Beyond Traditional Costumes, Food Fairs and Dragon Dances

The pomp of APA Heritage Month celebrations is ever-present, but what about the substance?

By LYUNDA LIN
Assistant Editor

At Penn State, April is called "Asian April." For a week, the campus reverberates with the sounds of bamboo dances, boiling tea drums and a symphony of music from the students' native lands. Penn State, like most other colleges across the nation, celebrates Asian Pacific American Heritage Month early.

For the occasion, APA organizations at Penn State host ethnic dance performances and a "Mr. and Ms. APA Penn State" pageant where contestants vie for the title by answering questions about their hobbies and strutting in costumes of their choice. Oftentimes, the usual mix of modern clothes is peppered with ancient influences. This year, a male contestant wore a loincloth and carried a spear to celebrate his Filipino heritage.

"What we try to do for Asian American Heritage Month is to emphasize Asian American heritage and history by hosting events every weekend in Asian April," said Yang Liang, an undergraduate industrial engineering major at Penn State.

At the same time, the mix of American and Asian culture on college campuses across the United States, the memory of the Virginia Tech tragedy looms like a caliginous cloud, and with it comes more serious look at APA issues and history.

During an APA Heritage Month month with its annual "Asian Awareness" show.

A Return to Classes Brings Unease for Some Virginia Tech AA Students

AA college students across the country are pulling together as some hate crime incidents are reported, likely fallout from the recent tragic shootings.

By CAROLINE AYAGI-STOM
Executive Editor

Virginia Tech freshman Bridgette Kim, 19, delayed her return to classes by one day so she could attend one more memorial and burial for the victims of the recent tragic shootings. Like her classmates she too will be returning to campus after a week of shared grief. But unlike many of them, Kim, a Korean American, is also quietly wondering: will I be treated differently now?

"It concerns me a little, especially as I go back to school," she said. Virginia Tech student Sung-Jai Cho shot and killed 32 students and faculty in a deadly rampage April 16. In the end he took his own life. Although it was the horrific act of one individual, endless media reports have emphasized the shooter's Korean American ethnicity, in effect generating an entire community.

Becoming the Best of the Beach

Early on, Logan Tom drew comparisons to the legends of beach volleyball. Now she is playing alongside them.

By LYUNDA LIN
Assistant Editor

The basics of the game remain the same, but it's the elements that frustrate Logan Tom. A spray of sand here or a whip of wind there changes the nature of her body for the new environment. After years of dominating the indoor court, the volleyball phenom compares the transition to the beach to a fawn learning to walk again.

"It's been a learning process. It's frustrating not being able to do the things I could do easily on the court," said Tom, 25, between practice sessions in Manhattan Beach, Calif.

Over the phone her words tumble with an emphasis on the mental game.

"On the court, you can just go out and play. But on the beach, the tide, the wind, the sand -- there is so much more to consider," says Tom, a four-time AVP Dallas Open champ. "And then you have to play with a partner. When you play indoors, you can just play the game and let your partner handle the serving or the defense. But on the beach, you have to split the responsibilities, which makes it a lot harder as a partner."
**SPRING CAMPAIGN**

The Paperless News (Revolution Continues)

By SHELDON ARAKAKI

Video clips and archival story search function. RSS and podcasting. The paperless news evolution continues to support the Pacific Citizen is determined to be a part of it.

My column last year in support of the Pacific Citizen’s Spring Campaign fund raiser, I wrote about how the newspaper was taking its audience outreach site to the next level by adding more functionality and features. The $10,000 you helped raise last year resulted in PacificCitizen.org 2.0 unveiled this past February.

The web site now features video clips just like your local newspaper the New York Times or your favorite blogger site. There is also a story archiving search function. Need to get some facts of old PAJA communities in gulf coast states in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina? Enter “Katrina” in the Google search field and see how many PAC stories display. The web site has a clean look with a friendlier navigation system and a color scheme that is easier on the eyes. Or at least my eyes. The top banner is rolling front page stories that fade in animation on the banner display and the site takes you to the complete story. Looking just for the entertainment or sports stories? Just scroll down and view the listings on the left hand side.

In the next year, we hope to see the PAC site and the Simple Syndication (RSS). RSS is an easy way to receive alerts to new content or stories that interests you when it appears. I can see Larry Honda’s “Very Truly Yours” column or the PAC front page stories.

We could even have podcasts allowing on-line users to listen to interviews or watch video reports supplementing the printed article that was limited to 500 to 700 words due to space considerations.

...Or maybe you can email an online story to a friend or print out online archived stories.

Everything described is what many of you now take for granted with the Internet version of your local newspaper or journals that you read for work.

All this can be possible with your Spring Campaign contribution. Your donation would help acquire proven technology as well as learn how to install, use and maintain it.

If you read newspapers from all over the country and the world from the Internet, you know the PAC needs to continually add content and distribution channels in this ever interconnected world of ours to remain relevant — especially with greatly shrinking advertising dollars.

