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Fay Ann Lee wrote,  
directed and starred in  
her own romantic comedy.

ENTERTAINMENT PAGE 9



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# PACIFIC CITIZEN

The National Publication of the Japanese American Citizens League

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MAY 4-17, 2007

## Beyond Traditional Costumes, Food Fairs and Dragon Dances

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

By **LYNDA LIN**  
Assistant Editor

At Penn State, April is called "Asian April."

For a week, the campus reverberates with the sounds of bamboo dances, booming taiko drums and a sundry 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, one 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.

Amidst all the pomp of APA Heritage celebrations on college campuses across the United States, the memory of the Virginia Tech tragedy looms like a caliginous cloud, and with it comes questions of the purpose of APA

### APA HERITAGE MONTH



**EXPRESSING CULTURE:**  
Alpha Kappa Delta Phi, an APA interest sorority at Penn State, celebrates APA Heritage month with its annual 'Asian Awareness' show.

Heritage Month.

Does the occasion call for a parade of costumes and customs or a more serious look at APA issues and history?

See **APA Heritage Month/Page 6**

## 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 AOYAGI-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 Seung-Hui 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 generalizing an entire community.

See **STUDENTS RETURN/Page 4**



## 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 **LYNDA 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 everything, so she is retooling 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



Logan Tom lunges for the ball at the AVP Dallas Open.

over each other, impeded every once in awhile by a bleating whistle in the background. Logan has come a long way since Stanford University

See **LOGAN TOM/Page 6**

## WASHINGTON WINDOW JACL's Legislative Priorities

By **FLOYD MORI**  
JACL Nat'l Director

The current legislative session seems to have a considerable intensity as a new Democratic Congress tries to pass legislation that will get bipartisan support from a Republican Administration.

The mix has a tendency for volatility and a "lines drawn in the sand" strategy. While it has been hoped that a spirit of bi-partisanship and



See **MORI/Page 12**

## AA Student's Essay Draws 2nd Disorderly Conduct Charge

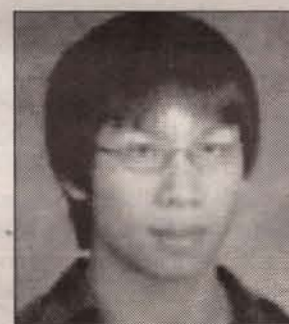
The charges come shortly after the recent shootings at Virginia Tech and JACL is concerned this could be a case of racial profiling

By Associated Press and P.C. Staff

Authorities have filed a second disorderly conduct charge against an Asian American high school senior arrested for writing an essay officials described as disturbing and inappropriate.

Allen Lee, 18, of Cary was arrested last week after penning the essay at his northern Illinois high school. Lee contends he was just following the creative writing assignment he was given in class at Cary-Grove High School.

Lee initially faced just one charge,



ALLEN LEE

but an amended complaint filed April 26 cited a second passage.

According to the complaint, the essay reads, in part, "Blood, sex and booze. Drugs, drugs, drugs are fun. Stab, stab, stab, stab, stab, s...t...a...b...puke. So I had this dream last night where I went into a building, pulled out two P90s and started shooting everyone, then had sex

with the dead bodies. Well, not really, but it would be funny if I did."

Another passage said, "as a teacher, don't be surprised on inspiring the first CG shooting," the complaint said.

The creative writing assignment in Lee's English class on April 23 instructed students to "write whatever comes to your mind. Do not judge or censor what you are writing," according to a copy of the assignment.

"In creative writing, you're told to exaggerate," Lee said. "It was supposed to be just junk. ... There definitely is violent content, but they're taking it out of context and making it something it isn't."

Lee has been removed from school, and District 155 spokesman

See **STUDENT ESSAY/Page 4**

## After Don Imus, Hate Radio Lives On

APA groups are pushing for the immediate firings of New York's 92.3 Free FM shock jocks.

By P.C. Staff and Associated Press

Don Imus is gone, but the hosts of a New York morning radio talk show are still employed after their on-air racist and anti-Asian antics — it's a hypocrisy Asian Pacific American groups are vehemently protesting.

Chanting "Fire JV and Elvis now! End hate speech now!" a group of over 100 APA leaders gathered in front of the CBS headquarters April 27 and called for the firing of 92.3 Free FM's Jeff Vandergrift (aka JV) and Dan Lay (aka Elvis), hosts of the daily show "The Dog House with JV



"This isn't about one prank. This is about a history of denigrating Asian American people" — William Lee

A coalition of APAs protested in front of the CBS New York headquarters April 27.

PHOTO: FALLOUTCENTRAL.COM

and Elvis."

Vandergrift and Lay were recently suspended for prank calling a Chinese restaurant to make racist and offensive remarks. But APA leaders also point out that the radio hosts have a long track record of racism towards APAs.

"This isn't about one prank. This is about a history of denigrating

Asian American people. We as a community cannot stand up if there are people like this constantly telling us you're nothing," said William Lee, a producer of Falloutcentral.com.

Community leaders are quick to draw comparisons between the Imus backlash, which ultimately resulted

See **HATE RADIO/Page 12**

PACIFIC CITIZEN  
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## SPRING CAMPAIGN The Paperless News (R)evolution Continues

By SHELDON ARAKAKI

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

In my col-  
umn last year  
in support of  
the Pacific  
Citizen's Spring Campaign fundrais-  
er, I wrote about how the newspaper  
wanted to take its audience outreach  
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  
archival search function. Need to get  
some facts on APA communities in  
gulf coast states in the aftermath of  
Hurricane Katrina? Enter "Katrina"  
in the Google search field and see  
how many P.C. stories display.

The Web site has a cleaner look  
with a friendlier navigation system  
and a color scheme that is easier on  
the eyes. Or at least my eyes. The top

banner has rotating front page stories  
that fade in and out. Click on the  
banner display and the site takes you  
to the complete story. Looking for  
just the entertainment or sports sto-  
ries? Just scroll down and view the  
listings on the left hand side.

In the next year, we hope to see  
the P.C. with Real Simple  
Syndication (RSS). RSS is an easy  
way to receive alerts to new content  
or stories that interests you when it  
appears on your favorite websites  
without having to visit each one. The  
RSS feed provides headlines, sum-  
maries with links back to the Web  
site for the full text article if you find  
an item that interests you as you scan  
the list. You can even choose content  
areas you're interested in like Harry  
Honda's "Very Truly Yours" column  
or the P.C. 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 on-  
line story to a friend or print that on-  
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the younger generations.

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the past year enjoyable and informa-  
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bar! But if you feel more comfort-  
able sending in a check, you can  
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in an envelope, or write a check for  
\$25, \$50 or join me on the Wall of  
Fame at \$150. Or better yet, use that  
new on-line feature to donate. And if  
you have given in past campaigns,  
but have not yet given in this cam-  
paign, please consider adding an  
extra \$25 over your last donation. ■

*Sheldon Arakaki is the PNW district  
representative on the Pacific Citizen  
editorial board. He also serves as  
the national JACL vice president of  
general operations.*

## Letters to the Editor

### My Father, Tunney Shigekuni

Your recent article about the early  
Nisei hot-rodders has shed light on  
a facet of Japanese American history  
that has received little attention.  
Allow me to tell your readers about  
one of the hot-rodders, my father,  
Tunney Shigekuni.

My mother, Lillian, who was  
divorced, met Tunney in Santa  
Anita, and continued their relation-  
ship when our families were subse-  
quently transferred to Amache. They  
were married after Tunney got a job  
as a mechanic at a cab company in  
Milwaukee, Wisconsin. I was nine at  
that time.

Tunney's knowledge of the Ford  
V-8 engine as well as other car relat-  
ed matters which he learned racing  
the roadsters before the war, fortu-  
nately gave him the skills which  
allowed my mother, sister and I to  
relocate to Milwaukee. Tunney  
hailed with him the many trophies  
he earned racing on the dry lakes of  
the Antelope Valley which were  
proudly displayed in our living  
room.

After the war, Tunney ran a  
garage/gas station in the heart of the  
Seinan district, on the corner of 36th  
Place and Normandie. Numerous JA  
businesses were located close by  
largely because of housing discrim-  
ination. It was no coincidence that  
our families relocated back to the  
same neighborhood we had left four  
years previously.

Tunney continued his close rela-  
tionship with racing icon, Vic  
Edelbrock Sr., spending many hours  
altering engine blocks to improve  
their performance. He also built a  
track hot rod which he along with  
others such as Yam Oka raced at  
Carrel Speedway and Gilmore  
Stadium.

As was pointed out in your article,  
there was no discrimination in con-

nection with the dry lakes racing.  
However, I remember Yam Oka fre-  
quently won races and customarily a  
young lady would present the win-  
ner with a trophy along with a kiss.  
A JA young lady would be on hand  
when Yam raced so that in case he  
should win, she would be available  
for the presentation!

Thank you for allowing me to  
share some JA history which  
involved Tunney, a fine human  
being and wonderful father to me.

*Phil Shigekuni*  
Via e-mail

### Filipino WWII Veterans Bill Supported by Rep. Honda

The following quotes are from the  
*Honolulu Advertiser* of April 12:  
"VA says benefits for Filipino vets  
too costly." What? "Because it  
would cost about \$1 billion over ten  
years." On the same page: "Army  
pays \$1 billion in bonuses to recruit,  
retain troops ...."

Wait a minute! At the start of  
World War II, 1941, Gen. Douglas  
MacArthur drafted over 200,000  
Filipinos into the U.S. Army with the  
promise of full veterans benefits. In  
1946 — only a year after the War  
ended — Congress passed The  
Rescission Act which rescinded that  
promise! A promise is a promise —  
but I guess not for Filipinos.

Excuses: First, the \$1 billion over  
ten years is too costly; second,  
Filipino veterans who live in the  
Philippines receiving full benefits  
would have a much higher standard  
of living compared with the rest of  
the country's population.

What business of ours is that? We  
have that right here in our country —  
the few who are living in opulence  
and the many who are homeless or

living from paycheck to paycheck.  
Fix our own house first!

Then of the some 200,000  
Filipinos who were drafted, less than  
20,000 are now living. Wait a few  
more years, America, and they will  
all be gone. Will that relieve your  
conscience?

