roosevelt signed Executive Order 9066 in February 1942, nearly 8,000 Japanese Americans from the San Francisco Bay Area were first evacuated to Tanforan Racetrack in San Bruno before being sent to various concentration camps. On June 2 at the Shops of Tanforan — the site of the former Tanforan Assembly Center — the Japanese Cultural and Community Center of Northern California (JCCC/CNC) opened 20 community-based organizations and hundreds of former internees will reunite for "Journey to Tanforan.

"The event will feature a recapitulation of the evacuation and arrival at Tanforan — with actors dressed in period clothing arriving on an old Greyhound bus — and speakers including former internees, political guests and Fred Nichols, a military guard at the Tanforan Assembly Center who went on to become owner of the former Tanforan Shopping Center in the 1970s. "Equally as important will be the opportunity to heal the wounds of an aging generation — most of whom are now in their late 80s and early 90s — whose memories of the internment still bears much pain, even after so many years," said JCCC/CNC Executive Director Paul Okaki.

There are approximately 2,000 former internees alive today, many in their late 80s and early 90s. "Journey to Tanforan" will be the first time that a formal organized national gathering of past internees will be held at Tanforan where buses will depart from the former Bay Area communities where the internees left their homes for Tanforan.

As part of this historic reunion, a luncheon will be held immediately after the program that will begin at 10 a.m. Former Tanforan internees and those interested in attending can call the JCCC/CNC at 415/967-5905 ext. 234 or e-mail tono@jcccnc.org for further information.
AIKIDO
(Continued from page 1)
"With the passing of Furuya Sensei, there were so many things which crossed my mind about the future of our dojo. But one thing remained clear, that what would do justice to the legacy of Sensei was for us to continue to practice in his dojo," said Maria Murakawa, 32, a Shin-Nisei second generation who has been with Aikido since 1994.

The students have now formed the Rev. Kensho Furuya Foundation, a group "dedicated to preserving the art of Aikido and its practice in the dojo," said Joanne Watanabe, who passed on the tradition and technique to her students.

"He taught me the greatest lessons in life and I am the person I am today only because of having been his student," said Ito, in a written tribute to Kensho Furuya.

"One of the most beautiful things about the dojo, the atmosphere, the tradition for providing balance and tranquility in life. One lesson she was glad to learn was to "pay attention, not only to her practice partner but to her lessons, to the teachings, but to proper etiquette in the dojo," she continued.

Kensho Furuya's passion for traditional Aikido likely spurred from his studies at the Aikido Foundation Honolulu, where he continued his training and became a vital part of the community.

"Aikido is a traditional martial art that we and need to hand it down to the next generation. We need to preserve Sensei's Aikido the best we can," said Watanabe.

Although the future remains unclear, the students hope to see Kensho Furuya's beloved dojo continue to be a place where students can learn the traditions of Aikido and at his death he had become a vital part of the community.

"I hope the dojo will continue and forever remember Sensei," said Maria Murakawa.

A Beloved Teacher

On March 6, Rev. Kensho Daniel Furuya, 64, who taught Aikido to students teaching a class and laughing when he suddenly passed away. For many of his students, it was a fitting way for their beloved teacher to leave this life.

Aikido: A New Chapter

Under his leadership, Furuya's beloved dojo continues to teach the traditions of Aikido.

IKEDA-NASH
(Continued from page 1)
working at the Buddhist Peace Federation (BPF) office in Berkeley, I felt threatened by the flyer.

When the angry letter first arrived at her Berkeley home in early 2008, Ikeda-Nash was not at work. Although her coworkers at the time recognized the threatening tone of the letter, they decided not to report the incident to the police. Her later disclosures of the incident to the police, however, did not lead to the arrest of the suspect.

Ikeda-Nash was saddened by the apathy of her colleagues and the community toward diversity training for its staff.

"There is a huge community here," she said. "I am distressed by the way diversity is being handled. People are yelling profanities at them from across the street, directly in front of the BPF office. When her work on this case, she learned that some are never known.

"I was overwhelmed by the experience," she said. "But it has also reinforced my commitment to do my part so that people will recognize this is not a hate crime and never be repeated," she said.

For more information on hate crimes or hate incidents, go to www.jacl.org.

PACIFIC CITIZEN, June 20, 2007

 Vikki Faust
Ohno Made His Remarks During a Photo Appearance Recently With Gov. Jon Huntsman and Julianne Collins.