So if you’ve found the content of the past year enjoyable and informative and the look and feel of PacificCitizen.org 2.0 then please join me and show your support by donating to this year’s Spring Campaign. One of the new features of the site now allows you to donate on-line using PayPal. Just click on DONATE on the navigation bar! But if you feel more comfortable sending in a check, you can do this:

MAIL: PACIFIC CITIZEN, 250 E. First Street, Ste. 301, Los Angeles, CA 90012

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Chapter: ____________________________________________________________________

Mail to: PACIFIC CITIZEN, 250 E. First Street, Ste. 301, Los Angeles, CA 90012. Phone: 213/620-1768

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By JEAN H. LEE

from South Korea, may have been and raised questions about why he
massacre that left 32 students and
midway through his rampage at
And experts say his parents, emigres
tried for years to get hinl counseling.
quieting isolation and held back by
unsure what to make of Cho's
showing signs that worried his fami­

But church officials in Cho's

But mental health is rarely addressed
to work. The only suitable facility
was a dormitory for single police offi­
went from church to church looking
One pastor said Cho's mother
went from church to church looking

While Camp Amache was a dark moment in our nation's past, it is still an important part of our history. It is important that we preserve sites like this one so that Americans of the future can continue to learn from the mistakes of the past," said Sen. Allard.

From 1942-1945, Camp Amache was the 10th largest city in Colorado by population. The site housed more than 10,000 Americans of Japanese ancestry who had been interned in the U.S. during World War II.

"Sixty years after this facility closed, it continues to raise a host of emotions and political arguments about the actions of our federal government during that controversial period," Allard said.

"During internment, children were born, parents died, and life was made unusually hard. I want to see this land set aside as an official National Historic Site so we can honor the memory of Camp Amache," Allard said.

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APAs are Becoming a Political Force

The Asian Pacific American vote is becoming a critical factor in the city's Democratic primary election.

In this June's primary battle, two of the three slates include Nihal Dassoo, a South Asian council candidate, and many of the people running for spots in the downtown Democratic organizations.

The latest U.S. Census figures showed 30 percent of the township's population is Asian and the largest segment within the group is Asian-Indians.

Groups Launch First-Ever Anti-Hepatitis B Campaign

SAN FRANCISCO— Representatives from more than 50 health care and APA organizations have launched a new major public health campaign against the liver disease.

They're carrying the virus.

APA organizations have launched a new major public health campaign against the liver disease.

A Day of Tragedy

Kim, a political science major, was on her way to Virginia Tech's Student Union when she first learned there had been some shootings at Norris Hall. For the next two and a half hours she remained locked down in the safety of the Student Union building.

Before long, rumors that the shooter was an Asian filtered down to Kim's dormitory, and she was barely reassured by that word.

"Please let it be another Asian," went through her mind.

"I was really upset by it," she said.

"When I found out it was a South Korean, I thought, this is not good."

Although Kim had never met fel­low Virginia Tech student Cho, she soon learned that he had lived 20 minutes from her own place. Her close friend currently lives in the same neighborhood where the shooter had lived but she too had never seen him before.

While the tragic shootings at Virginia Tech were still unfolding, Cho's publicized AA ethnicity was already having an impact on fellow AA students at the UCMP campus.

On the morning of April 16, UCMP's AA Coalition Committee, a group currently fighting for an AA Studies program — was holding a sit-in when a police officer

STUDENT ESSAY (Continued from page 1)

Jeff Purna said the district is evaluates Lee's punishment while he serves his time in a correctional program in the school district.

"It wasn't just violent or foul language," Purna said. "It went beyond that."

Lee's attorney, Dan Loizzo, said his client was within the parameters of the assignment.

"A stream of consciousness seems to be the goal of the assignment," Loizzo said. He said Lee has never been disciplined in school and signed enrollment paperwork recently.

His father, Albert Lee, has defended his son and said he was just following instructions and the school operated correctly.

However, Albert Lee said he understands the situation because of what happened at 16 April Virginia Tech.

"I know how10 live," said Albert Lee. "I am glad the students are now being taught that."
Minidoka Pilgrimage Set for June 22-24

Sixty-five years ago, almost 13,000 people of Japanese ancestry, many of whom were American citizens, were removed from their homes and sent to a desolate "interment camp" near Twin Falls, Idaho. From June 22-24, former internees, their families, and friends will make a pilgrimage from Seattle and Portland to the former Minidoka Internment Camp in Idaho. The former internees spent nearly a year in the camp and it would be dedicated to the Issei, who were American, 100% Hapa.

Today, most of the 33,000 acres that once made up Minidoka has been taken over by farms. However, in 2001, 73 acres along the North Snake Canal and near entrance to Minidoka was designated a National Monument.

The event is sponsored by the JACL Seattle chapter, the Nisei Veterans Committee, and the Friends of Minidoka. In addition to guided tours of the Minidoka site, there will be a memorial service and various workshops and forums.

The cost for the entire pilgrimage package is $200. A special rate of $150 for seniors 75 and over is also available. Registration is due by June 1. For registration or more information, e-mail: minidokapilgrimage@comcast.net.