*Jim and Yoshie Tanabe*  
Honolulu, HI

### 442nd Vet Supports Watada

If Japanese American veterans  
who oppose 1st Lt. Ehren Watada  
were at Mai Lai during the Vietnam  
War, would they machinegun the  
hundreds of women and children  
when ordered to by their officers?  
The Iraq War is much worse because  
our troops have killed and maimed  
hundreds of thousands of Iraqis in an

unprovoked invasion, based on lies  
and deliberate misinformation!

Although tens of millions of  
Americans oppose the war, Lt.  
Watada is the ONLY ONE who  
dares to challenge in our courts the  
legality and morality of our attacks.  
The Army is trying to evade the  
issues by declaring that it cannot be  
brought up at his court martial.  
Although the JACL is reluctant to  
further support Lt. Watada's stand,  
we should at least demand that  
Congress or the Supreme Court  
make a ruling on whether the Iraq  
War is legal or not.

As a 442nd veteran, injured charg-  
ing through a minefield under heavy  
mortar fire, I know soldiers must fol-  
low orders during battle. But Lt.  
Watada's situation is different in that  
he refused deployment here at Fort  
Lewis because he discovered that the  
War is "illegal and immoral."

I wonder if super-patriots who  
condemn Lt. Watada faced enemy  
bombs and bullets.

*Mas Odoi*  
Renton, WA



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tions, letters are subject to abridgement.  
Although we are unable to print all the letters  
we receive, we appreciate the interest and  
views of those who take the time to send us  
their comments.



## After Virginia Tech, Korean Americans Plead for Mental Health Outreach

By JEAN H. LEE  
Associated Press Writer

ANNANDALE, Va.—The video manifesto Seung-Hui Cho mailed midway through his rampage at Virginia Tech revealed a bitter, vengeful and violent young man — and raised questions about why he hadn't received counseling or treatment that might have averted the massacre that left 32 students and teachers dead April 16.

But church officials in Cho's hometown in northern Virginia say the 23-year-old gunman's family tried for years to get him counseling. And experts say his parents, émigrés from South Korea, may have been unsure what to make of Cho's disquieting isolation and held back by the stigma mental illness carries in their culture.

Cho was right when his family emigrated to the U.S., and already showing signs that worried his family in Korea. He was unresponsive, nearly mute and distant, relatives say. Cho struggled to fit in, but "we never could have envisioned that he was capable of so much violence," his sister said in a statement April 20.

Gov. Timothy M. Kaine met April 24 with Korean Americans and promised to reevaluate mental health outreach to immigrants after community leaders pleaded with him for more funding and resources.

Although mental health problems still carry a stigma in many cultures, they can be especially hard to identify in immigrant populations where people may not know if problems are internal or related to the stresses of adjusting to a new country.

Theodore Kim, of the Korean American Association of Greater Washington, said Korean Americans were rendered "completely speechless" by news that the gunman was from their community.

"Unfortunately, our diligence and helping hand failed to reach Seung-Hui Cho," he said tearfully. "How could this happen?"

In the video sent to NBC, Cho exhibits clear signs of a serious mental disorder, said Dr. Damian Kim, a New York City psychiatrist and psychoanalyst. "The main culprit here is mental disease — schizophrenia, the paranoid type," he said.

Kim, who specializes in mental health among immigrants, acknowledged that there is no way to know Cho's true condition without having evaluated him. But he said Cho's sense of persecution and reports he had imaginary friends suggest schizophrenia.

"When it becomes chronic, they have a knack for hiding their pathology," he said, "so the family may not have thought there was anything seriously wrong."

The Rev. Dihan Lee of the Open

Door Presbyterian Church in Herndon says many parents are unsure when their children are merely adjusting to U.S. life — or need outside help.

"If you come to this country and your child has to deal with learning the language, fitting into the culture, and they show behavior problems or are socially awkward, you chalk it up to just trying to fit in," he said.

Even if the parents suspect a serious problem, they may hesitate to seek help, said Kim. "Saving face" is paramount to Koreans, who are fiercely proud and protective of their family name and reputation. The shame of one is shared by all, he said.

Church is the backbone of many Korean communities in the U.S., serving not only as a place of worship but also as a community center. But mental health is rarely addressed there.

"Koreans wouldn't want people to know their child is mentally unstable. Who would want that stigma to follow him?" said Henry Pak, 32, of Rockville, Md.

One pastor said Cho's mother went from church to church looking



AP PHOTO/JAE C. HONG

Nam Soon Lee (left) gestures as she watches a presentation along with Kyungsun Son (second from left) Un Sook Lee, and Myung Sook Lee during a seminar on anger and stress management at the Korean American Family Counseling Center in Vienna, Va.

for someone to counsel her troubled son.

"They went around seeking help for their son ever since he stopped talking 10 years ago," said Bong-han Kim, an assistant pastor at the One Mind Church of Washington in Springfield.

News that the gunman was Korean set off a torrent of discussion — and reflection — among Korean Americans, who debated whether pressures within the community may have contributed to Cho's isolation.

For many, the burden of fulfilling the "American dream" can be immense, said Josephine Kim, a Harvard lecturer who specializes in mental health issues among Asian Americans.

She cited a study showing that 76 percent of Asian Americans treated in emergency rooms for attempted suicide cite intergenerational conflicts with their parents.

"The pressure is unreal. Korean parents view their children as extensions of themselves, so if the children fail, they fail," she said. ■

## Bill To Preserve Amache Camp Introduced

Historic Camp Amache near Granada, Colorado housed more than 10,000 Americans of Japanese ancestry.

By Pacific Citizen Staff

Legislation to preserve the history and honor the past inhabitants of Camp Amache, a World War II era Japanese American internment camp near Granada, Colorado was introduced April 19. The legislation would create a 593-acre National Historic Site in southeastern Colorado.

The bill was introduced by Rep. Marilyn Musgrave and Sens. Wayne Allard and Ken Salazar.

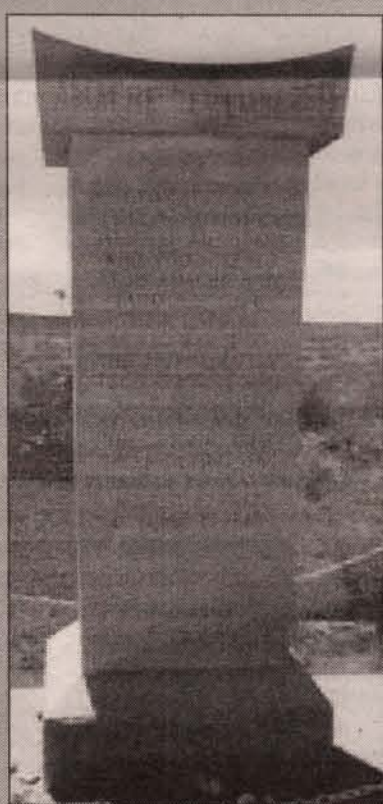
"While Camp Amache was a dark moment in our nation's past, it is still an important part of our history. It is important that we preserve sites like this one so that Americans of the future can continue to learn from the mistakes of the past," said Sen. Allard.

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 under the justification of "military necessity" as the United States battled with Japan in 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 displayed for American civil liberties," said Rep. Musgrave. "During internment, children were born, parents died, and life was made unduly hard. I want to see this land set aside as an official National Historic Site so we can give honor to the memory of Camp Amache."

"This Center was part of an important historical moment that must be preserved for future generations to learn from and remember. It is critical that we do all we can to preserve this and other sites like it," said Sen. Salazar.

On Feb. 6, 2006, Secretary of the Interior Gale Norton designated a smaller portion, 314 acres, of the camp as a National Historic Landmark. Out of the 10 WWII internment camps, Camp Amache had the largest and most diversified agricultural enterprise, including a 500-acre vocational farm for high school agriculture students. ■



A marker honors the soldiers who volunteered for the Armed Services out of Amache.

## Documents: U.S. Troops Used 'Comfort Women' After WWII

By ERIC TALMADGE  
Associated Press Writer

TOKYO—Japan's abhorrent practice of enslaving women to provide sex for its troops in World War II has a little-known sequel: After its surrender — with tacit approval from the U.S. occupation authorities — Japan set up a similar "comfort women" system for American GIs.

An Associated Press review of historical documents and records shows American authorities permitted the official brothel system to operate despite internal reports that women were being coerced into prostitution. The Americans also had full knowledge by then of Japan's atrocious treatment of women in countries across Asia that it conquered during the war.

Tens of thousands of women were employed to provide cheap sex to U.S. troops until the spring of 1946, when Gen. Douglas MacArthur shut the brothels down.

The documents show the brothels were rushed into operation as American forces poured into Japan beginning in August 1945.

"Sadly, we police had to set up sexual comfort stations for the occupation troops," recounts the official history of the Ibaraki Prefectural Police Department, whose jurisdiction is just northeast of Tokyo. "The strategy was, through the special work of experienced women, to create a breakwater to protect regular women and girls."

The orders from the Ministry of the Interior came on Aug. 18, 1945, one day before a Japanese delegation flew to the Philippines to negotiate the terms of their country's surrender and occupation.

The Ibaraki police immediately set to work. The only suitable facility was a dormitory for single police officers, which they quickly converted into a brothel. Bedding from the navy

was brought in, along with 20 comfort women. The brothel opened for business Sept. 20.

"As expected, after it opened it was elbow to elbow," the history says. "The comfort women ... had some resistance to selling themselves to men who just yesterday were the enemy, and because of differences in language and race, there were a great deal of apprehensions at first. But they were paid highly, and they gradually came to accept their work peacefully."

Police officials and Tokyo businessmen established a network of

*'The comfort women ... had some resistance to selling themselves to men who just yesterday were the enemy, and because of differences in language and race, there were a great deal of apprehensions at first.'*

brothels under the auspices of the Recreation and Amusement Association (RAA), which operated with government funds. On Aug. 28, 1945, an advance wave of occupation troops arrived in Atsugi, just south of Tokyo. By nightfall, the troops found the RAA's first brothel.

"I rushed there with two or three RAA executives, and was surprised to see 500 or 600 soldiers standing in line on the street," Seiichi Kaburagi, the chief of public relations for the RAA, wrote in a 1972 memoir. He said American MPs were barely able to keep the troops under control.

