



three-year internship

When Frank Vinluan accepted a three-year internship at *The Seattle Times*, he really didn't think he would stay the full three years.

After all, most interns either found jobs at other publications or the *Times* would eventually hire them, although the paper made no guarantees. But Vinluan did complete the three years, only to learn there would be no job offer.

"I guess it was disappointing," said Vinluan, now a business reporter with the *Des Moines Register*. "Three years is a long time. But I was getting something out of it too. To me, the most important opportunity was to get some experience. The *Times* put you on some high profile stories. I'm not sure I would have ended up as a business reporter unless I worked a stint (at the *Times*) as a business reporter."

As J-school graduates prepare to hit the job market, they are often confronted with this dilemma: should they get a full-time job or go for an extended internship?

Today, prestigious newspapers across the country, including *The Oregonian*, *Chicago Tribune*, *Newsday*, and *The Washington Post*, offer such programs, which can provide interns with valuable clips, an impressive resume, and a ticket to a big-time paper. However, extended internships don't guarantee full-time jobs, often pay less than regular reporters, and can leave disappointed "super-interns" with a bitter taste in their mouths.

"They have their pros and cons," said Kristen Go, an assistant metro editor at *The Arizona Republic*, who frequently mentors young journalists. Extended internships "can give you real world experience at a large newspaper. But there is no commitment to you after two years. Sometimes, there are hard feelings. *I put in two years. The company invested in me and I did a good job. So why didn't I get hired?*"

Cynthia Todd, the recruiter for the *St. Louis Post-Dispatch*, said extended internships allow newspapers to invest more time and resources into developing young journalists than a mere three month summer internship. (The *Post-Dispatch* does not offer an extended internship.) More importantly, extended internships have allowed newspapers to recruit from a younger and more diverse talent pool, she said. Some programs, like METPRO and the Knight Ridder rotating internships, are geared specifically for minorities. Major newspapers tend to be older and whiter, recruiters say.

"You want diversity in your newsroom," Todd said. Otherwise, "you are pretty much out of touch."

Tracy Jan was a two-year intern

at *The Oregonian* before the newspaper hired her as a suburban reporter. Jan, who recently joined the *Boston Globe* as an education reporter, says the program gave her career opportunities that might not have existed otherwise, especially in a tough job market.

"Definitely, I would never have gotten a job at *The Oregonian* with-

out that program," Jan said. "That was my way in at a bigger paper. *The Oregonian* has a good track record for hiring their interns."

And even if the newspaper does not hire its interns, the journalists' clips and experience are often enough to get a full-time job at another paper, recruiters say.

Depending upon the program, "you will be competitive against someone with two years in a real job," said Brenda Rotherham, the recruiter for the *Minneapolis Star Tribune*. But extended internships have its drawbacks. Some programs offer considerably less pay and/or benefits to interns even if

they perform at the same level as their regular counterparts. Critics say some internships often exploit young journalists by using them as cheap labor to fill staffing holes.

The U.S. Labor Department

has twice accused the *Philadelphia Inquirer* of not paying its "correspondents" overtime. In 1991, the *Inquirer* agreed to pay \$77,851 to 219 correspondents dating back to June 1989. In May 1996, the *Inquirer* agreed to pay \$160,000 in overtime to 150 correspondents plus a \$20,000 fine.

When Vinluan started at the *Times*, he made about \$22,000 a year, a tough salary to live on, especially in a high-cost city like Seattle. The newspaper has since significantly boosted the pay of its three-year interns. Knowing this, young journalists can take a big risk spending so much time at a paper without a full-time job to show for it. The *Inquirer* makes it clear to its two-year correspondents that the paper will not hire them after their stint is over. The *Inquirer* does promise to help interns find jobs somewhere in the Knight Ridder chain.

Some journalists say college graduates don't need an extended internship to get into a big newspaper. Shruti Mathur was hired fresh out of college by the *Star Tribune* to cover education for its new weekly suburban sections. The newspaper touts the sections as a training ground of sorts for young journalists hoping to advance into the main newsroom.

"In retrospect, I'm glad I have a job than a rotating internship," Mathur said. "Having a job is more applicable in learning a new beat. I feel I'm probably at the same place (as an extended intern). But I can really get to know a community as a (regular) reporter which is more valuable to what I hope to do in a job later in life."

In the end, college graduates have to decide what situation will offer them the best experience and opportunity to write great stories, reporters and editors say. "It's really going to come to the clips," said Go of *The Arizona Republic*. "What kinds of stories will you write. Ultimately, that's going to matter the most."

