Florida Family Living an Immigration Nightmare

Keith Campbell's wife Akiko made a simple error in her immigration paperwork. Now Akiko and their two kids are in Japan, prevented from returning to the U.S. for a decade.

By CAROLINE AOYAGI-STOM

Executive Editor

At 8 p.m. every night for the past five months Keith Campbell, 47, has looked forward to spending time with his wife Akiko and their two young sons Leo and Misha, ages five and 21 months, respectively. But instead of the decade.

ones who are currently living thousands of miles away in Japan, Nagano, Japan.

It's far from an ideal situation and is not of their choosing. But according to the U.S. government, Akiko, 41, is no longer welcome in the country where she has made her home for the past nine years — all due to an innocent error in her fiancée visa paperwork.

"I get emotional at the weirdest times. The weirdest things will set me off," said Keith, a successful small business owner, in an interview with the Pacific Citizen. "I stay really busy ... I have faith. But my place is with my family.

Akiko is accused of committing deception and fraud against the U.S. government because she got married before her fiancée visa had been processed. And after years of appeals and motions to try to rectify the situation — including two failed green card interviews — Akiko is virtually "in exile" in her native country along with their two U.S.-born sons.

"It is devastating: We all miss Keith so bad," said Akiko, in an e-mail from Nagano. "We have never lived separately since we married. And it has been already five months since we left." Now the only option for the Campbells is to get

See IMMIGRATION NIGHTMARE/Page 12

Japanese Americans Converge at Tanforan Site for Anniversary

By MARCUS WOHLSEN

Associated Press Writer

SAN BRUNO, Calif.—Tanforan is like any other suburban shopping mall. It has a Barnes & Noble, an Old Navy and a food court.

But the mall's current normalcy belies the site's troubling history.

The one-time horse racetrack was a Tanforan during the summer of 1942 until being moved to permanent internment camps.

Today, it's hard to imagine the interior of the coun­try's largest assembly center.

Mineta is married to Deni. Chung has famously loved television personality Maury Povich since 1984 and Yamaguchi glided into marital bliss with hockey star Bret Hedican.

AP STUDENT S LAUNCH CAMPAIGN

APA Students Launch Campaign to Dismantle 'Asian American' at UCs

See RACIST MENU/Page 12

TUCSON RESTAURANT PULLS RACIST LANGUAGE FROM MENU

TUCSON, Ariz.—A Chinese takeout restaurant has removed racially insensitive language from its menu, Web site and advertising flyers after community groups denounced it as racism.

"We are taking every step we can to help create the ads ordered them pulled.

Mike Reynolds, owner of Eggroll, Etc., apologized in a tele­phone interview June 4 for using the

word "Chinaman" in his ads, saying he was initially unaware that it was widely considered a derogatory term.

Reynolds said he still doesn't think his menu, on the whole, could be construed as "intended to hurt or damage anyone," but apologized for any "misunderstanding" created by the jokes on his menu, which included a parody of the inability of immi­grant Chinese to pronounce words containing the letter "r.

Their love stories are enduring and somehow inextricably connected to a dark chapter in U.S. history when anti-miscegenation laws prohibited such unions.

June 12th was the ruby anniversary of the landmark Loving v. Virginia decision, which allowed love to bloom between persons of all colors.

It was 40 years ago — on June 12, 1967 — that the U.S. Supreme Court overruled a

See 'LOVING'/Page 6

APA STUDENTS LAUNCH CAMPAIGN TO DISMANTLE 'ASIAN AMERICAN' AT UCs

The Count Me In campaign strives to shed light on the plight of smaller APA ethnic groups. A Calif. assembly bill seeks to do the same for state agencies.

By LYNDA LIN

Assistant Editor

The title of Asian Pacific American can give and take. It can empower and at the same time engender the feeling of being a minority within a minority group.

APAs make up 34.6 percent of the University of California's new students from the islands who journeyed to California for the event.

As a 2-year-old, Marumoto and her family lived in a horse stall at Tanforan during the summer of 1942 until being moved to permanent internment camps.

Four years of appeals and motions to try to rectify the situation — including two failed green card interviews — Akiko is virtually "in exile" in her native country along with their two U.S.-born sons.

"It is devastating: We all miss Keith so bad," said Akiko, in an e-mail from Nagano. "We have never lived separately since we married. And it has been already five months since we left."

Now the only option for the Campbells is to get

See TANFORAN/Page 10

For the Record

The Abuse of NSLs

By JOHN TATEISHI

One of the most pernicious results of the USA PATRIOT Act has been the use abuse — of national security letters. The authority given the FBI to issue national security letters, which are like admin­istrative subpoenas, was established in the late 1970s, but their use changed dramatically after passage of the Patriot Act. Previously, NSLs were used by the FBI to gain access

See FOR THE RECORD/Page 6

40 Years After Loving v. Virginia, How Far Have We Come?

By P.C. Staff and Associated Press

The immediate former U.S. Secretary of Transportation Norman Y. Mineta shares a little piece of his­tory with television journalist Connie Chung and even figure skat­ing's Kariya Yamaguchi. Besides being legends in their own fields, each is one-half of an interracial marriage.

Mineta is married to Deni. Chung has famously loved television personality Maury Povich since 1984 and Yamaguchi glided into marital bliss with hockey star Bret Hedican.

Reynolds never responded to let­ter...
LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Re: 'Telling the Whole Story'

Thank you so much for your fine story "Telling the Whole Story of World War II," which I read in the June 1-14 issue. You catch all the nuances of a complicated, layered piece of WWII history that is often ignored in the press.

Those of us who have worked for years now to publish the story of the WWII Alien Enemy Control Program (AECP) have done so out of conviction that the seeds for the tragic recreation of 110,000 people of Japanese ancestry were sown with the AECP. Until we fully understand the fears, the ethnic prejudices, the xenophobias, the dehumanizing caricatures behind the AECP, we won’t understand how we ever got to the outrages of E.O. 9066. Your article is a step in the direction of helping us all understand how it happened.

Recently the Wartime Treatment Study Act, calling for commissions to study the AECP, received Senate approval as an amendment to the pending Immigration Act. We are encouraged by the belief that our national legislators are beginning to also understand the historical import of the AECP.

On behalf of the members of Enemy Alien Community Files Exhibition Consortium, which have been in collaboration for some years now to publicize the little-known story of WWII internment, thanks again for your interest in the story.

John Christian
"ENEMIES: World War II Alien Internment" Belmont, Calif.