Kaburagi wrote that occupation GIs paid upfront and were given tickets and condoms. The first RAA brothel, called Komachien — The Babe Garden — had 38 women, but due to high demand that was quickly

increased to 100. Each woman serviced from 15 to 60 clients a day.

The sudden demand forced brothel operators to advertise for women who were not licensed prostitutes.

Natsue Takita, a 19-year-old Komachien worker whose relatives had been killed in the war, responded to an ad seeking an office worker. She was told the only positions available were for comfort women and was persuaded to accept the offer.

According to Kaburagi's memoirs, Takita jumped in front of a train a few days after the brothel started operations.

Toshiyuki Tanaka, a history professor at the Hiroshima Peace Institute, cautioned that Kaburagi's number is hard to document. But he added the RAA was also only part of the picture — the number of private brothels outside the official system was likely even higher.

Amid complaints from military chaplains and concerns that disclosure of the brothels would embarrass the occupation forces back in the U.S., on March 25, 1946, MacArthur placed all brothels, comfort stations and other places of prostitution off limits. The RAA soon collapsed.

MacArthur's primary concern was not only a moral one — more than a quarter of all American GIs in the occupation forces had a sexually transmitted disease.

Under intense pressure, Japan's government apologized in 1993 for its role in running brothels around Asia and coercing women into serving its troops. The issue remains controversial today.

In January, California Rep. Mike Honda offered a resolution in the House condemning Japan's use of sex slaves, in part to renew pressure on Japan ahead of the closure of the Asian Women's Fund, a private foundation created two years after the apology to compensate comfort women. ■



# National Newsbytes

By Pacific Citizen Staff and Associated Press

## APAs are Becoming a Political Force

EDISON, N.J.—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 Niles Dasondi, a South Asian council candidate, and many of the people running for spots in the township Democratic organization are APAs.

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.

The goal for the next two years is to test and treat every APA for chronic Hepatitis B. Hepatitis B is a serious liver disease. While most patients recover, many will develop a chronic infection that can destroy the liver or cause liver cancer. Up to 80 percent of those infected with Hepatitis B have no idea they're carrying the virus.

One in 10 APAs is infected.

## 'Law & Order' TV Producer Accused of Racism, Sexism



LOS ANGELES—A Hollywood union has accused an executive producer of "Law & Order: SVU" of making racist and sexist remarks, claiming he often refers to APAs as "Chinamen."

The International Association of Theatrical Stage Employees (IATSE) said it has complained to the show's producer, NBC Universal Television, in three instances involving allegations against executive producer Ted Kotcheff over the past three years.

Kotcheff made a "half-hearted" apology after one complaint about his alleged behavior, the IATSE said. But the apology "included a demeaning remark, rendering it moot," it added. ■

## APAs in the News

By Pacific Citizen Staff

## Carol Lam Honored by San Diego Bar



Former San Diego U.S. Attorney **Carol Lam**, who was forced from office by the Bush administration, has been voted "Outstanding Attorney of the Year" by directors of the San Diego County Bar Association.

The 19-member board voted on Lam's selection after a smaller nominating committee made the recommendation. Lam has dedicated much of her career to public service, first as a federal prosecutor, then a Superior Court judge, then as U.S. attorney.

She is scheduled to receive the award at a luncheon May 4.

## NJAMF Recognizes Two JA Senators

Japanese American leaders were recently honored at the ninth annual National Japanese American Memorial Foundation Awards Dinner Gala in Washington D.C. The Patriotism Award was presented to **Sen. Daniel K. Akaka** and the Chairman's Award was presented posthumously to the late **Sen. Spark Matsunaga**.

The Chairman's Award recognizes Matsunaga for raising awareness for the JA community. **Matt Matsunaga**, the late senator's son, accepted the award.

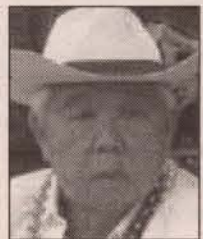
## Proposed Postage Stamp to Honor First Chinese American Female Aviator



**Congressman David Wu** is urging the Citizens' Stamp Advisory Committee of the U.S. Postal Service to approve a commemorative stamp in honor of **Hazel Ying Lee**, the first Chinese American female aviator.

In 1943, Lee became the first Chinese American woman to fly for the U.S. military when she joined the Women Airforce Service Pilots, a group of female pilots assembled in an effort to sustain the war effort and free up male pilots for combat.

## Louisiana Sheriff Harry Lee Diagnosed With Leukemia



Jefferson Parish Sheriff **Harry Lee** has undergone a blood transfusion after recently being diagnosed with leukemia.

Lee is one of the few Chinese American elected into Louisiana office. He had surgery for prostate cancer, knee and hip surgery.

Lee was first elected as sheriff in 1979, and he's been re-elected six times. ■

## STUDENTS RETURN (Continued from page 1)

It's something that has Asian Americans concerned, especially those AA students currently attending Virginia Tech.

"I hope one person's actions do not define an entire group, an entire ethnicity," said Kim, who was born in Maryland. "It was not our fault. We shouldn't be punished because of one person's actions."

It's a concern that isn't isolated to the Virginia Tech campus either. Similar sentiments have been echoed at college campuses across the country.

"When I walked outside the next morning, I couldn't help but feel like someone is going to make a snide remark considering I'm a young Asian American who could potentially fit the same description as Seung-Hui Cho," said Brandon Mita, a recent graduate of the University of Illinois at Chicago (UIC) and a JACL program fellow.

## 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 Asian filtered down to Kim and like many AAs she embarrassingly admits that thoughts of, "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 dorm 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 much-publicized AA ethnicity was already having an impact on fellow AA students at the UIC campus.

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

approached the AA students, including Mita. He told them about the shootings at Virginia Tech earlier that morning. "Just keep that in the back of your mind," the officer said to them. "We would hate to have to take action."

Later that night Virginia Tech students try to return to normal life while watching a news report on CNN Mita finally understood the reason for the officer's threatening tone. The Virginia Tech shooter was an AA student. "To the rational human being, there would normally be no connection between Asian American students protesting for Asian American Studies in Illinois to the Asian student who committed these unthinkable crimes in Virginia," he said, "but when atrocities like this happen, folks lose their sense of judgment."

## The Blame Game

For many in the Korean American community, those fateful two hours on April 16 have come to tarnish the positive images that have long surrounded this group. Shortly after the shootings, apologies from Cho's family, Korean American leaders, and even the prime minister of South Korea had been aired.

But many AAs believe Korean Americans have nothing to apologize for. Several have noted Cho's indiscriminate selection of his victims. All groups were targets of his rage, including AAs, South East Asians and other minorities.

"The gunman did not murder people because he was an 'Asian male.' Rather, a host of individual factors and personal experiences led Cho to hurt so many people," said Lisa Hanasono, a graduate student at Purdue University.

"While we grieve with the students and the families of this horrendous incident, we as a community need to be aware of the fact that the Asian American community is not responsible for what happened ... we are not at fault for the actions of one individual," said Mita.

But some have already taken to blaming AAs in general for Cho's brutal actions.

At Auburn University the beating of an Asian student by a group of



AP PHOTO

white male students on April 19 is currently being investigated as a possible hate crime. Police are also looking into whether the incident was a result of animosity over the recent Virginia Tech shootings.

On the popular PostSecret Web site, a site where people submit their secrets, an individual posted a picture of an elderly Asian woman, accompanied by the message: "Asians scare me!" Although there is no reference to Virginia Tech, the photo was posted shortly after the shootings.

## Heading Back

As AA students return to classes at Virginia Tech, fellow AA students from across the country can only imagine the difficulties that may be ahead of them.

"My heart goes out to the students who had to face an unimaginable horror that no one should ever have to face in their lifetime," said Yumi Sakugawa, an art major at UCLA. "Their strength and resolve to move on is more inspiration for the rest of us to prevent incidents like this from ever occurring again."

Although Kim is apprehensive about returning to the Virginia Tech campus, she is encouraged by all the support she has received from her Caucasian friends.

"They've been really supportive. They don't think I should be worried at all," she said. "We've all been going through the same thing. It's been a really trying time."

Kim plans to continue her education at Virginia Tech. Her only hope is that the school will be remembered for something more than these tragic shootings.

"It makes me sad because when people think of Virginia Tech they're not going to think of football or all the other great things ... they'll only think of the shootings," she said. ■

## STUDENT ESSAY (Continued from page 1)

Jeff Puma said the district is evaluating Lee's punishment while he attends an offsite learning program in the school district.

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

Lee's attorney, Dane 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 Marine enlistment papers recently.

His father, Albert Lee, has defended his son as a straight-A student who was just following instructions and contends the school overreacted. However, Albert Lee has said he understands the situation because of what happened April 16 at Virginia Tech when student and gunman Seung-Hui Cho killed 32 students and faculty members before committing suicide.

The charges against Lee could result in a possible \$1,500 fine and up to 30 days in jail if he is convicted.

Ed Yohnka, spokesman for the American Civil Liberties Union of Illinois, said an essay done for

homework would ordinarily be "protected speech."

The JACL is also concerned this could be a case of racial profiling, especially in light of the horrific shootings at Virginia Tech.

"We are troubled by the charge of disorderly conduct. The teacher may have been alarmed by the content, but that does not justify a criminal charge against a high school student for completing a class assignment. In addition, the charge was applied even though the essay contained no threats," wrote Bill Yoshino, JACL Midwest regional director, in a letter

to the state attorney.

"We are further troubled because Allen Lee is an Asian American, which was made abundantly clear to the public because his photograph accompanied the story of this incident on the front page of the *Chicago Tribune* ... we hope there wasn't the slightest instance of racial profiling in the decision by the police to charge Allen Lee in the wake of the Virginia Tech tragedy."

Students at the school showed support for Lee on April 25 with a petition drive to let him back into school. ■

## ■ JOB POSTING

### Administrative Assistant to CEO

The Japanese American Citizens League (JACL) is seeking to fill the position of Administrative Assistant to the National Director. The person will manage the general office operations of the JACL Headquarters office, which includes a variety of clerical, administrative, confidential, and programmatic responsibilities that require a detailed knowledge of the organization's operations, procedures, and personnel.