Yamato Colony to Celebrate Its 100th Anniversary

Yamato Colony will be celebrating its 100 years since the settlement of this Japanese Christian community in Livingston, a small city in Merced County, California in June. In early 1907, the first Japanese settlers had much difficulty starting their farm vineyards and orchards in the sandy, dry Livingston soil. There were numerous heavy dust storms and the large jack rabbit population made many replantings necessary. But soon these early settlers conquered the desert-like conditions and created profitable, productive farms. Despite the years of interment during World War II when the community was forced to leave their farms, many families returned and started over, building a successful community.

Today, there are hopes profitable farms are once again a feature in their product's all over the world. On June 16-17, many descendants of the early settlers will be "coming home." The main gathering place will be dedicated to the Issei, who were the original settlers in Yamato Colony. This Garden is part of the actual ten-acre ground the original Issei settlers reserved for their church before they purchased and settled their own farms.

KYUTARO ABIKO (FOUNDER) will be the Livingston Middle School, where pre-registered guests will come together to renew friendships, view historical photos, family trees, and videos. During the Sunday church service at the Livingston United Methodist Church, a large memorial rock will be dedicated to the Issei, who were the original settlers in Yamato Colony. This garden is part of the actual ten-acre ground the original settlers reserved for their church before they purchased and settled their own farms.

To protect you and your family from even the common accidents and illnesses the JACL Health Trust provides Blue Cross of California health insurance coverage. Blue Cross of California has been providing health coverage to Californians for over 66 years. Blue Cross is committed to keeping you connected to quality health care services.

To learn more about the plan and how to become a member please call the JACL Health Trust at 1-877-848-4875.
LOGAN TOM

(Continued from page 1)

where her name became synonymous with the the indoor sport. She was the first female volleyball star since Karch Kiraly, the three-time men’s Olympic gold medal winner.

National titles, two Olympic competitions and honors of all shapes and sizes rained down, but the days since college have not been as smooth.

After Logan led her Stanford team to two National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) wins, she did not have professional indoor volleyball league. A few weeks before the end of the season, Logan found herself at a juncture: continue playing a sport she knows and loves in Spain or come home and play on the beach.

“I enjoyed life overseas. I love to travel, but I missed home, you know?” said Logan, who is now touring the U.S. with the Association of Volleyball Professionals (AVP). “Beach is a good opportunity for me right now. It’s what I love about volleyball plus new challenges. I’m up for new techniques and repping old ones.”

Quitting Ballet and Playing on the Boy’s Teams

Logan’s passion for sports was in her genes. Logan, who is of Chinese and Hawaiian descent, is famously the daughter of former Philadelphia Eagles safety and Chicago Bears defensive end Melvin Logan. Tom, but the tell-tale signs of her future were in her feet.

She was walking by nine months and wearing size eight shoes when she was eight, said her mom Kristine Tom.

Growing up in Napa, Calif., young Logan would tag along with older brother Landon to play basketball and baseball. During the summers she would stay with her father in Hawaii (her parents divorced when Logan was a baby) and play volleyball. Seeing her daughter’s passion, Kristine made a commitment to keep her involved in sports. The single mom worked, put herself through school and drove her children to and from practices and games.

“I did whatever I did. I played sports with the boys,” Logan said about her brother. “Plus I was always a good head taller than everyone else so all I had to do was put my hands up.”

But before Logan was diving and spiking, she has had dreams of becoming a ballerina.

“She must have been four or five. I wasn’t pushing that one. I just couldn’t see it,” said Kristine. “I told her, you know, I just can’t see you doing a lift.”

After two classes, Logan retired her tutu.

Towering Over the Guys and Becoming Homecoming Queen

Logan was lanky and thin, a movie star like hip-hop dance. But instead chose Stanford to pursue her degree. And for the first time, the multi-ethnic family felt the sting of discrimination.

“My kids were the wrong color and the wrong religion,” said Kristine about the adversity, but Logan always found the strength to overcome. By the end of high school, the solitary athlete was crowned homecoming queen.

“For me it was easier because I played sports and I’m a girl that’s always there a way in,” said Logan. “I was a loner growing up. I hung out with my mom and my neighborhood, you know what I mean?”

Then as fate would have it, Logan was 13, one of her friends asked if she wanted to go to volleyball. The answer was yes. Logan said.

“I said ‘Sure why not?’”

The meeting between the athlete and the sport was almost prophetic. In the 16-year-old girl the coaches at Highland High School saw power and raw talent.

“Look, I knew that I was doing, I jumped and hit the ball hard.”

She hit the ball so hard that the U.S. national team came calling, but Logan instead chose Stanford to focus especially on college study international relations. She’s planning to graduate with a BA in Asian American studies, with a minor in women’s studies.

“Knowing what I was doing I jumped and hit the ball hard.”

She hit the ball so hard that the U.S. national team came calling, but Logan instead chose Stanford to study international relations. She’s still about 50 units shy of getting her bachelor’s degree, but if ever there was a good reason to take a break from school, going to the Olympics would be one of them. Most athletes can only dream of the opportunity to represent their country. Logan did that — twice.

In 2000, she became the youngest woman to ever be selected for the U.S. Olympic volleyball team at 19. In Sydney, she led the 10th-ranked U.S. women’s volleyball team to a fourth-place finish (We blew that on court.) “In 2004, Logan and the U.S. team placed fifth.