Along with Marty Brown of the Hollywood Carp, American managers now hold one third of the managerial positions in Japanese professional baseball.

Overcoming obstacles like a new language and a different approach to the game are just some of the challenges facing American managers overseas.

"I wake up every morning with a whole new set of questions that I want to find the answers to," Collins said. "Obviously, the biggest challenge is the language barrier."

Collins was working in the Los Angeles Dodgers organization last season when he got an offer to manage the Buffaloes.

"I was looking for something different to do," he said. "This is what I love to do. I love to manage a game and compete, and I missed that."

Since he arrived, Collins has noticed more than a few things that are unique about the Japanese game, including the amount of practice teams expect from their players.

"I'm excited to move. It's a bit of a change for me, but it'll be a good change," Ohno said.

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Russian’s a country whose national story seems normal to many people, President Vladimir Putin last year introduced a new national holiday, Nov. 4, to replace the old communist holiday, Revolutionary Day on Nov. 7. What Nov. 4 will recall is a moment in 1612 when Russia drove the Catholic Poles and Lithuanians out of Moscow and reinforced the defensive towards Western Christendom, despite the positive steps shown when Pope John Paul Benedict XVI held a 25-minute chat last month. As themes and camps to prove their loyalty on battlefield; some paid the supreme sacrifice with their lives.

Textbooks at Japanese language schools in California do carry the story the 424 Burn. Perhaps we could be appraised of other Japanese American stories.

National JACL, I can add, has preceded the above organizations through various national committees to tell and retell our story, though one resolve remains: “To insist Japanese Americans is distinct, separate and independent of Japan.” This “therefore be it resolved” was passed at the national JACL convention in 1960 to wake up the anti-U.S. demonstrations in Japan that destroyed the projected visit of President Eisenhower.

The Washington JACL Office had received phone calls demanding “why we” didn’t do something to control “crazy” young people (in Japan). And don’t say, “the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor,” but “when Japan attacked Pearl Harbor.”

In 1996, the National JACL Education Committee produced a three-ring binder curriculum and resource guide, “A Lesson in American History: the Japanese American Experience” ($15), to help local chapters develop an effective education program. I’m sure, the committee has added material to the binder with points on PowerPoint presentation slides.

And despite the humiliation, young men enlisted from these camps to prove their loyalty on battlefields; some paid the supreme sacrifice with their lives.”

The Shame of a Nation

A hearing before the Senate Judiciary Committee in January, U.S. Attorney General Alberto Gonzales made the most outrageous statements ever uttered by an attorney general when he said there could be exceptions to habeas corpus.

Exceptions to habeas corpus? Plainly stated, habeas corpus is the right of a prisoner to go before a judge to ask for release, for as due process. This is a fundamental right of American citizenship not taken from the Magna Carta of 1215 and included as part of the Constitution. It’s fundamental to American justice and to the American sense of fair play and moral rectitude. It’s something that should never be questioned in this country, but it’s seriously challenged by the Bush Administration.

Last year, in a challenge of the administration’s detention policy, the D.C. Circuit Court ruled in favor of confirming that prisoners at Guantanamo, as “enemy combatants,” have no right of habeas corpus.

The Supreme Court, however, reversed the Appeals Court ruling and stated that enemy combatants do in fact have habeas corpus rights. In response, the Bush administration fashioned a way to skirt the court’s ruling by introducing the Military Commission Act, which was approved by the Republican-controlled Congress last year. This Act denies habeas corpus rights to enemy combatants going forward by stripping the courts of the authority to rule on abuses committed against enemy combatants.

One need only look at the Jose Padilla “Dirty Bomber” case, an American citizen who was declared by Bush to be an enemy combatant and imprisoned for four years without access to an attorney and without due process of law. Whether he was guilty or innocent or any crimes or terrorist acts, a fundamental legal right of an American citizen is denied him the right to due process. How else would someone like Padilla be able to argue his innocence? Or how else would prosecutors be able to prove his guilt?

On a much larger scale, we have the prison at the Naval Base at Guantanamo, where we have held several hundred so-called enemy combatants, none of whom have had an opportunity to plead their cases. They have no habeas corpus rights based on the current Bush Administration policy derived from the Military Commission Act. They were captured from a war zone, you argue?