Thomas Lee is editor of *DateLine AAJA* and a business reporter at the *Minneapolis Star Tribune*. He is a former three-year intern at *The Seattle Times*.

president's message

MANY REPORTERS' PAYCHECKS FAIL TO KEEP PACE WITH INFLATION. PAGE 3

THE REAL TEACHERS

AUGUST 6, 2004 • THE OFFICIAL CONVENTION NEWSPAPER OF UNITY 2004 • WWW.ATUNITY.ORG

Powell justifies Iraq war and praises media during visit

Some journalists say secretary of state offered nothing new

BY ABDEL ISMAIL
THE UNITY NEWS

Secretary of State Colin Powell recently defended the Bush administration's war in Iraq while commending the diversity he saw before him in the thousands of journalists in the main hallways of the convention center.

In a 45-minute press conference Thursday afternoon, Powell said the future is full of hope and that the destruction was a new issue, citing the importance of ensuring Saddam Hussein from power.

"We have gotten rid of a horrible dictator," he said. "We have gotten rid of a regime that killed many people."

See POWELL, PAGE 9

“...it turns out that the students were the real teachers. I learned how to put out a daily paper, despite computer failures.” -- Esther Wu



■ UNITY '04 STUDENT RADIO PROJECT: Left, from top: Deanna Garcia, Eric Shih, Jason Frazer, Jennifer Barrios, Jeremy Brascope, Kaeleen McGuire, Kirstin Currin, Michelle Kim, Nicole Merritt, Roland Maldonado, Shannon White, Susan Leem.

STUDENT PROGRAMS ARE THE HEART AND SOUL of the Asian American Journalists Association. About 29 percent of AAJA's membership are students. And this organization has worked very hard to provide scholarships and internships to our student members. According to AAJA's executive director, Rene Astudillo, "Since its inception, AAJA has awarded more than \$1 million in scholarships and internships to more than 500 students pursuing a career in journalism."

Two other programs, J Camp and the student projects offered during AAJA's national convention, provide invaluable hands-on training for aspiring journalists.

But it's not only the students who benefit from these programs. Sometimes, the volunteer trainers get just as much out of these programs as the students. I know. I was once an editor on *Voices*, the student newspaper. In fact, that is how I was introduced to AAJA. In 1991, Dinah Eng asked me to be an assistant editor on the student newspaper. Before she called, I had never heard of AAJA. I reluctantly agreed to join her staff — and with good reason.

Working on *Voices* is no picnic. Staff members are up at the crack of dawn to go over story assignments and stay late to shove pages. That year, the pagination software wasn't working and the reporters were working on one computer system and the editors were on another. Most of us never saw daylight the entire week of the convention.

And after comparing notes with my colleagues, it's the same story for the radio, television and online student projects. But I think anyone who has ever worked on a student project will tell you it's one of the most rewarding things you'll ever hate.



BY ESTHER WU
TEXAS CHAPTER

I signed on to be an editor with the hopes of passing on the knowledge I've gained from my experiences. I thought that if I could teach one or two students how to write a good lead or the importance of meeting deadlines, so much the better. But it turns out that the students were the real teachers.

I learned how to put out a daily paper, despite computer failures. I learned how to motivate reporters, whose only compensation was seeing their byline in the newspaper. I also learned how to handle cranky staffers who had been fed nothing but cold pizzas and leftover sandwiches.

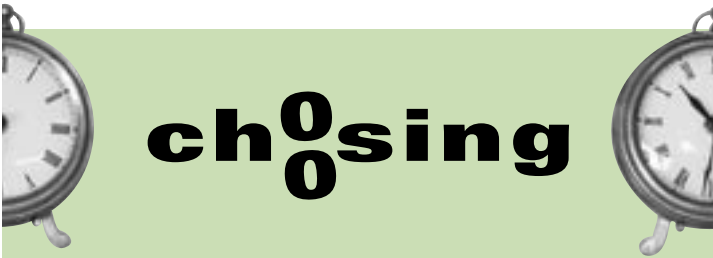
Much like real life. But the biggest lesson came when I realized that I cherished every minute of it. Working with the students revitalized my personal commitment to this industry. Perhaps that's why I agreed to return as publisher of the first UNITY student newspaper in 1994.

Sharing with students your expertise, knowledge and past experience is something that just can't be taught in textbooks. The hands-on experience just can't be replaced. And somewhere through the chaos and deadlines, the students learn another lesson — passion for this work.

Today several students I once worked with are now the professional staffers on *Voices*. Emily Tsao has served as editor and Kristen Go takes up the mantle this year in Minnesota.

It's a wonderful feeling to know that the cycle continues.