Requires at least a two year college degree in clerical or business related subjects, two years experience working in clerical or general office management routines, above average writing and communications skills and enjoys working as a team player, experience in the use of Microsoft Office and web-related software and a variety of office equipment. Experience with non-profit organizations and Asian Pacific American organizations a plus.

Competitive salary commensurate with experience and excellent fringe benefit package. Send resume and cover letter to: JACL, 1765 Sutter St, San Francisco, CA 94115 by May 14, 2007. JACL is an equal employment opportunity employer. For questions, contact Floyd Mori at 202-223-1240 or Clyde Izumi at 415-921-5225.



## JACL Announces Fellowship in Honor of Norman Y. Mineta

The JACL is currently seeking applicants for its newly established Norman Y. Mineta Fellowship. This fellowship will be in the JACL Washington, D.C. office and will focus on public policy advocacy as well as programs of safety awareness in the Asian Pacific American community.

The fellowship is named for the Honorable Norman Mineta, former U.S. Secretary of Transportation, and is funded by State Farm Insurance.

Some responsibilities of the fellow will include:

- Monitor and support the State Farm Insurance Child and Youth Auto Safety Program in the APA

communities;

- Monitor key legislative initiatives that deal with economic justice; and;

- Interact with other APA national organizations.

Applicants will need to have a minimum four year degree from an accredited college or university, be a member of the JACL and be familiar with Asian American issues.

The term of the fellowship will be for a time period of six to ten months and will begin as soon as the recipient is available. The stipend will range from \$1,500 to \$2,500 a month depending on qualifications.

Interested applicants should submit a resume, a sample of writing, and names and contact information for two references to the JACL Washington, D.C. office via email ([dc@jACL.org](mailto:dc@jACL.org)) or fax (202/296-8082) by May 10. ■



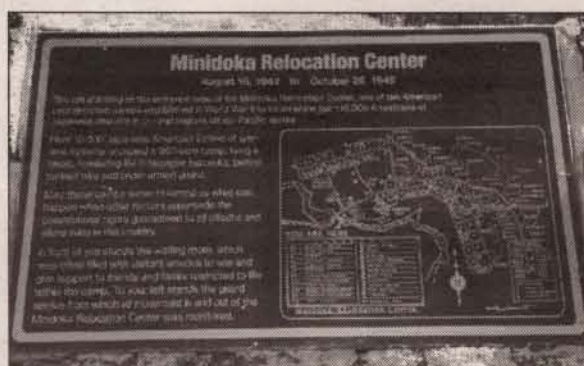
## Minidoka Pilgrimage Set for June 22-24

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 "internment 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 three years incarcerated at Minidoka and other camps over 60 years ago. Today, the site continues to hold a mixture of memories and strong emotions — feelings of denial, distrust, shame, and joy. They will revisit the place and the memories amidst family, friends, supporters, and National Park Service officials.

The pilgrimage will also honor the first generation of Japanese Americans who suffered most under institutionalized racist laws, to deliver the message of "Never Again," and to pass on the legacy.



Plaque marker at Minidoka.

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 Side Canal, and near the 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 for more information, e-mail: [minidokapilgrimage@comcast.net](mailto:minidokapilgrimage@comcast.net). ■

## JACL to Honor Former Nat'l Director John Tateishi

**The black-tie optional dinner in Millbrae, Calif. will recognize the civil rights leader for his tireless work for civil rights and the APA community.**

By Pacific Citizen Staff

John Tateishi became an ardent supporter and leader of the JACL through his lifelong career as a civil rights advocate.

At the local level, he helped start the Marin JACL. At the national level, Tateishi won the Japanese American community an apology from the U.S. government as the JACL's redress director. Decades later, he led the organization through financial hardship and fought post-Sept. 11th draconian law.

Through his tireless work, his name and image became synonymous with the JACL.



On May 19, the JACL will honor Tateishi for his dedication to the Asian Pacific American community.

Tateishi was just a child when his family was incarcerated behind barbed wire. After the War, he received a bachelor's degree in English literature from the University of California, Berkeley and a master's degree in American literature from the University of California, Davis.

He taught in London and San Francisco before working as the JACL's national redress director in the 1980s. Tateishi also headed his own management and public relations consulting firm, Tateishi/Shinoda and Associates. He wrote "And Justice for All" and contributed to "Lost Witnesses," a book of essays written by children of former internees.

Starting in 1999, as national director Tateishi guided the organization into the new millennium. After the Sept. 11th terrorist attacks, he ensured that JACL was the first organization to issue a statement condemning the judgment of Americans based on ethnicity. He did not want to see history repeat itself.

Tateishi would serve as national director for seven years until June 2006 when he announced his resignation after the JACL National Convention in Phoenix, Arizona citing personal and health reasons. ■

### Important Changes to the Tateishi Tribute Dinner

#### \*VENUE CHANGE!

The new location is:

Westin San Francisco Airport  
1 Old Bayshore Highway  
Millbrae, Calif.

• Sat., May 19

• 6 p.m. cocktails, 7 p.m. dinner followed by a program

• \$75 per seat, \$750 for a table of 10

Get more information and reservation forms at: [www.dvja-cl.org/news.html](http://www.dvja-cl.org/news.html)

Seats are limited. Make a reservation now by e-mailing Milo Yoshino at [miloyoshi@aol.com](mailto:miloyoshi@aol.com) before sending in a reservation form and check.

\* Those who have already registered will receive a confirmation e-mail with the changes reflected.

## 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 internment 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 lush profitable farms, which market their products all over the world.

On June 16-17, many descendants of the early settlers will be "coming home." The main gathering place



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

Issei settlers reserved for their church before they purchased and settled their own farms.

There will also be an exhibit of art and entertainment by some descendants. Books about the community will be available. Kesaya Noda, author of "Yamato Colony," will be on hand to share her insights and knowledge of the Issei and the community.

In recognition of the growing multicultural face of the Yamato Colony descendants, speaker Kip Fulbeck, professor and chair of art at the University of California, Santa Barbara, will share his multi-media presentation based on his work on identity and multiracial/ethnicity. After his presentation, Fulbeck will be available to sign his book, "Part Asian, 100% Hapa."

For more information, contact co-chairperson, Patti Kishi, at [pkishi@vtlnet.com](mailto:pkishi@vtlnet.com) or 209/357-2690. ■

## CLASSIFIED ADS

### EMPLOYMENT

#### Executive Director

Nikkei Heritage Association of Washington (NHAW)

The NHAW is a newly formed non-profit organization to create and establish a Japanese Cultural and Community Center for Washington State. The center celebrates Japanese and Japanese American culture and heritage through educational, cultural, business and social programs, adding to the richness and diversity of the region.

The organization seeks a dynamic Executive Director to provide vision, leadership and strategic direction for the administration and management of the Nikkei Heritage Association of Washington. Key responsibilities include leadership and governance, community and board relations, resource development, fiscal management, and administration of operations.

Full time salary range: DOE plus benefits: medical & dental plus vacation and sick leave. Applicants should mail cover letter and resume to: Attn: Search Committee, Nikkei Heritage Association of Washington, 1414 S. Weller St., Seattle, WA 98144. Applications due May 25. For a detailed description of responsibilities, requirements and desired qualifications, go to [www.jccw.org](http://www.jccw.org) or call 206-568-7114.



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.



Since 1947

The JACL Health Trust

Has offered Health Care Coverage to JACL Members





## LOGAN TOM

(Continued from page 1)

where her name became synonymous with the indoor sport. She was hailed as volleyball's biggest 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 what most extraordinary amateur athletes do — she turned pro and headed to Spain to play in the *Superliga* (the U.S. does not have a 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 some new challenges. I'm picking up new techniques and rebuffing old ones."

### Quitting Ballet and Playing on the Boy's Teams

Excelling in sports was in her genes. Logan, who is of Chinese and Hawaiian descent, is famously the daughter of former Philadelphia Eagles and Chicago Bears defensive end Melvyn Tom. But the more 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



PHOTO: AVP.COM



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

The Olympic athlete calls her mom Kristine (left) her hero.

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 he 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 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 honey, I just can't see a guy lifting you.'"

After two classes, Logan retired her tutu.

### Towering Over Discrimination and Becoming Homecoming Queen

Lured by job opportunity and a lower cost of living, Kristine moved the family to Utah when Logan was nine. And for the first time, the mul-

ticultural 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 — there's always a way in," said Logan. "I was a loner growing up. I hung out with my mom and my neighbor, you know what I mean?"

Then as fate would have it, when Logan was 13, one of her friends asked if she wanted to go to volleyball camp.

"I said 'Sure why not?'" The meeting between the athlete and the game of volleyball was prophetic. In the 16-year-old girl the coaches at Highland High School saw power and raw talent.

"I didn't know 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 were 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 bled on that 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

Her self-confidence is 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 her AVP 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 Gold Crown Dallas Open.

"I'm always in a rush to do things. It's more fluid for her," said Logan about McPeak.

The next stop for the duo may be the most critical — in Huntington Beach May 3-6, where the largest check in AVP history, \$100,000 will be awarded.

Part of the challenge is making the wind her friend and training her over six-foot body to learn the rhythm of the beach.

"I'm a broad jumper. When I jump I land 10 feet from where I took off. For me it's hard. People keep telling me you don't have to kill the ball," she said. "I need to tweak the bolts

and nuts in my head. It's not a power game out here."

No one is more confident about Logan's success than her mom.

"She's always been a gutsy little person," said Kristine, a middle school teacher in Long Beach, Calif. "With Logan the future is always an open door. She's made a commitment to convert to the beach game and she is going to do whatever it takes. I don't know how long it will take her. I can tell you she'll get there." ■

**More information:**  
www.logantom.info

### AVP Crocs '07 Tour Schedule

For ticket and tour information, go to [www.avp.com](http://www.avp.com)  
**May 3-6** — Huntington Beach Pier in Huntington Beach, Calif.

**May 10-13** — Westgate City Center in Glendale, AZ  
**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** — Coney Island in Brooklyn, NY  
**August 30-Sept. 2** — Lindner Family Tennis Center in Cincinnati, OH  
**Sept. 6-8** — Caesar's Palace in Las Vegas, NV  
**Sept. 14-16** — AVP San Francisco Best of the Beach Pier 30/32 in San Francisco, Calif.

