Section

THURSDAY April 3, 2003

COMMUNITY CALENDAR G7

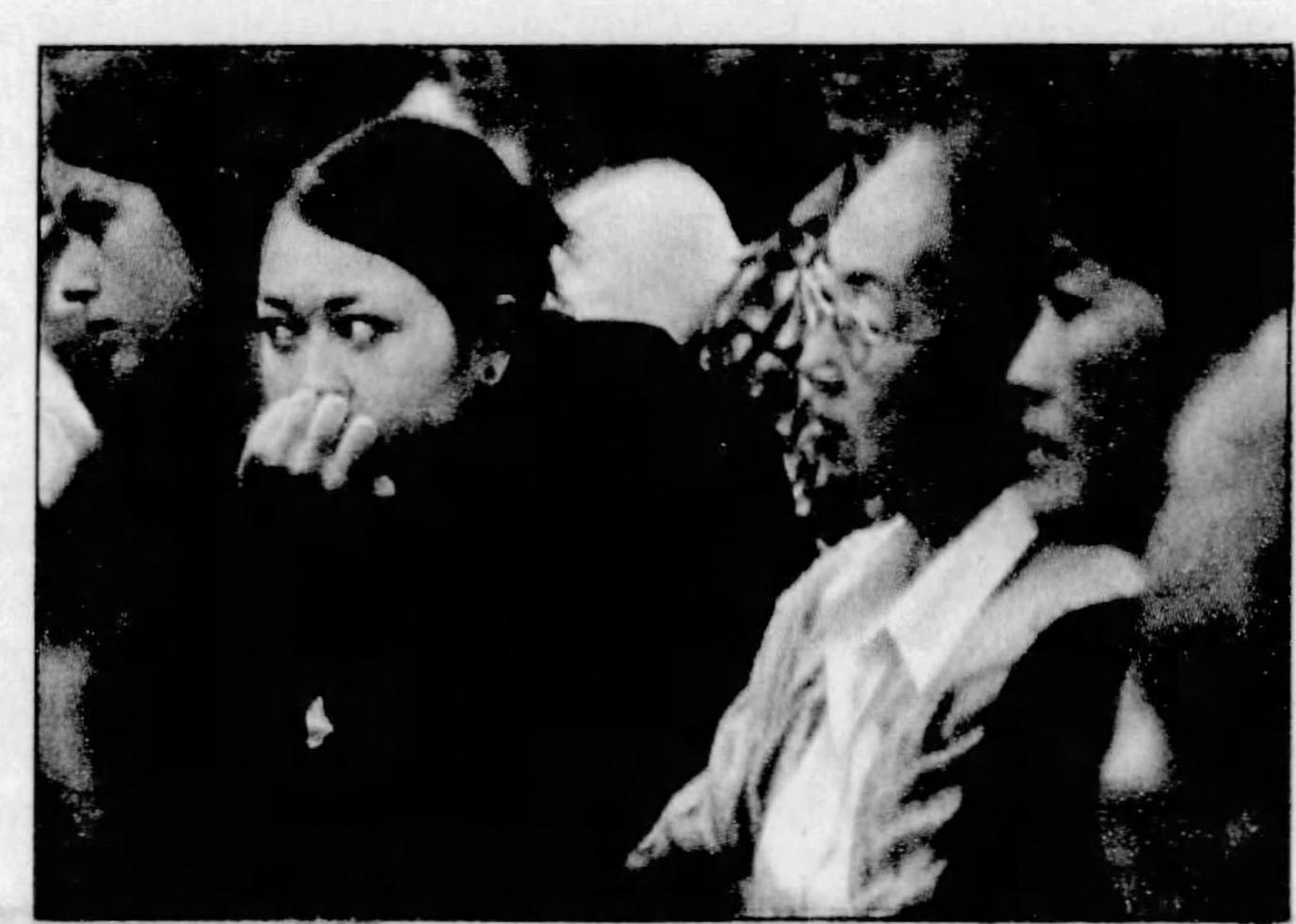
SPORTS G8-G9

AUBURN ROSEVILLE ROCKLIN GRANITE BAY LINCOLN PENRYN LOOMIS NEWCASTLE MEADOW VISTA

This just seemed so appropriate for our students – they should know what their heritage is."

Kathy Myers

teacher, Del Oro High School



Del Oro High School student Lynn Silva, left, listens to "Within the Silence," a presentation dramatizing the World War II internment of Japanese Americans, along with her grandmother, Clara Hada, and her mother, Donna Silva. Kim Ima, below, plays the role of a little girl living in Seattle's Japantown during the war. The performance is a production of Living Voices, a Seattle-based organization that puts together dramatic presentations about historical events.

