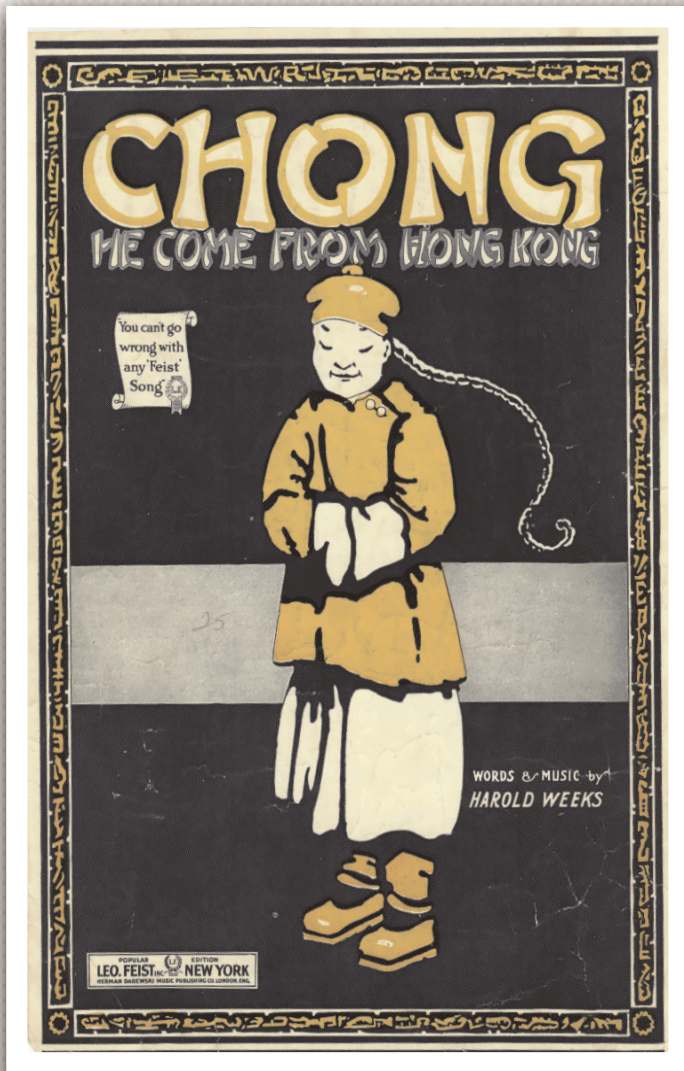
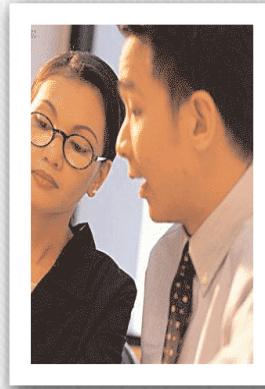


ORGANIZATION OF CHINESE AMERICANS

IMAGE

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I n s i d e

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Editor's Note

By Johnny Ng



Over the past 30 years, OCA has made great strides and held true to the mission to embrace the hopes and aspirations of Chinese and Asians in the U.S. This past year, OCA has dealt with many issues of significance.

In this issue of Image, as well as on our website, you can see some of these major issues and the results from the hard work of the National Office, our Chapters and members. The quick

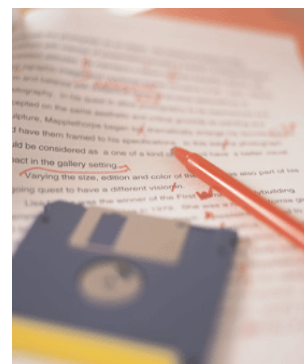
action of OCA members and staff helped to right wrong situations and make sure the voice of our community was heard.

OCA publicly responded to a baseball executive's racial taunt of L.A. Dodgers executive Kim Ng and professional golfer Jan Stephenson's comment that Asian players are bad for golf. We demanded and received an apology from basketball announcer Steve Kerr who referred to Houston Rockets star Yao Ming as a "china-man."

The Greater Philadelphia Chapter has been working with other community activists in Philadelphia to change the name of the cheesesteak restaurant "Chinks Steaks." At the January National Board meeting, the Board

passed a resolution in support of campaigning to change the restaurant name to something less derogatory to Asian Americans.

As we embark into our next 30 years, there remains much more work to be done. And much education is still needed. So we will need all of your help to make sure we make progress. You are the ears and eyes for our community.



Executive Director's Corner

By Christine Chen

Over the last decade, OCA has seen the Asian Pacific American community react and speak out against derogatory remarks, products, and merchandise. As Asians and Asian Americans become more popular in pop culture and sports, such as Yao Ming, OCA has also seen an increase in derogatory remarks.

The OCA National Office received many emails and phone calls reporting these incidents. As a result, this issue of Image is dedicated to looking at how far we have come along and how much further we have to go in order to

change the image of Chinese and Asian Pacific Americans.

New images are emerging as we celebrate the accomplishments of successful Asian Pacific Americans who break through the glass ceiling of corporate America.

Additionally, the release of OCA's Voices of Healing book provides real images of Asian Pacific American victims, heroes, and contributors to the rebuilding of America, post September 11.

We also highlight Asian American books, film, and a new television program focused on Asian Pacific American stories.



OCA is proud to see the community rally in protest to negative stereotypes and push fresh images into the mainstream as new avenues develop so we can tell the real stories and provide another perspective of our community.

A Presidential Message

By Raymond Wong



start our next 30 years with our own new home!

The National office, board members and various committees are also already hard at work planning and organizing the many activities for this exciting year.

Mark your calendars for this year's OCA National Convention, scheduled for July 15-18 in Boston. This fall, our Corporate Achievement Awards Dinner will be held in October in San Francisco.

Raymond Wong



2002-2004 Executive Council Members

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National President
- Sam Luk,
Executive Vice President
- Kathay Feng
Secretary
- William Kaung
Treasurer
- Virginia Ng
Vice President of Finance
- Ken Lee
Vice President of
Chapter Development
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- Bel Leong-Hong
National Vice President of
Economic Development
- Jean Wood Chang
Vice President of Education &
Culture
- Kwong Eng
Vice President of Public Affairs
- Christine Chen,
Executive Director

Dear OCA Members:

Happy Chinese New Year of the Monkey!

It was a very busy 2003 for OCA. We celebrated our 30th Anniversary culminating with our National Convention last August in beautiful Hawaii. I commend the National Office staff for their leadership roles on tough issues such as comprehensive immigration reform and their continued efforts to speak out on negative stereotypes including the Yao Ming comment and Jan Stephenson's comment on Asian golf players. I'm proud that we published *Voices of Healing*, a new book of photos and stories from the survivors and those involved in 9/11.

I already can see that 2004 will be even busier for OCA. In 2004, we will move full steam ahead with our Building Fund Campaign. We have achieved a great start to the Building Fund, thanks to the hard work of Steering Committee Chair Michael Lin and the support of many of our members, friends and partners. You can see our progress and the list of donors in this issue of Image.

We still have yet to make more strides towards this effort. I encourage you to continue that commitment to ensure that our vision to have a permanent home becomes a reality. What a wonderful way to

SAVE THE DATE!

O C A 2004 Annual
Convention

Thursday, July 15, 2004 -
Sunday, July 18, 2004

Location:

Boston Marriott Copley Place
110 Huntington Avenue
Boston, MA 02216

For more information, please
visit OCA's website at
www.oceanatl.org.



Sticks and Stones...Do Words Really Hurt?

By Jeff Yang, CEO Factor Inc.

On April 18, 2002, nearly two hundred Asian American students gathered outside of Abercrombie & Fitch's flagship store in San Francisco, holding banners and chanting slogans. They were protesting a series of t-shirts released by the retailer that included a depiction of grinning, slant-eyed cartoon figures—the proprietors of the Wong Brothers Laundry Service (slogan: “Two Wongs Can Make It White”). Other shirts in the series featured the “Rick Shaw” hoagie shop, caterers of giant sandwiches delivered by buck-toothed coolies, and the “Wok ‘n’ Bowl” Chinese food emporium and bowling alley. The Bay Area rally was just one of dozens that took place across the country, ripples from a wave of grassroots anger that spread like wildfire via the Internet.



The Abercrombie & Fitch incident prompted a quick, if clumsy, response by the company's spinmeisters, and after the shirts were pulled from stores, it was soon

relegated to a dimly lit corner of the Chinese American community's collective memory. What is striking, however, is that the incident was far from isolated; over the subsequent two years, there have been many more cases in which institutions and individuals have publicly invoked age-old Chinese stereotypes, using startlingly similar references and codewords.

June 2002: Lakers center Shaquille O'Neal, in response to a question about the arrival of Chinese superstar Yao Ming, says, “Tell Yao Ming, ‘Ching-chong-yang-wah-ah-soh,’” while chopping at the air in a facsimile of martial arts. He later claims that his statement is “a joke” that has been taken wrongly by people “without a sense of humor.”

October 2002: Target's Mossimo clothing line releases a t-shirt that featured a cartoon coolie, and touts the “China Bowl Imperial Bowling and Dim Sum Establishment...Lucky Balls Strike Hard—With a Strike You Get an Eggroll.” After an online boycott petition draws over 1500 signatures, Target withdraws the shirts from stores and has them destroyed.

January 2003: Associates at top New York law firm Dewey Ballantine perform a musical skit at the firm's annual dinner, entitled “The Dirge of Long Duck Dong,” referring to Gedde Watanabe's foreign exchange student from John Hughes's *Sixteen Candles*. The parody, which pokes fun at the shutdown of the firm's Hong Kong practice, calls the closed office “chow mein” that has gotten “the gong,” and uses stereotypical phrases like “so sorry.”

November 2003: Then-presidential candidate General Wesley Clark offhandedly uses the word “Chinaman” on National Public Radio, sparking an outcry that leads to his issuance of a public apology.

November 2003: Bill Singer, a scout for the Mets hired specifically for his experience with Asian talent, drunkenly harasses L.A. Dodgers assistant GM Kim Ng with a dialogue that is transcribed as follows:

Singer: What are you doing here?

Ng: I'm working.

Singer: What are you doing here?

Ng: I'm working. I'm the Dodger assistant general manager.

Singer: Where are you from?

Ng: I was born in Indiana and grew up in New York.

Singer: Where are you from?

Ng: My family's from China.

Singer: (spouts a stream of mock-Chinese gibberish). What country in China?

Singer is fired, and a public apology is issued to Ng by the Mets.

Continued on next page

What Is the Impact of Stereotyping?

Two academics offer their views:

Stanley Sue, Ph.D., is a Professor of Psychology and Asian American Studies at the University of California, Davis.

“The impact of stereotyping is very straightforward - if you're a victim of stereotype, you feel degraded. Psychological research shows that stereotypes are a self-fulfilling prophecy. People who are aware that they are stereotyped often start enacting the stereotype. Psychologist Claude Steele developed the stereotype threat theory, which states that those who are victims of stereotypes for one reason or another often behave consistently with what those stereotypes are. For example, if African Americans are given the information that they generally do poorly on intelligence tests, then they will do worse on those tests than if they were not given the information.”

“The constant use of racist terms about a particular group indicates that the group is considered unequal, inferior, and thus, others are able to characterize them as they wish - there is a difference in power and racist terms are used without consequences.”

“People think that if he/she makes a remark without having a negative or racist intent, then it negates the meaning of

Continued on next page

January 2004: Just a year after reports of its racially insensitive musical parody, law firm Dewey Ballantine is back in the news again, when partner Douglas Getter sends a firmwide email offering puppies for adoption, and threatens to send the dogs to a “Chinese restaurant” if they aren’t given a home. After hundreds of Asian lawyers and bar associations write letters in complaint, the firm apologizes and censures Getter.

January 2004: Announcer (and former pro baller) Steve Kerr uses the term “Chinaman” to refer to Yao Ming, sparking a new wave of protests. Kerr quickly issues a sincere apology, noting that his sister-in-law is Chinese and that he “should have known better.”

January 2004: In an introductory speech to presidential candidate John Kerry, Senator Fritz Hollings notes that 50 percent of the furniture in the U.S. is imported from China; when the microphone emits a loud squeal, he jokes that the sound is “some Chinaman [getting] mad.”

So what do these incidents have in common?

Well, for one thing, they were all met by swift reaction from the Chinese American community, with the Organization of Chinese Americans and numerous student groups often playing a central role. Also, the guilty parties mostly responded with sheepish apologies, placing blame for their actions on moments of weakness or lame attempts at humor, rather than outright malice. Finally, in the wake of each of these protests came an equally widespread backlash, as mainstream journalists and Internet pundits scoffed at what they perceived to be knee-jerk oversensitivity.



Following the Steve Kerr “Chinaman” gaffe, WOAI announcer Steve Czaban asked, “How exactly, when exactly, and why exactly is [the word Chinaman] offensive? Not that I have any great need to use that term if it is truly offensive—I could care less. I just would like to

know.” Online commentary was even blunter during the A&F fiasco: “You are all a bunch of paranoid wackos,” said one poster on ModelMinority.com. “Lighten up it was’nt (sic) that big of a deal you people will make a big deal out of anything. Get a life.” “Wow, a rediculous (sic) move by the asian community,” wrote another. “Making a racial situation out of a light hearted ploy to sell T- Shirts. What else can turn racial here in America? I know! Let’s all stop eating egg rolls because that might offend the asian community too. Or how about banning asian people from becoming economists, another very hurtful stereotype I’m sure. Bottom line, this is America and jokes are made about people of every race, not ment (sic) in harm but all in fun. Until one community decides that they don’t want to be epitomized by the stereotypes that they have spent centuries proving to be true. Sorry, but the stereotypes are

there for a reason. If you don’t like Amican (sic) popular culture, then don’t stay in America.”