Immigration and the R-Word

I take issue with John Tateishi’s remarks in his June 1st "For the Record" column. It is my humble opinion that one should use the R-word only when there is clear, undeniable evidence that it applies. Bragging about sponsoring senators of the current immigration legislation as racist by association is very misleading to the public.

The 12 Senators who are working so hard to finally get something done on the immigration issue are Republicans -- Saxby Chambliss (Ga.), Lindsey Graham (S.C.), Mel Martinez (Fla.), Sam Brownback (Kan.), Richard J. Durbin (Ill.), Diane Feinstein (Calif.), Edward M. Kennedy (Mass.), Ben Nighthorse Campbell (Colo.), Sen. Schumer (N.Y.).

It is an impressive list of leaders who have gotten together to try to solve a longstanding problem. JACL and John Tateishi need to stop throwing rocks at this process. The fact that it’s taking six left wing and six right wing to craft a compromise that even has a chance of passage also means that NOBODY will be happy with the final bill. For us that are in the middle of the political spectrum, that means that it’s probably close to the right answer.

Chip Lenane

SPRING CAMPAIGN
Donate to the P.C. Spring Campaign and Help Change the World

By TED NAMBA

Want information on what’s going on in our national Asian American Pacific Islander American community? One could simply join as master to include your personal or internal reference use AAPIA organizations as possible (e.g. AAJA, NAACP, AJA) or go for Brokante, OCA, etc. just so you can read all of their publications to keep current on each organization’s noteworthy events. This strategy will cost a lot of cash with membership dues and requires one to fill through a lot of material on a regular basis.

My recommendation is to simply maintain your JACL membership so one continues to receive their edition of the semi-monthly Pacific Citizen. Our P.C. is a perfect 12-page long newspaper that provides news and updates on the current community. If the JACL is not a member, please consider joining with a nice cup of coffee. Did you realize that if you give up one nice cup of joe a week, that will enable you to contribute $150 to this year’s P.C. Spring Campaign so you can both relax and play a significant role in making the P.C. (Cargo) Program for Action (AECP) a plus.

The P.C. team has several excellent ideas further improving the current AECP. The grants that funds are needed to make these positive changes. Nelson Mandela once said, "Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world." One of the key objectives of the P.C. is to communicate with and inspire young JACL members and the community at large on issues of importance to the APIA community. The P.C. is an important vehicle to influence these emerging APIA communities, which in turn will slowly make a positive difference in these communities. I am personally making a donation to this year’s P.C. Spring Campaign so that we can help change the world. Thanks.

Ted Namba is the Pacific Southwest district representative of the Pacific Citizen editorial board.

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NEWS DEADLINE
FRI - MARCH 31

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APA Groups Continue to Push for Family-Friendly Immigration Reform

By P.C. Staff and Associated Press

Asian Pacific American advocacy groups continue to champion family-friendly immigration reform even after a fragile deal was pulled from the Senate floor June 7.

Senate backers of the immigration bill fell 15 votes short of the 60 needed to limit debate and allow a vote on the measure. Democratic Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid then decided to end the Senate's consideration of the bill.

This week, Asia Pacific American leaders hope to get back to work on the issue.

"What is truly hanging in the balance over immigration reform is not just Asian immigrants, but the future of our nation," said Eun Sook Lee, executive director of the National Korean American Service & Education Consortium (NAKASEC).

"As such, instead of engaging in political finger-pointing, the Senate should clearly recognize its historic tasks and regroup its members in order to earnestly work on real immigration reform."

Senate members returned from recess June 4 to begin debate on SB 1346, an immigration reform bill that critics say would decimate the family-based immigration system and create more separation of families. The Wartime Treatment Study Act would set up a commission to examine the treatment of Germans, and other Europeans, in the United States during World War II.

The legislation's status is uncertain because it was passed as an amendment to the immigration bill, which has stalled in the Senate.

Roughly 3,000 Italians and 11,000 Germans were detained in the U.S., including some Germans from Latin America.

The Wartime Treatment Study Act would set up a commission to examine the treatment of Germans, and other Europeans; and a second commission to look into how Jewish refugees fleeing persecution were treated.

Board May Reconsider Naming Madison School after Hmong General

MADISON, Wis.-The school board may reconsider naming a new elementary school for a former Hmong military leader after federal prosecutors charged him with plotting a violent takeover of Laos' communist government.

General Vang Pao was among 10 Hmong generals accused June 4 and charged in federal court in Wisconsin of attempting to reestablish his own communist government. The government is seeking to have the school board reverse the decision.

The charges came just 12 days after Madison school officials broke ground for the school on the city's west side and controversy continued to rage over the school board's April vote to name it Vang Pao Elementary. The school is expected to open in fall 2008.

Virginia Tech to Reopen the Building Where Shootings Occurred

BLACKSBURG, Va.—The classroom building where a gunman killed 32 people and himself on the Virginia Tech campus will reopen for laboratories and offices later this month.

Norris Hall will never again be used for classrooms, as it was when student Seung-Hui Cho went on a shooting rampage in the building April 16.

The building will house facilities for the department of engineering and mechanics and the department of nuclear and energy engineering when it reopens on June 18.

New Study Examines Racial Discrimination's Effect on APAs

ANN ARBOR, Mich.—Racial discrimination against APAs can cause stress and lead to chronic illness, according to new research from the University of Michigan School of Public Health.

Researchers surveyed almost 2,100 APA adults as part of the 2002-03 National Latino and Asian American Study. Participants were asked about their experiences with discrimination and their health histories. Researchers found that everyday discrimination was associated with a variety of health conditions, such as chronic cardiovascular and pain-related health issues. Filipinos reported the highest level of discrimination.

Okei Ito's Headstone Replaced with a Replica

CoLOMA, Calif.—The headstone marking the final resting place of the first Japanese woman to have died on American soil has been restored for safekeeping. A replica will take its place.

The 136-year-old granite headstone is inscribed in English and Japanese: "In Memory of Okei, Died 18th Aug. 19 years old. (A Japanese Girl)."

Okei Bo is buried at the site of the former Wakamatsu Tea and Silk Farm Colony, the nation's first Japanese settlement, founded on June 7, 1869.

Bill to Provide Oregon University Degrees to Former JA Internees is Signed into Law

SALEM, Ore.—A bill that grants degrees to former internees who had their education interrupted during World War II was signed into law June 9.

Gov. Ted Kulongoski, Rep. Brian Clem and former internees celebrated the passage of HB 2823, which would also award honorary degrees posthumously to an internee's next-of-kin.