With all of her achievements, she says one of her proudest moments is yet to come. She wants that college degree.

“I don’t want to be the 40-year-old who sits in the back of the classroom and asks what two plus two is because it’s been so long since she’s been to school!”

Conquering the Beach

Self-confidence is in there. It’s just a matter of finding her legs.

“Logan is one of the best athletes that I have ever played with and I know that the more time she spends out on the beach, the more impressive her natural athletic ability will be,” Holly McPeak wrote about AVP’s partner on her official Web site.

McPeak was the 2004 Olympic Bronze medal winner in beach volleyball. Logan is soaking up the experience. The pair is currently the sixth seed after the AVP Cuervo Golden Cup Dallas Down.

“I’m always in a rush to do things. It’s moving too fast for her,” said Logan about McPeak.

The next stop for the duo may be the most critical — in Huntington Beach. The AVP women’s tourney begins June 9 and June 10 and McPeak and Logan will be competing.

The AVP Cupоп Coub Tour Schedule

For ticket and tour information, go to www.avp.com

May 9-13 — Huntington Beach Pier in Huntington Beach, Calif.
May 10-13 — Westgate City Center in Glendora, CA.
May 18-20 — Hermosa Beach Pier in Hermosa Beach, Calif.
May 24-27 — Waterfront Park in Louisville, KY.
May 31—June 3 — St. Pete Times Forum in Tampa, FL.
June 7-10 — Atlantic Station in Atlanta, GA.
June 14-17 — Family Circle Tennis Center in Charleston, SC.
July 5-8 — Seaside Heights Beach in Seaside Heights, NJ.
July 19—22 — Marina Green Park in Long Beach, Calif.
August 2—5 — North Avenue Beach in Chicago, IL.
August 9—12 — Manhattan Beach Pier in Manhattan Beach, Calif.
August 16—19 — Marina Bay in Boston, Mass.
August 23—26 — CoronBay Island in San Diego, CA.
September 30—October 3 — Lindner Family Tennis Center in Cincinnati, OH.
September 6—8 — Caesars Palace in Las Vegas, NV.
September 14—16 — AVP San Francisco Best of the Beach Pier in San Francisco, CA.

University of Central Florida’s Asian Pacific American Coalition members make kimbop, a sushi roll made with rice and kimchee.

"Uniting the Gap," which featured comedian Dat Phan. The jokes centered on racism and prejudice. Logan, who voluntarily decided to inject a little politics in a performance, said Liang, APA Caucus president. Once the laughter subsided, event organizers hoped audience members would come away renewed with ideas of APA. "Cultural performances, dragon and belly dancing are nice but that's not all there is to know about APA history," said Liang.

More information: www.apacond.org

AVP Crocs ’07 Tour Schedule

For ticket and tour information, go to www.avp.com

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Universal Citizn, May 13, 2007

NATIONAL NEWS

PACIFIC CITIZEN, MAY 4-17, 2007

Tom (above) is learning the rhythm of the beach with partner Holly McPeak.

The Olympic athlete calls her mom Kristine (left) her hero.
OLYMPICS
NBA Signs Deal with Beijing Olympics

BEIJING—The National Basketball Association signed a deal April 25 to bring NBA-style miniaturized to the 2008 Olympic Games.

The agreement, signed by the Beijing Olympics Organizing Committee, the NBA and FIBA, the game’s world governing body, said the three will cooperate on in-arena entertainment during the basketball portion of the Games.

“We’re getting involved now to ensure that various parts of this facility are world-class standards,” said Mark Fisher, managing director of NBA China.

“We’re very confident that the world coming to Beijing during the Olympic Games will be extremely impressed with this facility,” he said of the Wukesong Stadium, where the basketball competition will take place.

Fisher did not give full details of the costs, but said the bodies would work together “on court design and layout, game production, entertainment” and the training of local staff.

Basketball is very popular in China, especially because of the success of Yao Ming with the Houston Rockets.

The NBA has moved aggressively to harness that enthusiasm, turning China into the league’s single biggest overseas market. The league generates about 10 percent of its $3.5 billion revenue outside the United States, and China is the biggest overseas contributor, league officials say. About 20,000 stores in China carry NBA merchandise and 347 million TV viewers watch games. China’s biggest broadcaster, state-run CCTV, airs four NBA games weekly, while another 50 stations across the country also telecast games.

The NBA announced in March that LeBron James and the Cleveland Cavaliers would play preseason games against the Orlando Magic on Oct. 17 in Shanghai and in the former Portuguese territory of Macau three days later.

Sandwiched between those games, the Magic will face the Chinese national team on Oct. 18, also in Macau.

BASEBALL
Tatsuno Selected to National Collegiate Hall of Fame

Former University of Hawaii star pitcher Derek Tatsuno, the NCAA’s first 20-game winner, has been selected to the National Collegiate Hall of Fame.

Tatsuno said he was informed recently that he was voted in by the 90-voter committee, which includes last year’s 10 inaugural inductees.