It’s true that those at Guantanamo were brought there from the war in Iraq or Afghanistan, but it’s never been clear why. While it’s reasonable to assure that some at Guantanamo deserve to be there for the right reasons, over 80 percent were captured and turned over by mercenaries, who were paid huge amounts of cash for each person captured. Guilt or innocence sometimes has little to do with anything when it comes to making large amounts of money, especially in wartime.

So why should the JACL be concerned about Guantanamo? Why? Because the denial of habeas corpus deals with a constitutional and moral issue, and Guantanamo is the symbol of how far we have gone in the nation. Jose Padilla is a living example of how far we’ve fallen.

Our legal system has always demanded that evidence be presented to demonstrate that the apprehension of an individual is warranted. Granted, this hasn’t always worked as it should, and in many instances hasn’t worked at all. But it’s still a fundamental basis of how our judicial system works. Not perfect, but it’s set up as it is for a reason, and that’s to avoid authorities being able to railroad someone into prison and to the foundations of democracy.

One hears the argument that there’s a war on, that we can’t understand these people and can’t trust them, that this is the sacrifice of war, and look at what they did on 9/11. And on and on.

So what family is it? Because those are echoes of 1942 all over again. We’ve put civilians in the role of soldiers, because those are echoes of 1942 all over again. We’ve put civilians in the role of soldiers.

One can argue that the computer is an international problem. "You mind exploring this week? Nations are an international problem."

"You mind exploring this week? Nations are an international problem."

I think we need to think about how far we’ve fallen, how far we’ve fallen. And the consequence is that we...
Desmond Nakano’s ‘American Pastime’ is more than a movie about baseball.

Lyle Nomura’s pitches whistle through the air and land in the catcher’s glove, but the umpire’s strike zone is a little biased. In an impromptu game between Japanese American prisoners and their white guards on the baseball field behind barbed wire, there are divisions already drawn in the sand.

After arguing about the unfair calls, one guard scornfully asks why the perceived alien enemies of World War II think they know the all-American sport.

“It’s not about baseball,” the other responds.

But what makes “Pastime” outstanding is its exploration of the effects of the war on all Americans, including those on the other side of the fence.

Desmond skillfully avoids the pitfalls of outweighing evil-white people stereotypes (although there are a couple of bad eggs) with Billy Barell (Gary Cole), an embittered Topaz guard and former major league prospect. Like Kaz, Billy is brimming with silent frustration over unrealized dreams and irreversible circumstances.

All around him, the young men—including his own son—who are killed in battle far-off lands and in one scene, he angrily tosses a baseball and confesses to feeling like a babysitter at Topaz. His emotions always bubble at the surface ready to explode into rage especially when he discovers his daughter (Sarah Drew) has fallen in love with Lyle—a sweet love story that casts the Asian American male as a romantic lead.

Even for those who lived through the events, recreated onscreen, “Pastime” is a powerful love letter to the Nikkei community and a can’t-miss.

American Pastime

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May 18 - The Japanese American National Museum
Buy the DVD starting May 22 from Warner Home Video

For more information: whi@wanametro.com, www.nisiebaseball.com

Lyle finds a mentor in Mr. Morita (Seth Sakai).

SECRET ASIAN MAN by Tak

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By LYNDI LIN
Assistant Editor

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9

PHOTO: WALTER IVERSON / WARNER HOME VIDEO.

FATHER AND SON: Kaz (Masatoshi Nakamura) shares advice with Lyle (Aaron Yoo).

BATTER UP: Hawaiian native Buddha (Big Buddha) awaits his turn.

Lyle finds a mentor in Mr. Morita (Seth Sakai).

secret asian man by tak

that don imus is a moron. what was he thinking calling those women "happy headed hosts?"

I'M JUST SURPRISED IT GOT THAT MUCH ATTENTION.

IT'S ALL IN THE TIMING. IT WAS A SLOW NEWS WEEK. IMUS RAIS HIS OLDFASHIONED MOUTH OFF AS USUAL AND SHARPTON'S RUNNING FOR PRESIDENT AGAIN.

WRONG GUR, WRONG TIME, WRONG PEOPLE.

I WOnder IF EVERYONE KNOWS IF YOU WANT TO GET AWAY WITH SAYING RACIAL ADVICE ON THE RADIO YOU GO AFTER THE ASIANS.

PLUS EVERYONE KNOWS IF YOU WANT TO GET AWAY WITH SAYING RACIAL ADVICE ON THE RADIO YOU GO AFTER THE ASIANS.

