CAPE
Re-accredited with Flying Colors

This past March, CAPE obtained RE-ACCREDITATION from the Accrediting Council for Continuing Education and Training (ACCET), a national accrediting agency recognized by the U.S. Secretary of Education. Re-accreditation was granted after a thorough review of our institutional portfolio documenting CAPE’s mission, its institutional policies and business practices, the content and implementation of its programs, instructional and participant assessment, and the qualifications of its teaching faculty, among other things. The review of the report was followed by an on-site inspection by a team of inspectors from the U.S. mainland during the program period.

CAPE passed its re-accreditation with flying colors, achieving the highest possible rating of “exceeds standard” in nearly every category. CAPE was particularly commended for the vision and high expectations provided in the institution’s mission; the high quality and effectiveness of its instructional faculty; its outstanding learning environments and instructional techniques; the seriousness of purpose among program participants; its close relationship with faculty and administrators at the University of Hawaii; its constructive response to input and feedback from participants and faculty; its fair and equitable registration, cancellation and refund policies; its maintenance of alumni contacts throughout the Asia-Pacific region; and for the personal leadership role of its president. The re-accreditation from ACCET notes, “The

17th Annual “Asia Today” Series
Spring 2003
Korea, Japan, and China

The Seventeenth Annual “Asia Today” Series presented in-depth lectures on social, economic, and political issues affecting modern-day Korea, Japan, and China. These issues were analyzed from the perspectives of history, economics, culture, politics, and the humanities. These insightful commentaries gave participants a deeper understanding of the issues that impact our world today.

The first session, held on April 19, 2003, discussed Korea. Mr. Ralph Cossa, executive director of the Pacific Forum CSIS in Honolulu, presented his lecture, “Dealing with North Korea Nuclear Crisis.” He explored policy options for the U.S. and South Korea and possible reasons behind North Korean actions. A panel comprised of Mr. Ralph Cossa; Dr. Barry Gills, Director of the Globalization Research Center of the University of Hawaii; and Dr. Glenn Paige, president of Center for Global Nonviolence, led a meaningful discussion following the lecture.

The second session, held on May 3, 2003, examined issues

Continued on page 2

2003 CAPE
Fall Seminar Upcoming!
CAPE Language & Culture Seminar

Thailand
Vietnam
Philippines

Please join us in these exciting upcoming seminars!!

Renowned experts in the languages and cultures of Thailand, Vietnam, and the Philippines will join the Center for Asia-Pacific Exchange in a series of seminars. The 14th Annual Language & Culture Seminar is intended to familiarize the business and leisure visitor to Asian countries with basic information on culture, history, and language, in order that they, as visitors to these countries, may interact effectively with the residents. The seminars, which will feature the languages and cultures of Thailand, Vietnam, and the Philippines, will focus upon (1) understanding the country and its people, (2) basic language backgrounds, (3) characteristics of personal relations, and (4) social customs.

Seminars on each country span three hours and are scheduled on Saturday mornings from 9:00 am to 12:00 noon. The Seminar schedule is as follows:

Thailand:
Saturday, November 15 - UH Campus Center Room #220

Vietnam:
Saturday, November 22 - UH Campus Center Room #220

Philippines:
Saturday, November 29 - UH Kuykendall Hall Room #310

For information or to pre-register, call 942-8553, fax 941-9575, or e-mail cape@capealoha.org.

Continued on page 2
CAPE Re-accredited
Continued from page 1

Accrediting Commission commends the institution for its accomplishments in meeting the Standards for Accreditation. The Commission recognizes that the institution demonstrated the high level of performance management inherent to the goal of continuous improvement through the self-evaluation process.”

On-site evaluation/interview meeting during ACCET team’s visit to CAPE for its re-accreditation.

17th Annual “Asia Today” Series
Continued from page 1

relating to Japan. In her lecture, “Reinventing Japan, Reinventing Iraq?”, Dr. Katharina Heyer of the University of Hawaii used the American occupation of Japan as a model to predict the outcomes of the American occupation of Iraq. In addition, Dr. James Dator of the Department of Political Science at the University of Hawaii spoke about Japan’s outlook in “Alternative Futures of Japan.” The last session, held on May 10, 2003, explored China. Dr. Guobin Yang of the Department of Sociology at the University of Hawaii began the session with his talk entitled, “Environmentalism: China’s New Social Movement.” His lecture discussed non-government organizations and Friends of Nature, an environmental group, whose founding marked the birth of an environmental movement in China. Dr. Xiaojun Wang of the Department of Economics at the University of Hawaii looked at the possibility of expanding the Hawaii tourism market to China in his talk, “Diversity Hawaii’s Tourists Pool: Eye on China.” Finally, Dr. Kate Zhou of the Department of Political Science at the University of Hawaii closed the series with her lecture, “Civil Society Building in China,” which expounded on the problems of forming non-governmental organizations in China.

CAPE would like to extend a warm Mahalo to all the presenters for their thought-provoking lectures. The community members who attended learned an immense amount about Korea, Japan, and China.

The 9th Workshop for Elementary English Teachers

From December 23, 2002 to January 17, 2003, 25 participants in the Ninth Workshop for Elementary English Teachers spent their winter vacation studying English teaching methods for elementary students. The workshop focused primarily on the practical side of EFL teaching and included sessions on teaching techniques by Mr. Kenton Harsch and skills training by Mr. Michael Beamer. The workshop also held sessions on Elementary EFL Curricula, First Steps in Teaching Young EFL Readers, Reading Activities for Young Learners, Teaching English Through English, Conceptual Basis for Elementary EFL, Telling Stories: Accounts of Personal Experience, and using computers and the internet as tools for teaching English. These classes offered participants new ideas and skills to apply to their own classrooms back in Korea. The facilitators for these courses included: Dr. Richard Schmidt, Dr. Graham Crookes, Dr. Richard Day, and Dr. Dina Yoshimi.

