



LETTER FROM THE CHAIR



Greetings,

As the political process gears up for another presidential election, we as Americans are facing some of the most crucial and most critical junctures as a community. With much of the country polarized into camps of ideologies of either side with a huge amount of people in the middle who are either apathetic or feel powerless to even pay attention or to vote.

That's the reality of today's America. We're more interested in voting for the next American Idol than the next American public official. True, voting for American Idol may be more fun, but voting for our elected leaders not only affects us more directly but also it is our duty as citizen's of the United States of America to be participants in our society. That's why 2008 may go down as a future indicator of where we are going.

We have around three handfuls of major candidates for president from the both major parties running. Millions being spent, many visiting crucial states to gather support and of course the rhetoric and campaign promises being called out. And don't forget the mudslinging. But this is a crucial time. Since half the states including California, Texas and New York moved their respective presidential primary to February, the party nominees for both the Republicans and Democrats will be decided. It's been great that California has come into play in the primary process. In the recent past, because our primary has been one of the last ones in the nation, we seldom receive any attention during the nominating process. Not anymore, we've seen the influx of many candidates drop by here to state their case. But there are many organizations, such as Unity08, that are not satisfied with the current group of folks running and that a third party or an alternative is needed. We've seen this before recently. Back in 1980, an independent named John Anderson received around 5 million votes. Ross Perot went further and captured nearly 20 million votes. And of course there was Ralph Nader and the Green Party in 2000 and 2004. Of course, this is academic since we elect presidents through the electoral college. Third party candidates have an even tougher road to win. But this may be the start of changes of thought. More so than at anytime in our country's history, the politics of both parties are being more scrutinized than ever. The by-product is that polarization has increased. With the war, the economy and our own infrastructure and institutions adding fuel to the fire.

There is another important issue coming up for Californians that is important to us. It's a term limit proposition. It's a proposition to modify our current term limit law. I have an opinion on this proposition (elsewhere in this newsletter) that *continued on page 2*

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may be crucial and in my opinion detrimental to the current law.

On a lighter side, CAPA CEF will be hosting our annual intern holiday party in December as well as the internship program. We're already gearing up for this. Our program is growing and with it, the growing pains that are associated with it. 2007 brought many issues to the table and we as an organization are handling it and trying to reform where the needs are. Of course, we need your input as supporters of the Ed Fund. This program, in which we celebrated it's 16th Anniversary back in June, is now at a crossroads. Our sister organizations such as Vision New America in San Jose and APAPA in Sacramento have seen their programs flourish. CAPA helped out in the planting of the seeds of their respective programs when they started out. But we also have taken that for granted and see our program facing issues such as slots, outreach, and the overall mission of the program. I will repeat again that our program's primary goal, and for the long term success, is to give opportunities to young people to become leaders in their community. This should be open to young people, especially in our Asian Pacific American community, regardless of their socio-economic status or politics. Because in the next 20 years, those who are in high school and college right now will be participating in the process. CAPA CEF wants to be there at the beginning of that journey today so that they can be effective leaders tomorrow.

Happy Holidays!



Cedric C. Cheng
Chair, CAPA Community Education Fund

*We would like to acknowledge the following
individuals/companies for their support this past year.*

80-20 Initiative
APA News & Review
Chevron
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PG&E
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Yin McDonald's

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Volunteerism : ***When the need arises***

Emily Chin, Intern Class of 2002

This high school nightmare occurred on Dec. 4, 2007, a solid six months since I graduated from college. As it turns out, this bus is filled with young professionals, approximately 18 members of corporate Nike and On Board Entertainment, the marketing agency that I work for. Nike headquarters in Portland, OR, created a Community Involvement Day in response to the devastating wildfires that wracked Southern California from October 20 through November 9 of this year. According to writer Gillian Flaccus of Associated Press, "At least 1,500 homes were destroyed and over 500,000 acres (2,000 km) of land burned from Santa Barbara County to the U.S.–Mexico border."

As our bus arrives at Bernadino Heights Middle School in San Diego, via the Culver City Nike offices, we see 10 other Nike members, as well as countless volunteers, young and old. It looks like Santa's workshop, transported from the North Pole to a High School football field. There are countless boxes of Nike apparel and Nike shoes, all pristinely boxed or wrapped in plastic. Ironically, on this day in early December another fire warning alert has been issued –it's noon and eighty degrees. Regardless of status or seniority, everyone has their sleeves rolled up and getting sweaty, creating Nike care packages for the victims of the wildfires. In this beautiful, affluent neighborhood, many families have lost everything. The majority of those families are still housed in hotels; without a home to return to; without time to rebuild, and without adequate insurance coverage, they must get right back to work.