“It is huge and the pinnacle of your career,” he said recently. “It’s an honor.”

He will officially be inducted during a three-day celebration from July 2-4 in Lubbock, Texas, the home of the hall.

The left-hander was 40-6 with a 2.04 ERA during his three seasons at Hawaii from 1977 to 1979. In his junior season, he set the NCAA records of 20 wins and 234 strikeouts.

He left after three seasons to play in Japan. After two seasons in Japan, where he injured his arm, Tatsuno played in the U.S. minor leagues from 1982 to 1987.

Tatsuno’s No. 16 is one of two numbers retired by the University of Hawaii. Former coach Les Murakami’s No. 11 is the other.

Paul Molitor and Bob Gibson are among the 50 former players and coaches nominated for the National College Baseball Hall of Fame this year.

SPEEDSKATING
Ohno Inducted Into Asian Hall of Fame

The Asian Hall of Fame inducted speed skater Apolo Ohno in a ceremony in Seattle April 26.

The two-time Olympic gold medalist is one of two inductees for 2007. Attorney Loida Nicholas Lewis was also inducted. She is the chair of TLC Beatrice.

Ohno is currently starring in the reality TV show “Dancing With the Stars.” In addition to daily dance training sessions with his partner Julianne Hough, he is training for the 2010 Winter Olympics. He was a gold medal winner at the Turin Olympic games in 2006. Ohno holds two bronze and one silver Olympic medals.

While his father Yuki Ohno watched, Apolo said he was honored by his induction. "My life has always been about hard work, dedication and sacrifice," he said, in an interview with The Seattle Times.

Past recipients of the honor include former Governor Gary Locke, sculptor George Tsutakawa and actor Yugi Okamoto.

The Asian Hall of Fame was founded in Seattle in 2004. The organization hopes to take its work national.

SPORTS CLUBS
Oliver Clubs Exhibit Opens in Little Tokyo May 19th

To honor the outstanding accomplishments of the Oliver Clubs, the Little Tokyo Service Center has gathered interviews, documents, and photographs that trace this important community sports organization’s 90-year history in the Japanese American community of Southern California.

These materials will be shared locally through an exhibit at the Far East Building in Little Tokyo and globally through an online collection at Nikkei Album: www.dinsov- errnikei.org/nikkeiaalbum. Along with the gettable edition of the Oliver trophy, the exhibitions will open at a community forum at the Japanese American National Museum on May 19.

The exhibit, “The Oliver Clubs: Sports and Community in Japanese American Los Angeles,” will detail the history of the Oliver Clubs, which trace back to a remarkable teacher named Nellie Grace Oliver. In 1917, she started an athletic club for Japanese American boys among her students at the Amelia Street School in the Little Tokyo area of Los Angeles.

Over the next 24 years, that one small club evolved into ten separate athletic and social clubs for the JA youth of Southern California. Oliver Club teams excelled not only in sports, but boys also worked to improve their language and communication skills, while girls emphasized posture, manners, and dress.

When her students were interned during World War II, Miss Oliver wrote letters to the Department of Justice insisting on their release. She even made the long journey to visit some of her students interned at Manzanar.

“The Olivers represent the importance of sports in creating a sense of community. The tradition continues to this day as evidenced by the numerous Japanese American sports leagues in Southern California. We hope to build on this tradition with this project and continue to expand the creation in the Little Tokyo Recreation Center,” said Executive Director of LTSC Bill Watanabe.

For more information, visit www.ltsc.org.

Manzanar pilgrimage with the ple. embarked to look for Manzanar, one of the grand scheme of things, going to the War ten-concentration camps where Japanese American vocalized their support for the continuing remembrance of Manzanar. Many internees spoke to younger generations about their memories from the camp. A Muslim woman sat in foldable chairs at the Interpretive Center, someone had set up a multimedia screen, free of an American accent. To which I reply that I'm Japanese. Funny thing is, no one really objects or laughs to let me know they can see through me. They actually believe me! Then they say, like, "But you must have spent some time in the States, you have a bit of an American accent." To which I reply that I have spent some time in the States. Which is the truth, after all. 

Cheryl Watamura Martinez: www.texter-watamura.de

Agree? Disagree? Tell the community what you think.

pc@pacificcitizen.org

American Holiday Travel

2007 Tour Program

GRANDPARENTS/GRANDCHILD DREAM TOUR

• GRANDPRINCIPAL

JUN 24-31, 2007

Tokyo, Hakone, Lake Kawaguchi, Hiroshima, Kyoto.

ALASKA HOLIDAY CRUISE

• ALASKA PRINCIPAL

JUL 26-AUG 4

Seattle, Holland America, Seward, Kenai, Anchorage, British Columbia.

AFRICA WILDLIFE SAFARI HOLIDAY TOUR

• AFRICA PRINCIPAL

NEW DATES AUG 5-12

Nairobi, Amboseli, Tsavo, Lake Nakuru, Masai Mara, Zanzibar, Kilimanjaro.

GRANDPARENTS/GRANDCHILD JAPAN TOUR

• GRANDPRINCIPAL

NOV 9-26

Tokyo, Hakone, Lake Kawaguchi, Hiroshima, Kyoto.