## APA HERITAGE MONTH

(Continued from page 1)

### APA Heritage is Canceled

Virginia Tech's APA Heritage month-long celebration called, "Asian American: Past, Presence, Future," was suddenly interrupted with gunfire and tragedy beyond anyone's comprehension.

Gunman Seung-Hui Cho's bloody rampage injected a stark contrast to planned cultural celebrations. Suddenly the skits, dances and songs seemed trivial.

The Virginia Tech Chinese American Society's (CAS) April 21 "Chinabration" was indefinitely postponed.

"For now there will always be another show, another dance, and another act," wrote Brian Ho, CAS president on their Web site.

Virginia Tech junior Owen Mahoney was planning to host a discussion on the history of Native Hawaiians on April 24, but a return to normalcy a week after the tragedy was just too soon.

"There is a need for fun events to get people's minds off of the tragedy," said Mahoney, a human nutrition major. She had to cancel the event because she was sure no one would show up.

"We're really sad for our loss, but there is a feeling of wanting to move

on and incorporate the memories into our lives. We're not going to let something like this destroy us. There is a sense of inspiration here," Mahoney added.

APA Heritage celebrations were canceled on other campuses too. The University of Missouri called off an April 25 campus discussion about race amid concerns about possible backlash against the APA student community.

A handful of verbal threats had been recently reported at the Missouri campus. School officials asked the Asian American Association if they were concerned for their safety.

"That was when we really opened our eyes," said AA Association Member Annie Guo to the Associated Press.

### Revising APA Heritage Celebrations

While other colleges were canceling APA Heritage events, Yale's Asian American Student Association (AASA) changed planned celebrations to include an open discussion on the Virginia Tech tragedy with students and faculty members.

At the discussion, fears and concerns were aired-out.

Other college campuses went on with business as usual. Colorado State University hosted a "cultural carnival" filled with performances,

an anime presentation and a rice-eating contest. While Southern Illinois University Carbondale's slate of APA Heritage Month events included workshops on origami, bonsai and sushi.

Much like Black History and Women's History celebrations, APA Heritage Month is a celebration of Asians and Pacific Islanders in the United States. But the similar events have a very different focus especially on college campuses where cultural events vastly outnumber discussion on APA issues and history.

It's a reality that the Korean American Students of Yale (KASY) are trying to work with.

"For APA Heritage Month, I feel that there is indeed a need to address APA history in a big and meaningful way, but I also understand why many organizations (including our own) oftentimes find cultural events to be easier to put on and more well-attended," said Andrew Yu, KASY president. "Especially on a college campus, where many students are very stingy with their time, we have found that for this reason and maybe others, that political or historical events are usually less well-attended or popular than big cultural shows."



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

At Yale, the APA organizations balance culture with history and politics.

This year, KASY hosted their cultural show — a skit based on the film "Meet the Parents," which showcased traditional food along with more modern aspects of Korean culture like hip-hop dance. But they also took part in an APA Heritage Month dinner where "Survivor: Cook Island" winner Yul Kwon spoke about race relations.

"Asian April" activities at Penn State are peppered with a political agenda. The APA Caucus hosted an art exhibition on American identity and a skit performance called

"Uniting the Gap," which featured comedian Dat Phan.

The jokes centered on racism and stereotyping. It was a conscious decision 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 with renewed ideas of APAs.

"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.clubs.psu.edu/up/apacaucus](http://www.clubs.psu.edu/up/apacaucus), [www.yale.edu/kasy](http://www.yale.edu/kasy)





PHOTO: UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII

## 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. ■

## OLYMPICS

## NBA Signs Deal with Beijing Olympics

BEIJING—The National Basketball Association signed a deal April 25 to bring NBA-style razzmatazz 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 to world-class standards," said Mark Fischer, 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



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

basketball competition will take place.

Fischer did not give full details or the cost, but said the bodies

across the country also telecast games.

The NBA announced in March that LeBron James and the Cleveland Cavaliers would play pre-season 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. ■

## BASKETBALL

## Yao Ming Featured in China AIDS Awareness Campaign

BEIJING—NBA star **Yao Ming** has joined a campaign to combat the stigma associated with HIV and AIDS in China by being featured in posters together with people from AIDS-affected communities, the United Nations said recently.

In the posters, which carry the message: "HIV/AIDS will not affect our friendship," the 7-foot 6-inch China-born Houston Rockets player is seen standing with a group of children and signing autographs.

Also appearing in the "We Are Friends" campaign is Chinese film star and anti-AIDS spokesman Pu Cunxin, the United Nations Development Program said in a statement.

HIV gained a foothold in China

largely because of tainted blood transfusions in hospitals and schemes to buy blood plasma, where

it was collected using unsanitary means.

After years of denying that AIDS was a problem, Chinese

leaders have shifted gears dramatically in recent years, confronting the disease more openly and promising anonymous testing, free treatment for the poor and a ban on discrimina-

tion against people with the virus.

"We trust this campaign will help disseminate our common stand for positive action, care and full integration of people living with HIV and AIDS in our global society," Alessandra Tisot, UNDP senior deputy resident representative in China, said in the statement.

The campaign involves the distribution of more than 200,000 of the posters throughout China, a minidocumentary, the development of a resource kit and other projects, the statement said.

The posters' messages will appear in Chinese as well as the ethnic minority languages of Tibetan, Uighur, and Jingbo, it said. ■



## 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.

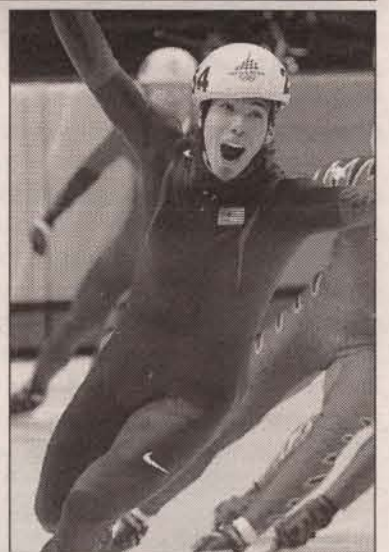
Ohno is currently starring in the reality TV show "Dancing With the Stars." In addition to daily dance training sessions with his partner Julianne Hough he is training for the 2010 Winter Olympics. He was a gold medal winner at the Turin Olympic games in 2006. He also

holds two bronze and one silver Olympic medals.

While his father Yuki Ohno watched, Apolo Ohno 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 Yuji Okumoto.

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



AP PHOTO

Apolo Ohno achieved Olympic gold glory in 2002 and 2006.

## 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.discovernikkei.org/nikkeialbum](http://www.discovernikkei.org/nikkeialbum). Along with the unveiling of the Oliver's 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 first 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 interceding on their behalf. She even made the long journey to visit some of her students interned at Manzanar.

"The Oliver's 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 the creation of the Little Tokyo Recreation Center," said Executive Director of LTSC Bill Watanabe. ■

For more information, [www.ltsc.org](http://www.ltsc.org).

Stories by Associated Press and P.C. Staff



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Japanese American  
Citizen's League



• YUMI SAKUGAWA •  
MEMOIRS OF A NON-GEISHA

## One Day in Manzanar



Manzanar is located in the midst of a harsh and desolate desert, defined by wide expanses of scraggly shrubbery and dust. It is not a place fit for people.

I know this now because I've finally been there.

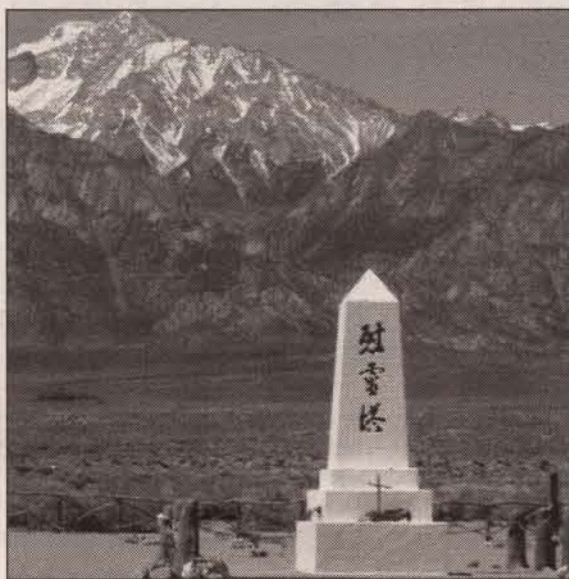
Last Saturday marked the 38th anniversary of the Manzanar Day of Pilgrimage. I almost ended up not going; I had a lot of things to do that weekend. But I decided that in the grand scheme of things, going to the Manzanar pilgrimage with the UCLA Nikkei Student Union meant far more to me than meeting academic deadlines — even if it did involve waking up at 5 a.m. on a Saturday morning.

The Manzanar Day of Pilgrimage started back in December 1969, when a group of mostly young, mostly Japanese American students embarked to look for Manzanar, one of the ten concentration camps where Japanese Americans were incarcerated during World War II. This first pilgrimage inspired a chain of events that finally gave this former abandoned camp the recognition as a National Historic Site on Feb. 19, 1992, the 50th anniversary of the signing of Executive Order 9066.

In spite of the snow-covered peaks looming in the distance, the day was oppressively hot. As clouds of dust got kicked up in the footsteps of the visitors, no amount of sunscreen, free water bottles and shades could prevent us from sweltering like pigs. We wondered out loud how people could possibly live in a place like this for years at a time.

The Day of Pilgrimage began at noon, where people sat in foldable chairs at the Manzanar cemetery to listen to taiko drummers, speakers and musicians on a makeshift stage decorated with bouquets of origami paper cranes. Representatives from the Muslim American and African American community vocalized their support for the continuing remembrance of Manzanar. Many of the speakers dedicated their speeches to Sue Kunitomi Embrey, a former Manzanar internee, writer, activist and educator who passed away last year, known for leading the effort to make Manzanar an official historic site.

After dusk, people gathered at the Manzanar Interpretive Center for the evening program. The crowd was a diverse sampling of young Nikkei, schoolteachers, local residents, college students, Muslim Americans,



*'Without remembrance, social progress cannot possibly exist.'*

political activists and former internees, all there to participate in a night of film, open-ended discussion and spoken word. Former internees spoke to younger generations about their memories from the camp. A Muslim American college student performed an intensely personal spoken word piece about the injustice of racial profiling in the light of the Sept. 11th terrorist attacks.