You can reach AAJA national president Esther Wu at ewu@dallasnews.com.



choosing

BY JOE GRIMM
DETROIT FREE PRESS

You've worked and worked to get one lousy internship offer and you wind up with ... two. Now, what?

First of all, take a minute to be happy. The pressure of having more than one offer is a lot nicer than the pressure of having none.

But choosing between two offers has twin tensions: worrying that you'll choose the wrong one and knowing that you have to tell someone "no."

Let's deal with the big worry first: *choosing*. Your chief allies will be time and information.

As soon as you get an offer and think you may be weighing more than one, ask for two things: *information* and *time*. Learn as much as you can about the offer in that first call. Ask what you'll be doing, the duration of the internship, start date, schedule, pay and contact information for previous interns. Get in the habit now of asking for time. It is wise to think over any job offer. Show your excitement, express your gratitude, but take your time.

How much time is reasonable?

Remember, while you are deciding, the people who have made the offers are losing good candidates. They'll want an answer soon.

A decision window of just a day or two is too short. (EXCEPTION: The Dow Jones Newspaper Fund internships, which specify in the application when offers will be made and that decisions must come right away.) Two weeks is, in most cases, unreasonably long. A week seems about right, depending on whether there are holidays in that period, how difficult it is to reach parents and extenuating factors. You do not want to ask for such a long time that you signal a lack of interest.

If you are going to seek offers from your other prospects, do it right away. You may be asking them to jump-start their decision processes and they need some time, too. Obviously, solicit only the offers that you think are clearly better. If you get other information, get all the information you can in the initial call.

Then, get busy comparing facts and testimonials. Some of the best insights will come from people who have held the job before you. Choosing could be easy — except that intangibles such as opportunity and the experience count for more than the raw numbers of money and circulation or market size.

Once you make a decision, stick to it. Every experienced recruiter has heard of — and remembers — the people who have taken back their word on an offer and those who kept their word, even when a better one came along. Those situations are a test of your character. Demonstrate it. Once you have made your choice, tell the others. You can do this without burning bridges if you do it quickly and forthrightly. Thank them for the confidence they have shown in you and tell them you'd like to keep in touch. Smart employers will keep you in mind for the future.

Joe Grimm is recruiting and development editor at the *Detroit Free Press* and a member of the Michigan AAJA chapter. If, for some reason, you like what you've just read, there's lots more of it on his newspaper careers web site, the JobsPage, at www.freep.com/jobspage.

HOW

TO MAKE THE MOST OF YOUR INTERNSHIP



BY JOHN O. FAHERTY
THE ARIZONA REPUBLIC

first, the obvious.

Work really hard. Learn as much as you can. Don't be afraid to ask questions. If there is one thing we veteran journalists are comfortable saying to interns, it's, "Hey, I'm really busy right now. Let's do this tomorrow." You must overcome that. "How could I have handled this story better, or differently?" "What more could I have done to coax a better quote, craft a more compelling lede, conceive a better angle?" You're surrounded by pros. Seize that opportunity to constantly grow.

second,

just because you are an intern, that does not mean you are an errand boy or girl. Granted, sometimes there will be tedious work. You may be asked to pick up documents or court records, or chase down folks for man-on-the-street quotes for somebody else's story. That's the reality of journalism. But if you find yourself doing nothing but mind-numbing work, you should take a hard look at the internship. These things are not designed to provide cheap labor for a newspaper or a television station. You should be getting more out of it than the paper. If you think you are being taken advantage of, let somebody higher up know about it.

third,

let them know you are there. Try not to be a pest, but you are walking the fine line between assertive and pesty, err on the side of being a pest. Let them know you really want to succeed. Let them know you want to help. Let them know you are willing to work hard. Ask for the opportunity to analyze those records you had to help pick up. Let them know you are dying to write that story. The squeaky wheel gets the grease.

fourth,

make it a point to really impress at least one person. Have that one person think you walk on water. This is a very small industry. Everybody knows somebody. You should make sure that at the end of your internship, there is at least one person who will pick up the phone and try to help you get that first job. This is exceptionally important. That first real job is the hardest one to get. There are going to be a lot of people who look exactly the same on paper. A person making a hire is deathly afraid of hiring a moron. Or a lazy person. Or worse, a lazy moron. Having somebody who can assure somebody that you are not lazy or a moron will go a loooooong way.

John O. Faherty is the assistant city editor for crime justice and breaking news for *The Arizona Republic*.

professional program

Members of the Asian American Journalists Association participated in a five-day media tour to Bhutan, November 8-12, 2004. The tour focused on environmental protection of the country's remote ecosystem and the effects of the transfer of Bhutan's government from royal rule to democracy. Rene P. Ciria-Cruz reports on his experience. The AAJA/United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) Media Tour, sponsored by Hearst Newspapers, enabled participants to gain a better and more informed perspective of major programs being undertaken by UNDP in Asian countries.