PACIFIC CITIZEN, Apr. 20-May 3, 2007

ENTERTAINMENT

Desmond Nakano's 'American Pastime' Triumphs on Both Sides of the Fence

This 'Pastime' Triumphs on Both Sides of the Fence

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But what makes “Pastime” outstanding is its exploration of the effects of the war on all Americans, including those on the other side of the fence.

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PLUS EVERYONE KNOWS IF YOU WANT TO GET AWAY WITH SAYING RACIAL ADVICE ON THE RADIO YOU GO AFTER THE ASIANS.
Two Offensive Ads, Two Very Different Responses

A Chinese restaurant owner in Tucson refuses to stop an offensive flier but a car dealership in Salt Lake City agrees to stop running a similarly offensive TV commercial.

By Pacific Citizen Staff

You decide for yourself.

If you received an advertisement flier from Eggrolls Etc., a take-out and delivery Chinese restaurant in Tucson, Arizona that read—"Every offensive these days"—would you be offended?

Local Asian American groups including the Pan-Asian Community Alliance, the Tucson Chinese Association, and the Chinese Americans' Alliance say yes and have all sent letters of complaint to the restaurant's owner Mike Reynolds.

Part of their letters read: "... humor is never an excuse to deliberately offend any person or group. The ads are very offensive, insulting, and hurtful ..." But in response to the complaints, Reynolds has taken a defiant position, saying he has a right to spend his money where he sees fit and insists that those who are complaint are only a small group.

Local Asian American groups have vowed to keep up the pressure until Eggrolls Etc. stops sending out the offensive fliers.

National JACL is supporting the local community efforts and Bill Yoshino, Midwestern regional director, sent a letter to Reynolds encouraging him to pull the offensive fliers. "Your logic in maintaining the ad is wrongful. Your act is clearly protected, but at what price? The minority of people you mention constitute the Asian American community throughout this country who do not consider the use of this racial slur as a joke. You are playing a game of racial arrogance that only causes harm to an entire group of people," writes Yoshino.

A similarly offensive ad by a Salt Lake City car dealership received a number of complaints from local AA

groups recently but unlike Eggrolls Etc., the Ken Garff Automotive Group immediately pulled the TV commercials.

The advertisements were used by the Automotive Group and Organization of Chinese Americans sent letters of complaint to the Ken Garff Automotive Group calling the ads offensive and perpetuating negative stereotypes. The ads were pulled off the air April 6.

"We're really pleased with the quick action that they're doing to try to remedy this," says an organization leader Michael Kwan in the same article. "We got concrete action. I think that shows Chinese Americans' commitment to diversity within the community.

JACL Applauds Firing of Imus for Racially Insensitive Remarks

JACL leaders are quick to point out that national media outlets also need to condemn racial slurs at the AA community.

By Pacific Citizen Staff

Asian American groups, including the JACL, are applauding the recent announcement by CBS Radio and NBC News that shock jock Don Imus has been fired for making racially insensitive remarks.

Soon after Imus' remarks were aired on "Imus in the Morning," several African American individuals and groups — including the NAACP, the Rainbow Coalition, and Rev. Al Sharpton — took to the airwaves and newspapers demanding his apology and firing.

Although Imus apologized several times, including on the "Today" show and "The View," the issue continued to be pressed by the African American community.

Before long advertisers like General Motors Corp., American Express Co., and Precise & Gamble Co. began pulling their ads and CBS initially gave Imus a two-week suspension. MSNBC dragged its simulcast of Imus' show on April 11 and CBS announced his firing on April 12.

"We are grateful to see CBS Radio and MSNBC acting responsibly — along with the corporate leadership of Don Imus, who have pulled their business from the show," said AAC President and Executive Director Betty K. O'Donnell. "This is hardly the first time Don Imus has crossed the line with his malignant racial epithets and jokes about family members..."

The JACL was quick to point out that national media outlets also need to be sensitive when it comes to racial remarks that are made at the AA community, something that has been sorely lacking.

When "The View" host Rosie O'Donnell recently made her "ching-chong, ching-chong" remarks, the issue was barely covered by the mainstream media and O'Donnell was never reprimanded by ABC News.

The discussion has recently focused on slurs directed at African Americans and women because they were the victims of this vicious abuse, but as we have seen at the AA community, something that has been sorely lacking.

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In Memoriam - 2006-2007

All the towns in California are excepted.