The gist of the backlash was that Chinese Americans have overreacted to silly and childish remarks — playground jokes taken out of context. And certainly, even protest organizers have generally accepted that perpetrators weren’t acting out of racist hatred or anti-Asian bias, but rather, insensitivity and ignorance.

What critics of these protests forget is that cultural ignorance exacts its own “price”.

In his seminal work *War Without Mercy*—a must-read for anyone seeking to understand the concrete impact of words and images—MIT professor John Dower presents an amazing argument for the power of perception in shaping reality. Through a detailed examination of World War II propoganda, he delineates the subtle process of creating a “killable” enemy. The primary objective, he notes, is depersonalization—transforming an opponent into a creature that is both less than and greater than human, and thus an acceptable target for extermination.

Early in World War II, Japanese were compared to swarming bugs, screeching monkeys, and hordes of rats; they were drawn as comical, squint-eyed midgets, with buck teeth and lemon-yellow skin. Later, when it became imperative for the war effort to underline the danger presented by Japan, they were presented as oversized monsters, looming shadows, and raging, uncontrollable tides. In both cases, Japanese soldiers were never shown

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the remark. However, the effect of the word or name or comment does not depend on the perception of the person who is saying it but rather on the perception of the person who it is being said to.”

The following is an excerpt of the testimony Claude M. Steele gave for *Gratz v. Bollinger* and *Grutter v. Bollinger*, the two University of Michigan affirmative action cases adjudicated by the Supreme Court in April 2003. Steele is the Chair of the Department of Psychology at Stanford University.

Stereotype threat and test performance.

My research, and that of my colleagues, has isolated a factor that can depress the standardized test performance of minority students—a factor we call stereotype threat. This refers to the experience of being in a situation where one recognizes that a negative stereotype about one’s group is applicable to oneself. When this happens, one knows that one could be judged or treated in terms of that stereotype, or that one could inadvertently do something that would confirm it. In situations where one cares very much about one’s performance or related outcomes — as in the case of serious students taking the SAT — this threat of being negatively stereotyped can be upsetting and distracting. Our research confirms that when this threat occurs in the midst of taking a high stakes standardized test, it directly interferes with performance.

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The Image of APAs

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through photographs; they were rendered as caricatures, or identified using code phrases that tagged them as impossibly foreign, strange, unintelligible, and exotic.

The Japanese were “Them” with a capital “T”; they were “otherized” to an extent that American concerns about loss of Japanese life (including civilian lives) were muted into silence. Similar tactics were used in later conflicts where Asians were the enemy, the Korean War and the Vietnam War, with the complication that in those cases there were Asians on the friendly side as well—a fact that often proved difficult to convey. Even more insidiously, these same images and code phrases have been used throughout American history in “wars” against abstract enemies like illegal immigration, labor outsourcing, trade deficits, espionage, and terrorism...wars whose human face is all too often represented as Asian.

This, in a nutshell, is what is most disturbing about childish remarks and ignorant stereotypes; while those who invoke them may not have malicious intentions themselves, they are inadvertently exhaling the symbols and language of racist propaganda. The term “Chinaman,” a relic of the 19th century, carries with it dismissive, patronizing overtones that diminishes those to whom it is applied—even 7’6” athletic superstars. The word “Chink,” derived from mispronunciation of “Zhong Guo,” the Chinese phrase for China, carries with it a historical legacy of exploitation, prejudice, and mob violence that makes it semantically parallel to the term “nigger”—yet Philadelphians question why Asians wince at signs for local eatery “Chink’s Steaks.” (As recently as 1981, a high school in Pekin, Illinois called its football team the “Fighting Chinks,” with a cartoon coolie mascot; under public pressure, the team finally changed its name—to the Dragons.)

When the entities and people behind these words and images are trendsetters, gatekeepers, and role models—athletes, retail chains, law firms, politicians, media personalities—collateral damage is maximized; the terms and stereotypes are given a broader platform and wider currency, and some who might otherwise have sympathized with protesters are forced to choose between their sense of



propriety and their sense of loyalty. The dialogue that emerges provides a glimpse of the worst consequences of stereotyping and bad language: “You people...” “If you don’t like [America]...don’t stay in America.” Read another way: You don’t belong. This isn’t your country. If you can’t take the heat...leave.

Many of the ugliest anti-Asian events in American history have emerged out of a devil’s brew of such sentiments—the Japanese American internment, the murder of Vincent Chin, the scapegoating of Wen Ho Lee.

The childhood taunt goes, “Sticks and stones may break my bones, but words will never hurt me.” Except that “words”



too often grease the slippery slope that leads to the throwing of sticks and stones. It shouldn’t be Asian America’s job to police society against racial stereotyping—but there is nothing more American than freedom of speech, and the best antidote to bad language is always good language. Failure to respond, meanwhile, gradually leads to indifference, indifference to acceptance, and acceptance to...well, there’s that slippery slope again.

And while few would argue that American attitudes towards race have matured considerably over the past few decades, there is a lingering tendency to see Asians as acceptable targets for satire and abuse—precisely, perhaps, because our community has historically been more silent than most in the face of bad language. In 2000, a company known as Icebox.com (which purported to be an “innovative” online content provider, offering humorous Flash animations for free download) debuted a cartoon called Mr. Wong. When the cartoon first came out, incredulous Asians mailbombed the website and saturated the media with complaints over its wildly racist portrayal of a hunchbacked,

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In 2000, **Robert G. Lee**, a professor of American Civilization at Brown University, published a book examining the evolution and presence of Asian Americans in popular American culture — *Oriental: Asian Americans in Popular Culture*. Temple University Press, 2000.

In *Oriental*, Lee explores six images of the “Oriental” – the pollutant, the coolie, the deviant, the yellow peril, the model minority, and the gook. Each face portrays the Oriental as an “alien body and a threat to the American national family.”

Six Images of the “Oriental”

The **pollutant** originated in mid-nineteenth century California, when the Chinese settlers from the West represented the threat of pollution to the white settlers of the East. The **coolie** originated in the 1870s and 1880s and was portrayed as unfree and servile, a threat to the white working man’s family. The **deviant** represents a figure of forbidden desire and the possibility of alternative desire. In the 1860s and 1870s, hundreds of Chinese women were brought to San Francisco and forced into prostitution. And later, many Chinese immigrant men left the mines and farms to work in households as domestic servants. By the end of the nineteenth century, Asian immigrants were seen as the **yellow peril**, a threat to nation, race and family, and a great threat to Western civilization. The image of Asian Americans as a **model minority** originated during the Cold War liberalism of the 1950s. The image of the successful Asian American assimilation was held up as a model for nonmilitant and nonpolitical upward mobility. In post-Vietnam American popular culture, the Asian American was often seen as the invisible embodiment and thus, the **gook**. In fact, Lee describes the model minority image as coexisting with the representation of the gook.

Offensive terms and their origins

What are these terms & where do they come from?

Jap: Terms like “jap” have a long and bitter history. When immigrants first began arriving from Japan in the mid-nineteenth century, the use of “jap” became a convenient expression of contempt and hate. Bigots and racists used the term to exploit the fictitious “Yellow Peril.”

Oriental: Today, the term “oriental” is also considered offensive. The term conveyed negative stereotypes of Asians as being inscrutable, untrustworthy, inassimilable or threatening. The state of Washington has prohibited the use of this term in statutes, codes, rules and regulations.

Gook: Derogatory term for foreigners, especially Filipinos, Japanese, Koreans and Vietnamese. There are many possible origins for the term. It may even go as far back as the Filipino uprising of 1899, where American soldiers were said to have referred to the natives as “gugus,” playing off a Tagalog word meaning “tutelary spirit.” Gook is also the Korean word for “country.” During the Korean War, American soldiers gave the word “gook” a derogatory slant and used it to refer to Koreans. And the term was also used later when American servicemen in Vietnam used it to refer to the Vietnamese, particularly the Vietcong. Today, the word “gook” seems primarily used as a racial slur toward persons of Southeast Asian descent, primarily those of Vietnamese descent.

Chink/Chinaman: Chink is a racial slur equivalent to “Nigger” for African Americans, “Jap” for Japanese, “Wop” for Italians, “Kike” for Jews, and “Spic” for Hispanics. During its first war with China in 1879, the British called Chinese people “Chinkies.” The term is noted as offensive and derogatory in the Oxford English Dictionary, American Heritage Dictionary, Longman Dictionary of the English Language, and other dictionaries. The use of “Chinaman” in describing a person of Chinese descent is not the equivalent to the use of “Frenchman” or “Englishman” in referring to a man from France or England, respectively. “Chinaman” has evolved to have the same impact as “Chink.” Also, the actual grammatical equivalent to “Frenchman” or “Englishman” would be “Chineseman,” which does not possess the racist history and connotation that “Chinaman” does.

Professor Stanley Sue, Professor of Psychology and Asian American Studies at University of California, Davis, provided documented quotes to illustrate the derogatory context in which “Chink” was used: (1) “They had a Chinese steward named Yung Kow, and that slant-eyed Chink hid most of the stuff we were

supposed to eat.” (2) “The only Chinese I had ever seen was the Chinese laundryman on Erie Street, whom we taunted, as all children did, with the call of ‘Chinke, Chinkee, Chinaman.’” (3) “We’re proud of our fraternity, and we aren’t going to turn it into a rabble for Chinks and Niggers.” (4) “They’re not Chinks. They’re Japs. What’s the difference? They’re yellow, ain’t they?”

Flip: Derogatory term for a Filipino, similar to “gook,” “kike,” and “chink.” May have come from “funny little island people” or “flippin’ little island people” or “funky little island people.” However, in early to Middle 1980s, Pilipino-Americans began to use the term for themselves to make known their identity as Pilipino (as opposed to Filipino) Americans. Thus, it became somewhat of an empowering word of identity.

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Stanley Sue, PhD, Professor of Psychology and Asian American Studies, University of California, Davis.

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"gook.
or jap.
or
whatever
you are."

OCA Hosts 2003 National Asian American Corporate Achievement Awards

On October 31, 2003, OCA, in conjunction with the OCA-Business Advisory Council (BAC), honored 12 Asian Pacific American corporate employees during its annual National Asian American Corporate Achievement Awards event. OCA-Westchester Chapter hosted the black-tie banquet dinner, which drew over 400 guests, who included high-ranking officials from Fortune 500 companies, elected officials, media representatives, community leaders and OCA members. The national event was held at the Marriott Hotel in Tarrytown, New York.

Established by the OCA Business Advisory Council, the organization's corporate partners comprising more than 30 Fortune 500 companies, the Corporate Achievement Awards is an opportunity for companies to select an Asian Pacific American employee from among their ranks for recognition for his or her contributions to the company and to the community in which he or she resides.

The honorees were chosen based on a selection process whereby corporations nominate high-achieving employees to OCA for the employee's contributions not only to the corporation, but also to the community.

"The OCA-Business Advisory Council salutes all the honorees for their excellence and leadership in the corporate sector and the community," said David L. Kim, OCA-BAC Chair and Director of Sales Development and Community Relations for Anheuser-Busch, Inc.

"The National Asian American Corporate Achievement Awards is an important venue for people and corporations who show demonstrated commitment to diversity and public service to be recognized."

OCA also presented two awards – one that recognizes a corporate partner and the other to an employee for his or her commitment to community service.

The OCA Outstanding Corporate Partner Award was established in 2001 and is presented to a company in recognition for its support and commitment to OCA and the to the Asian Pacific American community. United Parcel Service was the first company to receive the award in 2001. State Farm® was selected in 2002 and Avon Products received the award last year.

OCA presented the third annual OCA Outstanding Corporate Partner Award to Avon Products for its exemplary record of support and commitment to OCA's mission and the APA community. An OCA-BAC member since 1995, Avon Products has supported OCA with its annual convention, sponsored the OCA/Scholarships Awards program for eight years and advised OCA on corporate and community issues. Jill Kanin-Lovers, Senior Vice President for Human Resources accepted the award



Jill Kanin-Lovers, Senior Vice President for Human Resources of Avon Products, accepts the OCA Outstanding Corporate Partner Award.

on behalf of Avon Products.

"OCA is proud to honor Avon Products, as it has partnered with OCA to fulfill its mission, particularly to provide college-bound students with opportunities to achieve their potential," said OCA Executive Director Christine Chen.

The employee selected among the recipients of the Corporate Achievement Award for outstanding commitment to volunteerism within the APA community was Sonya Elaine Gong of State Farm. Based in Ohio, Gong is a Division Manager for Health Operations at State Farm.

Sonya Gong reflected on the cross opportunities provided to her as a corporate employee and a community volunteer. She said, "I'm honored and overwhelmed to be a recipient of the OCA Corporate National Achievement Award. I know it would not be possible, had it not been for the Business Advisory Council and my employer, State Farm. State Farm has allowed me to be active and involved in community work, in addition to my role as a manager and leader. They see and recognize the importance of understanding our very diverse neighborhoods."