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Proposition 93: **Term Limits...Good Choice or Bad Deal**

Cedric Cheng

Most folks are not aware but there is a term limit proposition coming up on the February ballot (the one that we also choose the presidential nominees for whichever party you're with.) It's been slowly gaining some steam, mainly from other public official who are all of sudden running for their old office, multiple offices or not running even though they may qualify to run because their current term limit would disappear? That last part, you're wondering, what am I saying? Well, Proposition 93 will be on the ballot. Basically, this proposition, on the February 5th ballot, would reduce the number of years legislators could serve, from 14 to 12, but allow lawmakers to serve all 12 in either the Assembly or Senate — or any combination of the two. Currently, legislators can serve up to six years in the Assembly and eight in the Senate. On the surface, it sounds good. Public officials can only serve twelve years instead of fourteen. However, the key is that the person can serve in either chamber for twelve years. The combination is up the officeholder. So for folks who've served for three terms in the Assembly, which is the current limit, can now go on to serve a fourth term, if elected. Theoretically, they can serve three more terms in the Assembly to fulfill the new obligation. They can't run for office for either chamber afterwards.

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CAPA Ed Fund rings in the new year with a new website

Seechung Lee

As you may have already noticed, CAPA and CAPA CEF's website is temporarily down as it undergoes some major renovations. In addition to a new design and layout, we are excited to bring you one of our newest features, which is our online membership database. When our new website launches after the new year, you will be able to login as a member to make contributions, RSVP for events, volunteer for events, and renew your membership! As always, you will get up-to-date information about what we are currently doing in the local community. We also welcome announcements and events from our membership. Feel free to submit content to webmaster@capacommunity.org

INTERSHIP PROGRAM **SUMMER 2008**

Coming soon!

Check our website for update. The internship application will be available in December.

Application deadline: March 2

If you are interested, or have any questions, please contact
Cindy Chin at internship@capacommunity.org

Internship Highlights

Cindy Chin, Internship Chair

The CAPA Community Education Fund's 2007 Summer Internship Program marked its sixteenth anniversary this year with the theme of "Sweet 16". And a sweet success it was this year.

Sixteen students from across the Bay Area were selected from an application and interview process to participate in the 2007 Summer Internship Program. Each intern participated in orientation and office training that consisted of presentations from the various placement offices on the role of government and office expectations, as well as consultation on professional dress attire from Nordstrom.

Interns were placed in the offices of U.S. House of Representative Speaker Nancy Pelosi, U.S. Representative George Miller, State Senator Tom Torlakson, State Senator President pro Tempore Leland Yee, Assemblyman Guy Houston, Assemblyman Sandre Swanson, State Board Equalization Chairwoman Betty Yee, several Alameda and Contra Costa County Supervisors, and the California Department of Transportation External Relations Department, all to name a few. There, every intern completed the required 100 working hours, and 20 hours of community service.

Each intern class that comes through the program reaches new heights and surpasses all expectations. This year is no different. At the gala dinner in June, the interns produced and acted out a skit commemorating the sixteen years of history of the internship program, and brought the audience to their feet in applause.

We have received several accolades from placement offices on what a fantastic job our interns performed this summer. Some offices even made special commendations for the hard work of our interns. House Speaker Nancy Pelosi awarded intern Jeffrey Chen with a Special Congressional Certificate of Recognition for his extraordinary service to her office and a photo-opportunity with the Speaker. Jeffrey has also been asked to continue interning in the Speaker's office beyond the conclusion of our program. Supervisor Susan Bonilla surprised her intern, Mark Bibera with a special recognition at the Contra Costa County Supervisor's Board meeting.

Right: Supervisor Susan Bonilla recognizes intern Mark Bibera at the Contra Costa Board of Supervisors meeting, along with CEF Chair Cedric Cheng.



Below: Interns Selena An and Mark Bibera join interns from other API organizations including APAPA, TACL, VNA and CASIC for API Internship Day at the Capitol.



Not only have our interns made us proud in their office placements, but the program continues to grow and provide interns with real office skill sets, as well as first-hand experience of the inter-workings of the role of government, and the legislative process. For the first time, CAPA Ed Fund partnered with Vision New America to participate in the API Legislative Day at the State Capitol where API high school students from around the State were invited to participate in a mock legislature. Mark Bibera and Selena An represented CAPA Ed Fund in Sacramento.