Who's scared of the d-word in the Himalayas

THIMPU, BHUTAN — American neoconservatives who want to spread U.S.-style democracy globally won't like what's happening in this last absolute kingdom in the Himalayas.

Bhutan's hugely popular, 49-year-old King Jigme Singye Wangchuck himself wants to replace the throne with a constitutional democracy. His loyal subjects, however, pray that he'll change his mind.

"He's a king who doesn't like monarchy as a form of government," explains Thinley Penjore, acting foreign secretary. "He told us, 'What if a future king is evil and does harm to the people?'"

But government officials, civil servants and ordinary citizens fear that democracy could recreate the unrest in neighboring Nepal, where constitutional democracy was introduced in

1990 and quickly imploded into vicious infighting. Some even see the bitterly divisive U.S. presidential election as a cautionary example of democracy's weaknesses.

"If there are political parties there will be many problems," warns Dawa, 23, who sells antiques and raw-silk scarves at this capital city's crowded weekend market.

"You in America are rich, you can afford democracy," she tells a visiting reporter. "Here we can't, and we will be more united and peaceful with just the king."

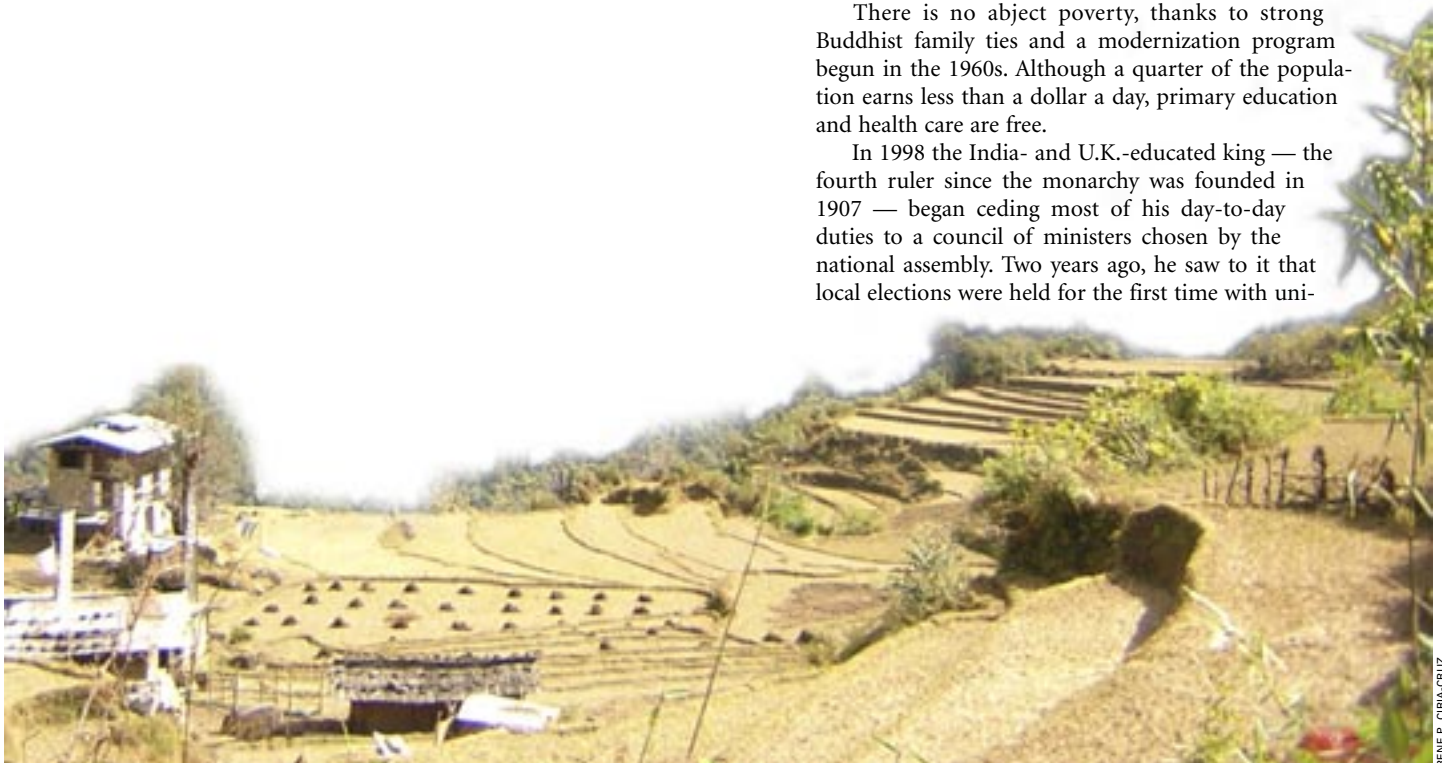
"People are apprehensive about democratization because they like the people-oriented government led by the king," explains Dasho Nima Tshering, governor of Punakha district, a 45-minute drive from the capital. Most of this small, landlocked nation's 700,000 people live in farm villages, amid soaring peaks and glacial streams or in subtropical valleys and hills terraced for cultivation.