The 12 recipients for the 2003 OCA National Asian American Corporate Achievement Awards were:

Robert Chao, IBM (New York), is the Program Manager for Technology Alliances. At IBM, he is an active contributor to the diversity council, working with IBM's Special Technology Donation to Not-for-Profit Organization to obtain contributions of computer hardware to OCA. He has also been an active member in OCA's Westchester

Continued on next page

chapter since 1992. In the community, Robert participates in the Chinese American Academic and Professional Society and has served on the board of the Chinese School of Southern Westchester. "I arrived in this country more than thirty years ago as a graduate student. After obtaining my degree, I started working and raising my family here. To the country that adopted me with open arms I feel a sense of community responsibility to contribute my best to its greatness."

Mei Wei Cheng, Ford Motor Company (Beijing, China) is the Corporate Vice President, and also Chairman and CEO of Ford Motor (China) Ltd. He was responsible for the formation of Changan Ford, a joint venture that launched Ford's first locally produced passenger car in China in January 2003. Mei Wei is also a member of the Committee of 100, Executive Champion of Ford Chinese Association, and active in the American Chamber of Commerce in Beijing.

Richard Chow-Wah, DaimlerChrysler (Michigan), is Vice President and Core Team Leader for DCX-Chrysler Group Powertrain Business. He is an executive sponsor of the DaimlerChrysler Asian Network (DCAN), helping create an inclusive work place that champions the business case for diversity policies and practices. Through DCAN, he oversaw the inception of the mentoring program targeting high potential minority employees. He is an active member of the Chinese Association of Greater Detroit and is very involved with the Unrelated Bone Marrow Drive, which responds to the need for bone marrow donors from minority communities.

Sonya Elaine Gong, State Farm® (Ohio), is the Division Manager for Health Operations. At State Farm®, she serves on the National Diversity Advisory Council, which advises State Farm on how to improve diversity and inclusion at the company. She also helped establish a women's networking group and AsianNet at State Farm®. She is also active with the local chapter of OCA in Columbus,



Group photo of 2003 Corporate Achievement Award honorees.

Ohio; the Columbus Asian Festival Planning Committee, and the Franklin County Court Appointed Special Advocates.

Uming Ko, Texas Instruments (Texas), is the Director of the Worldwide Chip Technology Center in the Wireless Terminal Business Unit. At Texas Instruments, he serves as advisor for the Chinese Initiatives of the Diversity Network and he chaired the selection committee for the National e-Week "Asian American Engineer of the Year" award. Uming also sponsors the Asian American Citizen Council and the Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation. "Opportunities come to us in various forms, we just need to recognize them and have the guts to act on them," he said.

Quintin Lew, Verizon (New York), is the Vice President for Wholesale Marketing, and has been with Verizon for 17 years. He has been active in diversity initiatives at Verizon for many years, having served as President of the Asian Focus Group and as Vice President of the Bell Atlantic Diversity Consortium. Quintin served four years on the Board of Directors of FIRST, a community-based organization that provides information

and referrals on health and human services. He is also a volunteer coach for youth basketball, baseball and soccer.

William E. Min, Starwood Hotels and Resorts (New York), is Starwood's Chief Privacy Officer. He volunteers approximately 300 hours per year as an Emergency Medical Technician with the Westport Emergency Medical Service. Bill also provides pro bono legal services through the Pro Bono Partnership and participates in Habitat for Humanity and Junior Achievement Programs in his community. "We all have the ability to share with others our different backgrounds, cultures and life experiences through community service and by recognizing the value of inclusion and diversity. The first step is always the hardest, but the effort pales in comparison with the rewards," he said.

Sarita Nayyar, Kraft Foods (New York), is Executive Vice President of Kraft Foods North American and General Manager of Post Cereals Division. She is the sponsor of the Kraft Asian American Employee Council at her site in Westchester, New York, and mentors other Asian

Continued on next page

Corporate Achievement Awards cont.

American employees. Locally, Sarita volunteers for the Hindi language school in Stamford, Connecticut, and serves on the board of the Forte Foundation. She said, "I would like to share a quote from George Bernard Shaw that I subscribe to: 'You see things and you say, why? But I dream things that never were and I say, why not?'"

Donna Ng, Avon Products (New York), is the Vice President for Global Compensation and Benefits. In her local community, she is involved with many projects including the New York AIDS Walk, GMHC's Rap and Wrap holiday gift-wrapping fundraiser, GMHC Thanksgiving Dinner, and the GHMC Douglastown Community Garage Sale. Donna also volunteers for Habitat for Humanity and the Diabetes Foundation.

Mahesh C. Reddy, Boeing Company (California), is Division Director for the Boeing Huntington Beach/Seal Beach Site Host Engineering Organization. He oversees a staff of over 4000 engineers, scientists, and support specialists. At Boeing, Mahesh is an Executive Champion of the Boeing Asian American Professional Association, where he provides mentoring to others, and the Employee Community Fund. In his community, Mahesh is a sponsor of the Indo-American Cultural Center, an Executive Advisor to a high school apprenticeship research program, an Executive Sponsor to Educator enrichment Day/Summer Science Camp, and a volunteer at the Mental Health Association. "Given equal opportunity, Asian American corporate employees have the ability to flourish and demonstrate technical excellence, leadership and commitment to community service," he said.

Matt Tsien, General Motors (Michigan), is the Executive Director of Vehicle Systems, and has been with General Motors for 27 years. He is a member of the Advisory Board of the GM Chinese Affinity Group and a member of the Produce Development Diversity Steering Team. Matt volunteers as a technical judge with the FIRST Lego League, which encourages children's interest in science and technology by organizing competitions in which teams build autonomous robots. "Many Asian Pacific Americans owe their successes to people in their communities who have welcomed them, supported them, and guided them during their formative years. They have an obligation to provide a return to their communities through service," he said.

Ted Yamamura, Boeing Company (Washington), is Service Sales Director for the Technical Services and Modifications Division. He has been with Boeing for 24



Sonya Gong of State Farm® (center) accepts the award for outstanding commitment to volunteerism from OCA National President Raymond Wong (left) and Tim Leong, BAC Chair, External Relations Committee.

years and is active in Boeing's Association of Asian Pacific Americans. At Boeing, Ted established two programs for Boeing's Asian American employees - Leadership Education for Asian Pacifics and Executive Development Institute. In the Seattle community, Ted is involved with the National Association for Asian American Professionals, the Japanese American Chamber of Commerce, Nikkei Concerns, and Childhaven. "Being passionate about our work and our community are both important elements for total satisfaction in our lives. I truly believe that the more we give, the more we receive," he said.

Preparing for the 2004 Awards

The annual National Asian American Corporate Achievement Awards will be held in October this year. Members of the San Francisco Bay Chapter say they are elated at the opportunity to host this prestigious event once again in the City by the Bay. The program followed in the annual awards ceremony was first established in San Francisco at the historic Westin St. Francis Hotel in 1991.

"We are excited to welcome our members, friends, family and corporate partners back to San Francisco," said OCA-San Francisco Bay Chapter President Patricia Ong Din. "This will be the fourth time in the organization's history that our chapter has been granted the privilege to host an annual national event. That is quite a feat for a chapter that was established only 16 years ago."

In addition to the Corporate Achievement Awards that were held in 1991 and to be held again later this year, the chapter also hosted two national conventions - in 1988 and 1996.

What's Happening on the Hill...

END RACIAL PROFILING ACT OF 2004



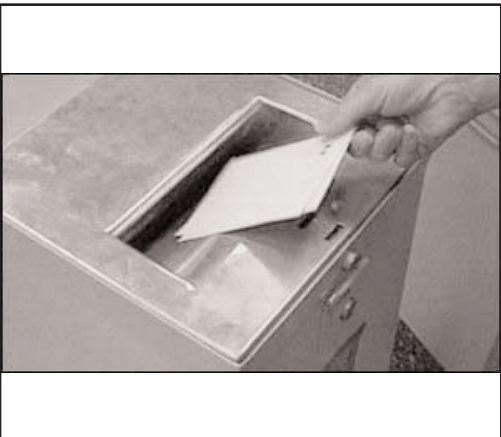
Senator Russ Feingold (D-WI) and Representative John Conyers (D-MI) introduced the End Racial Profiling Act of 2004 on February 26 to address the persistent problem of racial profiling in this country. The bill is substantially similar to the bipartisan bill of the same name introduced in the last Congress. The bill will ban federal, state and local law enforcement agencies from engaging in racial profiling, require a mechanism to enforce the policy, require data collection to monitor progress, and provide best practice incentive grants to law enforcement agencies. Asian Pacific Americans have had a long and sad history of experience with racial profiling, from the internment of Japanese Americans during World War II, to the case of Chinese American scientist Wen Ho Lee, and the racial profiling that Muslim and Sikh Americans have been facing after September 11.

COMPREHENSIVE IMMIGRATION REFORM



On January 21, 2004, Senators Chuck Hagel and Tom Daschle introduced the Immigration Reform Act of 2004 (S. 2010), as a bill for comprehensive, bipartisan immigration reform. The components of the bill include: requiring immigrants to undergo criminal and national security background checks prior to authorization; reducing the existing backlog of applications for family-sponsored visas to reunite immigrants with U.S. citizen and legal resident family members; admitting workers through a Willing Worker Program - employers may hire foreign workers if no qualified U.S. worker exists; allowing workers to renew visas on conditional basis; giving qualified workers and families the opportunity to adjust immigration status; and providing a mechanism by which undocumented workers and families can gain legal permanent resident status if pass background checks, have resided in the U.S. for at least 5 years, paid taxes, demonstrate knowledge of English language and American civics, and pay a \$1000 fine.

VOTING RIGHTS ACT



The Voting Rights Act of 1965 was enacted to restore the right to vote as guaranteed by the 14th and 15th Amendments. Before the law was passed, not much progress had been made to alleviate the disenfranchisement of access to voting by people of color. After the Voting Rights Act was passed, black voter registration increased sharply. All in all, the act is considered one of the most effective pieces of civil rights legislation ever passed by Congress. The preclearance and minority language provisions of the Voting Rights Act are currently up for reauthorization. In February, Senator Bill Frist (R-TN) decided to withdraw his amendment in support of the temporary provisions of the Voting Rights Act to the Protection of Lawful Commerce in Arms Act (S. 1805) in order to make the provisions permanent. The issues surrounding the preclearance and minority language provisions need to be fully examined before they are made permanent.

NCAPA: A Call to Action



OCA Executive Director Christine Chen speaks at the NCAPA press conference on February 12, 2004.

On February 12, 2004, a coalition of 18 leading national Asian Pacific American organizations, announced their endorsement of “A Call to Action: Platform for Asian Pacific Americans National Policy Priorities.” The Platform, a statement of policy concerns, is a project initiated by the National Council of Asian Pacific Americans (NCAPA), and endorsed unanimously by the OCA national board at its January 2004 board meeting.

The policy priorities outlined in the Platform include issues concerning: economic empowerment, community and economic development, education, health care, civil rights, immigration, language access, worker’s rights, women, senior citizens, data collection, and technology.

This platform represents diverse communities embodied by national Asian Pacific American organizations coming together and speaking with one voice.

“No candidate, party or political movement can afford to ignore the APA community,” said Christine Chen, Executive Director of the Organization of Chinese Americans and treasurer of NCAPA. “We will be looking to see the extent to which our concerns are met by candidates. Our organizations are working to mobilize our constituencies for this election.”

Local APA organizations are encouraged to use this platform as a tool to initiate discussions with local elected officials and candidates. This platform represents one avenue for the community to mobilize around during the 2004 elections.

Shifting Demographics

Asian Pacific Americans are the fastest growing minority group and for specific jurisdictions it is becoming an increasingly important part of the electorate. For example, in the 2000 elections in Nevada, only 22,000 votes determined the capture of the state, and APA citizens who were eligible to vote constituted 66,000 of the state’s population.

Florida and Nevada are considered to be “battleground” states for the 2004 elections. The APA population increased by 80% in Florida, with APAs now making up 2.1% of Florida’s population. Additionally, APAs comprise 5.6% of the population in Nevada.

Speaking With the Presidential Candidates

NCAPA sent this platform to President Bush and all the major Democratic candidates. Additionally, NCAPA asked to meet with each of the candidates to discuss the policy priorities. On February 25, 2004, right before Super Tuesday, Senator John Edwards met with a few members of NCAPA, including OCA’s Executive Director Christine Chen, Eunsook Lee, Executive Director of the National Korean American Service Education Consortium; and John Delloro, board member of the Asian Pacific American Labor Alliance. In their meeting with Edwards, the officers discussed issues of importance to APAs including immigration and workers rights to federal appointments. Senator Edwards pointed out the diversity on his campaign staff and his continued commitment to diversity if he were to be elected President.

“Senator John Edwards is the first presidential candidate to respond to NCAPA’s request for a meeting to share the concerns of Asian Pacific Americans as reflected in the NCAPA Platform. This is significant because it demonstrates the Senator’s recognition that Asian Pacific Americans represent an emerging and influential voting group.” said Christine Chen. “We hope that other candidates will initiate contact soon and follow Edwards’ lead.”

Moving Directly to the Issues

APAs are commonly viewed as a “model minority” with higher than average income and education and few serious problems. As this platform will demonstrate, these averages are misleading and hide significant problems of poverty, as well as educational and other needs in portions of the APA community.

It is critical that these needs be addressed at the highest level and in consultation with the communities that face them. This platform will give the leaders of this country the ability, if they choose, to go beyond the stereotypes and to address the community’s issues in their platforms and speeches.

For a complete copy of the platform, please refer to www.ncapaonline.org NCAPA is currently soliciting local APA organizations to sign-on to this platform as well.



Members of NCAPA, Eunsook Lee, John Delloro, and Christine Chen meet with Senator Edwards.

EVERY APIA VOTE COUNTS!