Sacramento Bee/Andy Alfaro

HISTORY LESSON

Students draw parallel between past, present

"Those who ignore history are doomed to repeat it." - George Santayana

> By Laurel Rosen BEE STAFF WRITER

If, as the saying implies, paying attention to history will keep it from being repeated, Kim Ima is doing her part to make sure young people move into the future with a clear vision of America's mistakes of the past.

ing the internment of Japanese internment camps. Americans during World War After three years in dusty

dents in the audience to draw turn home. But they did so with parallels between the suspicion and bigotry faced by Japanese Americans after Pearl Harbor was bombed in 1941 and the same problems faced by

many Arabs and Muslims in post-Sept. 11 America. But teachers noted that they requested the performance because of the history of the Japanese community in Loomis, not in reaction to current

In Ima's performance, called "Within the Silence," she plays the part of Emiko Yamada, a little girl living in Seattle's Japantown during World War II. The one-woman play tells the story As bombs pounded Baghdad of Emiko's family as they are last week, Ima gave a series of forced to close their business presentations at Del Oro and and sell their possessions and Placer high schools dramatiz- then are separated and sent to

camps surrounded by barbed It didn't take long for stu- wire, the family was free to reone less family member, because Emiko's brother had died in combat as a member of the 442nd Regimental Combat

▶ PERFORMANCE, back page, G10



G10 South Placer • Roseville

Performance: Students debate racial profiling

► CONTINUED FROM G1

Team, a Japanese American unit. When Ima took questions from the audience after the perforhand and asked, "What do you think about racial profiling?"

Ima turned the question back in the history of America. to the students, and a debate en-

"It's hard," said one girl, "because some people of a certain ra- munication, conflict resolution cial group might be more likely to and hate crimes, among other be terrorists."

Another girl added her feelings: "If I see someone with a tur- that until Ima's performance, ban, I think it's offensive because they were unaware that the U.S. if they wanted to be an American, government had sent 20,000 Japathey'd try their hardest to look like Americans."

But one of her classmates disagreed: "People come here because we're a free country. So if we judge people because they wear a turban, then we're not really being Americans."

she has performed "Within the Silence" at schools around the nation, students always react by drawing comparisons with today's social and political climate.

But the Loomis audience was unusual, Ima said, because of the history of its Japanese communi-

"There's a real awareness here of what happened (during World War II)," she said.

That awareness probably camps." comes from growing up with people like Stuart Kageta, a Del Oro math teacher. Kageta's grandparents moved from Japan to Loomis early last century. He said they settled in Loomis because it was known to be receptive to Christian Japanese; Buddhist Japanese moving to Placer County usually settled in Penryn. For many years, Kageta said, Japanese were the largest ethnic minority in the Loomis area.

During World War II, Kageta's parents and grandparents were sent to internment camps, and his father served with the 442nd Regimental Combat Team. When the war ended, his father's family settled in Fair Oaks, and his mother's family moved back to Loom-

The experiences of the Kageta family and many others like them form an integral piece of the history of the Loomis basin, said Kathy Myers, a fellow teacher at Del Oro.

"The performance strikes at the heart of this community," she said. "This just seemed so appropriate for our students - they should know what their heritage

Myers saw "Within the Silence" during a teacher training session at the Museum of Tolerance in Los Angeles. She said she and other teachers from Del Oro and Placer high schools found the performance so powerful that they wanted to bring it to their students. Through a special grant for arts programming, they were able to bring Ima to Placer County.

The performance is a production of Living Voices, a Seattlebased organization that puts together dramatic presentations about historical events. Their pro-

ductions are performed in workplace trainings, schools and museums around the country.

The Museum of Tolerance, a mance, a teenage boy raised his branch of the Simon Wiesenthal Center, teaches about the Holocaust of World War II and racism

Teachers from throughout the state travel to the museum for trainings on cross-cultural comtopics.

Many students at Del Oro said nese Americans, many of whom were American citizens, to internment camps during World War II. Of those, 1,806 lived in Placer

"I didn't know a whole lot about the internment camps," said Brittany Self, 17. "I can't be-Ima said that in the two years lieve President Roosevelt put them there - he needs to back up the Constitution."

Asked what she thought of the current administration, which reportedly has the FBI interviewing Iraqi Americans and the Immigration and Naturalization Service fingerprinting men from certain Muslim countries, Self said, "I didn't know that. That would be horrible. That would be a re-enactment of what happened at the

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