There is no abject poverty, thanks to strong Buddhist family ties and a modernization program begun in the 1960s. Although a quarter of the population earns less than a dollar a day, primary education and health care are free.

In 1998 the India- and U.K.-educated king — the fourth ruler since the monarchy was founded in 1907 — began ceding most of his day-to-day duties to a council of ministers chosen by the national assembly. Two years ago, he saw to it that local elections were held for the first time with uni-



BY RENE P. CIRIA-CRUZ
SAN FRANCISCO CHAPTER



versal suffrage instead of the traditional household vote. Government has further decentralized by mandating village-wide participation in deciding local priorities, like the building of roads that link farms to markets or improving access to safe drinking water.

“Decentralization is very convenient for village people,” testifies Kencho Gyeltshen, the *Gup* or village council head of Damji in the forested district of Gasa, a day’s drive and hike from the capital. “We’re grasping it now, after several UNDP trainings.”

The United Nations Development Program here is relied on heavily for aid ranging from lending expertise in civil service reform to starting up biodiversity conservation and anti-poverty programs.

The Bhutanese

seem to embrace village self-government, which easily can be the envy of grass-roots activists anywhere as a model of participatory democracy. But it’s the king’s insistence on a democratic constitution and electoral system that has everyone on edge. The king in Nov. 2001 launched the drafting of Bhutan’s first written charter, formalizing the executive, legislative and judiciary branches and allowing political parties.

“The draft could be released next year,” says Renata Lok Dessallien, the UNDP’s resident representative. “Officials are taking the time to study and pick the best parts of other constitutions,” adds Dessallien, whose agency is helping with the research.

“I myself feel we are not ready for democracy,” Governor Tshering admits. “We need a higher level of literacy so people can make good choices about different political platforms.” The literacy rate is currently 42 percent.

Dessallien isn’t sure what kind of political parties will compete in the new electoral system. “Surely there will be special interests. Already the chamber of commerce is asking for high-end tax breaks.”

Bhutan’s borders also worry its leaders, who jealously guard the national identity. They’re wary of China and have a cautious relationship with India, which gives Bhutan a considerable subsidy. A flawed Bhutanization drive — which included the enforcement of a national dress and a rigid measure to define who are Bhutanese citizens — sent thousands of ethnic Nepali into southeastern Nepal in the early 1990s.

Groups opposed to the Bhutanese government now operate in the encampment of 100,000 Nepali-speaking refugees. Also, early this year the Bhutanese army had to drive back northeast Indian separatists across the border.

For many, a democratic system of political free-for-all seems too open to destabilization.

“For the next 100 years no one will want democracy here,” contends *Gup* Gyeltshen. “The poorest people remain poor in a democracy. In a country like Bhutan, monarchy is better.” Then he hedges: “I’m confident the king won’t do anything wrong.”

The *Gup*’s attitude signals what could happen when the constitution is made public. “There may not be a referendum as we know it in the West,” says an Australian research consultant.

“Most likely, the draft will be discussed all the way down to the village level, and the people will rubber stamp it because they love their king,” she predicts.



■ Local council members in Thinleygang, Bhutan. Decentralization gave villages self-government. *Left:* A typical farm in Damji, Gasa. The majority of Bhutanese live in the countryside.

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See you in the Twin Cities!

René P. Ciria-Cruz is an associate editor for New California Media/Pacific News Service.



media watch

The media frenzy began shortly after Chai Soua Vang was arrested last November.

an eye on the media



Deer hunter Chai Vang of Illinois that was arrested

The story: That a 36-year-old St. Paul man, deer hunting during the season opener in Rice Lake, Wis., shot and killed six hunters and wounded two others. In the days and weeks that followed the media converged upon Rice Lake looking for answers.

By NANCY YANG
MINNESOTA CHAPTER

While some articles zeroed in

on the details of the shootings, some focused on Vang's Hmong background. Vang claimed the hunters used racial slurs after ordering him off their property.