ALASKA HOLIDAY CRUISE

• ALASKA PRINCIPAL

JULY 24-Aug 4

Seattle, Holland America, Seward, Kenai, Anchorage, British Columbia.

AFRICA WILDLIFE SAFARI HOLIDAY TOUR

• AFRICA PRINCIPAL

JANUARY 28-FEB 5, 2008

Nairobi, Maasai Mara, Amboseli, Tsavo, Lake Nakuru, Masai Mara, Zanzibar, Kilimanjaro.

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Seattle, Holland America, Seward, Kenai, Anchorage, British Columbia.
In the 1990s, Fay Ann Lee kept running into John F. Kennedy, Jr. At the bank, tennis matches and the concrete jungles of New York City — wherever she was, he popped up. No. He was not stalking her, but in that felt like it. The encounters got her thinking:

poured personal questions of “what ifs” and “maybes” and created a world for a writing class. It was originally titled “Searching for John Jr.” and 10 years later, “Falling for Grace” is working the festival circuit.

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where chance encounters became a collision of two very different worlds.

Creating Grace

Lee was born in the Yau Yat Chuen area of Kowloon, Hong Kong where she grew up watching American shows and building her dreams to become an actress. Being the “good Chinese girl,” Lee went to business school and started a career in finance working for Security Pacific Bank in Los Angeles. In the evenings, she nurtured her artistic spirit by appearing in plays at colleges across the nation.

Along the way, she met some colorful people like two boxing promoters who liked the filmmaker also struggles with the perennial feeling of being an outsider, which she translates into Grace's many nervous gesticulations (think a little Lucille Ball with a lot of Jennifer Aniston). Lucky for Grace her insecurities get neatly bundled into a romantic comedy. Lee is still dealing with hers.

Katherine-style accent than the cockney Audrey Hepburn film version.

In addition to writing the script, Lee produced, directed and played the titular character, Grace Tang. She didn’t want to wear so many hats, but she took the advice of Oscar-winning screenwriter Jim Taylor (“Sideways”) who told her to hold onto her pet project because Hollywood has a way of plundering its soul.

The result is a charming love story about a clumsy Wall Street investment banker who takes a little case of mistaken identity and runs with it. Like any red-blooded female wouldn’t do the same?

"The lack of self-confidence that Grace has is something that parallels my life. For a long time — and even now — I struggle with the thought that I’m still not good enough, not pretty enough, no matter what I am doing,” said Lee.

The filmmaker also struggles with the perennial feeling of being an outsider, which she translates into Grace's many nervous gesticulations (think a little Lucille Ball with a lot of Jennifer Aniston). Lucky for Grace her insecurities get neatly bundled into a romantic comedy. Lee is still dealing with hers.

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Then Lee won a part in Broadway’s “Miss Saigon” and she excitedly broke the news to her parents. "My dad said, ‘you’re not going to take the job, are you?’ “Yeah dad, it’s Broadway!” said Lee. It took her 10 years to write the script, raise the money, film all the scenes and edit it together.

Along the way, she met some colorful people like two boxing promoters who liked the film so much they agreed to fund a "huge portion of the budget." When she went to go cash the check it bounced like a rubber band.

"They wrote me a bad check! Since then I found out that they are under SEC (U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission) investigation. I ended up getting money from elsewhere,” said Lee with a laugh.

"I enjoyed the path from page to screen and I want to do it again, but I won’t be in it,” she added.

No Apologies: It’s a Romantic Comedy

But “Falling for Grace” is not your typical independent film.

First, it assembles an unlikely cast of mainstream and Asian Pacific American actors in a series of subplots and cameos. Spotting familiar faces (Bobby Flay, “America’s Most Wanted” Host John Walsh, etc.) is part of the fun.

But most of all, there are no scenes of prolonged ethnic angst or deep Freudian reasons behind casting.

"This is a romantic comedy. I’m not trying to change the world. I want to make people laugh and feel," she said. "I grew up watching romantic comedies. It’s my favorite genre — sorry! But that doesn’t mean I don’t want to be considered a serious filmmaker."

She wants this movie to cross over to the mainstream with a predominantly APA cast.

"Falling for Grace" premiered at last year’s Tribeca Film Festival, a perfect venue since it was shot in New York’s Chinatown. Next on the festival tour is the VC Film Festival in Los Angeles. Lee has also been screening at colleges across the nation.

The next stop for the film may be a limited theatrical release by the summer. She is currently negotiating with two different distributors. As for Lee, she’s working on another script in the “kiddies" genre. This one hopefully won’t take a decade to make.

SECRET ASIAN MAN® By Tak

"Falling for Grace" is a romantic comedy written, directed, produced and starring Fay Ann Lee. Also starring: Margaret Cho, B.D. Wong, Ken Leong, Elizabeth Sang and Clem Chiang.

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In Memoriam - 2007

Bobroskie, Mizhuo, 68, Torrance, April 6; survived by wife, Satomi; daughter, Lisa; and brothers, Arthur, Miko, Joe and Albin.