Azuma, Shinshuke, 81, Whitner, Mar. 27; survived by wife, Kazumi; sons, Yoshiaki (Marion); daughters, Kayoko Yamamori and Nancy (Bryan) Fujii; 10 ggc.; brother, Mike; and sister, Yuriko.

Hayashi, Yaeoka, 84, Chula Vista, Feb. 21; survived by husband, Tadashi; sons, Alan (Nancy) and Dr. Roy; (Phyllis) daughter, Sharon (Jim) Kunugi; and 4 ggc.

Monterey Park, Mar. 28; survived by son, Dr. Ronald; daughter, Janice (Thomas) Ashimoto; 5 ggc.; brother, Satoshi; and brother-in-law, Shig (Mitsue) Nishikawa.

Kashihara, Dawn Asako, 96, Mar. 30; survived by wife, Paul (Seiko); daughter, Joanne (Ken) Otsica; 2 ggc.; and 6 ggc.

Kawahira, Chiyokiku, 87, Los Angeles, Mar. 26; survived by sons, Tadashige (Naoko) and Tadahide (Rosa); daughters, Teruyu (Art) Musashi and Minako (William) Deran; 5 gcs.; and sisters-in-law, Minako, Mary and Isuko Kawahara.

Kawasaki, Hattso, 81, Los Angeles, Mar. 31; survived by sons, Assushi (Eva), Shoji (Ayako) and Katsuyu; daughter, Paulina ( Stanton Ogata Kawasaki; 2 ggc.; and 2 ggc.

Kihara, Rev. Jolin, 62, Gardena, Mar. 25; survived by wife, Hisae; mother, Tsurni; brother, Ronnie; and life partner, (Setsuko), Dwight and Delano Law, Toshiko (Arthur) Shimizu.

Inouye, Chiyo, 81, Garden Grove, Mar. 24; survived by wife, Helen Kawagoe; sons, Dr. Ron (Phyllis) and daughter, Kurniko (Dr. Jim) Kunugi; and 4 ggc.; sisters, Suzie Terasawa, Russell (Nancy) and Roger; 4 ggc.; and brothers-in-law, Bob (Marian) and 3 ggc.

Azuma, Shinsuke, 81, Los Angeles; Mar. 15; survived by (Marthalyn); daughters, Cheryl (Dr. Ron) and Carol Wininger; brother Paula (Gordon) Abe; 2 gcs.; 3 ggc.; and sisters, Suzie Terasawa, Russell (Nancy) and Roger.

Hongo, Marie, 83, Granada Hills, Mar. 20; survived by husband, Kazuo; sons, Isumi, Gary, Russell (Nancy) and Roger; 4 ggc.; sisters, Tzuie Terasawa, and Betty (Frank) Sakata; and brothers, Hiroshi, James, Kay, Roy (and Terry).

Hongo, Russell Ken, 53, Los Angeles, Mar. 23; survived by mother, Miyoko; brothers, Ronnie and Raymond; and life partner, Karen Hernandez.

Imamura, George Takaya, 79, Whitter, Mar. 16; survived by brothers, Daniel (May), Denby (Seiko), Dwight and Delano (Dawn) Kawahara.

Inouye, Chiyo, 81, Garden Grove, Mar. 24; survived by wife, Kazumi; son, (Ken); daughter, Tomio (Lynette) Kanegae; sisters, Joyce (Skee) Tabata and Michie (George) Shigaki; sister-in-law, Tsueni; brothers, Ken and Robert; and 6 ggc.

Kamei, Hiroshi, 79, Anaheim, Mar. 30; survived by wife, Tamiko; daughter, Susan; sons, Robert, Alan and John; and 6 ggc.

Kaminishi, Roy Tadashii, 94, Monterey Park, Mar. 28; survived by son, Dr. Ronald; daughter, Janice (Thomas) Ashimoto; 5 ggc.; brother, Satoshi; and brother-in-law, Shig (Mitsue) Nishikawa.

Kashihara, Dawn Asako, 96, Mar. 30; survived by wife, Paul (Seiko); daughter, Joanne (Ken) Otsica; 2 ggc.; and 6 ggc.

Kawahira, Chiyokiku, 87, Los Angeles, Mar. 26; survived by sons, Tadashige (Naoko) and Tadahide (Rosa); daughters, Teruyu (Art) Musashi and Minako (William) Deran; 5 gcs.; and sisters-in-law, Minako, Mary and Isuko Kawahara.