Did you know...

- Asian and Pacific Islander Americans (APIAs) make up 4.2% of the US population?
- Over 2/3 of the APIA community was born outside the US?
- APIAs constitute 25% of all the foreign born population in the US?
- APIAs are present in every region of the country?
- The APIA population is expected to double by 2010?

As the APIA population has been growing rapidly, the potential growth of the APIA vote is even more dramatic...

- APIAs are one of the fastest-growing ethnic groups in the country,
 - But many APIAs who were born outside the US **still remain ineligible to vote** because they are unable to meet the citizenship requirement for voter registration.
- However, more than 80% of Asian immigrants become citizens,
 - And once APIAs actually become registered to vote, they are the **most likely voters to go to the polls on Election Day!**

APIA votes do matter...

- APIA voters have proven to support candidates who speak to APIA issues
- In the 2000 election, the APIA voting population was greater than the difference that captured the electoral votes in nine states!

State	Number of votes determining the capture of State in the 2000 election	Number of APIA citizens eligible to vote
New Mexico	366	5,000
Florida	537	111,000
Wisconsin	5,100	39,000
Oregon	6,800	39,000
New Hampshire	7,200	10,000
Nevada	22,000	66,000
Hawaii	67,500	548,000
Washington	139,000	141,000
California	1.3 million	1.9 million



Asian & Pacific Islander
American Vote 2004

www.apiavote.org

Spearheaded by OCA, APIAVote is a national coalition of non-partisan nonprofit organizations encouraging civic participation and promoting a better understanding of public policy and the electoral process among the APIA community. Our objective is to effectively engage the APIA community in the political process by coordinating outreach and educational activities and programs.

OCA and APIAVote are looking for assistance in helping register our friends and family to vote.

*If you would like to be provided info:
E-mail info@apiavote.org or
Phone (888) API-VOTE*

But APIAs still have room for improvement!

In the 2000 election:

- Over 2.5 million APIAs registered to vote
- Slightly more than 2 million actually voted
- But 5.4 million were eligible to vote
- And over 8.6 million were old enough to vote

*The 2000 elections demonstrate the reality
that every person's vote can make a difference.*

APIAS ARE COUNTING ON YOU TO VOTE!

OCA Building Fund Campaign: Brick by Brick - From Vision to Reality

Imagine if you can, a building in Washington DC that provides easy access for federal government personnel, elected officials and their staff, corporate partners, financial supporters, civil rights advocates, local Asian & Pacific Islander American (APIA) community leaders and the media to national Asian American and Pacific Islander organizations. Imagine a building where APIA organizations share space for coalition meetings, press conferences and special events. Imagine further, a building with an exhibit gallery or museum showcasing the contributions of APIAs and APIA organizations; a library and archival center documenting our history; and a research center dedicated to producing policy reports on APIA issues.

The dream is within our grasp. The reality is within our reach.

A steering committee chaired by past National President Michael Lin was formed in August 2003 and presented with the challenge of spearheading a national endeavor—the OCA Building Fund campaign. This will be the largest and most ambitious national campaign OCA has ever embarked upon in its 30-year history.

As Washington State Governor Gary Locke remarked in his keynote address during OCA's 25th anniversary celebration in 1998, "I want my little Emily – and every other young person in our community — to grow up seeing their elders working to achieve the American dream of hope and opportunity for people of every color, of every religion, and from every walk of life." Let us take inspiration from his message to "do for our children what our parents and grandparents did for us." We have spent the last three decades building up OCA. Now we need a permanent home from where we can continue "embracing the hopes and aspirations of Chinese Americans and Asian Pacific Americans in the United States."

During last October's National Board meeting, the board voted to

move ahead with full and total support from the National Board members, the Executive Council and all the chapters on the campaign to raise funds for a permanent building for the organization. The building would serve four goals: (1) to provide a nurturing environment for national APIA organizations; (2) to expand and improve collaborative efforts on legislative advocacy, research, education and outreach; (3) to enhance the benefits flowing to the APIA community; and (4) to maximize and centralize scarce resources.

The time to act is now and each and every member, family and friend of the organization is being asked to help in the quest to raise \$2 million as the down payment for a building in Washington, DC. While the campaign will also focus on soliciting and gaining strong support from our colleagues, corporate partners and friends all across the nation, this building will not be possible without the support and commitment from each and every OCA member. It does not matter if your donation is \$1, \$10, \$100, \$1,000 or more. Whether you choose to be a Community Friend, Supporter, Leader, Builder or Mover, you are contributing to the future of our community and the next generation.

Imagine 30 years from now when all of us are able to look back and see the legacy we built being continued by the next generation and see them doing it in the building that started with a vision that translated to a reality because we did it TOGETHER. What better way to reinvigorate our members and chapters than a permanent home for OCA? The building will be a symbol of our strength, our unity, our mission and our commitment to being a voice in the nation's capital and working on behalf of the Asian American and Pacific Islander community.

Brick by brick, room by room, door by door, the vision of a permanent home for OCA will become a reality with your help. Please make your pledge today and be a part of another historic chapter in the annals of OCA.

Thanks to our OCA Building Fund Donors...

OCA would not be where it is today without the support and dedication of its members, friends and partners. The OCA Building Fund campaign is a major undertaking for the organization and brick by brick, room by room and door by door, we are determined to secure a permanent home for the organization. We deeply appreciate the following donors for their generous contribution and commitment to making this vision a reality. Donations as of February 12, 2004.

Community Mover (\$25,000 and above)

Kenneth and Karen Lee

Community Builder (\$10,000 - \$24,999)

George Cha
Jean & Stanley Chang
Ellen and Michael C. Lin
Miriam and Horatio Yeung

Community Leader (\$1,000 - \$9,999)

Cora M. Chin
Virginia Gee
Amber Wong Hsu
Meiling Hsu
Chin Fun Kwok
Virginia Ng
OCA-NOVA
OCA-Sacramento
Sam Ong
Carlos Tiu
Lucky Tom
Cindy Tong
Henry Wong
Janlee Wong
Raymond L. Wong

Community Supporter (\$500 - \$999)

Robert Lim
Samuel K. Luk
Claire Tan
Alice Y. Yeh

OCA Building Fund Campaign

Community Friend (\$10 - \$499)

Johnny Y. & Summe Chan
 Kenneth Ng Chan
 Samuel Chan
 Edith Chao
 Chih Ping Chen
 Shao-Lin Chen
 James & Diane Chin-Bow
 Keemin Chin-Sang
 Henry & Cynthia Chow
 Mabelle Dong
 Liping He
 Elaine Hoo
 Ching Y. Hu
 Henry J. Lee
 Kathleen Lee
 Margaret Lee
 Paul Leung
 Sherwin W. Liou
 Victor Liu
 Wan Cheng Liu
 Sew Y. Liyu
 Dr. Eddie Lo
 Theresa Lo
 Sen Louie
 Y.K. Bill Liu
 Ty Mak
 Pang Man
 Leslie D. Moe
 Perry M. Moy
 OCA National Board
 OCA-New Jersey
 Lili Pao
 S. Paul & Juliet Pao
 Alfred Poy
 Woon Wah Sui
 Austin Tao
 William & Ann Tong
 William Uy
 Stanley & Catherine Wang
 Francis P. Wong
 Helena Wong
 Tai C. Wong
 Walter Wong
 Warren Woo
 Jessie Wood
 John Yang
 Sue Yang
 Kenneth C. Yee
 Cora Yim
 Helen Yin
 George Yip

Why I am contributing to the OCA Building Fund...

"Karen and I contributed to the OCA Building Fund to help solidify a national building for OCA. For us, OCA represents a great deed to our community—to help "embrace the hopes and aspirations of Asian Americans in the United States." The one thing that drives us to continually support OCA is what OCA's Asian American Corporate Achievement Awards does for the community and for corporations. It fosters recognition of our people's contribution to the corporations of America, as well as brings awareness to companies of the impact Asian Americans have in the corporate sector. This one event says it all for us and the building brings a sense of permanence to OCA."

— Ken and Karen Lee, Community Mover Donor

Ken Lee is OCA National Vice President of Chapter Development, Past OCA-Georgia Chapter President, and an OCA Corporate Achievement Award Honoree.

"My reason to contribute to the OCA Building Fund is simple. I come to Washington, DC often, both for business and pleasure. Whenever I am here, I've always felt like a nomad, wandering in the wilderness. I want a home away from home, so I can kick off my shoes, sit back, chat with friends and visit a bit."

— George Cha, Community Builder Donor

George Cha is Past OCA-New England Chapter President and a 20-year OCA member.

OCA BUILDING FUND PLEDGE FORM

I am proud to make a pledge/donation towards the \$2 million down payment for a
 My contribution should be acknowledged within the following category:

Community Friend	\$10 - \$499	The amount of my contribution is \$_____.
Community Supporter	\$500 - \$999	
Community Leader	\$1,000 - \$9,999	
Community Builder	\$10,000 - \$24,999	
Community Mover	\$25,000 or higher	

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone (Day): _____ Phone (Evening): _____

E-mail: _____

This gift is being made jointly with: _____

Please make check payable to *OCA Building Fund* and send to:
 Organization of Chinese Americans
 1001 Connecticut Avenue, NW, Suite 601, Washington, DC 20036

Contributions are tax-deductible to the extent permitted by law.

For other donation opportunities and options, including matching gifts and stock transfers, please contact Aryani Ong at the OCA National Office at 202-223-5500 or at aong@ocanatl.org. Thank you for your support and commitment to securing a permanent building for OCA. Your generous contribution will be appropriately noted and acknowledged.

“Being a company that sells products to the general public, McDonald’s values the Asian American market....”

BAC Spotlight: McDonald’s



This month our BAC spotlight is on McDonald’s corporation, which has been a member of OCA’s Business Advisory Council since 2000 and has been a sponsor of OCA’s national convention every year. McDonald’s is building an even stronger partnership with OCA through its role in the formation of the Asian Pacific Islander American Scholarship Fund (APIASF). Kevin Bradley, Director of Diversity Initiatives for McDonald’s, discussed some of the programs the corporation is working on within the Asian Pacific American community.

The APIA Scholarship Fund was established by a partnership of community, corporate, and civic leaders devoted to the dream of providing educational opportunities for APIAs. Several years ago, the group created a scholarship program through the Ronald McDonald House charities that was very successful in raising funds and providing awards to many students. However, the group felt the need to create something that would be more national in scope. At the same time, OCA and the Asian American Pacific Islander (AAPI) Advisory Board for GMS were having parallel discussions. Thus began the dialogue to create a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization for Asian American students, similar to what the United Negro College Fund is for African American students. The scholarship fund is in the process of having soft launches in 12 cities throughout the year, with the official launch being in 2005. McDonald’s also brought in one of its partner companies, Coca-Cola, as a supporter in this endeavor. At the last board meeting, the Asian McDonald’s Operators Association pledged as a franchise to raise \$1 million for the fund.

“Being a company that sells products to the general public, McDonald’s values the Asian American market, as well as our Asian American employees, suppliers and franchisees,” said Kevin Bradley, Director of Diversity Initiatives. “One of our current initiatives is to increase our number of Asian American suppliers.” McDonald’s U.S. President Mike Roberts has also initiated a project creating an APIA employees symposium, which would bring the APIA employees together to foster career development initiatives and opportunities for growth within the corporation.

McDonald’s also just launched an aggressive Asian American marketing campaign this year, including signing

2004 OCA Business Advisory Council Members

AT&T
AXA Financial
Allstate Insurance Company
Altria
Amtrak
Anheuser-Busch Companies, Inc.
Avon Products
Cardinal Health
DaimlerChrysler
Federated Department Stores
Ford Motor Company
General Motors Corporation
Hyatt Hotels Corporation
IBM Corporation
J.C. Penney
KSCI-TV
Kraft Foods
Lowe’s Home Improvement Warehouse
MGM Mirage
McDonald’s Corporation
Marriott International
National Association of Broadcasters
New York Life
Northwest Airlines
Pacific Gas & Electric Corporation
PepsiCo
SBC Pacific Bell
Starwood Hotels & Resorts
State Farm
TJX Companies
Texas Instrument
United Airlines
United Parcel Service
Verizon
Virginia Power Company
Wal-Mart Stores, Inc.
YUM! Brands

on Chinese basketball star Yao Ming as a company spokesperson. The campaign also has a website, www.i-am-asian.com, which will feature Asian American employees and franchises.

McDonald’s wanted this campaign to be different from other traditional McDonald’s marketing endeavors, by catering to the trends of the youth of today.



For over a decade, the Organization of Chinese Americans has been at the forefront of administering national scholarship programs serving Asian and Pacific Islander American (APIA) youth. In order to eliminate the “model minority” stereotype, OCA has made it a top priority to develop programs to assist an often overlooked segment of the APIA community—those who are in greatest financial need.

Since 1993, the AVON Foundation has generously funded the OCA AVON Scholarship Program for Asian and Pacific Islander American women entering college. In 1999, OCA partnered with the UPS Foundation in administering the OCA/UPS Gold Mountain Scholarship for students who are first in their family to attend college. In 2002, the Verizon Foundation also partnered with OCA in providing 25 scholarships every year for financially needy first-year college students.

In 2001 OCA was selected by our peers to serve as the Asian and Pacific Islander American partner for the Gates Millennium Scholars, joining the United Negro College Fund, the Hispanic Scholarship Fund, and the American Indian Graduate Center. The Gates Millennium Scholars (GMS), funded by a grant from the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, was established in 1999 to provide outstanding African American, American Indian/Alaskan Natives, Asian and Pacific Islander Americans, and Hispanic American students with an opportunity to complete an undergraduate college education in all discipline areas, and a graduate education for those students pursuing studies in mathematics, science, engineering, education, or library science. This billion dollar program is to be implemented over twenty years.