The case drew particular interest in the Twin Cities not only because it is home to Vang but because it is also home to the largest Hmong population in the country. According to the U.S. Census, more than 42,000 Hmong live in the Minneapolis/St. Paul metro area.

Local Hmong residents feared the incident would cause a backlash against their community. Some analysts say the news media only inflamed the situation by focusing on Vang's ethnicity and perpetuating the idea of a "Hmong hunting culture."

Lee Pao Xiong, director for the Center for Hmong Studies at Concordia University in St. Paul, said he fielded dozens of phone calls from media outlets from across the country, most of them pertaining to the possible racial problems. Xiong said he was particularly critical of the way the media kept referring to Vang as a "Hmong hunter" when it didn't single out the victims' ethnic backgrounds as well.

"I don't see why this becomes a Hmong issue against the white community," he said. "So to that extent, I kept getting calls to say, 'Let's talk about this Hmong incident.'"

State Rep. Cy Thao said the media also overplayed the Hmong issue. In particular, he found local coverage and references to a supposed "Hmong hunting culture" to be offensive.

"A lot of hunting incidents like that are common where hunters are having disagreements over land rights and who is going to shoot out there," he said. "This could very well have been two white hunters. The whole

entire issue is the spin of making it racial where I don't think it is at all — it's the hunting culture in itself. It's not racial and it's not Hmong hunters."

Others in the community

have questioned why reporters and editors zeroed in on Vang's ethnicity. The stories imply that Vang is not an American by mentioning his race, they said. At a media panel in late January, *Pioneer Press* Deputy Metro Editor Martin Melendy and *Star Tribune* St. Paul Editor Duchesne Drew both defended decisions regarding the use of the phrase, "Hmong immigrant."

They said that Vang's race was relevant in this case because the victims allegedly shouted racial epithets at Vang before he opened fire. If race isn't important to the story, it won't be referenced, Melendy said. In this case, it was a significant factor in Vang's side of the story, he said.

Minneapolis *Star Tribune* reporter Chao Xiong, who is Hmong and helped cover portions of the story, said, "I was a little uncomfortable with the phrase 'Hmong hunter.' It was a weird description and there was an unnecessary association with it afterwards," he said. "We were already using his name because in the beginning we weren't able to reveal his name yet. But after using his middle name and last name and family name I don't think using (Hmong hunter) as a label afterwards was necessary anymore."

But Xiong also said he believed the media was sensitive to the Hmong community's concerns and tried to be fair in its coverage. He noted that both papers did extensive profiles of Vang and that the *Star Tribune* sent reporters to Vang's first U.S. home city in California to gather more background information, which is what the papers would have done for other high-profile cases.

Abe Kwok, AAJA national vice president for print and co-chair of AAJA's Media Watch, monitored some of the early coverage. He said the media seemed sincere in its coverage. "There really was a kind of pulling back of the lenses to look at the community that's been living and contributing to the area for a long time and looking at some of the cultural practices and some of their integration with the community at large and becoming Americans," he said. "I think there have been some sincere attempts to get beyond the suspect and the incident to look at the Hmong people and enlighten the rest of the community about this little-known segment." Kwok said AAJA monitored stories for bias, improper use of Vang's race in ledes or what could be construed as stereotypes without facts or attribution. To date, he said he only knows of one story that drew AAJA's attention.

An Associated Press story quoted some Rice Lake residents as saying Hmong hunters don't respect property laws. In a letter to the local AP bureau chief, Mary Tan, a national board member from Minnesota and Media Watch member, raised concerns about the quotes. Kwok said he does not know whether the letter will influence AP's future coverage. He said that AAJA's Media Watch will continue to monitor the story now that Vang is scheduled to go on trial in September.

Rep. Thao is just hoping the media doesn't play the race card again. "It's fair to report the facts and say, 'OK, this guy shot this guy' and not put a spin on whether he's white, he's black," Thao said. "But saying he's of a certain race or just tying his culture to the whole murder, that's just wrong."

Nancy Yang is a reporter for the *St. Paul Pioneer Press*.



ASIA

Although AAJA hasn't been active in Japan in recent years, the Tokyo arm of AAJA-Asia is hoping to change that in 2005. About 15 journalists gathered on Feb. 4 for an informal meet-and-greet, where organizers **Yukari Iwatani Kane** of Reuters and **Tomoko Hosaka**, a graduate student at Waseda University and former Portland chapter treasurer, looked to introduce AAJA and recruit new members. Attending the event were writers and editors from various organizations, including *The Wall Street Journal*, AP, Dow Jones Newswires, Bloomberg, Reuters, NHK and *Newsweek Japan*. Several additional events are in the works for the rest of the year. Iwatani Kane, vice president for Tokyo, says her goal is to use AAJA to eventually create a healthy network of both American and Japanese journalists.