Czech writer Milan Kundera once said, "The struggle of man against power is the struggle of memory against forgetting." Events like the Manzanar Day of Pilgrimage remind us that the very act of remembering is not simply paying homage to the past. It is also to inspire political action against the greater forces that threaten to rob our personal freedom as free citizens of the world. Without remembrance, social progress cannot possibly exist.

As people filed out of the Interpretive Center, someone had set up a multimedia installation outside. A large-scale slideshow of black and white photographs from the internment camps flickered against the outer wall of the museum. Grandparents, mothers holding babies, childhood buddies — many long deceased, their faces now loomed over the visitors and under the desert stars while oldies music played from someone's portable stereo.

For one night in the barren desert, someone's desire to remember brought the forgotten back to life. ■

*Yumi Sakugawa is currently attending UCLA.*

• CHERYL WATAMURA MARTINEZ •  
A BROAD VIEW

## Stereotypes Around the World



What's it like being an Asian American here in Germany? Well, I guess there are a lot of similarities to being a minority in the U.S. — stereotyping seems to be a worldwide phenomena. But the differences in how Asians are perceived is impossible to ignore, and has made me take a harder look at exactly who I am.

Consider the popular clichés about Asians in the U.S.A: intelligent, good with numbers, law-abiding, go-getters, mostly middle-class. Growing up in the San Francisco Bay Area, I guess I also believed a lot of those things, without considering why. Of course there was the typical name-calling in school, but in my generation Asian stereotypes were for the most part weighted toward the positive.

In Germany I'm faced with completely different stereotypes, and they throw me off-balance even after 20 years of living here. Germany is a prosperous nation with well-educated people who frequently travel around the world during their (typically) six weeks of vacation. And so, many German men travel to the poorer Asian countries where women — and sometimes their entire families — depend on the generosity of these strangers. Sometimes the men marry the women they meet and bring them home. That phenomena has led the many to believe that Asians living in Germany, especially Asian women, are poverty-stricken, badly educated leeches.

In the city where I live, Cologne, there is a noticeable Asian population, and so the looks of wonder (or dismay) my German husband and I receive when walking down the street are not so frequent. That's unfortunately not the case in other areas. Once I was in a small town in the Bavaria with my girlfriend. Although that was in 2003, you would think it was 1703 and no one had seen a foreigner before. People actually stopped in their tracks and turned around to look at me. In an even smaller town in the ex-DDR, everyone simply stopped talking and glared when I walked into a pub.

The stereotypes aren't only held by the uneducated few. Two weeks ago I had an appointment with a doctor I'd never seen before. He started explaining my problem in a very loud voice, speaking so slowly I wondered if he had a speech impediment. It was actually painful to listen to, but I decided to give him the benefit of doubt. Perhaps he was hard of hearing and needed to speak loudly. Perhaps he had

had a stroke and wasn't yet running at 100 percent.

When he finished, I answered him in my rapid-paced German, and asked a few questions using medical terms. And then I knew. I could see his eyes literally widen and when he answered my questions, his speech problem was completely gone.

Or take the time I was in the hospital. The staff somehow assumed that I wouldn't be able to afford treatment myself and actually called my then boyfriend to hear if he would take over payment. He told them to look at my insurance papers, where they would see that I had premium coverage, and then to talk to me themselves since I was lying in their rooms.

It's difficult to be treated as a third rate resident and it gives me a different perspective on things. It leads me to think of how the Issei and Nisei must have been treated during their early days in America. Now I understand why my grandmother never had the confidence to speak English. Going from intelligent and self-sustaining to uneducated and economically dependent during one intercontinental flight (or in those days ship passage) can be enough to kill any desire or belief that one can fit into the foreign culture.

But you know, these stereotypes do have their advantages. Since in Western Europe right now it's not too pleasant to be identified as an American, if I note an especially strong anti-American sentiment, I simply say 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 things 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-koeln.de*

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## MAY... THE IKEBANA MONTH

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- ✓ Mother's Day
- ✓ Memorial Day



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- AFRICA WILDLIFE SAFARI HOLIDAY TOUR** NEW DATE ..... AUG 8-20  
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Masai Mara Reserve. Guaranteed to see many wildlife.
- SAN FRANCISCO-NAPA VALLEY-LAKE TAHOE HOLIDAY TOUR** .SEPT 19-25  
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- OKINAWA-KYUSHU HOLIDAY TOUR** ..... OCT 11-24  
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Kumamoto, Nagasaki, Fukuoka.
- EASTERN USA/CANADA HOLIDAY TOUR** NEW TOUR ..... OCT 18-29  
Boston, New Hampshire, Vermont, Quebec, Ottawa, Niagara Falls, Washington, D.C.
- SOUTH AMERICA PATAGONIA HOLIDAY TOUR** ..... NOV 9-26  
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This Wharton grad  
made a film  
(loosely) based on  
the son of a former  
U.S. president.

By LYNDALIN  
Assistant Editor

# Grace Under Pressure

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, she wasn't stalking him, but it felt like it. The encounters got her thinking: *would someone like him go out with her?*

The actress and aspiring filmmaker started penning her ideas into a script for a writing class. It was originally titled "Searching for John Jr." In it, she poured personal questions of "what ifs" and "maybes" and created a world where chance encounters became a collision of two very different worlds.

The script started placing in screenwriting competitions, so Lee started thinking maybe she had something. She began adapting the story into a film and 10 years later, "Falling for Grace" is working the festival circuit.

Class issues have always been points of conflict in romantic comedies, but this isn't "My Fair Lady." Lee is certainly not the Eliza Doolittle next door. The Wharton Business School graduate speaks with more of a fancy

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.

## 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. She learned to speak with an American accent even before immigrating to the United States in her teens.

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 East West Players where she once was an understudy for actress Lauren Tom.

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 ball.

"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 "kids" genre. This one hopefully won't take a decade to make. ■



## 'Falling for Grace'

A romantic comedy written, directed, produced and starring Fay Ann Lee. Also starring:

Margaret Cho, B.D. Wong, Ken

Leung, Elizabeth Sung and Clem Cheung

VC Film Festival, Los Angeles

May 4, 7 p.m.

More information: [www.fallingforgrace.com](http://www.fallingforgrace.com),

[www.vconline.org](http://www.vconline.org)

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National business and Professional Directory

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# Calendar

## National

### SAN JOSE

**June 29-July 1**—JACL National Youth/Student Conference: "Cultivating Leaders by Defining Our Roots"; Santa Clara University; conference is open to high school and college students from all over the United States; housing will be in the dormitories. Info: [www.jacl.org](http://www.jacl.org).

### WASHINGTON, D.C.

**Wed., Sept. 12**—Gala Dinner, "A Salute to Champions Gala Dinner"; J.W. Marriott Hotel; \$200/person, \$2,000/table of 10; honorees will be given awards for their work in championing the goals and efforts of the civil rights community. Info: 202/223-1240 or [dc@jacl.org](mailto:dc@jacl.org).

## Midwest

### CHICAGO

**Wed., May 16**—Discussion and screening, "Discovering Angel Island"; 7:30 p.m.; JACL Chicago Office, 5415 N. Clark St.; presented by Erika Gee, Director of Education, Angel Island Immigration Station Foundation. Info: 773/728-7171 or [chicago@jacl.org](mailto:chicago@jacl.org).

**Sun., May 20**—50th Chicago JACL Scholarship Luncheon; 11:30 a.m.; Maggiano's Little Italy, 175 Old Orchard Shopping Center, Skokie; \$40/person. Info: Judy Tanaka, [chicago@jacl.org](mailto:chicago@jacl.org).

### CLEVELAND

**Sat., May 26**—Cleveland JACL Reunion 2007; noon-4 p.m.; North Olmsted Party Center, 29271 Lorain Rd.; \$15/person, \$5/children under 10; RSVP by May 18 to: Karen Sodini, 440/238-3416 or Hazel Asamoto, 216/921-2976.

## Intermountain

### MINIDOKA, Idaho

**Fri.-Sun., June 22-24**—5th Annual Minidoka Pilgrimage; 3-day event includes a site visit, BBQ dinner and commemorative ceremony; buses will leave Seattle to Twin Falls, Idaho at 6 a.m.; Registration (deadline June 1): Seattle package (bus ride), \$200, seniors \$150; Twin Falls package (own transportation), \$85, seniors \$75; blocks of rooms have been reserved at Best American Suites, 800/822-8946 or Red Lion Hotel, 800/733-5466; mention Minidoka Pilgrimage, rates good through May 22. Info: [minidokapilgrimage@comcast.net](mailto:minidokapilgrimage@comcast.net) or [www.minidoka.org](http://www.minidoka.org).

## Northern California

### COLMA

**Sat., May 5**—Wakamatsu Colony Memorial and Okei Grave clean-up; 10 a.m.; Gold Trails Union Grammar School; participants are asked to bring a garden tool for weeding and trimming of bushes and a sack lunch. Info: Tom Fujimoto, 916/427-6730.

### SALINAS

**Sat., July 7**—Salinas Valley JACL 75th Anniversary Celebration; National Steinbeck Center. Info: Shari Higashi, 831/659-1707 or Lorrie Mikuni, 831/455-0741.

### SAN BRUNO

**Sat., June 2**—Journey to Tanforan; 10 a.m.; The Shops at Tanforan, 1150 El Camino Real; program will feature guest speakers and the first reunion luncheon. Info: JCCNC, 415/567-5505.

### SAN FRANCISCO

**Sat., May 19**—JACL Honors John Tateishi dinner; 6-10 p.m.; **NEW VENUE:** The Westin San Francisco Airport, 1 Old Bayshore, Millbrae; celebrate John Tateishi's 30 years of commitment to the Asian American community and the JACL; \$75/person, \$750/table of 10; black tie optional. Info: Milo Yoshino, [miloyoshi@aol.com](mailto:miloyoshi@aol.com).