For over a decade OCA has administered over 1500 scholarships to APIA students nationwide.

While OCA has been fulfilling this need, APIAs recognized the need for a national scholarship organization that would be equivalent to the United Negro College Fund or the Hispanic Scholarship Fund. Both OCA and the AAPI Advisory Board recognized the need for a national APIA scholarship fund, and as a result, a working group was created to transform this idea into a reality. The group included representatives from OCA, the Asian Pacific American Institute for Congressional Studies, the University of Hawai'i Native Hawaiian Community-Based Learning Centers, the Gate Millennium Scholars program, the Southeast Asia Resource Action Center, and former U.S. Congressman Robert Underwood of Guam.

At the same time, the Asian McDonald's Operators Association and its partner, the Coca-Cola Company, had a similar vision. A year ago, when we learned of their plans, we instantly decided to combine our efforts.

As a result, in February 2004, the Asian and Pacific Islander American Scholarship Fund (APIASF) was unveiled as a new national scholarship organization devoted to offering financial support to APIA students who otherwise could not afford to attend a post-secondary institution of their choice. The Fund offers hope for thousands of students who have been unable to attend college due to financial need.

“Creating the Asian and Pacific Islander American Scholarship Fund is a major milestone for all Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders in this country,” announced Christine Chen, executive director of OCA. “More than 12 percent of Asian Americans and nearly 18 percent of Pacific Islanders still live below the official poverty line, meaning thousands of students require financial aid to secure a college education. This Fund will allow us to help more of these students.”

“McDonald's made a commitment long ago to support the educational needs of students from all backgrounds and cultures,” said Eddie Yuen, president of the Asian McDonald's Owner-Operators Association, whose organization worked with Ronald McDonald House Charities to create the ASIA (Asian Students Increasing Achievement) scholarship program—an organization that will become a part of the new Fund. “Creating the Asian and Pacific Islander American Scholarship Fund in tandem with the Coca-Cola Company and national Asian and Pacific Islander American leaders is truly a dream come true for us,” Yuen said.

“Despite the economic, educational and political progress we have made as Asian and Pacific Islander Americans, there is still a great need in this country for a scholarship program devoted to our diverse communities,” said Congressman Underwood, who served as chairman of the Congressional Asian Pacific American Caucus during part of his term in office. “Thousands of Asian and Pacific



Islander Americans from the Pacific region and from countries throughout Southeast and southern Asia, are unable to afford even a basic education. Finally, we will have an organization that is devoted to their needs and the

needs of so many Asian and Pacific Islander families.”

In addition to supporting the financial needs of college and vocational students, Fund leaders hope to enable scholarship recipients to pursue careers where Asians and Pacific Islanders have been traditionally underrepresented, including higher education, television and film, corporate management and government.

“Asian and Pacific Islander Americans truly value the education opportunities that are available to them in this country,” said KaYing Yang, former executive director of the Southeast Asia Resource Action Center. “But even with rising Asian and Pacific Islander enrollment, we still do not have a sufficient number of tenured college and university administrators and professors. This issue is even more critical for the Southeast Asian and Pacific Islander communities, where there are only a handful of tenured, full-time faculty of Hawaiian, Samoan, Vietnamese, Hmong, Lao, Cambodian and Thai descent.”

From March to May 2004, thanks to OCA chapters, local McDonald's establishments, funders, and various APIA organizations, the APIASF will host soft launches across the country in cities including Los Angeles, San Francisco, Honolulu, Houston, Seattle, Chicago, Minneapolis, New York City, Washington DC, Atlanta, and Boston. *Continued on page 19*



Scholarships

For the last decade, the Organization of Chinese Americans, Inc. (OCA) has been providing scholarships or funding from the Avon Foundation, United Parcel Service Foundation, Verizon Foundation, Sysco Corporation, and AXA Foundation to support talented Asian Pacific American (APA) students. OCA remains committed to supporting such talented APA students. For applications and deadlines, refer to the OCA website at www.oceanatl.org.

	<p>OCA - Avon Scholarship Avon Foundation funds college scholarships for APA women who will be entering their first year of college.</p> <p>Eligibility</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * APA women who are entering their first year of college in the upcoming Fall * Must demonstrate financial need * Must be a permanent resident or U.S. citizen
	<p>OCA-UPS Gold Mountain Scholarship The OCA-UPS Gold Mountain scholarship is for APAs who are the first persons in their family to attend an institution of higher education.</p> <p>Eligibility</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * APAs who are the first person in their immediate family to attend college * APAs who are entering their first year of college in the upcoming Fall * Must demonstrate financial need
	<p>OCA - Verizon Scholarship The OCA-Verizon scholarship will provide opportunities to APA students who wish to pursue higher education while facing financial difficulties.</p> <p>Eligibility</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * APAs who are entering their first year of college in the upcoming Fall * Must demonstrate financial need * Must be permanent resident or U.S. Citizen
	<p>OCA-SYSCO Scholarship The OCA-SYSCO scholarship helps to provide financially disadvantaged APAs the chance to attain a college education.</p> <p>Eligibility</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * APAs who are entering their first year of college in the upcoming Fall * Must demonstrate financial need * Must be permanent resident or U.S. Citizen
	<p>OCA - AXA Scholarship The OCA-AXA scholarship is funded by the AXA Foundation in an effort to provide the advice and access necessary for America's APA youth to succeed in college and beyond.</p> <p>Eligibility</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * APAs who are entering their first year of college in the upcoming Fall * Must demonstrate financial need * Must be permanent resident or U.S. Citizen

** For a weighted GPA, please ask your counselor to convert it to a 4.0 scale.

Applications and updated information will be posted on the OCA website at www.oceanatl.org under the Programs link.

Applications and materials must be postmarked by May 1st.

In the meantime, if you have any questions, call the National Office at (202) 223-5500 or e-mail oca@oceanatl.org

APIA Voices In the Civil Rights Movement



Feb. 25, 2004 - Library of Congress. Michael Lin speaks at an event announcing the Voices of Civil Rights, a project by Leadership Conference on Civil Rights, AARP and the Library of Congress. (Photo courtesy of Aryani Ong.)

Preserving Civil Rights History

On February 25, 2004, the Leadership Conference on Civil Rights, AARP and the Library of Congress announced a project to collect and preserve testimonials by people who lived through the civil rights movement in the United States. The project – called the Voices of Civil Rights project - was announced at the Library of Congress in Washington, D.C. to coincide with the fiftieth anniversary of *Brown v. Board of Education*. The projects' sponsors held a luncheon program for several invited guests from different civil rights organizations, including OCA.

"The project of the 'Voices of Civil Rights' will serve to remind ourselves that we stand on the shoulders of many people who came before us and, more importantly, to educate future generations that prejudice has no place in America," said Dr. Michael Lin, past National President of OCA and a program speaker.

Dr. Lin spoke about the contributions of Yuri Kochiyama, an Asian Pacific American activist who has spent 40 years fighting for workers' rights and reparations for the Japanese-Americans incarcerated during WWII. You might recognize her from the high profile photograph published in a 1965 issue of *Life* magazine, cradling Malcolm X immediately after his assassination.

Dr. Lin also introduced a prominent civil rights leader, Dr. Dorothy Height. Dr. Height currently serves as Chair of the Leadership Conference on Civil Rights and the Chair and President Emeritus of the National Council of Negro Women. She advised former presidents to desegregate schools and to appoint African American women in government positions.

The sponsors of the Voices of Civil Rights projects call on members of the public to interview people who can provide first-hand accounts or to submit personal accounts by December 31, 2004. The stories will be housed in a Library of Congress collection.

OCA encourages Asian Pacific Americans (APAs) to come forth with stories to educate the public on the contributions by APAs during this important period of U.S. history. OCA will support the project by posting space on its website, www.ocanatl.org, for visitors to contribute their own stories. More information on the project can be found at www.voicesofcivilrights.org.

Special Edition Lunar New Year Stamp Collection Complete



First day of issue ceremony, San Francisco, CA

Lunar New Year Stamp

The Lunar New Year series first began in 1993 with the issuance of the Year of the Rooster stamp, followed by stamps for the Years of the Dog, Boar, Rat, Ox, Tiger, Hare, Dragon, Snake, Horse, and Monkey.

The Lunar Year is the longest chronological record in history and is based on the cycles of the moon. Each Lunar Year is represented by one of the twelve animal signs of the Chinese Zodiac. Those born this year, Year of the Monkey, are said to be clever and inquisitive, often seeking new opportunities and adventure.

The inspiration for creating a Lunar New Year commemorative stamp first originated in 1988 based on an idea by Jean Chen, an OCA-Georgia chapter member. "Back in the 80s, Jean Chen saw an early photo of the celebration of the completion of the Transcontinental Railroad in 1869 and noticed there were no Chinese present in the picture. She inspired OCA to work toward the creation of a Chinese New Year stamp," said Raymond Wong, OCA National President.

Ms. Chen decided something needed to be done on a large scale that would recognize Chinese contributions to this nation. Claudine Cheng, OCA's national president at the time, launched a campaign based on Ms. Chen's inspiration. "This stamp series embraces the hope of many Chinese Americans who want to fully participate in the American mainstream and yet maintain their cultural heritage," said Cheng.

Every year, OCA chapters have been involved in the planning of the First Day of Issue event, with a representative from OCA attending each of the programs. This year, the dedication ceremony for the First Day of Issue of the Year of the Monkey New Year stamp took place at the Masonic Center in San Francisco, California.

The unveiling of the Year of the Monkey stamp will signal the end of this commemorative stamp series.

APIASF

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The Fund anticipates it will take approximately two years to build a viable national scholarship organization that can address the growing financial needs of Asian and Pacific Islander American students. During the next two years, Fund leaders will work to establish a national board and will build an infrastructure to support the organization's programs and initiatives.

OCA Announces Release of *Voices of Healing* Book



Voices of Healing includes stories based on interviews with victims' families. Here, Ted H. Moy, a victim of the Pentagon attack, dresses in red, white and blue to show his patriotism.

(Photo courtesy of Madeline Moy.)

OCA announced the pre-release of the *Voices of Healing: Spirit and Unity after 9/11 in the Asian American and Pacific Islander Community* in New York City and Los Angeles in January 2004.

The book is the only publication that compiles the stories, photographs and artistic expressions of ordinary and well-known Asian Pacific Americans in response to 9/11. OCA co-published the book with East

Executive Director Christine Chen. OCA-New York chapter members Jerry Cheng, Jami Gong, Leo Lee, Vicki Shu and consultant Liz OuYang volunteered their efforts to organize the press conference and private reception held before the event.

Greater Los Angeles

The OCA-Greater Los Angeles chapter hosted a press conference the following week on January 20 at a library in Chinatown. The event drew over 80 people. Cathie Ong Herrera, the sister of Betty Ann Ong, a flight attendant featured in the book, spoke at the press conference, together with OCA National Vice President Sam Luk. Following the press conference, the chapter hosted a reception and book sale event. OCA-Greater Los Angeles chapter members Clara Chiu, Kathay Feng, Sam Luk, Colleen Seto, Stacey Toda and *Voices of Healing* editor Icy Smith were involved in the planning of the events.

Through local chapters, OCA will be donating several copies of *Voices of Healing* to schools and libraries across the country. As announced during the January 2004 National Board meeting, chapters are encouraged to submit a proposal to the OCA National Office to procure up to 10 books for donation to schools and libraries. The proposal forms are available at the OCA National Office. Within the proposal, chapters are encouraged to consider organizing promotional events such as a presentation ceremony to a school or library, a book reading, a book sale, a press conference, etc. Moreover, chapters that would like to assist with the sale of the books should also contact the OCA National Office.

Voices of Healing is available for \$24.95 plus shipping through OCA and East West Discovery Press, the books' co-publishers. OCA is offering its chapter members a discount rate of \$19.95 plus shipping. Order forms are available on OCA's website at www.ocanatl.org. The book officially will be available in bookstores in April 2004.

For further information on the sale or distribution of *Voices of Healing*, please contact Aryani Ong at (202) 223-5500 or aong@ocanatl.org.

West Discovery Press, with support from Cathay Bank.

Between the covers of the 132-page book, *Voices of Healing* features stories of victims' families, heroes, eyewitnesses and survivors. Photos show Asian Pacific American communities paying tribute and remembrance to the fallen and holding gatherings to call for peace.

Such images were underrepresented in mainstream media, according to a NewsWatch project at San Francisco State University. The book also provides a forum for Asian Pacific Americans affected by hate crimes and racial profiling and post-9/11 policies to comment on the new paradigm within which they live. *Voices of Healing* also gives space to children and professional artists to share self-expressions.

New York City

The OCA-New York City chapter hosted a press conference on January 15 at the Silk Road Mocha Café in Chinatown. Despite the frigid cold winter, over 50 community members and ethnic media representatives attended. The press conference featured a speaker panel including several contributors to *Voices of Healing* and OCA

Left: *Voices of Healing* press conference in New York's Chinatown.

Right: OCA-Greater Los Angeles president Stacey Toda speaks at the Los Angeles press conference for *Voices of Healing*.