Kawasaki, Hattso, 81, Los Angeles, Mar. 31; survived by sons, Assushi (Eva), Shoji (Ayako) and Katsuyu; daughter, Paulina ( Stanton Ogata Kawasaki; 2 ggc.; and 2 ggc.

Kihara, Rev. Jolin, 62, Gardena, Mar. 25; survived by wife, Hisae; mother, Tsurni; brother, Ronnie; and life partner, (Setsuko), Dwight and Delano Law, Toshiko (Arthur) Shimizu.

Kobayashi, John Masaaki, 86, WWII veteran, MIS; survived by wife, Masako; son, Kelley (Naomi); sisters, Ruth (Tom) Tanaka, Grace (Charles) Shigeno and Carol Wininger; brother George (Francis); and sisters-in-law, Kazue Okasaki and Molly Shigeno.

Koyama, Taichi, 51, Torrance, Mar. 22; survived by wife, Masako; son, Kelley (Naomi); sisters, Ruth (Tom) Tanaka, Grace (Charles) Shigeno and Carol Wininger; brother George (Francis); and sisters-in-law, Kazue Okasaki and Molly Shigeno.

Koyama, Taichi, 51, Torrance, Mar. 22; survived by wife, Masako; son, Kelley (Naomi); sisters, Ruth (Tom) Tanaka, Grace (Charles) Shigeno and Carol Wininger; brother George (Francis); and sisters-in-law, Kazue Okasaki and Molly Shigeno.

Matsushita, Masahiko, 88, Los Angeles, Mar. 15; survived by wife, Kazuo; brother, Kats and Sam.

Ogawa, Grace, 42, Mar. 24; survived by husband, Curt; daughter, Jordan; parents, Susuhi and Hisako Mikita and sister, June (Glenn) Shintaku.

OL, Rev. Shojo, Jan. 2; survived by wife, Kyoyou; 4 children; and 2 ggc.

Sasaki, Toshio, 60, Nagakute, Japan, Mar. 10; sculptor who did "The First Symphony of the Sea" at the New York Aquarium at Coney Island and was a finalist for the World Trade Center Memorial; survived by wife, Miyoko; (and) brothers, Yasuo, Shigehiko and Morio.

Sugimoto, Fred Shiego, 87, San Jose, Mar. 18; survived by wife, Mary; sons, Richard (Lynne) and Bill (Lowayne); daughters, Phyllis and Elaine (Michael) Jones; 5 gcs.; and sisters, Kimiko Sayemas and Evelyn Kanada.

Tachihana, Mifori, 87, Torrance, Mar. 27; survived by wife, Elizabeth (Bill) Ono; 1 gc.; brother, Akira Kikukawa, Yoji, Saburo and Shiro (Toni) Uyeda; sisters, Yemi (Yoshi) Kamiya, Yone Amimoto, Okani Kamiya and Shihiko Segabe; brothers-in-law, Kenichi Uchihana, Buddy (Fumi) Kashi and Ted (Miyoi) Inouye; and sisters-in-law, Yo Kikukawa and Catherine Uyeda.

Tanouye, Toso Juko, 93, Cerritos, Mar. 25; survived by wife, Grace; daughters, Janet Shiger and Susan Marumoto; son, Craig (Wendy); and 5 gcs.

Tatsuda, Charlie, 91, Minneapolis, Minn., Apr. 1; WWII veteran, MIS; survived by daughter, Chuck J. (Jennifer); and 2 ggc.

Uehara, Doris Sadako, 83, Mar. 24; survived by daughter, Paula (Gordon) Ahe; 2 gc.; 3 ggc.; sisters, Aiko Lake, Michi Oshiro, Yasu Okada, Lilian Kiyabu and Sonnie Marumoto; and brothers, Tom, Bussia, Daffy and Dicky Uehara.

Yamase, Dr. Stanley H., 93, Torrance, Mar. 26; survived by wife, Elizabeth (Bill) Ono; 1 gc.; brother, Akira Kikukawa, Yoji, Saburo and Shiro (Toni) Uyeda; sisters, Yemi (Yoshi) Kamiya, Yone Amimoto, Okani Kamiya and Shihiko Segabe; brothers-in-law, Kenichi Uchihana, Buddy (Fumi) Kashi and Ted (Miyoi) Inouye; and sisters-in-law, Yo Kikukawa and Catherine Uyeda.