Many of those interned were students who never had the opportunity to return to college and receive their degrees.

Chenie Cheadle triumphed because of his own father-in-law, Hideo Suzuki, was interned at 19.

Senators Vote to Study Treatment of German Americans During World War II

WASHINGTON—Legislation to look into the WWII internment of German Americans has been passed and is being better recognized with the Senate's vote to look into the treatment of Germans and other Europeans in the U.S. during WWII.

The legislature's status is uncertain because it was passed as an amendment to the immigration bill, which has stalled in the Senate.

Roughly 3,000 Italians and 11,000 Germans were detained in the U.S., including some Germans from Latin America.

The Wartime Treatment Study Act would set up a commission to examine the treatment of Germans, and other Europeans; and a second commission to look into how Jewish refugees fleeing persecution were treated.
APAs in the News

By Pacific Citizen Staff

Mineta, Okimoto to Receive Japanese 'Rising Sun' Government Honor

Norman Mineta and Daniel O. Okimoto, a Stanford University professor, will receive the Order of the Rising Sun from the Japanese government to honor their contributions to American-Japanese relations.

Mineta is the longest serving secretary in the history of the U.S. Department of Transportation. Okimoto is a professor in the department of political science.

Created in 1875 by Emperor Meiji, past recipients of the Order of the Rising Sun include former Secretary of Defense William Perry.

Mineta and Okimoto will be given the award at the Japanese Consulate in San Francisco.

San Jose JACL Awards Scholarships to 14 Students

Fourteen local high school students received scholarships from the San Jose JACL recently.

This year's recipients are: Nicole Santo, Eric Matsamoto, Vincent Hatsukayama, Cecily Nishimatsu, Ashley Yuki, Kristi Imai, Tiffany Louis, Sara Stamm, Kristin Matsutomo, Brett Itatani, Ryan Matsutomo, Lauren Miyashiro, Kevin Tanaka and James Matsutomo.

Pictured above: (top row, l-r) Miyashiro, Santo, Kristin Matsutomo, Stamm, Louis, Imai, Nishimatsu and Yuki. (bottom row) Chapter President Gail Sueki, Eric Matsutomo, James Matsutomo, Tanaka, Sharon Uyeda (scholarship chair), Matsuoka, Itatani and Hatsukayama.

Judge Okamoto to be Inducted into Ranger Hall of Fame

Los Angeles California Superior Court Judge Vincent H. Okamoto has been selected for induction as a member of the Ranger Hall of Fame for his extraordinary heroism in the Vietnam War.

On August 24, 1968 Okamoto, a 2nd lieutenant with the 25th Infantry Division near Dau Tieng, was attacked by three reinforced North Vietnamese and Viet Cong companies.

He was awarded the Distinguished Service Cross, the Silver Star, Bronze Star, Vietnamese Cross of Gallantry and Purple Heart with 2 Oak Leaf Clusters among other individual and unit citations.

The induction ceremony will be held Aug. 8 at Fort Benning, Georgia.

Boise Valley JACL Awards Four Scholarships

Four high school seniors were recently honored at the Boise Valley JACL annual summer picnic and graduation celebration.

The graduates not only received scholarships from the Boise Valley JACL, but an additional donation from the Shim Yamamoto family was added to each of the four scholarships. Yamamoto passed away earlier this year at the age of 100.

Pictured above: (l-r) scholarship winners Lani Hildda, Jill Sturm, Torie Lawson, and Brett Hidal.

Judge Takasugi is Honored by his Alma Mater

A U.S. District Court Judge Robert Takasugi was honored with a Public Service Award from the UCLA Alumni Association on June 10.

The award pays tribute to outstanding alumni for their professional achievement and their public, community and university service.

Takasugi has been devoted to his communities through his work as a lawyer, judge, mentor and teacher. After the intermittent, he went on to receive degrees from UCLA and USC and entered private practice in a small firm serving East Los Angeles. He served on both the Los Angeles County superior and municipal courts and was the first JA appointed to the federal bench.

Honor mulu's Chinatown Drops Dark Past, Provides Home for Arts

By ASSOCIATED PRESS

"HONOLULU — Shunning its reputation for illegal gambling dens, prostitution and streets plagued by drug dealers, Honolulu's Chinatown has finally begun to emerge from its dark past.

Visit the neighborhood today and you'll find yourself swept up in the crowding throngs and bustling piles of tropical fruits, fragrant flower lei and greens, and meats butchered before your eyes.

But take a closer look and you will witness a new development not as common to the nation's other Chinatowns: Bohemian nightclubs, galleries, stylish stores and even ritzy restaurants.

As night falls, the streets earlier filled with cows and morns looking for fresh foods are repopulated with promont young people gathering at the entrances of nutty styled bars and patons of the arts on their way to performances of modern dance or Japanese flute music.

Long concerned with the happiness of the sun-seeking mainlanders and Japanese jet-setters hosted in the hotels of Waikiki, Honolulu now has a fun neighborhood for young locals looking for fun.

But it's also a great place for tourists to see a side of Hawaii that isn't tidied up and manicured just for visitors.

"It was a different place filled with this kind of rugged potential and kind of drug dealers and — it had a really, really bad reputation," said Rich Richardson, creative director of the ARTS at Marks Garage.

Founded with seed money from the city in 2001, the gallery was among the innovators in the eastern half of Chinatown, which had languished despite the buzzing ethnic commerce: a few blocks to the west.

In roughly two years the area has sprouted at least five new restaurants, three new bars, a nightclub, a cafe, a couple of spas, a yoga studio, a wine store, a hair salon, an artsy surf board shop, a stylish skate board shop, a home decorating store and a handful of arts spaces.

Although they've been the earliest introductions to the neighborhood is tours with the Chinese Chamber of Commerce or the Hawaii Heritage Center.

Staffed with an enthusiastic band of volunteers, the center on Smith Street is also a great place to get a sense of the history and traditions of the waves of various Asian groups, as well as Irish, into the neighborhood.

"It's always the arid it's always changing," said Karen Motoue, vice president of the center.

Further west, Manekake Street is known for one of the neighborhood's oldest enterprises — lei shops. Originally run by Hawaiians, many of the shops selling the garlands — a complex construction of flowers, nuts and leaves — are run by Vietnamese families who string them onsite.