Endo, John Kazuo, 83, Torrance, April 9; WWII Veteran, 442nd; survived by wife, Yoshie; daughter, Lita; son, Don; and 1 gc.

Fujimori, Emiko, 83, April 2; survived by sons, Hi, Walter (Alme) and Janice (Dan) Yamazaki; 6 gc; and 3 gc.

Fujinami, Emiko, 82, April 3; survived by wife, Mie; son, Rod; sons, Stacy (Joyce) and Gary (George) Ozamoto.

Fujita, Eiko Tsuno, 75, Newbury Park, April 2; survived by husband, Hideo; children, Judy; and brother, Benny (Yo)

Fukui, Edna Yasuko, 75, Newbury Park, April 2; survived by son, Kenichi; (Yumi) Kato; son, Victor; and 2 gc.

Fukui, John, 81, Los Angeles, April 1; survived by wife, Ruth (Axel); brother, John (Eileen); and 3 gc.

Hamaguchi, Susumu, 83, Monterey Park, March 24; survived by wife, Teruko.

Hara, Kaoru “John,” 58, Los Angeles, April 5; survived by wife, Judy; son, Jon; daughter, Autumn (Kevin) Matsumoto; son-in-law, Shinsaku; son, Kenichi; and 1 gc.

Hamada, Tango, 83, Gardena, April 5; survived by wife, June; son, Rod; daughter, Candace (David) Hiller; sons, Michael (Kimiko) Kitaoka; and 1 gc.

Hamamoto, Yakuo, Helen, 90, Monterey Park, April 3; survived by brothers, Yohsuki and Yoshishuru Murata; and sister, Ruth Nakamura.

Hamaguchi, Mary, 83, Monterey Park, March 24; survived by husband, Tadashi; sons, Michael (Mika) Sakomizu; daughter, Janice; and 3 gc.

Hamada, Daisuke, 80, San Jose, April 3; WWII Veteran, 442nd; survived by wife, Kay (Hilde); daughter, Kimiko; and 4 gc.

Hara, Shigeo, 85, Gardena, April 9; WWII Veteran, 442nd; survived by wife, Jane; daughters, Joyce (Earl) and Regge (Nakayama) Nakaoka.

Harada, John, 87, Los Angeles, April 5; survived by wife, Mamie; sons, Michael and Roger (Frances); daughter, Peggy; and sisters, May (Herb) Okamoto and Larry Ward.

Hirose, Emiko, 87, Los Angeles, April 6; survived by husband, Shigeki; children, Yoshiko; and 5 gc.

Horie, Kimiko Nakashima; sister, Jill; and brother, Benny (Yo).

Horie, Akiko, 85, Gardena, April 9; WWII Veteran, 442nd; survived by wife, June; daughter, Karen; son, Kenichi; and 1 gc.

Hirose, Jun, 84, Monterey Park, April 3; survived by wife, Mie; son, Rod; daughter, Candace (David) Hiller; sons, Michael (Kimiko) Kitaoka; and 1 gc.

Hisao, Jun, 84, Los Angeles, April 5; survived by wife, June; son, Rod; daughter, Candace (David) Hiller; sons, Michael (Kimiko) Kitaoka; and 1 gc.

Hosokawa, Masato, 85, Gardena, April 9; WWII Veteran, 442nd; survived by wife, June; daughter, Karen; son, Kenichi; and 1 gc.

Honda, Akira, 83, Los Angeles, April 9; WWII Veteran, 442nd; survived by wife, June; daughter, Karen; son, Kenichi; and 1 gc.

Hirakawa, Masato, 83, Los Angeles, April 9; WWII Veteran, 442nd; survived by wife, June; daughter, Karen; son, Kenichi; and 1 gc.

Horibe, Masahide, 83, Gardena, April 9; WWII Veteran, 442nd; survived by wife, June; daughter, Karen; son, Kenichi; and 1 gc.

Horie, Akiko, 85, Los Angeles, April 9; WWII Veteran, 442nd; survived by wife, June; daughter, Karen; son, Kenichi; and 1 gc.

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HATE RADIO  
(Continued from page 1)  
in the removal of the broadcast vet­ 
eran from television and radio. Imus' statement staggered headlines and ignited a debate about hate speech that CBS Radio could not ignore. CBS, the parent company of 92.3 Free FM, sent out a clear message that it is wrong to denigrate African Americans. If the media company does not fire Vandergrift and Lay then they are condoning hate speech against APIs, said Lee.

Putting Hate in the Dog House 92.3 Free FM is currently broad­ 
casting reruns of the “Doghouse” show, but APIs want their show to be taken off the air.

In the six-minute segment aired on April 5 and again April 19, a 92.3 Free FM’s “Doghouse” team mem­ 
ber prank called a Chinese restaurant and peppered an order for takeout with lewd language and racial slurs. The caller told one female employee he wanted to see her naked and referred to a part of her body as “hot, Asian, spicy.”

The caller also ordered “shrimp fried rice” and at one point he referred to a part of an employee’s body as a “tiny egg roll.”

CBS Radio has suspended hosts Vandergrift and Lay indefinitely and without pay, said Karen Mateo, of CBS Radio.