APIA U: Leadership 101

This year, OCA National is organizing 12 regional APIA U: Leadership 101 college leadership trainings in major cities across the nation through June: Honolulu, HI, Dallas, TX, Miami, FL, Tacoma, WA, St. Paul, MN, Denver, CO, San Jose, CA, Fullerton, CA, Wellesley, MA, Piscataway, NJ, and DeKalb, IL. Along with 12 expert facilitators who have all personally fought for campus and social change, OCA has successfully made lasting impressions on the student participants.

The college leadership trainings convenes largely diverse groups of students including Hmong, adopted students, mixed-ethnicity students, Pacific Islanders, Mormons and international students creating a safe and sensitive environment where students will share and listen to each other's similar life experiences. The facilitators fill Saturday mornings with activities exploring the consciousness of self, including development of the students' individual identities, identifying their multiple identities and how these tie into leadership and communication skills. Many of the discussions will be "first-time" topics for the students.

In the afternoon sessions, the students will learn to understand the importance of working together as individuals and with other campus organizations and student government. The student leaders will address their organizational issues including (1) working amongst fellow leaders with varying degrees of commitment and talent, and (2) understanding the power structure and maneuvering it effectively. By the later Saturday afternoons of each training, the energy of the students will transition from individualistic, distant skepticism to a positive, unified team as they begin to brainstorm about campus and other issues.

After a full Saturday of identity, leadership and communication activities, OCA chapter representatives, State Farm representatives and other community leaders will join the students at the OCA-hosted community reception. Last year, special guests included OCA National President Raymond Wong, book author Helen Zia and Assemblywoman Judy Chu, amongst others. They took this opportunity to meet with and address the rising student leaders with motivational words and offerings of support.

On Sunday morning, the Strategy Chart activity will bring students together to discuss the issues they are dealing with at their campuses, gather insight from other campuses who recently dealt with similar issues, and map out the next steps they needed to take to win their goal. They will spend time understanding how to choose issues, identifying allies and opponents and developing concrete short term and long term goals.

Success Stories

Wright State University student:

I attended the OCA training in Chicago in the fall of 1999 when Loyola hosted the conference. During this time, the Asian, Hispanic, and Native American students at Wright State University did not receive any funding from the university student funding committee. After the OCA

training, I was able to work toward change, and we got funding under the Asian/Hispanic/Native American Council starting out around \$6000-\$8000. Before graduation I was able to be on the funding committee and advocate for an increase in funding to around \$14,000. Because of OCA's training, it helped me to be able to make a difference at Wright State University.

OCA Facilitator:

We had a Vanderbilt student who is basically the future of our community, whom we were able to support in all of her endeavors—which include trying to revive the currently-ended ACAASU network as well as working to build NASCON (national APA student conference). We also laid some terrific groundwork with the students at the University of Alabama and, I daresay, inspired the students there to organize an effort for some APA studies classes.

Student (college unknown):

The trainings were helpful in organizing thought/action processes and strategizing. Also, it helped connect a lot of students together. Also, the trainings were quite important because this year alone, Stony Brook University's Charles B. Wang center opened, and our Asian American Studies department was finally established (although, currently, funding for the department and courses is practically non-existent). Many OCA participants are still active student leaders, and the facilitators were all quite helpful and willing to lend personal support and resources.

St. Mary's College of California, APASA President:

The training has provided the inception of an idea for a statewide student network. While it is still in the works, the training has helped to create a place for dialogue and a chance to network for resources to each other's struggles. As a result, West Coast Asian and Pacific Islander Student and Alumni Network was formed. WAPISAN exists to support and to encourage community building, networking, education among Asian and Pacific Islander students and alumni and their surrounding communities along the West Coast. I would highly recommend the training to any student interested in an invaluable experience.



Students at the leadership training at Wellesley College in Fall 2003.

Read Across America: Inspiring Youth to Read



Since 1998, Read Across America, a National Education Association (NEA) program, has been encouraging and inspiring children (and adults!) of all ages to experience the joy of reading. This year, Read Across America kicked off its campaign on March 2, 2004, which coincided with the 100th birthday of the famous children's book writer, Theodor Seuss Geisel (Dr. Seuss). All across the country, kids read their favorite books, donned the iconic red-and-white stovepipe hat of the Cat in the Hat, and a few even ate green eggs and ham!

OCA was proud to support this program and believes in the goals it is out to accomplish. Though the Read Across America kick-off and festivities only took place on March 2, the overall program attempts to motivate children to read more *every day*. If you are looking for some activities to help develop the relationship between reading and fun, try some of the following NEA suggestions:

Have a "book-nic". Whether indoors or out, a picnic with books and foods/activities inspired from the books can make reading fun. For example, you can have hot dogs and play baseball if you and the kids choose to read *In the Year of the Boar and Jackie Robinson* by Bette Bao Lord.

Get creative! Take a book like *Red is a Dragon: A Book of Colors* by Roseanne Thong, and paint with the kids or have them try to replicate the colorful drawings in the book.

Cook together. Try having the kids read the recipes and let them help you measure and make things. Get a dim sum recipe book, pick a couple recipes and get ready for yummy reading fun! To supplement this activity, try reading a book like *Dim Sum for Everyone* by Grace Lin.

OCA encourages children (and adults) to expose themselves to more Asian American authors. For a listing of works by Asian Americans, please refer to OCA's website at www.ocanatl.org.

For more information on Read Across America Day, please visit the NEA's webpage for the program at www.nea.org/readacross. This website contains several links to useful projects and information, as well as a link for NEA's Read Across America "Resource Kit," which is a collection of material you can use to celebrate the fun reading day. The program may be contacted directly by email at readacross@nea.org or phone at (202) 822-7387.

The Image of APAs

Continued from page 6

85-year-old Chinese houseboy. The company ran into financial trouble and collapsed, only to have its assets bought in bankruptcy auction by several of its original founders.

In February of this year, Maverick Entertainment announced the release of a brand new DVD compilation of the Mr. Wong series, now "presented by National Lampoon." But this time, the release has been met largely with indifference. As of this writing, the DVD—and its wartime Asian caricature of a comical, squint-eyed midget with buck teeth and lemon-yellow skin—stood at number 4,229 on Amazon.com's sales charts.

By way of comparison, Jessica Hagedorn's exceptional new anthology of Asian American literature, *Charlie Chan Is Dead II*, is number 46,523.

Jeff Yang was the founder of aMagazine, and is the CEO of Factor, Inc., a marketing and production firm based in New York City. He is the editorial director of Stir, a new show for "Asian America's next generation," currently being produced by a partnership of KTSF-26 and the International Channel.

VOICES OF HEALING

Asian American and Pacific Islander

Spirit and Unity after 9/11

Now available for purchase!



www.ocanatl.org

OCA in the News



The following are excerpts of articles where OCA has been mentioned. OCA received press coverage from the release of the publication, *Voices of Healing: Asian American and Pacific Islander Spirit and Unity after 9/11*. OCA was also featured in a few articles discussing

the incident where TNT sports broadcaster Steve Kerr referred to Houston Rockets basketball player Yao Ming as a "Chinaman." Some other news items that OCA was involved with included the launch of the Asian Pacific American platform by the National Council of Asian Pacific Americans (NCAPA) and the Lunar New Year stamp series.

10 Great Places to Swing into the Year 4702

By Shawn Sell, 1/15/04, *USA Today*

The Chinese New Year falls on a different date each year because it is based on a combination of lunar and solar movements. "This year, visit places in the USA that have special meaning for Chinese Americans," says Christine Chen, executive director of the Organization of Chinese Americans. Here, she shares with USA Today's Shawn Sell essential sites for ringing in the new year.

To see the full article, go to: http://www.usatoday.com/travel/destinations/10great/2004-01-15-chinese-new-year_x.htm.

OCA Release Book on Asian American Unity During 9/11

By Audrey Shiomi, 1/23/04, *Rafu Shimpo*

Over two years later, [Betty Ann] Ong's story is part of a 132 page, full-color book, documenting many of those in the Asian Pacific Islander community affected by the events of Sept. 11. The book, entitled "Voices of Healing: Spirit and Unity after 9/11 in the Asian American and Pacific Islander Community," will be released by the Organization of Chinese Americans (OCA) to bookstores in April... "Throughout the years, Asian Pacific Americans have often been seen as foreigners. We have not readily been accepted as 'true' Americans," said OCA National Executive Vice President Sam Luk during the book's pre-release event in L.A.'s Chinatown this week. "But as you will see from the book, the stories of Asian Pacific Americans resonate as any other stories related to Sept. 11."

Sincere, Appropriate Apology

By David Steele, 1/24/04, *San Francisco Chronicle*

Steve Kerr did not claim ignorance as an excuse for the offensive term for Chinese Americans he used during a nationally televised NBA game Monday... Smart move, because people of Chinese descent, and of Asian descent, understand ignorance as a reason. They don't accept it as an excuse. They have made that clear since Monday night,

when the outraged e-mails and phone calls started crisscrossing the country. Many of them landed at the Organization of Chinese Americans' headquarters in Washington, DC.

To see the full article, go to: <http://www.sfgate.com>.

Slurs' Origins May be Forgotten, but the Effects Linger

By Esther Wu, 1/28/04, *Dallas Morning News*

When the Organization of Chinese Americans complained to Steve Kerr for calling Yao Ming a "Chinaman," the sportscaster apologized, saying he didn't realize it was an insult..."Growing up in the Midwest, I had heard the words, but I don't think I understood the correlation between 'Chink' and the N-word. We all knew that the N-word was bad because pop culture taught us it was derogatory," said Christine Chen, executive director of the Organization of Chinese Americans, based in Washington, D.C. "But no one ever explains how bad the C-words were," she said.

To see the full article, go to <http://www.dallasnews.com>.

**"The stories of Asian Pacific Americans resonate as any other stories related to Sept. 11...."
- OCA National Executive**

Asian Americans Note Issues Central to Them for Elections

By Lynette Clemetson, 2/13/04, *New York Times*

"We don't care if the candidates are

politically correct, if they can say hello to a crowd of voters in a dozen Asian languages," Christine Chen, executive director of the Organization of Chinese Americans, said. "That's superficial. We want them to familiarize themselves with our communities and with our issues."

To see the full article, go to:

<http://www.nytimes.com/2004/02/13/politics/campaign/13ASIA.html>.

Betty Ong, 9-11 Forgotten Heroine, Gets Recognition From the Senate

By Jennie L. Ilustre, February 2004, *Asian Fortune*

A Wall Street Journal story on October 15, 2001 reported Betty was "hysterical," "screaming" and "gasping for air." Not true, an audiotape of Betty's exchange with ground crew proved without a shadow of doubt... The hearing took place January 27 at the Hart Senate Office Building. The Commission, with Chair Thomas H. Kean presiding, heard testimonies relating to border and aviation security. After listening to the tape, Kean praised Ong's "heroism." It was a lump-in-the throat moment. People at the hearing on Room 216 were riveted in their seats. Some wiped away a tear. Families of 9-11 victims, ordinary citizens, Organization of Chinese Americans (OCA) officers, congressional staffers and several reporters were listening to the first public playback of a September 11 audiotape.

To see the full article, go to: <http://www.asianfortune.com>.

Taking Action on the Local Level

OCA's chapters are always active in bringing service, culture, and education to their communities. The following is a sample of some of what our chapters have been involved in these past few months.

Preserving our Culture and History

Many of our chapters planned events to ring in the Year of the Monkey. OCA-New York participated in New York Chinatown's Lunar New Year Parade on January 25.

OCA-South Florida joined the Miami-Dade County Asian American Advisory Board and the Miami-Dade County Commission for Women to hold a 2003 Veteran's Day Observance on November 14. The event honored Chinese American World War II

OCA-Central Virginia held their Year of the Monkey dinner on January 18, also introducing the president-elect, Victor Huang, and other new board members. The chapter also partnered with the Children's Museum of Richmond to hold a successful Lunar New Year Celebration on January 25, featuring a day of programs, including cultural performances.

On November 29, OCA-Pittsburgh joined the "Celebrate the Season Holiday Parade" sponsored by Kaufmann's Department Store and WPXI-TV. Forty-five participants drawn from multiple Pittsburgh Chinese organizations and from the Three River Families with Children from China took part in this celebration. On December 27, the chapter sponsored a holiday

producing every year, marking each of the 12 zodiac signs. Many of our chapters held unveiling ceremonies and press conferences in their communities for this year's stamp.

OCA-New York participated in a stamp unveiling press conference on January 16 at the Chinese Consolidated Benevolent Association in Chinatown. Local news anchor Cindy Hsu and New York Congresswoman Lydia Velasquez were present at the event.

OCA-Greater District of Columbia arranged to have USPS unveil the monkey stamp at the Lakeforest Mall in Gaithersburg, Maryland on January 24, during the opening of a two-week long Lunar New Year Festival co-sponsored by the Chinese Culture and Community



A performance from OCA-Central Virginia's Lunar New Year celebration, January 18, 2004.



OCA-New York's Lunar New Year stamp unveiling event, January 16, 2004.

veterans and also premiered *A Brief Flight*, a documentary paying tribute to pioneer aviator Hazel Ying Lee, the first Chinese American woman to fly for the United States military.

OCA-Greater Cleveland took part in celebrating the Harvest Moon Festival at a local library this past fall. OCA-GC president Wai Wan participated in a panel discussion on racial stereotyping during Cleveland Unity Week. OCA-GC also hosted a picnic to honor a group of Chinese artisans who showcased 7000 years of Chinese crafts at the Cleveland Science Center. Before they returned to China after a six-month stay, OCA-GC presented them with souvenirs to show appreciation for their contributions to cultural exchange.

buffet dinner, which was accompanied by a well attended lecture entitled, "Why the Chinese civilization still lasts after 5000 years," by renowned history professor Cho Yun Hsu. On January 24, the chapter held its annual New Year's Banquet. The Banquet was opened by a new children's dance group, The Little Pandas, which was instructed by two OCA Youth group dance members. The banquet was well-attended by the local media and featured in Pittsburgh's newspapers.