There are a number of pleasant lunch options to be found in the district. Popular, but not for the faint of heart, are the food stalls at the back of the Manekake Marketplace. Behind the booths of rambutan, long beans and displays of fish — some very similar to the beauties you just saw snorting around the Khauor room with stalls serving a wide range of workman's meals from across Asia.
The University of California has approved the establishment of the UC Asian American and Pacific Islander Policy Multi-Campus Asian Pacific American Policy Research (APAPR) Program, which will officially start operating July 1. The MRPP will support and promote applied research on policy issues related to Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders in California and the nation. The MRPP currently has 10 faculty affiliates from all 10 campuses, representing a diverse range of disciplines, including political science, sociology, economics, ethnic studies, law, public health, nursing, urban planning, education, Asian American studies, ethnic studies and social work.

The UC AAPI Policy MRPP will bring together UC researchers, community organizations, and policy makers to identify, implement and disseminate research related to the AAPI community. The MRPP will provide support to faculty and their students to conduct policy research, and will sponsor forums for them to present findings to elected officials, policy makers, community leaders and the general public.

In so doing, it will enhance the university's broader mission of integrating research, teaching, and community service in ways that enlighten public policy.

The University of California Office of the President will provide funds for core operations for three years. The MRPP will be housed at UCLA's Asian American Studies Center, which will provide matching funds and administrative support.

UCLA's Graduate Division within the Chancellor's Office and UCLA's Asian American Studies Department will provide additional support.

The Berkeley, Davis, and Irvine campuses will provide matching funds and will sponsor and host annual conference workshops and forums to further the MRPP's goals.

The founding of the MRPP was made possible through the active involvement of faculty from throughout the UC system, with support from the Office of the President, California Policy Research Center, UCLA Asian American Studies Center, the Twin Center at Sacramento, and the Joint API Legislative Caucus.

Professor Paul Ong (Asian American Studies and School of Public Affairs) will serve as the MRPP's faculty director.

Additional information on the UC AAPI Policy MRPP can be found at http://www.asa.ucla.edu/policy/defaul.htm. Inquiries can be sent to: aapipolicy@asa.ucla.edu.

Twin Cities JACL Curriculum Guide on the MIS Now Available Online

The Twin Cities JACL Curriculum Guide on the Military Intelligence Service (MIS) is available for download online.

Included are biographies of Minnesota MIS veterans like Harry Appold, who was in the first MIS class at Camp Savage in May 1942. After training, he was assigned to the Central Prisoner of War (POW) Compound in New Guinea, where he interrogated Japanese prisoners of war for combat and strategic intelligence.

Tashio William Abe was also in the first graduating class at Camp Savage. He was sent as a replacement for Merrill's Marauders to the China-Burma-India Theater, where he served in continuous combat for eight months.

Catherine Suzuki, Edwin (Bud) Nakasone and Bill Dorr are also highlighted in the guide.

They hope to have this opportunity to teach students about the experiences of the Nisei MIS soldiers, said Sally Studo, chair of the Twin Cities JACL's Education Committee.

They contributed significantly to the war effort and post-war rebuilding of Japan, and we are finding out more about their sacrifices and heroic acts through declas­siified government documents and academic research.

The MIS curriculum guide also includes lesson plans and learning activities about interrogating Japanese POWs and translating the Japanese language.

A hardcopy of the guide was unveiled in March at the Great Lakes Conference, a seven-state regional meeting of social studies teachers, hosted by the Minnesota Council on the Social Studies in Prior Lake, Minn.

In 2004, the project was approved by the Minnesota Department of Education's Academic Standards in History and Social Studies and implemented this school year as one of the examples to be taught under Minnesota and WWII history in grades four through eight.

The U.S. Army's MIS program was established in November 1941, and a few weeks after the attack on Pearl Harbor, it was moved to its temporary headquarters in the Presidio of San Francisco. In 1942, Executive Order 9066 necessitated a move inland.

Photo: Cherly Hirata-Oulas

Lil Grothe (left) and Lucy Kihara (right) display the Twin Cities JACL MIS Curriculum Guide at the 2007 Great Lakes regional social studies conference.

While most governors were against having the MIS program moved to their states, then Gov. Harold Stassen felt that Minnesotans would provide a friendly and accepting atmosphere to the Nisei soldiers.

The MIS program was moved to Camp Savage in May 1942 and later to larger facilities at Fort Snelling from August 1944 to June 1946.

A historical marker placed in 1995 by the Savage Chamber of Commerce at Highway 13 near Westwood Avenue in Savage identifies the site of Camp Savage and describes the role of the MIS during WWll.

The guide can be downloaded at no charge from the "Education" link on the Twin Cities JACL Web site: www.twincitiesjacl.org.

COMMENTS: PACIFIC CITIZEN

NCWNP District Council Recognizes and Gives Support to Muslim American Advocate, Basim El-Karra

BY BARBARA TAKEI
Special to the Pacific Citizen

"The Muslim community today is psychologically intertwined with Japanese Americans," said Basim El-Karra, executive director of the National Council of American Muslims (NCWNP) and Education.</ref>

El-Karra's remarks followed adoption of a resolution by the NCWNP district council at a recent meeting in Sacramento that recognized El-Karra’s work. The NCWNP district council joined other groups — including elected officials in the California State Legislature's Asian Pacific Caucus, the Organization of Chinese Americans, and the Harry S. Truman Democratic Club — in expressing organizational support for El-Karra, who was recently at the center of a bruising encounter with a Somali Muslim American Advocate, Basim El-Karra

Despite a groundswell of individual and organizational petitions to Sen. Boxer, she has maintained silence regarding the matter.

Sheparding a JACL response to the matter, Andy Noguchi and Karen Kasasagi sought the district resolution on behalf of El-Karra. The resolution passed unanimously, 22-0, with two chapters abstaining.

"In the same way Japanese Americans were treated after Pearl Harbor, Muslim Americans are suddenly deeply treated as being responsible for the act of every Muslim and judged guilty by association," said Andy Noguchi, the Civil Rights chair of the NCWNP district council.

Karen Kasasagi, Florin JACL chapter president, presented El-Karra with a Daruma Award from the Berkeley, Florin, Honolulu, Lodi, and Maryville JACL chapters, and told him, "as Japanese Americans we have a unique understanding of the predicament of Muslim Americans."

Basim El-Karra has worked tirelessly to stem the backlash against American Muslims after 9/11, said Kasasagi, noting the important role El-Karra and CAIR play in educating community and civil rights. "He has accomplished so much and done more than most of us will ever do in a lifetime."

