



CACA Houston Lodge Monthly Newsletter

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April 2002

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**Next monthly meeting
at Golden Duck Restaurant
on April 25, 2002 at 7:00PM**

Primary Runoff Election Results

Congratulations to Martha Wong as she barely wins the Republican runoff for State Representative in District 134. The total count was 3,205 (50.78%) to 3,107 (49.22%). She actually lost the early vote count by 1,162 to 1,057. But the election day vote of 2,148 to 1,945 made her come out on top. Her opponent will be incumbent Democrat Debra Danburg in the November general election.



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CACA Essay Contest

Results from the essay contest will be announced soon next month. Winners will be listed in the next newsletter.

Thanks from the Billy Wong Family

By Jeff D. Hong

We would like to thank the sisters, brothers, and lodges that made contributions to the Billy Wong Family. Billy is the brother-in-law of Houston Lodge Grand Rep. Jeff Hong. On December 26, the Wong family home was totally destroyed by an accidental fire. All was lost including the family car. Billy carried no insurance on his paid home and only liability insurance on the car. Billy was in IUC for a week with smoke inhalation and a badly cut right arm from crashing through a window to save himself. He cut a main artery and has nerve damage in both hands. There were some anxious moments of waiting to see if Billy would make it since he had lost so much blood. Alice, his wife, suffered smoke inhalation and a sprained right arm. Corrina, the older daughter and Edwin, the younger brother, escaped with minor smoke inhalation.

Decinna the younger daughter, perished. It was reported by witnesses that Decinna ran back into the house looking for Edwin. Decinna was a quiet and shy person when around the family but in reality she was intelligent, a leader, and a caring person who was loved by her schoolmates.

A memorial service was conducted for her by the students at Eisenhower High School. The students went door to door on January 1st and raised over \$3,000 to start the Wong family fund. Most of the family was surprised when the school principal, Mr. Alonzo Reynolds stated that Decinna would receive a diploma and valedictorian certificate for the class of 2002 at the graduation ceremony on May 25th. The yearbook will be dedicated to her. A Decinna Wong Valedictorian Scholarship is being established. Eisenhower's service manager, Mr. Floyd Priester, initiated the scholarship with his personal donation of \$1,000. Describing her as a "Walking Computer" with a caring heart, Mr. Priester said Decinna was an ideal valedictorian. "I have never seen anyone so outstanding like her in my 25 years of career in education", he declared. Decinna was a member of the National Merit Scholars, National Honor Society, National Art Society, Academic Decathlon, Key Club, and the History Fair.

Billy has been working for American Airlines for over 20 years and is well liked by his co-workers. Within a few days, a collection of over \$1,000 was given to the family to purchase new clothing. American Airlines provided round-trip transportation for all the brothers and sisters to come to Houston. Within a week, American Airlines coworkers called for the blood mobile to come to the airport and over 50 pines were donated in Billy's name. On February 1st, my son, Eric and I, along with 10 volunteers from American and Delta Air Lines leveled and cleared the remains of the burnt home to the slab. There was not a single useful item left inside the home.

Billy will have surgery on his left hand tomorrow. He still can not fold his right hand, but with therapy 3 times a week, it is hoped he will be able to improve in time. Please keep the Wong family in your prayers. Your thoughtful and kind support is appreciated by the brothers and sisters of Billy including my wife, Loanna.

Abercrombie pulls 'racist' Asian theme T-shirts

Clothing maker Abercrombie & Fitch said on Thursday it was pulling a new line of Asian-themed T-shirts after Asian-American groups complained they were a blatant example of racist stereotyping. The shirts, which retail for \$25, hit the shelves this week and carry caricatures of slant-eyed Asians in conical hats along with such slogans as "WONG BROTHERS LAUNDRY SERVICE: TWO WONGS CAN MAKE IT WHITE" and "WOK-N-BOWL -- CHINESE FOOD AND BOWLING."

"It is not and never has been our intention to offend anyone," Abercrombie spokesman Hampton Carney said. "These graphic T-shirts were designed with the sole purpose of adding humor and levity to our fashion line. Since some customers have been offended by their content, we are pulling these shirts from our stores," he added.



Stanford University students Michelle Won and Jennifer Kong boycott a San Francisco Abercrombie & Fitch store

'It is just like the 1800s'

Asian-American groups in California reacted with anger this week after the shirts appeared in local Abercrombie stores, with local activists saying their cartoonish representation of Asian figures carried a racist message.

"This is really blatant. It is just like the 1800s," said the Rev. Norman Fong, program director at San Francisco's Chinatown Community Development Center. "The company has been totally

insensitive, and people are pretty upset."

Carney said the popular youth clothing maker had believed the shirts might appeal to Asian-American consumers, and was surprised by the hostile reception they received.

"The thought was that everyone would love them, especially the Asian community. We thought they were cheeky, irreverent and funny and everyone would love them. But that has not been the case."

Carney was unable to estimate how many shirts would be recalled from Abercrombie's roughly 500 stores nationwide, although he said a number of stores had not yet taken delivery of the items.



A close up of one of the five T-shirts in the line, which the company says it intended as cheeky and funny

March Monthly Minutes

Minutes of the last CACA monthly meeting that was held on Thursday, March 28, 2002 at Golden Duck Restaurant. The meeting started at 9:45PM.

- **Present:** Daniel Chow, Dorothy Chow, Beck Gee, Raymond Moy, Bill Quan, Esther Quan, Jeanie Gor, Billy Wong, J.D. Hong, William Mei, Edmond Gor, James Chow, Linda Wu, Ted Wu, Lucille Gee, Aster Joe, Jane Gee, Ping Ying Chou, Eric Fong, Kathie Fong, Ken Sit
- **Special Guest** Christopher Cato from the Public Education Department of the Houston Fire Department spoke about fire safety after dinner. Thanks to Jeanie Gor for helping set this up.
- **VP Report:** Kathie Fong mentions the 4 members selected to represent CACA at ACOH. They are: James Chow, Kathie Fong, J.D. Hong, and Yuen-Yee Ma.
- Kathie also mentioned about the farewell dinner for Dr. Liang, Director of the Chinese Culture Center. The event will be held on April 20th at Ocean Palace. CACA has committed to a table. William Mei motions to sponsor up to a table at the farewell dinner. J.D. 2nd the motion. The motion passes with the original cost of each ticket being \$20 with CACA paying for half the cost. Kathie will handle the ticket sales.
- There was also mention of the possibility of renting a room for CACA activities at a cost of \$150 per month.
- **Treasurer's Report:** There was an error of \$0.50 on one of the checks.
- CACA welcomes Billy Wong to the meeting and handed a check to Billy.
- JD talks about his involvement in the Harris County Patrol Group.
- Ping Ying Chou, a past president of the Houston Lodge, attended the meeting who currently resides in California. His home phone number is 650-212-2828.
- Linda Wu states that progress is being made in recruiting contestants for the next Miss Chinatown pageant on July 27th at the JD Marriott. So far, 2 applications have been submitted with 2 pending.
- The next meeting will be on April 25th, at 7PM at Golden Duck Restaurant.
- JD motions to adjourn the meeting with Dorothy Chow 2nd the motion. Meeting adjourned.