As we reflect the past 16 years, the CAPA Ed Fund Summer Internship Program has made some serious strides, and we are counting on another 16 years of even more success.

Intern Alum Spotlight:
KENNY CHUNG

Kenny Chung graduated from CAPA Community Education Fund's Internship Program in 2004, where he worked in the office of Contra Costa Supervisor Gail Ulkema. He is currently a senior at UC Davis.

How has the CAPA internship experience applied to you in your studies at UC Davis? CAPA has made a big influence on me during my time here at UC Davis. I am now currently majoring in Asian American Studies.

At UC Davis, are you involved in the affairs of the school's political scene? Or even nearby in the Sacramento area? Last year I attended a convention for OCA. OCA stands for Organization for Chinese Americans. It is a non-profit organization, their duties are similar to CAPA. The main goal

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API Internship Day at the Capitol

Selena An, Intern Class of 2007

This summer, the CAPA Ed interns from Class of 2007 were invited by Vision New America to participate in the API Internship Day at the Capitol. Sponsored by the Asian Pacific Islander Caucus in the California State Assembly, API Internship Day is a two-day event attended by interns from around the state. Two interns from CAPA were able to make the trip.

On July 16th, 2007, the interns took a bus to Sacramento. In the morning, tour guides led the interns on a tour of the State Capitol, where interesting history of the Capitol, the rooms in the Capitol, and the portraits of governors were related. The interns were given the special privilege to take photos in the Assembly chamber.

After a catered lunch in the Eureka Room in the basement, the interns were given presentations by panels that included staff and members of the State Legislature and lobbyists. The topics that were discussed included partisan collaboration, workload, and misconceptions about lobbyists, legislatures, and the government in general. The speakers encouraged the interns to consider fellowships in the State Legislature and careers in public service. Assemblywoman Fiona Ma also gave an excellent presentation on the role of family in the life of a public servant. In particular, she talked about the expectations Asian parents and the influence her parents had on her career choices.

The interns had a wonderful experience in Sacramento and wrapped up with a group picture on the steps of the Capitol.



Above: Michelle Lee (center) celebrates the completion of her internship with CAPA President Judy Chen, CAPA CEF Chair Cedric Cheng, and her parents (left to right)



Left: Rachel Encarnacion shares the highlights of working in the office of Congressman George Miller



Right: The interns show off their stipends

Graduation

Proposition 93, continued from page 3

First off, I'm not in favor of term limits except for the power of the ballot when we vote. That's our real term limit. But we're also complacent when we vote. Voting in folks and re-electing them to office for thirty years is the reason why the first term limit law were passed by the voters in the early 90's. (Think former speaker and past SF Mayor Willie Brown as the poster person of that law). Now, this proposed proposition is "modifying it".

The reason why this is not a good proposition is that it simply becomes a loophole for folks to stay in office longer. Because this proposition isn't really well known (at the moment), it's going to surprise most voters. I think that critical thinking and the ramifications if it passed needs to be paid special attention. We're going to be inundated with emails, junk mail, and media blitzes that folks will

Volunteerism, continued from page 3

From 4-8 PM, we create as true a Nike experience as we can. To nearly a couple hundred families hardest hit, Nike extended special invitations and distributed Nike sneakers, sweat suits, socks, shirts, and hats. The kids love it. The parents are thankful for every baby step forward, every little distraction. To these families that escaped with only their lives and the shirts on their backs, I'm thankful that we could give at least one more shirt in time for the holidays.

be disillusioned to vote for it without thinking about it. It's too important to let it go. Because this proposition can become politicized to the point of forgetting what this proposition is for, it's important to be educated away from the rhetoric.

What I'm saying is that we should educate ourselves about this proposition. It's only a matter of time when folks will see that their political careers are coming to an end and another term limit proposition may be proposed. The current law took effect in the mid-90's and with the current public officials' terms ending, here comes a "modification" of the current law...which is really, perceived or not, an extension of their terms, which defeats the purpose of having term limits. But on the whole, the term limit law should be abolished if we truly return to the real term limit power, our vote.

**Make a tax-deductible contribution to
CAPA COMMUNITY EDUCATION FUND**
Tax I.D. Number : 01-0685771

Please write your check to "CAPA Ed Fund"
CAPA Ed Fund
P.O.Box 4314
Walnut Creek, CA 94596

Want to get involved?