Similar thoughts were voiced by JACL Regional Director Patty Wada who said, "Basim El-Karra is a friend and an ally in the civil rights community, and the JACL district vote demonstrates our support of him and his good work."
Virginia state bar president whites from marrying nonwhites. The decision also overturned similar bans in 15 other states.

The Supreme Court ruled that Virginia could not criminalize the marriage that Richard Loving, a white, and his black wife, Mildred, entered into nine years earlier in Washington, D.C. It's been four decades, but in the context of U.S. history, not long at all.

Before Mineta, Chung and Yamaguchi there was Dick Miyagawa and his black wife, Mildred, whom he married twice (once in 1945 on a Georgia military base and again in 1956) because the state of Georgia didn't recognize the marriage. When the couple boarded a train to her first husband in 1966 - a year before the Loving decision.

It wasn't love at first sight. She was going back to graduate school and needed to get a part-time job. A friend who was working at San Francisco's Glide Church recommended Miyagawa for a temporary position.

The first day on the job, she was transcribing tapes when Williams walked in and stood over her.

"Do you know who I am?" he asked her.

"No," she replied indignantly and he walked out. Her first impression was of a man "so egotistical they wanted to widen the doorways," but after years of friendship, love blossomed.

"We knew each other for 18 years before we got married. He's my best friend. Our lives have been affected by various different struggles," said Miyagawa, including resistance from their respective families over a marriage between a Japanese American and an African American.

"I think that more mixed marriages are an inevitable situation," he added. "The more integrated our society becomes, the more we as human beings are attracted to others who understand our souls."

Celebrating Loving Day

Since Loving vs. Virginia, the number of intermarriages has soared, according to Census Bureau figures. Coupled with a steady flow of immigrants from all parts of the world, the surge of intermarriages and multicultural children is producing a 21st century America more diverse than ever, with the potential to become less stratified by race.

About 6.8 million described themselves as multiracial - 2.4 percent of the population. But many have not forgotten their roots.

For the last three years, the Loving Day Campaign has celebrated the anniversary of the Supreme Court decision with events nationwide. In New York's East River area, the Loving Day celebration was held June 10 with food and beverages.

"Part of Loving Day's mission is to fight prejudice through education. Prejudice certainly still exists; according to the FBI, race is still the top motivating factor in hate crimes by a large margin. Racial prejudice is especially persistent in the context of intimate relationships. Teaching people about the Loving decision is our way of fighting that prejudice," said Kent and Tabako, Loving Day creators.

"Legally, we have come a long way. From a social perspective, we still have a long way to go. Hundreds of years of racism will not disappear overnight," he added. ■

More for information about the Loving Day campaign: www.lovingday.org

FOR THE RECORD

(Continued from page 1)

(Continued from page 1)

6

New Yorkers 100 years old celebrated the 40th anniversary of the Loving decision.

(Continued from page 1)

letters can be issued by special agents in field offices. It's time the nation's civil community, which of course includes the JACL, got serious about this and pressed Congress to re-examine the Patriot Act and repeal the broadened authority given to the NSLs.

John Tateishi is the immediate past national JACL director and also served as the JACL's redress chairman. His column appears regularly in the Pacific Citizen.

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GOLF
Once Filled with Unlimited Potential, Wie Now Surrounded by Controversy

HARVEY DE GRACE, Maryland—Phil Mickelson withdrew because of a wrist injury and now he's home to San Diego for an MRI. He saw two doctors, had one cortisone shot and decided to withdraw from his next tournament.

Michelle Wie withdrew because of a wrist injury and went to the range to hit balls.

In fairness, at least she took a day off.

Maybe that made her left wrist feel better, but it did nothing to quell the mounting criticism around her.

That the 17-year-old from Honolulu would walk out of the Gimn Tribute recently with only two holes left in the round is surpassing coincidence. The LPGA Tour has a rule that nonmembers who don't break 88—and Wie was two bogeys away from that—cannot play again for the rest of the year.

Worse yet was showing up at Bulle Rock on the weekend to hit balls. Wie had to play June 4 at the U.S. LPGA Championship, practiced some more on June 5 and had no expectations for the second woman's major of the year, conceding she is not at her best.

Wie had done well with the tour's biggest star—Annika Sorenstam—who happened to be the tournament host at the Glass.

"I just feel that there's a little bit of lack of respect and class just to leave a tournament like that and then come out and practice here," said Sorenstam, who solidified on for four days despite returning from a back and neck injury.

"It's a little funny that you pull out with an injury and then you start grinding. My doctor told me to rest."

Sorenstam was quick to note that Wie received a sponsor's exemption to the tournament. That means she was invited. The feeling on the tour is that Wie has mistaken invitation for entitlement.

Only it is becoming apparent that Wie doesn't see it that way.

She opened her press conference June 5 wearing a cast and clarified a few issues. One suspected there might be an apology to the tournament sponsors for a situation beyond her control.

"I'm going through a hard time," she said. "It's my first time facing an injury."

"I don't think I need to apologize for anything," she said. "I just have to take care of my body and come forward and only think of positive things. Those are becoming hard to find."

The hysteria over Wie was at a last high ball at Bulle Rock. She had narrowly missed qualifying for the U.S. Open at Winged Foot, stopped only by her putting at the Canoe Brook qualifier. She was poised to become golf's youngest major champion until a wayward wedge from the 16th fairway of the final round and that she still wasn't 100 percent.

"I'm going through a hard time," she said. "It's my first time facing an injury."

"I don't think I need to apologize for anything," she said. "I just have to take care of my body and come forward and only think of positive things. Those are becoming hard to find."

"I'm only human," she said.

But she is no longer the prodigy that amazed the golf world with such power for such youth.

She is 17, but no longer a kid.

There was a time the LPGA Tour needed Wie a lot more than Wie needed the LPGA Tour. That might be the case anymore.

People are far more willing to forgive a bad round than bad manners.

BASEBALL
Major League Baseball Officials Hope to Decide on Asia Trips Soon

NEW YORK—U.S. Major League Baseball officials hope to decide by late July whether to play in Beijing and Tokyo early next year.

Bob DuPuy, MLB's chief operating officer, headed a delegation that went to China recently and visited the ballpark being built in Beijing for next year's Olympics. He said exhibition games in Beijing and regular-season games in Tokyo weren't related and that different teams could be involved in each event.

"We're operating about both tracks," he said. "We clearly don't have a lot of time."

Teams play the season in Tokyo in 2000 (Chicago Cubs and New York Mets) and 2004 (New York Yankees and Tampa Bay Devil Rays), and Seattle and Oakland were scheduled to start 2003 there before that series was scrapped because of the threat of war in Iraq.