ATLANTA

The Atlanta Chapter is in the midst of its membership drive to encourage members to renew. We also are in the midst of planning our annual student journalism workshop for college and high school students. The workshop is designed to help aspiring journalists break into the business, tell great stories, and prepare their work samples so that they can land their first job. We celebrated the Lunar New Year by attending the OCA's annual banquet. And, the chapter is saying sad farewells to past presidents **Angeline Hartmann** and **Nancy Leung**. Angeline is moving to DC and will be working for America's Most Wanted. Nancy will be moving to New York to work for Court TV.

MICHIGAN

The Asian American Journalists Association and its Michigan Chapter present:

Remembering Vincent Chin: A Conversation About Civil Rights & Journalism

Date: Thursday, April 28, 2005



Time: 6:30pm-9:30pm
Location: Pangborn Design
275 Iron Street, Detroit, Michigan
At this 25th Anniversary fundraising event, we invite you to discuss the issues that galvanized the Asian American community and brought focus to its struggles for civil rights. Foremost among them is the 1982 beating death of Vincent Chin, a Chinese American who was killed by two autoworkers frustrated with the success of the Japanese auto companies. Since Sept. 11, 2001, that battle has gained renewed attention as people of Middle Eastern descent have become the target of aggression and questionable government detainment. Leading our discussion will be:

- * **Elizabeth Atkins**, novelist and former race relations reporter for *The Detroit News*
- * **Ti-Hua Chang**, reporter for WCBS-TV
- * **Osama Siblani**, publisher of *The Arab American News*
- * **Teresa (Teri) Takai**, Michigan's Chief Information Officer
- * **Frank Wu**, Dean of the Wayne State University Law School
- * **Helen Zia**, award-winning journalist, scholar and author

Join us for a taste of Asian cuisine, to hear from distinguished speakers, talk about the Asian American civil rights movement and bid on the work of renowned Asian American artists.

ABOUT THE AAJA 25th ANNIVERSARY ENDOWMENT: As the Asian American Journalists Association approaches its silver anniversary in 2006, AAJA celebrates its mission to encourage more Asian American and Pacific Islanders to enter and rise through the ranks of journalism and to work for fair and accurate coverage of Asian American and Pacific Islanders. AAJA has grown from a small group of journalists to almost 2,400 members. To ensure the future of many AAJA efforts, such as the Executive Leadership Program, national scholarships, J Camp for high school students, Media Watch and other initiatives to ensure fair and accurate coverage of Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders and issues, the organization launched this \$2 million drive.



■ PORTLAND seminar panel.

PORTLAND

In an effort to provide members with more seminars and workshops on timely news events, the Portland Chapter held a seminar April 9 on "Covering Disasters & Wars." It featured two chapter members, **Helen Jung** of *The Oregonian* and **Kyle Iboshi** of KGW-TV, who recently returned from Iraq and Sri Lanka, respectively. Along with **Randy Rasmussen**, director of photography at *The Oregonian*, and **Richard Read**, Pulitzer-prize winning reporter from *The Oregonian*, the group provided insights on their experiences in covering two of the biggest stories making headlines today. Rasmussen kicked off the seminar with a beautifully produced slide show that gave the audience a glimpse into life on the frontlines. Iboshi also provided a tape of stories he produced for his station that exemplified the difficulties of covering tragic events such as the tsunami.

SAN DIEGO

Hieu Tran Phan, recently hired by *The San Diego Union-Tribune*, has joined the AAJA-San Diego Board. Returning to San Diego and the chapter board from Norfolk, Va., is **Phil Ige**, a photojournalist at KSWB. The chapter co-sponsored a tsunami relief fundraiser at the Thin Room in the Gaslamp in January with the San Diego Asian Film Foundation and other local organizations. The event raised about \$22,000, and all proceeds were donated to Direct Relief Interna-



tional. The Board met in January. Among the topics of discussion: treasurer's report due to National on March 1; redesign of the web site; launch of a mentor program coordinated by Phil Ige and **Daniel K. Lew**; chapter outreach led by **Lee Ann Kim**, **Nirmala Bhat** and **Hieu Tran Phan**; and the Journalism Awards Judging and Video, the chapter's task for the national convention.