Yuasa, Dr. Tadashi, 60, Nagakute, Japan, Mar. 10; sculptor who did "The First Symphony of the Sea" at the New York Aquarium at Coney Island and was a finalist for the World Trade Center Memorial; survived by wife, Miyoko; (and) brothers, Yasuo, Shigehiko and Morio.

Nakayama, Toshi, 60, Nagakute, Japan, Mar. 10; sculptor who did "The First Symphony of the Sea" at the New York Aquarium at Coney Island and was a finalist for the World Trade Center Memorial; survived by wife, Miyoko; (and) brothers, Yasuo, Shigehiko and Morio.

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ENGLISH-ONLY

(Continued from page 1)

can still string sentences together in Japanese, but admits to being a little rusty.

Now, Ikemoto finds himself living near the epicenter of the English-first debate — Nashville, Tennessee — where residents and lawmakers are embroiled in a dispute over the city's official language. With a growing new immigrant population, the metropolitan city also known as "Music City," is host to a growing chorus of international languages — a cacophony some say lawmakers are trying to silence.

While the immigration debate is still roaring across the nation all eyes are on Nashville where the mayor recently vetoed a city council measure to make English the official language of the local government.

"I don't see necessity for the English-only law," said Ikemoto from his home in Franklin, a suburb of Nashville. Sure, many of the foreign-born immigrants may choose to stay with their own enclaves and speak their own languages ("It's like water — you take the easier course.") but most would learn to speak English, eventually, said the Salinas JACL member.

Most of the attention has centered on foreign-born and Spanish-speak ing immigrants, but Nashville is also home to a burgeoning Asian Pacific community, Nashville is below the national average when it comes to diversity. According to the U.S. Census Bureau, 10 households spoke a language other than English, 100 percent of households in Nashville had English as the language spoken at home in 1990, one in 70 households spoke a language other than English, but in 2000, one in 10 households spoke a language other than English, according to the U.S. Census Bureau.

"Nashville started becoming a melting pot," said Alex Akina, national president of the National Filipino American Youth Association (NFAYA), which was headquartered in Nashville from 1998-2004.

"Nashville's APA population is small (a little over two percent) and most made up of young professionals and students. During his time living and working in Nashville, Akina noticed a large immigrant population increase. To cater to the demand, multilingual signs began cropping up on major streets and businesses recruited bilingual employees.

"One of my first observations when I moved here was the number of non-Asians who were able to speak Asian languages with moderate proficiency," said Curtis Chow, who in 2005 moved to Nashville from his hometown of Columbia, South Carolina to attend Vanderbilt University Law School. "But then again, this must be viewed in context — the Vanderbilt graduate law school tends to be fairly diverse.

"As far as I've seen through, the community has seemed relatively ambivalent — neither intolerant, nor particularly receptive," said Chow 23. "I do feel the need to use my southern accent when communicating here.

In recent years, Nashville and its surrounding cities have seen an increase in the presence of foreign-owned companies, including Nissan Motor Co. and Toshiba — both members of the Japan-America Society of Tennessee. Even with the increasing number of non-Asians, Nashville is below the national average when it comes to diversity.

It's a different lifestyle for Ikemoto, who moved from the Central California area to Franklin to be close to his family.

Those days, the Ikemotos are the only Asian faces in their church.

For Every Action there is a Reaction

But what some call progress others call an erosion of U.S. culture. English-only legislation has been adopted in 29 states and measures are pending in 12 states, said Ross Toonkel of U.S. English, Inc., to the Associated Press.

HR 997, the English Language Unity Act of 2007, was introduced in February in hopes of making English the official language of the United States.

Debate over English-first legislation has ignited in communities all over the nation but none as heated as in Nashville, where Mayor Bill Purcell recently vetoed a measure that would have made English the city's official language.

However, proponents say they will place the measure on the ballot in 2008 because it helps a nation of immigrants achieve self-sufficiency.

"Unfortunately, when it comes to language assistance, an immigrant can walk into many government offices and get linguistic assistance today, tomorrow and forevermore," said Toonkel to the Pacific Citizen.

"At no time during this interaction with the individual does the government make the suggestion that learning English will make you better or worse as the immigrant and the immigrant's fami-

NATIONAL NEWS

PACIFIC CITIZEN, Aug. 29, 2007

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