"I think getting an overall logistical plan, talking to the players' association, determining sponsorship and broadcast possibilities and then reviewing what teams might be interested would be the next four steps," DuPuy said.

Gene Orza, the union's chief operating officer, said talks with management were likely to take place soon.

"There are logistical difficulties with doing both China and Japan, but we're interested in a Japan opener and we're interested in playing in Beijing," he said.

"A lot has to be worked out."

Boston Red Sox president Larry Lucchino was among three clubs officials on the trip along with Sand Diego's Sandy Alderson and Pittsburgh's Kevin McClatchy. With Daisuke Matsuzaka and Hideki Okajima, the Red Sox have appeal to Japanese sponsors.

The Yankees sent a high-level delegation to China during the off-season and said they would be interested in playing there but haven't heard back from the MLB commissioner's office of late.

"The Dodgers have a long history in Asia. Los Angeles has a huge Asian-Pacific population and we would definitely be interested in both opportunities," team spokeswoman Camille Johnston said.

MLB officials wanted to get a firsthand look at facilities in China. DuPuy said construction is ongoing at the Beijing ballpark.

"The sod has been put in. Most of the light fixtures are up. Most of the facility is built," he said. "They still have to build a mound. They still have to finish the baspaths. They still have to do some work with the outfield."

Lucchino was excited about possibilities.

"It's inevitable that Major League Baseball will be more active in China than we have been," he said. He can envision a youth baseball academy being started there.

"We've done it elsewhere, so we're not writing on a completely blank slate, but there is a need to recognize China is a unique place and it would have to be done in a way that is compatible with the unique circumstances," he said.
Harry Honda: Very Truly Yours

Nikkei Expressions, Flourishing or Forgotten

T
WENTY FIVE YEARS ago, this column reprinted a list of words from the Evacuation Camp Lexicon (1945 WRA Community Analysis Report) of words and phrases that flourished in the camps. That column was carried in the Hokubei Mainichi and the San Francisco Nisei Retirement Group compiled a list of Issei pidgin English, calling it "unadulterated Nichi- go."

Meanwhile, P.C. readers submitted expressions of Issei pidgin and words banned to and fro by Nisei in the camps.

The WRA analyst recorded words and phrases he thought were the "most tellingly" expressed. Issei compacted English words when they were too much to mouth and Nisei chose playful Japanese (Ip.) words that became Americanized slang when Japanese words you knew were easier to say.

Merging of two language styles was truly "camp language." The analyst noted. "The (WRA) center is an abnormal community with distinctive characteristics. It is not a corner of Japan nor is it the mainstream of American life. Such a separate community develops its own vocabulary, assimilating into it the type of humor, sarcasm and attitudes which reflect the daily life of the center."

Terms most common at Tule Lake:

All (from agitator) BURU (harrassing) DEMO (demonstrating) SEKON HAN (second hand) SENCHI (sentimental) TAKESHI DE YUKU (means "to walk"); ikashi-tachi; down, with yakugo go. Since there were no toxis in the camp, the expression was a humorous attitude toward camp life.

TOETE SHAN (means "very pretty"); ITO (pure) IP.; "very"; German schön, "pretty"; YANGU ("young," used in a derogatory manner by Issei addressing a Nisei, describing a person avariced in anything practical.)

Terms reflecting Issei interest in sports:

AU-TOH (cause-in baseball) BESU BOHRU (baseball) DORON GEHRI (brownie-out game, game called on account of rain, down-and-two syllables in Japanese for "drown.") GORO (ground ball, From Ip. goro goro = sound of something rolling, dun-

d) TONNERU (tunnel refers to the ground when ball passes through the player's legs). Baseball positions were said with a Japanese accent: PICHA. KETCHA. FAS'TO BES' SEKON BES' SAADO BES' SHOTO-STOP. AU-TOH- FEERUDA.

Terms reflecting foods:

Issei pronunciation of American food. MESU (mess hall). BATA. B-BREDO, B-BRENO. BEGUS (instead of Ip. tamago). YOGORE (cake.) (Jp.: anxiety, worry.) Often heard: "No shimpai;" Skip suyari = Variant for "chop suyari," as dinner of rice, meat and veggies was slapped on one dish; Suppen-tei = superstitious. (Ip. = tappen; suyari: suppon turtle.) (Ip. = tei = emperor.)

Waste time - Dislike of some activity. Woolfing glasses = Dark glasses. Boro (Ip.: boorishness, awkward country bumpkin.) Applied in a self-desceratory man-

ner to "Japanese;" Boroget (Ip.: yogoreu = to get dirty.) Term applied to some rough elements, an unsavory gang.

A generation would pass after the WWII camp years that the term, "Nikkei" (Japanese ancestry) came to being, refering to the Issei, Nisei, Sansei and persons of Japanese ancestry. Occasionally, Yonsei (fourth generation) and Gosei (fifth generation) see print. Whether succeeding Japanese American families will continue counting will be up to them.

Bobo: To hit a non-moving object placed directly before my very own feet. "Swoosh - swoosh!" was my club swinging through the air after not making contact with the ball. All around me, I heard: "swoosh, whack! - swoosh, whack!" But my efforts all ended only with a "swoosh."

Not to worry, not to worry, said my husband with encouragement. It's like that for all beginners! So I persisted in going to the driving range on most weekends with my then very large collection of golf paraphernalia. I had a battery driven golf cart, striped Capri pants, brilliantly colored caps, spiffy white golf shoes, polished clubs and by now a whole zoo of club covers.

Mr. Elephant, Miss Panda and Baby Piggy were my trusty companions. After about a year, I could proudly say that I was hitting most of my balls. I had finally graduated to a "whack!" And so, after taking my final test, successfully earning my golf license (the three times to my golf instructor were truly very, very small), and joining a club, I was ready for my first round of golf!

Whoever says golf is not a sport has just never played it. I was prepared for the big day with a therm of coffee, a large sandwich, candy bars, a bottle of water, an apple, Mr. Elephant, Miss Panda and Baby Piggy. But I never had a chance to enjoy any of them. As it turns out, golf is a never-ending race to keep up with the players in front of you and avoid getting hit from the sidelines. Keep your ball keeps on losing itself in some tall grass, as mine had an odd tendency to do, you spend the entire game running.

Running into the shurb-bery to find your ball, running to keep up, running to avoid getting hit, running to make sure you haven't hit anyone, running to find your ball again and running to make sure your electric club doesn't speed away with your bag after you've set it to automatic.