Station management has been in contact with a coalition of APA groups and will be having an in-per­ 
son meeting to discuss the situation, but the date has not yet been deter­ 
mined said Mateo in an e-mail to the Pacific Citizen.

This isn’t the first time Vandergrift and Lay have made offensive remarks towards APIs.

Days after the Virginia Tech tragedy, the duo used a stereotypical Korean accent to mock gymnan Sun hui Cho’s confession tape. In 2005, Clear Channel Communications fired them from Wild 94.9 FM for offensive remarks they made about a drum and bugle ensemble. “Mainstream net­ 
works should understand the wide influence they wield, and take responsi­ 
bility to combat rather than perpetuate racial and sexual stereotypes,” said Congressman Mike Honda in a statement.

Trying to Deflate the Power

Over at New York’s Power 105.1 FM, the morning team of the “Ed Lover Show with Egypt and Asi”

faced similar criticism over an April 11 segment where callers were chal­ 
lenged to outsmart a stereotypical Asian character named “Hung Lo.”

The April 11 show gaffe featuring a segment called “Are You Smarter Than an Asian?” did not ignite as much controversy as the “Doghouse” show, but station man­ 
agement did issue an apology.

“In the segment, an “Asian” guy named Mr. Huang [a broken English with a stereotypical Chinese accent and listeners are asked quset­ 
ions like; “How does an Asian pro­nounce ‘fried rice’?”

“This segment made a mockery of the many contributions of Asian Americans to the United States, right before the month of May, which is Asian American Heritage Month, when people all over the country cele­ rate the contributions of Asian Americans to United States’ history, economies and culture,” said OCA

Westchester President Jeannette Wang in a statement.

Radio shock jocks that push the envelope and enrage communities are not part of a new phenomenon

Last year, APA groups successfully pressured Los Angeles radio host Adam Corolla into apologizing for a racist spoof of the Asian Excellence Awards. The list of offenses goes on

and in the discussion about shock jocks and racism, the question of freedom of speech continues to arise.

“They’re shock jocks of a comedy show. Comedy is an art form...” said Mike Saavedra, 27, from Mattawan, New Jersey. “I know they didn’t mean it in malice or in anger.”

Saavedra, who is a longtime ‘ lis­
tener of the “Doghouse” show, left a message of support on the “Doghouse” show’s MySpace page saying that as an APA he was not offended by their remarks.

“I’m all for free speech,” said Lee, but also added those who continu­
ously spew racist and insulting speech across public airwaves should be fired.

More information: www.falloutcentral.com

29.3 Free FM’s Jeff Vandergrift (left) and Dan Lay have been suspended without pay.

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MORI

(Continued from page 1)

compromise would prevail, some key issues important to JACL seemed to have been thrown into political priority considerations rather than practical cost-benefit solutions. Below is a brief summary of the major bills on which we are working.

Comprehensive Immigration Re­

forms (CIR) has been a top priority of the Bush Administration as well as the leadership of both houses of con­
gress. JACL has been involved with our coalition partners in framing leg­
islation that would solve three criti­
cal problems: 1) We support a rea­

sible and just path to citizenship for undocumented residents here in the U.S.; 2) We would like to see an effective worker program that will allow agriculture and other key industries to employ foreign work­

ers; and 3) We support a more effec­
tive “family reunification” element in our immigration laws that would draw down the enormous backlog in Asian countries.

Immigration has been an impor­
tant principle that has guided much of JACL’s past history. The anti­
Asian immigration laws of the 1920s and 30s were at the heart of early struggles for JACL. In much of our fight for fair immigration laws, fam­
ily reunification and maintaining a family structure has been para­
mount. The ‘value’ of immigration is what has made this country great.

The work ethic, the importance of family, and the desire for a better life form the core of American values. Immigrants have brought these values to our shores from the beginning of this nation, and this spirit continues to fuel growth in our economy.

Habeas Corpus, the right to due process, is another principle that is part of JACL history. The experi­
ences of Japanese Americans during World War II have embedded in our minds and souls that even in times of war it is critical that the right to due process be maintained. This has been the basis for our engagement in conflict throughout the ages. We fight wars with the understanding that we are fighting for freedom from tyranny to preserve due process rights. That fight continues today as we are working for legislation that will restore habeas corpus rights that were taken away by the Military Commissions Act of 2006.

The prevention of hate crimes has been a major program of JACL. Therefore, we are in strong support of the Local Law Enforcement Hate Crimes Prevention Act or 2007, HR 1000. This bill will strengthen the ability for the federal authorities to assist local law enforcement agen­
cies in investigating and prosecuting hate crimes in which the victim is selected due to the person’s actual or perceived race, color, religion, national origin, gender, sexual orienta­
tion, gender identity, and disabilities.

This bill has passed each house of Congress on separate occasions in past sessions. Our objective is to see its passage in both houses this ses­

sion and go to the President for his signature.

There are other bills and issues we continue to promote which will be reported on later. However, it is important for JACL members to become acquainted with these three major issues and to contact their rep­

sentatives in Congress to express our position. That letter from a con­
stituent is critical.