Unveiling of Year of the Monkey Stamp

The Year of the Monkey also marks the last in the series of Lunar New Year stamps that OCA has partnered with the United States Postal Service in

Service Center and Lakeforest Mall. Present to unveil the stamp were Tony Thompson, Postmaster of the Gaithersburg branch of USPS and Shirley Lowery of USPS.

The Central Illinois chapter held an unveiling of the stamp at their Lunar New Year dinner in the Illinois State Ballroom. There were 700 people in attendance representing many different community groups.

On February 1, the South Florida chapter co-sponsored the 16th annual Chinese New Year Festival, which included lion and dragon dancing as well as the unveiling of the stamp in front of over 6000 spectators.

For the past four years, OCA-New Jersey has been kicking off the Lunar

Taking Action on the Local Level

New Year with an unveiling of the stamp. A postal store in the area hosts the ceremony and the event includes a Lion dance group, a fashion show and kung fu exhibit.

Providing for Those in Need

In December, OCA-Greater District of Columbia, in cooperation with Montgomery County, Maryland's Up-County Service Center, sponsored the purchase of toys, presents and food certificates for area needy families. Board members helped deliver the Christmas packages to the families.

In October, OCA-Long Island joined the American Cancer Society Eastern Division-Chinese Unit in the "Making Strides Against Breast Cancer" Walk in Queens, New York. OCA-LI and OCA-

chapter's OCA Youth joined the youth of the Pittsburgh chapter of Tzu-Chi to serve the needy hungry at the Salvation Army soup kitchen. This has been a community service of OCA Youth for many years. On February 16, the chapter and the Tzu-Chi chapter sponsored a free medical/dental clinic. OCA-Pittsburgh has made this clinic available to the community for more than 20 years.

Celebrating Chapter Accomplishments

The OCA-Greater Washington, DC chapter concluded their celebration of the chapter's 30th anniversary with their annual awards gala dinner on December 6. Despite a snowstorm blanketing the DC metro area, there

Frontiers for 30 Years," to celebrate the 30th anniversary and founding of OCA. The chapter recognized three individuals for their community service, including Raymond M. Chin, president of R.M. Chin & Associates; Irene Cualoping, past president of OCA-Chicago and managing partner of ENERI Communications; and Kam Liu, principal of Kam L. Liu & Co. and long-time board member of OCA-Chicago.

In October, OCA-Westchester sponsored its annual "Meet the Candidates" form at Westchester Community College. Members and guests heard presentations from many of the county and judicial candidates that ran in the November general elections. OCA-Westchester's YP-OCA chapter held their "Career Series"



OCA-Chicago chapter at their annual gala banquet.



OCA-Greater Seattle chapter at grand opening of chapter office, December 3, 2003.

New York chapter members also participated in the National Immigrant Workers Freedom Ride Rally in Flushing Meadow Park in Queens on October 4.

On February 14, OCA-South Florida held a Job Preparation Technical Workshop to help individuals prepare legible and attractive application forms for those interested in the February 19 Nationwide Recruitment Fair.

On October 26, OCA-Pittsburgh participated in the University of Pittsburgh Chinese Nationality Room Scholarship Benefit Dinner, which celebrated the life of Professor C. C. Li, an internationally renowned population geneticist at the Graduate School of Public Health. On January 5, the

was a good turnout to hear honoree and keynote speaker Laureen Ong, President of National Geographic Channel, about her experiences as an Asian American woman in the broadcast medium. OCA-DC also held their elections for the 2004 board, with David Yao elected as the chapter president.

OCA-Chicago held its annual gala in October at the Holiday Inn-Mart Plaza Hotel in Chicago. Dr. Leroy Chiao, a prominent Chinese American and a NASA astronaut, was the keynote speaker. Nearly 200 people were in attendance, including local dignitaries, civil and business leaders, and National President Raymond Wong. The theme of the gala was "A New Era of Diversity – Charting New

program this fall, created by their advisor, Meow Yee. The members had the opportunity to visit the Verizon Technology Center, New Line Cinema, and IBM.

On December 3, the OCA-Greater Seattle chapter welcomed its members to the grand opening of its office at the historic Chinatown/International District. Among those in attendance were five of the chapter's past six presidents. After the ribbon-cutting ceremony, the chapter held a general membership meeting and the board of directors elections at Sun Ya Restaurant. Mei-Ling Woo will be serving the year of her term as president.

An Inspiring Story of APA Youth

by Shewling Moy Wang, OCA Eastern Virginia



OCA-Long Island joining the American Cancer Society Eastern Division - Chinese Unit in the "Making Strides Against Breast Cancer" Walk in Queens, NY, October 19, 2003.



Above: OCA Long Island and New York members at the OCA table for the National Immigrant Workers Freedom Ride Rally in Flushing Meadow Park, Queens, NY, October 4, 2003.

Below: OCA-New York chapter at the Lunar New Year parade in Chinatown on January 25, 2004.



There is richness in my heart, a wonderful feeling. Though, what did we do right? How did this happen? What motivated Adam to give \$100 away?

Adam, 16, a junior in high school, is our eldest son. He was honored by OCA's Eastern Virginia Chapter last November in their annual banquet with The 2003 Youth of the Year Award. Along with a certificate, it came with a \$100 check. We were surprised that Adam received this recognition. Since its inception, this award has been given to high school seniors or freshmen in college. When his name was announced, we were stunned! Adam was in good company that evening. In attendance were distinguished students with high achievements. What a high honor for him and our family.

My husband and I thought that being a teenager, Adam would spend his \$100 on two video games. After all, we never saw the check after the night of the banquet.

A surprise came. During the winter break, Adam came and told me, "I want to do something meaningful with my money."

As our conversation unfolded, I understood that our son wanted to make a difference with his award money. He discovered *The New Face of Asian Pacific America*, a book published by AsianWeek and the UCLA Asian American Studies Center, in partnership with OCA and National CAPACD, and could be purchased through OCA National. Therefore, after thorough discussion, three books were purchased and donations were made to three separate schools, Norfolk Academy in Norfolk, Maury High School in Norfolk and Woodrow Wilson High School in Portsmouth.

As a mother, I am very pleased of my son's decision,

especially when he initiated this. What dumfounded me is, what inspired this 16-year-old to do what he did?

We have two sons, ages 16 and 14. Possibly the seed was planned when we loaded our van, drove around towns to deliver gifts during Christmas Eve to the less fortunate, and the people to whom we wanted to simply say "thanks."

Perhaps it was the political forums they assisted me with. The hours we spent sorting and selling books at the public library book sale. Or, their service in OCA/EVC events, their attendance in the Urban League's Martin Luther King, Jr. breakfast, and their volunteering, tutoring, and mentoring of other children. Furthermore, the boys are concerned with the state of our country, no matter if it was the war in Iraq or the upcoming political election. They pay attention to local, national and global affairs.

There are generations of presidents and politicians in the Bush and Kennedy families. Time and again, the same families are with generations of doctors, teachers, business owners, and musicians. Due to my involvements with our community, my children are involved citizens. They offer themselves and their money. Parents are their best role models.

Adam strives to meet the mission of OCA. He returned his award money to OCA by purchasing books. Then, he employed this opportunity to promote a better understanding of Asian Americans with his donation of these books. Yes, \$100 is merely a gesture. But it is two video games for a teen.

I hope this is a beginning of more to come. I am very proud of Adam.

Spotlight on National Staff



April Delacruz Rongero,
OCA's Spring semester

April Delacruz Rongero is a senior at the Johns Hopkins University in Baltimore, Maryland. As a result of a life-long interest in Asia and several trips to China, she is an enthusiastic East Asian Studies major at JHU. Though nebulous, this major emphasizes the language, history and culture of an East Asian country of the student's choosing. Needless to say, April chose China. In addition to

studying Mandarin at school in Baltimore, April also had the opportunity to study the language at Tsinghua University during the summer of 2002.

Despite her obvious penchant for Chinese culture and history, April is a true Filipina and Texan at heart. Born and raised in Austin, she developed a good sense of Southern hospitality and charm. But for her, life in Texas was deficient in one thing—a cohesive Asian American community. However, when she arrived at JHU, she quickly joined the Filipino Students Association (FSA).

During her undergraduate run, she has held several offices within FSA, ranging from Publicity Chair to President. Her FSA accomplishments include creating flyers to spread the word for upcoming events, participating in traditional Filipino dances (like Tinikling and Singkil), and helping to conceive new FSA events like Halo-halloween.

This semester, April decided to try

something different—she applied to be a JHU Humanities Fellow. Much to her pleasure, she was selected to be one of a small group of Spring 2004 Fellows, and thus has been granted the opportunity to live and intern in Washington, DC.

"I saw OCA's mission statement on its website, and I felt as though I'd found an organization that I could really relate to," April said. "Because of this, OCA was at the top of my list of places where I would like to intern. My application materials were sent in, I received a phone call, and then, on Wednesday, January 21st I walked into the OCA office and haven't looked back. There's so much to learn and so much to accomplish. I'm just glad to be a part of it all."

April also has her own online business, selling buttons of her own artistic creation. Her website is <http://molebabyphat.tripod.com>.

Richard Ruey Hsiung Cheng is a senior at the University of California, Los Angeles. He is currently interning at the OCA National Office through participation in the University of California at Washington, D.C. (UCDC) Internship Program.

He was born in Taipei, Taiwan and immigrated to San Jose, California as a teenager to pursue education in a more open-minded atmosphere. Possessing great enthusiasm for matters that are close to home, Richard is deeply concerned about the welfare and future of the Taiwan Strait relations. He is studying Political Science with a Public Policy minor and wishes to gain first-hand exposure to politics in Washington, D.C.

Aside from academics, Richard is active in the Asian American-interest fraternity Omega Sigma Tau, an upstanding fraternity that seeks to promote and fundraise for active Asian American participation in campus affairs. True to his passion for basketball, he currently holds the position as sports chairman of the fraternity. His main responsibilities

include the coordination of sports events such as basketball tournaments and showing support for the university by organizing the fraternity to attend university sports games. He also led his collegiate intramural basketball team "Shooting Stars" to a championship in Spring 2003.

Besides his love for sports, Richard also has a profound appreciation for music. He was a member of his high school marching band and Wind and Jazz Ensemble, all of which won numerous awards with the marching band even dubbed as "The Fastest Band in the West." He was also selected to be a member on one of UCLA's elite dance squads, the Association of Chinese Americans Hip Hop, as well as Nikkie Student Union's Modern. Richard's ultimate career goal



OCA intern Richard pictured here with **Governor Gary Locke of Washington**, at a reception during his last official visit to Washington DC as chair of the **Democratic National Governor's Association**. (Photo courtesy of **Kristine Minami**.)

is to eventually manage and own a professional basketball team. He hopes that this internship will enhance his management skills and expose him to a wide range of Asian Pacific American issues.

RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF COMPREHENSIVE IMMIGRATION REFORM

Passed February 1, 2004

WHEREAS the Organization of Chinese Americans (OCA) will continue to be an advocate and strive toward fulfilling the hopes and aspirations of Chinese Americans and Asian Pacific Americans in the United States; and

WHEREAS OCA supports any measured efforts to preserve national security; and

WHEREAS OCA recognizes, the strong contributions of immigrants to the economy, workforce development, culture, society, and polity throughout the history of the United States; and

WHEREAS OCA supports family-based immigration, especially the Fourth Family Preference which reunifies siblings; and

WHEREAS there are currently 3.5 million people waiting in the backlog for family-based immigration and 1.5 million of these people are from Asian countries; and

WHEREAS lawfully permanent residents or citizens may wait up to five years to be reunited with their spouses and as long as 13 years to be reunited with their siblings; and

WHEREAS OCA recognizes that comprehensive immigration reform provides a path to lawful permanent residence and for undocumented immigrants who are hard-working, who have paid or are willing to pay taxes, have learned or are willing to learn English and civics, and have undergone security checks; reduces or eliminates the tremendous backlog in family immigration; and creates legal and orderly processes for people who want to come to the United States to work, either temporarily or permanently in such a way that provides strong protections for both immigrant and U.S. workers.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that OCA supports any comprehensive immigration reform that is humane and takes into account the preservation of the national security and economic well being of the United States.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that OCA supports any comprehensive immigration reform, which includes: 1) significantly reducing the backlog of family-based immigration, 2) creating a path for legalization of undocumented immigrants, and 3) creating additional programs for individuals to enter legally into the U.S. work temporarily or permanently.

RESOLUTION ON CHINK'S STEAKS

Passed February 1, 2004

WHEREAS the word "chink" is recognized throughout the United States as a slur for Chinese Americans and Asian Americans; and

WHEREAS Joseph Groh owns and operates Chink's Steaks at Torresdale Avenue and Benner Street in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania; and

WHEREAS Chink's Steaks was named for the previous owner, the late Samuel "Chink" Sherman; and

WHEREAS Mildred Sherman, the widow of Samuel Sherman, admits that her husband received the nickname of "chink" because "(h)e had slanty eyes...and the kids started calling him 'chink'"; and

WHEREAS Susannah Park, a resident of Philadelphia, and others have spoken to Joseph Groh about racially derogatory reasons for changing the restaurant name; and

WHEREAS Mr. Groh has been fully advised of the offensive nature of the word "chink"; and

WHEREAS Mr. Groh refuses to change the restaurant name; and

WHEREAS Ms. Park has begun a campaign to change the name and has received considerable hate mail as a result;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Organization of Chinese Americans (OCA) supports the change of the name of Chink's Steaks and urges all Americans to take this opportunity to learn about the harm caused from the use of racial slurs; and

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that OCA hereby authorizes its president and officers to take the necessary steps in order to support a name change for Chink's Steaks and to conduct the appropriate education about the use of anti-Asian racial slurs.