My day went like this: Mr. Elephant got lost on the second hole, Miss Panda somewhere around the 8th and Baby Piggy got stuffed into the bag at the 10th in order to keep him from becoming an orphan. When we were done I took toll. Besides my animal friends I had lost six balls, a bottle of water, four pounds and the patience of my husband. And I learned that my license didn't help me one bit out there on the course. A hard hat would have made more sense.
During her first visit to Japan in the mid 1980s, Vicki Shigekuni Wong found inspiration in a bronze statue. Above the hustle and bustle of Tokyo's Shibuya Train Station, the likeness of an Akita memorized Japan's most beloved canine named Hachiko.

"I really have an affinity towards dogs, so the moment I spotted Hachiko's bronze statue I was absolutely smitten," said Wong, who is introducing an American audi­
cial friendship and Hollywood has paid homage to the relationship by
like peanut butter to the roof of her mouth.

Wong wasn't alone - many fell in love with the real-life Hachiko, the
devoted dog that became a statue at Shibuya Station where he waited for his master for almost a decade starting in the mid-1920s for his master's return.

Man's best friend and its two-legged companion have always shared a spe­
dific bond. Hachiko and his owner, Hiroo, formed a special friendship.

During her first visit to Japan in the mid 1980s, Vicki Shigekuni Wong

Shibuya Train Station, the likeness of an Akita memoriaIized Japan's most
found inspiration in a bronze statue. Above the hustle and bustle of Tokyo's
about it during all the excitement of

With Parker's passing, Hachiko faithfully returns to the
same spot at the station every day for
the next nine years to wait for his
master. His loyalty and unwavering devotion to his master was the
basis for a great film," said Wong.

Hachiko's calm manner inspired
me to call him "Little Buddha" and I
often mused on what a spiritual
lift I received from just being in his
presence. We had a deep bond and I
looked everywhere. When Hachiko
was a puppy, he was so cute that a
little boy pointed to Hachiko and
asked, "where are his batteries?"
He looked like a plush stuffed toy!

"My parents, Ruth and Tom Shigekuni of Malaga Cove, would
take care of Hachiko whenever I
traveled. My mother called
him 'grand dog' and my father would be
the official dog walker when and if
he could convince Hachiko to go
outside. They would have these
hilarious standoffs at the front door
with neither side giving ground," said Wong.

When Hachi passed away at 16, she struggled with a deep sense of
loss.

During this time, I just wanted to
keep Hachi's memory alive and this
is when I first wanted to make this
film.

"Hachiko: A Dog's Story," will be
an American adaptation of the
famous Japanese true story set in
present-day Connecticut. In the
film, Hachiko arrives from Japan
and is discovered by Parker (Gere), who is also co-producing the film,
a university professor.

Like the true story, Hachiko
accompanies his master to the train
station every day and returns each
afternoon to greet him after work.
But when Parker passes away, Hachiko faithfully returns to the
same spot at the station every day for
the next nine years to wait for his
beloved master.

"I've seen grown men who don't
even like dogs ... shed tears while
reading the screenplay. This is
the basis for a great film," said Wong.

Learning on the Job
Wong, a Samoan who grew up in
Torrance, Calif. didn't have any formal
education in the entertainment
industry.

She was working as the president
of her condo association across the
street from the Viacom offices of
Paul Mason, senior vice president
of production.

"It was like enrolling in
"Entertainment 101" and learning
about film production, budgets,
sound, editing and the legal aspects
of the business in a real-life setting."

Wong began pushing the Hachi
film at the same time she had
opened a vacation home on the island
of Vanuatu.

"My fantasy was to spend six
months a year reading, swimming
and relaxing amidst my tropical
gardens in this dream house over­
looking the turquoise sea. The
script was completed just days
before leaving and I really forgot
about all this excitement of
writing the screenplay."

Within a month of arriv­
ing in Vanuatu, I got word that a
company wanted to buy my little
dog film. My ambitious idea of rest
and relaxation was not to be?" she said.

"Hachiko: A Dog's Story" will be
released theatrically in both domes­
tic and foreign territories.

SECRET ASIAN MAN" By Tak

HONEY, DID YOU RERRANGE THE KITCHEN AGAIN?

I CAN'T FIND THE PUNJAB SAUCE!

I FINALLY CAVED INTO SUPERMARKET LOGIC.

I MADE A "FLAVORS OF THE WORLD" SHELF.

PACIFIC CITIZEN, June 15-July 5, 2007
In a departure from page 1:

"Then why were the barbed wire fences, the inward and outward guards pointing their guns at us?" said Lou Minamoto, 75, of Oakland.

Unlike many families, Jue and her parents were not sent to Tanforan as soon as they left their homes. Minamoto said she too was sent to Topaz with her brother. They slept on hay, and what little food they found was not enough to satisfy their hunger.

"I too was sent to Topaz. All I had were some radish leaves and a bag of sweet potatoes. We tried as much as possible to keep the bitterness of the experience out of our lives."

actors playing men and women facing imprisonment at Tanforan reminded the multigenerational audience at the mall of the government edict instructing internees to "get as fat as they could." Families with babies, as the performers portrayed, could carry little else.

"I don't think it is happening again to any other nationalities," said Hatsuro Aizawa, 82, of San Francisco, who lived through the camps, which worries over the treatment of Arab Americans such as Sept. 11.

The detentions at Tanforan began in August 1942, just a few months after Japan's attack on Pearl Harbor on Dec. 7, 1941, drove the U.S. into the war on the U.S. side.

"We don't want it to happen again to any other nationalities," said Hatsuro Aizawa, 82, of San Francisco, who lived through the camps, which worries over the treatment of Arab Americans such as Sept. 11.

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"My parents talked little about the experience afterward, she said, like many others of their generation who suppressed their bitterness out of fear of further discrimination and as a point of pride.

"I think they tried as much as possible to pick up where they left off — as hard as it was," said Jue Doe.

On June 2, many of the oldest surviving internees were ready to remember those painful days. And women in their 90s, some with canes, another in a wheelchair, struck a ceremonial bell to commemorate their days at Tanforan.

"We survived that," Minamoto said. "And we really came back with our heads held high."