SAN FRANCISCO

The San Francisco Bay Area chapter teamed up with the South Asian Journalists Association to hold a panel on the coverage of the tsunami. Organized by **Julie Patel**, a reporter with the *San Jose Mercury News*, it featured *San Francisco Chronicle* reporter and AAJA member **Pia Sarkar**, *Lanka Monthly News Digest* commentator **Lakshman Ratnapala** and *San Jose Mercury News* photographer **Pauline Lubens**, who also presented a slide show. SAJA and AAJA member **Ravi Kapur** generously provided space at the Maharani Restaurant, which is owned by his parents.

SEATTLE

AAJA Seattle had its biggest Lunar Banquet ever on Feb. 12, with more than 90 people attending. Now in its 19th year, the banquet featured the AAJA Solid Gold Dancers, the chapter's singing, acting, dancing triple threat. We brought an IRE Better Watchdog Workshop to Seattle in December that drew more than 100 journalists. And in April we'll kick off the Northwest Journalists of Color Scholarship Drive, with the goal of raising \$25,000 to continue building the scholarship's endowment. AAJA Seattle continues to work with NJC on our monthly pizza nights bringing together journalists and students to talk about different jobs in journalism.

Send items for Dim Sum to karens@aja.org

broadcast mentor program

Are you interested in broadcast? Whether you're a student, new to the industry, want to be in front of the camera, or work behind the scenes, this is the program for you! Applications are still being accepted, so join now by filling out an application on our web site to start your mentorship with one of our professional broadcast mentors today! You'll be able to get the inside scoop on what it takes to make it in the industry and, who knows, you may make a lifelong friend in the process!

aaaja radio network

It's finally here! The AAJA Radio Network is now up and running in full force with **Wilma Consul** of National Public Radio at the helm as group moderator. Radio folks, now is your time to shine — join forces, share news, ideas and advice with one another. Sign up



on our web site and you could be rubbing elbows with our radio members in no time!

student programs

MAY 16, 2005 is the deadline for the following Internship Grants:

> **AAJA INTERNSHIP GRANT FOR BROADCAST** — AAJA is awarding a grant of \$2,000 to a student participating in a broadcast internship at a television or radio network.

> **AAJA / CHICAGO TRIBUNE PRINT & NEW MEDIA INTERNSHIP GRANTS** — With funding from the Chicago Tribune Foundation and AAJA's 20TH Anniversary Fund, AAJA is awarding grants of \$1,500 to students and non-students working as interns at print or online news organizations.

> **THE STANFORD CHEN INTERNSHIP GRANT** — The focus of the grants is to aid interns in small-to medium-size newspapers or broadcast stations throughout the country.

All internship grant applications are available for download at <http://www.aaaja.org/programs>

[/for_students/internships/](#)

meet your new board

For a full list of 2005 board of directors visit <http://www.aaaja.org/about/board/>

• NATIONAL PRESIDENT: **Esther Wu** (columnist / reporter, *The Dallas Morning News*)

• NATIONAL VICE-PRESIDENT FOR BROADCAST: **Stanton Tang** (managing editor, Las Vegas ONE / KLAS-TV)

• NATIONAL VICE-PRESIDENT FOR PRINT: **Abe Kwok** (online news editor, *azcentral.com* / *The Arizona Republic*)

NATIONAL SECRETARY: **Sharon Prill** (director of interactive media, www.tribnet.com / *The News Tribune*)

NATIONAL TREASURER: **Cynthia Wang** (associate bureau chief, Los Angeles, *People* magazine)

membership

Renew your AAJA membership for 2005! Full and Associate members can now renew for two years and save \$10. To register online go to <https://www.aaaja.org/membership/register/>

aaaja web site

Visit the AAJA web site at www.aaaja.org to get the latest news on your colleagues, the industry and the AAPI community. The AAJA web site is a center for both media & community resources.

dvds still for sale

Believe it or not, there are currently only 20 Asian American men on-air in television news in the top 25 markets in the nation! We've taken it upon ourselves to showcase the undiscovered and untalented talent in this DVD and there's plenty to go around. If you are a news director or know anyone who is recruiting news reporters, send us an e-mail at national@aaaja.org, or visit our web site to request a copy (or more) today!



ASIAN AMERICAN JOURNALISTS ASSOCIATION
1182 Market Street #320, San Francisco, CA 94102
415-346-2051 national@aaaja.org www.aaaja.org

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communications coordinator
Karen Swing

office assistant
Thuy-Tu Tran

DATELINE AAJA

editor
THOMAS LEE, business reporter,
Minneapolis Star Tribune,
thomas_d_lee@yahoo.com

staff editor
KAREN SWING, AAJA national office,
karems@aaaja.org

layout
FRANCISCO MATTOS, fdom@earthlink.net

photographers
RENE P. CIRIA-CRUZ



Local prayers before flag raising at grade school in Damji, Gasa, Bhutan. (Story, p.3)