**June 2-Sept. 9**—Exhibition featuring the works of Osamu Tezuka, creator of Astro Boy; Tues.-Sun. 10-5 p.m.; Asian Art Museum, 200 Larkin St.; exhibition features more than 200



An exhibit featuring the work of Osamu Tezuka, creator of Astro Boy (left) and Princess Knight (above) begins June 2 at San Francisco's Asian Art Museum.

works including original drawings, covers, and poster; exhibition will be the only one in the United States; \$12/adults, \$8/seniors, \$7/youth 13-17, free for children under 12. Info: 415/581-3500 or [www.asianart.org](http://www.asianart.org).

## Southern California

### LOS ANGELES

**Sun., May 6**—Screening, "Music Man of Manzanar"; 1-3 p.m.; Maryknoll Church, 222 S. Hewitt St.; docudrama recreates what Lou Frizzell did when he went to Manzanar to teach drama and music; a panel discussion will follow. Info: Brian Maeda, 310/826-0994.

**Sat., May 12**—Nikkei Community Day; 10-5 p.m.; JACCC, 244 S. San Pedro St.; featuring workshops on breast cancer, health and nutrition, depression and diabetes.

**Sat., May 12**—JACCC's 24th Annual Children's Day Celebration; 10-4 p.m., JACCC, 244 S. San Pedro St.; events include the Chibi-K: Kids for Kids Fun Run, San Tai San 3-on-3 basketball tournament, plus games, crafts, food and entertainment. Info or to register for events: 213/628-2725, [childrens-day@jaccc.org](mailto:childrens-day@jaccc.org) or [www.jaccc.org](http://www.jaccc.org).

**Sat., May 26**—Memorial Day Services at JACCC; 11 a.m.; Japanese American National War Memorial Court at JACCC, 244 S. San Pedro St.; David Miyoshi, USMC ret. is the guest speaker. Info: Tohoru Isobe, [tisobe@att.net](mailto:tisobe@att.net), Sam Shimoguchi,

[samkuni@verizon.net](mailto:samkuni@verizon.net), Paul/Sharlene Ono, [sgmpto@aol.com](mailto:sgmpto@aol.com) or Min Tonai, [tonaim@pacbell.net](mailto:tonaim@pacbell.net).

### OXNARD

**Sat., May 12**—Ventura County JACL's Annual Cemetery Cleanup; 8:30-noon; corner of Pleasant Valley Rd. and Etting Rd.; bring shovels, hoes, gardening gloves, rakes and a small wheelbarrow; chapter will provide light refreshments. Info: Ken Nakano, 818/991-0876 or [vcjacl@hotmail.com](mailto:vcjacl@hotmail.com).

### SAN JUAN CAPISTRANO

**Sun., May 20**—2nd Annual Pacific Southwest District Golf Tournament; shotgun start at noon; San Juan Hills Golf Course, 32120 San Juan Creek Rd.; \$115/player, \$400/foursome (must register together); entry fee includes range balls, cart, lunch, prizes and dinner; sponsorship opportunities are available. Info: [golf@jacpsw.org](mailto:golf@jacpsw.org) or [www.jacpsw.org](http://www.jacpsw.org).

### TORRANCE

**May 12, May 30**—City of Torrance Works in Progress Programs; Torrance Cultural Arts Center, 3330 Civic Center Dr.; May 12 - Citizen Tanouye, a film by Robert Horsting and Craig Yahata, 2 p.m.; May 30 - A Divided Community, a play by Momo Yashima, Frank Chin and the Resisters, 7 p.m.; \$25/adults, \$23/seniors and students, \$21/subscribers. Tickets: 310/781-7171. Info: [www.torrancelive.us](http://www.torrancelive.us). ■

## Upcoming JACL National Youth Conference to 'Cultivate Leaders'

Get a jump start on becoming a leader of the Asian Pacific American community by attending the JACL National Youth Conference June 29-July 1 at Santa Clara University in Santa Clara, Calif.

The three-day conference themed, "Cultivating Leaders by Defining our Roots," is open to youth 13 years or older and promises to be a fun and educational experience.

Participants will have the opportunity to attend workshop sessions, meet career mentors as well as engage in social mixers. The weekend will also be a great opportunity for young APAs to meet others from different parts of the country.

"The conference planning committee has gone one step further to provide participants with a unique experience that will ultimately enable participants to say at the end of the conference, 'This is who I am, now this is what I want to do,'" said Kimberly Shintaku, JACL national youth/student council chairperson.

Workshops will be divided into two categories: educational and interactive. The educational track will include workshops on community spaces, ethnic/Asian American Studies programs, intra-Asian community relations as well as liberty in North Korea.

Interactive workshops will include, hip-hop culture, a more in-depth look at the JACL, mochi-tsuki,

public speaking, and a taiko drumming workshop hosted by San Jose Taiko.

The workshops are tailored to meet the diverse demands of youth with varying experience of community involvement — aiming to educate, empower and engage all attendees. ■

## JACL National Youth Conference

*Cultivating Leaders by Defining our Roots*

June 29-July 1  
Santa Clara University,  
Santa Clara, Calif.

• \$125 early registration\* for JACL members; \$175 regular registration

• \$150 early registration\* for non-members; \$200 regular registration

Registration includes meals, two-night lodging in the dorms. Non-member registration includes a JACL youth/student membership.

\*Early registration must be postmarked by June 1. All registration must be postmarked by June 15.

For more information:

[www.jaclyouth.org](http://www.jaclyouth.org), or e-mail [jaclyouthconference2007@yahoo.com](mailto:jaclyouthconference2007@yahoo.com)

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**June 6** Branson, Memphis & Nashville - 9 days - \$2095. GUARANTEED DEPARTURE  
**July 2** Summer Japan "Family Tour" \$3095 - Child \$2795 - Takayama - Nara - Kobe - Hiroshima - Miyajima - Inland Sea - Shodo Island - Kyoto. ALMOST SOLD OUT  
**July 19** National Parks - 10 days - \$2295 - Denver - Mt. Rushmore - Devils Tower - Heart Mt. - Yellowstone - Grand Tetons - Jackson Hole - Salt Lake City.  
**Aug. 12** Eastern Canada - \$2395 - Montreal - Quebec - Ontario, Niagara Falls & Toronto.  
**Sept. 2** Greece/Turkey Celebrity Cruise - MS Galaxy - \$3695 - Rome - Mykonos - Rhodes - Santorini - Istanbul - Ephesus - Athens - Naples - Rome. ALMOST SOLD OUT  
**Sept. 26** Autumn in New England - \$1995 - Boston - Maine & New Hampshire.  
**Oct. 8** Hokkaido/Tohoku - \$3895 - Sapporo - Sounkyo Gorge - Sahoro - Ainu Village - Hakodate - Aomori - Towada - Hachimantai - Matsushima Bay - Sendai - Tokyo.  
**Oct. 15** Uranihon "Otherside of Japan" \$3795 - Tokyo - Japan Sea - Sado Island - Kanazawa - Amanohashidate - Kinosaki - Matsue - Izumo Taisha - Mt. Daisen - Kyoto.  
**Oct. 29** Japan Classic "Fall Foliage" \$3595 - Tokyo - Takayama - Nara - Kobe - Takahashi - Isle of Miyajima - Hiroshima - Inland Sea Cruise - Shodo Island - Kyoto.  
**Nov. 7** Okinawa/Kyushu/Shikoku - \$3995 - 3 Days Okinawa, Kyushu - Kuratsu - Nagasaki - Kumamoto - Beppu, Shikoku - Ashizuri - Kochi - Takamatsu - Osaka.  
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## In Memoriam - 2007

All the towns are in California except as noted.

**Bobroskie, Mizuho, 68**, Torrance, April 6; survived by wife, Satomi; daughter, Lisa; and brothers, Arther, Miko, Joe and Albin.

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

**Fujinami, Emiko, 82**, April 3; survived by sons, Jim, Walter (Aimee) and Janice (Dan) Yamazaki; 6 gc.; and 3 ggc.

*This compilation appears on a space-available basis at no cost. Printed obituaries from your newspaper are welcome. "Death Notices," which appear in a timely manner at request of the family or funeral director, are published at the rate of \$20 per column inch. Text is reworded as necessary.*

**Hara, Kaoru "John," 58**, Los Angeles, April 5; survived by wife, Judy; son, Jon; daughter, Autumn (Kevin) Matsumoto; mother, Tomiko Kanegawa; brother, Yuji (Marion); and sister, Mayumi Sato.

**Hoffman, Ayako Helen, 90**, Monterey Park, April 3; survived by brothers, Yoshiyuki and Yoshiharu Murata; and sister, Ruth Nunokawa.

**Inagi, George, 83**, Monterey Park, April 5; WWII veteran; survived by wife, June; son, Rod; daughter, Candace (David Hiller) Inagi; son-in-law, Limont Everette; 2 gc.; 2 ggc.; brother, Henry (Fumi); sisters, Hatsuye Ninomiya and Kimi Shoji; sister-in-law, Aki Inagi; and brother-in-law, Jack Ninomiya.

**Ino, Toru, 89**, Los Angeles, April 11; survived by wife, Mie; sons, Stacy (Joyce) and Gary (Louise); daughter, Nancy (Dan) Nakagiri; 5 gc.; brother, Kay (Hideko); and sister-in-law, Mary (George) Ozamoto.

**Ito, Mary Mariko, 83**, Hawthorne, April 15; survived by

husband, Shinsaku; son, Kenichi (Yumiko); daughter, Chiyo Baker; brother, Namio (Kimiko) Kitaoka; and sister, Tamaka (Masahiko) Hamaguchi.

**Kami, Matsuye, 95**, Los Angeles, April 6; survived by sons, Hiroshi (Stella) Iseri, Siji (Emi) and Tadashi; and daughters, Kazuko (Jack) Matsuno, Chie Iseri, Sachiko Ida; Kiyoko Luster; and Masako (Charles) Hollowell.

**Kato, Henry Muneo, 88**, San Gabriel, April 2; survived by son, Jeffrey; daughter, Judith (Michael) Lanning; and brother, Benny (Yo).

**Kawaguchi, Masao, 74**, April 10; survived by sons, Ken (Julie), Wes and Scott (Tracie); 7 gc.; and sister, Sally (Victor) Asawa.

**Kise, Glen Shinkichi, 54**, Torrance, April 12; Vietnam War veteran; survived by parents, Shinko and Ruth; and sister, Jean Hashimoto.