Here's your chance to become a more active member. Sign up here if you would like to volunteer to help the Board assist with our annual signature events.

I would like to get involved:

- I would like to serve on the Board.
- I would like to help out with association activities:
 - Spring Gala
 - Summer Picnic
 - Fall Forum
 - Holiday Party

Are you a CAPA member?

- Yes
- No

Please provide your contact information. A Board member will contact you at their earliest convenience.

Name: _____

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Send this form to: CAPA Community Education Fund, P.O. Box 4314, Walnut Creek, CA 94596-0314.
Or email: EdFund@CAPAcommunity.org.

Kenny Chung, continued from page 5
is to increase Asian American awareness.

What year are you at UC Davis, how has college life treated you? It is currently my fourth year. College life has been treating me well. I am doing well in most of my classes. I am involved in an Asian American fraternity. I hope to graduate next year.

What are your plans after you graduate at UC Davis? Graduate school, enter the workforce, take a year off to travel? I plan to join the work force, if I decide to go into law I might attend law school somewhere else. I am applying for a lot of internships right now so hopefully I would find a decent job out of it.

What is your major and why did you decide on this field of study? I am currently majoring in Asian American studies and minoring in Political Science. I chose this field because I want to contribute a lot of work to Asian communities. Increasing Asian American awareness has always been a passion of mine. With a political background and as a Asian American I hope to get into office and do alot of community planning. I would be a good representative for Asian Americans; my goal one day is to become a mayor.

Do you keep in touch with your other alumni interns from your class or any class? I am still keep in touch with one of my fellow intern. His name is Patrick Shao, and if it wasn't for CAPA I would have never met such a good friend.

Our hope in CAPA is to have our alumni interns be active participants in their communities and many have gone on to be leaders in their fields. But in addition to that, we hope that they continue to keep their ties with CAPA. In a scenario, if you become president of CAPA or the chair of the Ed Fund, what would you do to strengthen those bonds? CAPA is a well respected organization, I would definitely uphold all the traditions that it offers. I would always try to gain respect with my hard work, respect makes a good leader. As for the organization, gaining more supporters is key. With the support of others, CAPA would be one of the best Asian American organization.

If there was one thing you can contribute to further the promotion and education of Asian Pacific Americans in general, specifically the young folks, who are the next group of interns, what will that be with you as a mentor?

I will tell them all about my experiences. Throughout the years, I have became more wise, and I have also gained a lot of knowledge on Asian Americans. It is important to stress how important it is to increase Asian American awareness.

What advice would you give to the next class in terms of expectations after they leave for college?

Be ready to be responsible. Once you're in college your practically on your own. Time management and organization is crucial.



Politics is in the news a lot especially with folks being either polarized to the point that civility is thrown out. Has that happened where you are and has there been an issue or issues that made you become more active in that cause or made you more critical in the debate of that said issue? This kind of issue has not happened yet, but I know Asian Americans today are still being oppressed. Although we are all equal the Asian American voice is not that powerful. That is why we need more Asian American organizations. Asian Americans needs to be a more powerful race in this world.

Imagine, 10 years from now, you're in your 30's, where do you see yourself, in terms of your involvement in public affairs? I see myself working and having a family. As I said before my goal in life is to become a mayor, and after being mayor I would like to move up to higher positions.

Okay, some fun stuff. Have you bumped into anyone well known up in Davis and the Sacramento area? I have met Justin Lin, he is the director of the movie Better Luck Tommorrow. It was nice meeting him, because it is good to know that there is someone out there trying to promote Asian American media, at the same time promoting Asian American awareness.

Finally, any final words to us that you would like to say? I hope my answers have been useful for this news letter. And to all the new coming interns, good luck! I had a lot of fun doing it, and I know you will all have fun as well. CAPA is a great organization to be a part of. It would definitely open a lot of doors for you in the future.

CAPA and CAPA Ed Fund
Intern Alumni are invited to a

Holiday Intern Reunion

Saturday, December 29
6:00pm

Woodranch Clubhouse
(1 Woodranch Circle, Danville, CA)

Admission is free. Family are welcome.

~

Please RSVP to smkwong@sbcglobal.net
by Thursday, December 27



CAPA Community Education Fund
P.O. Box 4314
Walnut Creek, CA 94596-0314

Visit us online at <http://www.CAPACommunity.org!>