Millicent Min, Model Minority?

By April Rongero

At first glance, *Millicent Min, Girl Genius* by Lisa Yee, seems like it may be perpetuating the model minority stereotype of Asian Americans. But while the premise seems forced and atypical—the protagonist, Millicent Min, is an 11-year old girl who is taking a college course for fun and is more precocious than any child you’ve ever known—the problems that Millicent (Millie) has to deal with undoubtedly resonate with many children.

Nobody is perfect, and Yee certainly goes out of her way to drive this issue home—some of the passages in the book will have you squirming because of Millie’s oblivion to her inherent social ineptitude. Millie’s only true friend, Emily, who is a “normal” middle schooler, is wise enough to note, “What’s the big deal about brains anyway? You’re supposed to be some genius, but frankly, Millie, and don’t take this the wrong way, you’re just as dumb as the rest of us. Maybe even dumber, sometimes.”

Refreshingly, it is Millie’s IQ that is the central issue, not her ethnicity. The fact that she is Chinese is hardly noticeable except for her grandmother’s obsession with feng shui and dragons. However, the delicate tension and understanding between Millie and her tutee, Stanford Wong, helps bring being a Chinese American child into prominence. Indeed, Millie’s relationship with Stanford is a curious one, and it is perhaps one of the more meaningful aspects of Yee’s novel. When they are forced to work together, Stanford complains, “Whizzing through elementary school, practically skipping middle school, starting high school at the tender young age of nine. Because of you, teachers expect every Chinese kid to be a genius.” No, Millicent Min is not the origin of the model minority myth, but what she represents are aspects of the myth on a more accessible scale. Just because she is a child genius who happens to be Chinese does not mean that all other Chinese children are geniuses—this lesson is key.

Additionally, Millie later admits, “As much as I hated Stanford, I could commiserate with being the victim of an unwarranted comparison. A lot of people expect that since I am Chinese I should behave in a certain way. Just today, when I ordered the huevos rancheros...the cashier looked at me and said, ‘I didn’t think you people liked that kind of food.’ Nothing like being lumped in with a billion other people.” Conveniently, Millie’s mature perceptions help bring tough issues like racial discrimination to the forefront, but in a light and manageable manner.

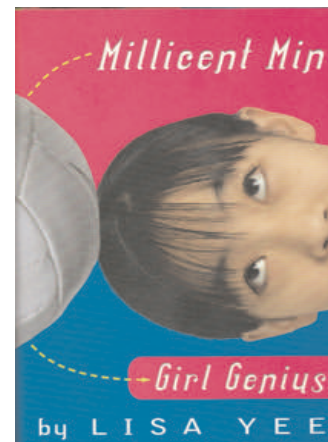
Beyond addressing race matters, *Millicent Min* also contains a tasteful depiction of the awkwardness of adolescence and puberty. Of course, the normal-genius dichotomy comes into play here, while Emily is boy crazy and hung up on looking cute and dating, Millie is book crazy and hung up on studying. When you get past the kitsch, however, the issues are real—the embarrassment and tumult of getting your first period, the uncertainty of how a person of the opposite sex feels, being popular (or unpopular, as it were), and real friendship. All of these topics (and more) are covered in this story, but are done so in a way that does not make the reader uncomfortable.

However, just like Millie, this book has its flaws, too. One of the more obvious flaws is Yee’s assumption about what it means to be a genius. Millie, as a character, is full of personality contradictions, which may either be seen as simple character traits or conversely, as inconsistencies. The girl is a genius but she has the social skills of hermit—often, she cannot see when she is being used, ridiculed, or rude. Indeed, Millie stumbles through many social situations, as the outcast, the nerd or otherwise, yet she can read and analyze literature and poetry on a college level. It is frustrating how she can process such an intense amount of intellectual data, but cannot apply this talent to her own, actual life.

Furthermore, Millie’s voice, as first-person narrator, can become annoying and pretentious. The whole genius motif is completely overplayed, and the words Millie uses, combined with the way in which she employs them can be a bit too much to handle for the 248-page book. *Millicent Min* was written for a 9- to 12-year old audience (roughly the 4th – 6th grades), but it contains a lot of advanced vocabulary and allusions. At one point, for example, Millie refers to this one boy as “an adolescent Lothario,” and thereafter continues by waxing medical about what she felt as she danced with a boy for the first time. While some of this kind of spouting may be cute at first, its charm can quickly wear thin.

Lastly, while racial discrimination was handled well in the instances quoted earlier, the fact that her grandmother is going to London to study feng shui at Fenwick & Feldie’s Feng Shui Academy, and has a predilection for tea and dragons does not say much about the Chinese. Especially, something as trendy and commercialized as feng shui cannot possibly lend itself to representing an expansive view of Chinese culture. By playing up the association between the Chinese and things like dragons and feng shui, Yee is practically negating the progress she made with Millie and Stanford’s dynamic.

When all is said and done, though, Lisa Yee’s book, *Millicent Min, Girl Genius*, is a fun and involving read that will most likely delight the adolescent reader. It covers a huge number of important topics without getting too bogged down in them and manages to tell a “normal” story despite its “abnormal” characters.



Looking for YLLOGRL: Challenging Stereotypes of Asian American Women

By Lee Ann Wang and Jenny Wu



through the eyes of the great-granddaughter of a Chinese concubine, award-winning filmmaker Daisy Lin Shapiro. Her real life search for an elusive mystery woman driving around Southern California in a yellow sports car with the license plate “YLLOGRL” takes her to places where no documentary cameras have gone before: a party for emancipated Thai garment workers, underground hip hop clubs with Filipina DJ’s at the turntables, the Los Angeles Miss Chinatown pageant, among others. The filmmaker meets scores of trailblazing women along the way, from UCLA basketball player Natalie Nakase, to stand-up comedian Suzanne Whang, entrepreneur/fashion designer Sophie Chea, to Los Angeles Deputy District Attorney May Chung. As these women talk candidly about their life and passions, stereotypes and myths about Asian Americans are dispelled, surprising truths are revealed, and the result is a deeper understanding of what it means to be a woman, an Asian, and an American.

Below, an in-depth interview conducted by Daisy Lin Shapiro.

What were your original incentives for making this film? Who is your intended audience? What do you hope the film will do for them?

I wanted to make this film for a mainstream audience that would do a number of things: break stereotypes about Asian Americans by showing a side of the community that you don’t normally see, and also just to tell the stories of some really interesting people.

Last year I had sent out an email to a few of my friends, asking them if they had any story ideas for Asian American heritage month, which I was working on for the station (Channel Four). Pretty soon I started getting all sorts of responses. A couple of the emails caught my eye - one from a stand-up comedienne who dresses up like a FOB, who wears a traditional Korean dress, and goes up on stage telling racy jokes, and another from a performance artist who does a character called “Miss Chinatown, Second Runner Up.” These women were talking openly about their feelings of not fitting in, being an outsider, and yet trying to come to terms with their heritage.

However, some people wanted to steer the film in a more

“Looking for YLLOGRL,” tells the great American story of the current generation of Asian Americans,

“I think what’s more important is showing the complexity of the community, the differing opinions, the not-so-pretty side of things....”

conventional direction. For example, my mom just called me last night and said to me, you know, you’re spending all this time making this film, you should really focus on people who have made a contribution to this society, you know, like those “Unsung Heroes” segments that you used to produce - now that’s worthwhile! She would rather I profile people who are really high achieving and sweep the rest under the rug. In particular she really disliked the performance artist who does the “Miss Chinatown Second Runner Up” character. She kept saying, “that girl, she is so tsuo (ugly) and san ba (crazy.) I understand what she’s saying, but I think we need to do more than just put on a happy face because that’s not telling the whole story - I think what’s more important is showing the complexity of the community, the differing opinions, the not so pretty side of things. I think we need to show the human, the fallible side of who we are,

the struggle of growing up - not just the super model minority, super smart and driven side - I think that’s what scares people about Asian Americans, and makes us seem almost inhuman in other people’s eyes. So I try to find people who are willing to talk about those things

- about being Asian and growing up in America, the good and the bad, and the downright confusing.

But it’s okay to be confused. We’re all confused! It’s okay to talk about it - let’s get it out there and talk about it! Ask questions! Question authority - isn’t that a principle that America is founded on? That’s what I want people to take away from this film - what being American means - these women to me are very Asian, and very American.

Write-ups of the film describe its content as breaking from mainstream “current” and “old” stereotypes of Asian and Asian American women. In the clip provided to OCA, the viewer is presented with a strong, positive message: this film is about new images and stories of contemporary Asian American women who break from common stereotypes.

Given that stereotypes are based off of group racialization as a process that assigns meaning to individual bodies based on group terms such as “Asian American,” how does the film understand the possibility of ever “breaking” from a stereotype?

Of course, we’ve all heard many times about the “Suzie Wong” stereotypes, the submissive and hyper-sexualized woman, or the dragon lady. It is amazing how strong these stereotypes endure, and how they seep into people’s consciousness, even people who are really sophisticated - and it’s because we see them over and over again. I think we need more images out there. And even those who seem to fit the stereotype are actually human and are infinitely more complex than you think. For example, the Thai woman who was a slave at that El Monte sweatshop - when

you meet her and and hear her whole story - my goodness, she just blows you away by how strong she is, and what an amazing journey she has had. So I'm not out on a mission to focus in on people who totally contradict the stereotypes - who are asexual or totally aggressive, who are just bad-ass, because that in itself can become reductive. Again, I want to show the range of emotion and character, the complexity, and also just to tell some good stories.

It's amazing how you've started this project on your own and with the support of colleagues and friends. From your experience, what are some of the most critical issues you find in the power of the media and how do you view the relationship between media and politics?

Well, that's a huge question, and I'm not a professional media critic, or a politician, and I would probably have to think about this question for several months to give you an intelligent answer but I think the media is very powerful, and you've got to learn how to use it to achieve your means. The media loves a good story, with spice, drama, and excitement. That's why the media doesn't like to cover politics, because the workings of democracy are plodding, it's about give and take,

it's about negotiating - that's what gives us the peaceful transfer of power from one administration to another, and it's why we don't break out in civil war even though people have very different opinions. But it's not very sexy. Of course, if you've got the Terminator running for Governor, that's a whole different story! So, maybe like Arnold, if you want to effect change on the political level through media, you've got to start with a good story. If Arnold was never a movie star, and just decided to run for office as an ordinary citizen, the media would not give him the time of day. But Arnold has been crafting his story all his life for this moment - as an immigrant who came to America with a dream and rose to fame and fortune, married into the equivalent of the American royal family, and now reaching for political power.

Bottom line, I think media is interested in a good story. And that's a good place for "Looking for YLLOGRL" to start - with some good stories. I'm going to leave the politics to very capable people like Daphne Kwok and Christine Chen, and our other brave men and women who work tirelessly on our behalf. They are truly heroes.

For more information on the film, or to contact Daisy Lin Shapiro, go to www.yellowrrrls.com.

STIR TV

On March 3, 2004, a new program hit the airwaves that promises to break exciting ground in the world of television: *Stir*, the first show for and about Asian America's next generation. The show is unique in that it targets the emerging audience of 18-to-35-year-old Asian Americans who were born, raised, or educated here in the U.S.—a diverse group of trend-setters and pop-culture mavens who are among the nation's most dynamic and rapidly growing populations.

The program will be a showcase feature of International Channel's groundbreaking English-language programming block "Asia Street," which was launched in January 2003, and has proven to be one of the most popular segments of the cable channel's schedule.



Stir is being produced and distributed by a novel partnership between International Channel, a national cable network that reaches nearly 12 million households across the nation, and KTSF-TV, the nation's oldest and largest Asian-language broadcast channel.

Twenty-six original 30-minute episodes of this pioneering news and entertainment program are planned for the first season, which will run weekly through August 2004. The show is hosted by the "Stir Stars," four exciting young Asian American personalities selected in an open casting call that attracted over 300 candidates; each episode features the hosts turning the spotlight on the next generation of Asian Americans—the lives they lead, the issues they face, and the trends, styles, and celebrities that shape their world.

O C A National Office
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Television - \$250

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OCA Membership Information...JOIN TODAY

If you would like to join OCA, please contact the National Headquarters at (202) 223-5500 for more information. We encourage you to join our local chapters, which are listed. If there are no chapters in your area, we welcome you to be an OCA At-Large Member.

Complete the following information and mail to OCA National headquarters, 1001 Connecticut Ave., NW, Suite 601, Washington, DC 20036. Make checks payable to OCA.

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- I would like to join a local chapter in my area. Please send my name and address to the local chapter president.
- I would like to join as an At-Large member. Membership dues of \$_____ are enclosed.
 \$25 Single \$100 Century Club \$250 American Club
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- I would like to have my business (under 100 employees) join as an At-Large Business Member and the membership dues at \$250 are enclosed.
- I am interested in establishing an OCA chapter in my local area. Please send me relevant chapter development materials and information
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