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 60 years. Blue Cross of California is committed to linking you 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.
Disaggregating APA Racial Categories in California

University of California officials agree that placing all APAs in a single category masks differences in experiences, educational background and socioeconomic status. "We are currently developing a report that disaggregates these categories at the system wide level," said Cynthia Ishii, director of personnel and external affairs for the University of California. "In addition we are amassing the power of expanding the number of subcategories of data we collect and report." In conjunction with the Count Me In! Campaign, Cal State Assemblyman Ted Lieu is pushing AB 295, which seeks to disaggregate data collected by state agencies. If passed, state agencies must collect data on smaller APA communities similar to the method used in the U.S. Census. Currently, the University of California's undergraduate application offers students the option to report their ethnicity in multiple categories including Asian sub categories—the most of any other university, said the Chicano/Asian and African American and Caucasian categories remain homogeneous.

The campaign's supporters say their efforts are specially geared towards dismantling the Model Minority Myth. "I am not opposed to other groups being able to access disaggregated data. The intent of this bill, however, is to disaggregate the Model Minority Myth that exists for the APA community. It will accomplish this by gathering accurate data for individual groups that are starkly different from one another in terms of immigration patterns, language and culture," said Lieu.

UCLA's APC is an alliance of 21 different APA organizations. This summer, they are planning to widen their collective base and build networks on all the UC campuses. For many, the campaign is an APA effort, even for large APA communities that are currently represented.

"Japanese Americans for the most part have a pretty well-off community—people don't think of us as underprivileged. We can't just ignore that because our classes mostly will often think their family was more affluent than their reality," said Michelle Hayashi, a junior who was a Fitcher's Ph.D. student in Political Science and is the City of Los Angeles. "I want to make sure that we get a representative of my dad's ancestors," said Pean.
IMMIGRATION NIGHTMARE
(Continued from page 1)

approval for a hardship waiver for Akiko, something the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) has yet to make a ruling on.

So Keith and Akiko are taking matters into their own hands. In February they launched an aggressive public relations campaign, including the BringAkikoHome.com Web site. They have called politicians, printed up bumper stickers and made sure media outlets tell their story.

"We've been married for nine years, we have kids. There's no doubt that we're a legitimate marriage," said Keith. "We say that family is the backbone of this country but the government is breaking up my family over nothing."

An Innocent Mistake

Keith was in Tokyo, Japan on a business trip when he met Akiko at a local hagglng in the Kropponoi District. After several months of courtship the two decided to get married and applied for a fiancee visa. The business finally responded to the complaints, but disappointed that it took so much community pressure to make it happen.

"The issue wasn't solely just the Chinese community," Wong said. "Any group or member of the community should not have to feel there is no one to support them if an injustice has been done. The support showed this is a wonderful community," he said.

Reynolds said the changes to his advertising as racist and further criticized him for failing to respond to concerns first raised in February by the Tucson Chinese Association.

Jason Wong, president of that group, said he was pleased that the visa application had been rejected and she could not re-enter the U.S. for 10 years.

"It was a Gestapo trick," said Keith, who accuses USCIS of knowingly deceiving his wife so she would return to Japan. "She left the country under the pretense that she could come back. She couldn't even pack up her things, she couldn't even say goodbye."

Now Akiko has been stripped of her Japanese passport and is living in Nagano. Five-year-old Leo doesn't understand why his family is being separated and often asks his mom why they can't go home.

"Our older son ... Leo, is especially having a hard time. He loves his daddy. He misses home so much," said Akiko.

The Ongoing Immigration Debate

Akiko continued her successful career as a graphics designer when she and Keith moved to Bradenton. She soon made good friends and got involved in the local church. And in addition to their two younger sons, she helped raise Keith's oldest son Matthew, 19.

But now her life in America will have to be put on hold for 10 years if the U.S. government does not grant her a hardship waiver.

"We don't want the same fairness applied to Akiko," he said. "What's the national interest in keeping Akiko and their kids in Japan?"

"The plan is to get her home but the government is doing this to us. I've already missed six months of their lives," he said.

And he's not prepared to spend any more time away from his family. Although he's hopeful the hardship waiver will be granted, he's willing to ultimately move to Japan to be with his wife and kids.

"The plan is to get her home but the government is doing this to us. I've already missed six months of their lives," he said.

"I am not giving up," said Akiko. "I will fight until I get justice."

For more information: www.bringakikohome.com

And re-enter the U.S. But at her visa interview in February, the Tokyo embassy told Akiko her visa application had been rejected and she could not re-enter the U.S. for 10 years.

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"We don't want the same fairness applied to Akiko," he said. "What's the national interest in keeping Akiko and their kids in Japan?"

"Call Chris Bentley, a spokesperson for USCIS, were not returned but in an interview with the Associated Press he said: "we're bound by making determinations based on what the law says."

An Uncertain Future

In March Keith visited Japan for four days, spending rare face-to-face time with his wife and two sons. In June he plans to return, this time for three weeks.

But the limited time he gets to spend with his two young sons is taking a toll.

With his oldest son Matthew, Keith admits he was often traveling for work and missed a lot of father-son time, especially when his son was very young. It's something he has long regretted and vowed would not happen with his two younger sons.

"I swore this wouldn't happen with these two kids. But now the government is doing this to us. I've already missed six months of their lives," he said.

And he's not prepared to spend any more time away from his family. Although he's hopeful the hardship waiver will be granted, he's willing to ultimately move to Japan to be with his wife and kids.

"The plan is to get her home but the government is doing this to us. I've already missed six months of their lives," he said.

"I am not giving up," said Akiko. "I will fight until I get justice."

For more information: www.bringakikohome.com

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IMMIGRATION NIGHTMARE
(Continued from page 1)

approval for a hardship waiver for Akiko, something the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) has yet to make a ruling on.

So Keith and Akiko are taking matters into their own hands. In February they launched an aggressive public relations campaign, including the BringAkikoHome.com Web site. They have called politicians, printed up bumper stickers and made sure media outlets tell their story.

"We've been married for nine years, we have kids. There's no doubt that we're a legitimate marriage," said Keith. "We say that family is the backbone of this country but the government is breaking up my family over nothing."

An Innocent Mistake

Keith was in Tokyo, Japan on a business trip when he met Akiko at a local hagglng in the Kropponoi District. After several months of courtship the two decided to get married and applied for a fiancee visa. The business finally responded to the complaints, but disappointed that it took so much community pressure to make it happen.

"The issue wasn't solely just the Chinese community," Wong said. "Any group or member of the community should not have to feel there is no one to support them if an injustice has been done. The support showed this is a wonderful community," he said.

Reynolds said the changes to his advertising as racist and further criticized him for failing to respond to concerns first raised in February by the Tucson Chinese Association.

Jason Wong, president of that group, said he was pleased that the