**Miyamoto, Marcella Shoko, 78**, Gardena, April 5; survived by husband, Tadashi; sons, Michael (Michelle Tennant) and David (Joyce); 3 gc.; sister, Mary Cottrell; and brother, Tom Miyata.

**Mori, Kumiko, 80**, Monterey Park, Mar. 24; survived by husband, Susumu; daughter, Janice (Michael) Kusaba; 2 gc.; sister, Chiye Takemura; and brothers, Kazuo (Shinako) Sakomizu and Hideo Sakomizu.

**Mori, Shinichi, 51**, Carlsbad, Mar. 25; survived by wife, Rose; daughters, Jillian and Sean; mother, Hisako Mori; sister, Miyuki (Lawrence) Inouye; mother-in-law, Sachiko Kittrinos; and brother-in-law, George (Amelia) Kittrinos.

**Mukumoto, Hisashi J., 87**, San Jose, April 3; WWII Veteran, 442nd, Co. C; survived by wife, Misae; daughter, Lynn (Howard) Marshall; son, Calvin; brothers-in-law, Tatsuo and Duke Ogawa; sis-

ter-in-law, Chiyo Shigezane; 5 gc.; and 5 ggc.

**Nagakura, Shizuko, 92**, Tustin, Mar. 22; survived by daughters, Joan Nakatsu, Vera (Franklin) Minami and Miyeko Ogawa; 7 gc.; 1 ggc.; and sister, Kazuko Murai.

**Miyoshi, Jiro, Feb. 14**; Cleveland, Ohio; survived by wife, Mary; daughters, Karen (Ken) Knecht, Laura (Lori Wilson), and Leslie (Phillip) Gore; sons, Edward (Barb), Philip (Brenda), Jimmy (Merla) and Brandon Keyes; 17 gc.; 9 ggc.; and sister Alyce Takiguchi.

**Nagasaka, Wright, 81**, Boise, April 12; WWII Veteran, 442nd; survived by wife, Nan; daughters, Nona (Jerry) Henderson, Brenda (Dick) Selby; sons, Dyke and Bruce (Shannon); 3 gc.; and sisters, Mitzi Lewis and Ayako (Duncan) Montgomery.

**Nakaji, Tom Tetsu, 84**, Euclid, Ohio; survived by wife, Yukiye; sons, Robert and Richard (Suzanne); 4 gc.; 5 ggc.; and sister, Mary Nakaji.

**Nakajima, Irene Masako, 92**, Torrance, Mar. 19; survived by brother, Howard (Jane) Tochiura; and sister, Dorothy Narahara.

**Nakano, Frank Masumi, 85**, Pico Rivera, Mar. 21; survived by sons, Gerald (Sandra) and Roger (Frances); daughter, Peggy; 2 gc.; and sisters, May (Herb) Okamoto and Lucy Wada.

**Naramura, Valerie Elaine, 58**, Australia, Jan. 24; survived by husband, Kenneth; brothers, John (Fay) and Bob (Val) Dicks; sister, Jennifer (Bob); mother-in-law, Shizue Naramura; and brothers-in-law, Glen Naramura and Victor (Marveene) Naramura.

**Nishihara, Tomoso "Tom," 78**, Ontario, Ore., April 24; Korean War veteran; survived by wife, Suzie; daughters, Joan (Jackson) Nishihara-Leong and June Nishihara; brothers, Masa and Sagie (Tomie); sister, Marie Sakota; and 2 gc.

**Okui, Edna Yasuko, 75**, Newbury Park, April 2; survived by husband, Mitch; sons, Mark and Glen; sister, Kinue (Horst) Kleinschmidt; and brothers-in-law, Tosh (Joyce), Mas (Aki), Yukio, Kunio (Patti) and Tadao (Lois) Okui.

**Ono, Yoshiharu Jaxson, 81**, Cerritos, April 4; survived by wife, Jane; daughters, Joyce (Earl) Iwamoto and Sheri (Tony) Salazar; son, Randall; 4 gc.; 3 ggc.; brother, Tony (Kiyoo); sisters-in-law, Doris Ono and Yae Sugino; and brother-in-law, George Kamada.

**Sakai, Gloria Kimiye**, survived by husband, Wayne; daughters, Sandie (Richard) Miller and Dawn (Eric Nozaki) Sakai; 1 gc.; mother, Kimiko Nakashima; sister, Jill Kito; and brothers, Wayne (Judy) and Reggie (Joyce) Nakaoka.

**Sakamoto, Jean Yaeko**, Rosemead, Mar. 24; survived by husband, Paul; sons, Mark (Jocelyn) and Jason (Veronica); 4 gc.; mother, Shigeeko Yorizane; brothers, Eddie (Eileen) and Ron (Sharon) Yorizane; and sisters, Ann Lowe and Shirley (Robert) Arai.

**Sakaniwa, Mitsuo "Mits," 89**, Hacienda Heights, Mar. 25; survived by son, Keith; daughters, Eiko Tsuno, Faith (Rallen) Nakagawa and Moshi (Dr. Greg) Kimura; 7 gc.; brothers, Himeji (Kimiyo), Tani (Margaret) and Kumpei; sisters, Yaeko Oda and Hisako (Ichiro) Ouchi; and sister-in-law, Hideyo Sakaniwa.

**Santiago, Chiori, 54**, Berkeley, April 21; writer who covered Bay Area visual arts, performance and music; survived by sons,



### Whereabouts

This section runs on a space available basis at no charge.

### CLARA AMINO

Dolores Dutil (Kellas) is searching for her elementary school friend. Both attended Dudley Stone Elementary School in San Francisco at the time of WWII. Clara had one sister and her parents had a laundry business on Haight St. With information contact Dolores at roseydd8@aol.com.

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Roberto and Jiro; mother, Yoshiko Tajiri; father, Chester Roberts; brother, Terry Tajiri; and sister, Reiko Roberts.

**Shimamoto, George Naokichi, 93**, Irving, Tex., Mar. 6; survived by son, Richard (Vicky), David (Joyce) and Ed; daughters, Lois Adams and Lynn (Don Brubeck) Shimamoto; brother, William; sisters, Misao Habara and Mitsuno Shirokoma; 10 gc.; and 11 ggc.

**Shintaku, Mary, 84**, Mar. 23; survived by son, Roger (Grace); daughter, Emily (RJ) Mitchell; 2 gc.; and sisters, Emily Hoshiko and Ossie Tsuboi.

**Tanaka, Hiroshi G., 85**, Henderson, Nev., April 8; WWII Veteran, 442nd RCT, Co. G; survived by wife, Susie; sons, David (Danielle) and Paul; brother, Yukio (Jean); sister, Kimiko Abe; 1 gc.; and 1 ggc.

**Takeshi, William, 81**, Jan. 24; survived by brothers, Edward, Joseph and Thomas; and sister, May Inouye.

**Urata, Nobuko, 86**, Los Angeles, Mar. 25; survived by husband, Hiroshi; sons, Richard and Brian; daughters, Laura Miyabe and Mikiko Rath; brother, Robert Mochinaga; and sister, Tetsuko Suzumoto.

**Uyeji, Tamotsu Tom, 86**, Chula Vista; survived by wife, Rose; son, Stanley (Jacquelyn); daughter, Sharon (Jaye) Okamoto; 2 gc.; brothers, Minoru (Yayoi) and Manabu (Hifumi); and sisters, Aya Ymano, Kaoru (Kuniharu) Nakamura and Miyako Horiye.

**Yamada, Hideo, 90**, Mar. 17; survived by wife, Teruko.

**Yamamoto, Joyce Tazuko, 70**, North Hollywood, April 4; survived by husband, William; daughter, Christine (Yamamoto) Nomura; sons, Roger (Stacey) and Andrew (Zoya); 6 gc.; mother, Sachiye Suzuki; and sister, Nancy Nagabe.

**Yamauchi, Bob Masatoshi, 75**, Mar. 20; survived by wife, Tamie; son, Victor; and 2 gc.

**Yoshimura, Toshio "Iggy," 88**, April 7; survived by husband, Midori; daughter, Ann; 1 gc.; sister, Tomi Shimamoto; and brother-in-law, Taro (Fumi) Kasai. ■

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## HATE RADIO

(Continued from page 1)

in the removal of the broadcast veteran from television and radio. Imus' statement snagged 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 APAs, said Lee.

### Putting Hate in the Dog House

92.3 Free FM is currently broadcasting reruns of the "Doghouse" show, but APAs 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 member 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 refers to a part of her body as "hot, Asian, spicy."

The caller also ordered "shrimp fried lice" 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-person meeting to discuss the situation, but the date has not yet been determined said Mateo in an e-mail to the *Pacific Citizen*.

This isn't the first time Vandergrift and Lay have made offensive remarks towards APAs.

Days after the Virginia Tech tragedy, the duo used a stereotypical

Korean accent to mock gunman Seung 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 corps.

"Mainstream networks should understand the wide influence they wield, and take responsibility 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 Ashy" faced similar criticism over an April 11 segment where callers were challenged 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 management did issue an apology.

In the segment, an "Asian" guy named Mr. Hung Lo speaks broken English with a stereotypical Chinese accent and listeners are asked questions 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 celebrate the contributions of Asian Americans to United States' history, economics and culture," said OCA Westchester President Jeannette Wang in a statement.

Radio shock jocks that push the



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

### Extra

See the protest video at [www.pacificcitizen.org](http://www.pacificcitizen.org)

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 continuously arises.

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

Saavedra, who is a longtime listener 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 continuously spew racist and insulting speech across public airwaves should be fired. ■

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## MORI

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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're working.

Comprehensive Immigration Reform (CIR) has been a top priority of the Bush Administration as well as the leadership of both houses of congress. JACL has been involved with our coalition partners in framing legislation that would solve three critical problems: 1) We support a reasonable 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 workers; and 3) We support a more effective "family reunification" element in our immigration laws that would draw down the enormous backlog in Asian countries.

Immigration has been an important 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, family reunification and maintaining a family structure has been paramount. The "spirit" of immigration is what has made this country great. The work ethic, the importance of family, and the deep desire to make 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 experiences 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 of 2007, HR 1000. This bill will strengthen the ability for the federal authorities to assist local law enforcement agencies 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 orientation, gender identity, and disability. 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 session 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 representatives in Congress to express our position. That letter from a constituent is critical. ■

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