Besides classroom activities, participants also visited Lunalilo Elementary School and Puuhale Elementary School to observe American styles of teaching. These visits allowed interchange between participants and their American counterparts, creating a forum for discussing teaching techniques. CAPE would like to thank Mr. Clyde Igarashi and Ms. Lorraine Ching of Lincoln Elementary School and Ms. Cynthia Sunahara of Puuhale Elementary School for making these rewarding visits possible.

Not only did participants expand their knowledge about teaching English, but they also widened their cultural perspectives by living in Hawaii. In addition, they had the special opportunity to learn about hula through the Hawaiiana session led by Ms. Alison Hartle. This aspect helped to make their cross-cultural experiences even more fulfilling.

CAPE would like to send a warm Mahalo to the following people for making this workshop possible: Ms. Charlene Aoki, Kapiolani Community College; Mr. Michael Beamer, CAPE; Ms. Lorraine Ching, Lunalilo Elementary School; Dr. Graham Crookes, University of Hawaii SLS Dept.; Dr. Richard R. Day, University of Hawaii EFL Dept.; Ms. Holly Kiyonaga, State Dept. of Education; Mr. Kenton Harsch, University of Hawaii SLS Dept.; Ms. Alison Hartle, University of Hawaii American Studies Department; Mr. Clyde Igarashi, Lunalilo Elementary School; Mr. Dong-Wan Kang, University of Hawaii Computer Science Dept.; Ms. Jinhwa Lee, University of Hawaii SLS Dept.; Mr. Jed Lovingfoss, CAPE; Mr. Siwon Park, University of Hawaii SLS Dept.; Dr. Richard W. Schmidt, University of Hawaii SLS Dept.; Dr. Edward J. Shultz, UH Center for Korean Studies; Ms. Cynthia Sunahara, Puuhale Elementary School; and Dr. Dina R. Yoshimi, University of Hawaii East-Asian Languages and Literature Department.
The 32nd Workshop for Asian-Pacific Teachers of English

The increasingly popular CAPE Workshop for Asian-Pacific Teachers of English has once again proved a success. From January 6 - February 2, 2003, 22 Korean English teachers participated in a rigorous program that introduced them to the most current EFL methods and immersed them in American cultural experiences. For the eleventh consecutive year, the workshop received generous funding from Mr. Chul-Woo Yang, President of Kyohaksa Publishing Company, through the Yong-Ok Scholarship Foundation.

The workshop offered an intensive and extensive curriculum that exposed participants to EFL teaching methods through informative sessions and site observations at various schools. In the workshop sessions, accomplished CAPE lecturers offered insight into EFL. These sessions discussed teaching spoken and written English, as well as listening and reading skills, along with techniques to implement computer usage in English teaching. In addition, participants learned about micro-teaching, psycho-linguistics, and theory-based lessons, forming a solid foundation of both theoretical and practical knowledge. As a result, these sessions helped to spark further research among the participants and to equip them with new skills for their own classrooms. Among the instructors were Dr. Graham Crookes, Dr. Craig Chaudron, Dr. Richard Day, Dr. Roderick A. Jacobs, Dr. Richard W. Schmidt, and Dr. Dina Yoshimi, from the Second Language Studies Program and Dept. of East Asian Languages and Literatures at the University of Hawaii at Manoa; with special lectures by Ms. Holly Kiyonaga, State Dept. of Education, Mr. Dong-Wan Kang, graduate student of the University of Hawaii, Ms. Jinhwa Lee, Ph.D. student of the University of Hawaii, and Mr. Siwon Park, Ph.D. student of the University of Hawaii.

In addition to the educational sessions, participants shadowed teachers in Hawaii public schools, observing different methods of classroom management and teaching styles. Through the generous assistance of Kawanakaoa Middle School, Dole Middle School, Lunanilo Elementary School, Lincoln Elementary School, and Central Middle School, participants exchanged valuable ideas with their American counterparts and gained a more comprehensive understanding of teaching methods, broadening their cross-cultural encounters and education. Punahou School also invited participants to observe a class, allowing participants to compare environments and teaching methods of public and private schools in Hawaii.

The workshop did not merely teach EFL methods but also incorporated American culture lessons to help participants engage in a more well-rounded and thorough experience. Lecturers included Dr. Edward Shultz, Director of the Center for Korean Studies at the University of Hawaii; Mr. Richard Anbe, Principal of Kawanakaoa Middle School; Mr. Samuel Song, US Army Corp. of Engineers; Ms. Charlene Aoki, Kapiolani Community College; Ms. Alison Hartle, American Studies Dept. at the University of Hawaii; Mr. Jed Lovingfoss, CAPE; and Dr. Jai-Ho Yoo, President of CAPE.

Like the previous workshops, participants had the special opportunity to stay for a week at the home of an American family, allowing them an immersion experience into American culture. The families and participants spent time learning about each other’s cultures while sharing meals, engaging in leisure activities, and conversing. CAPE would like to extend special thanks to the Altwies, Chang, Curran, Doering, Fujimoto, Haymer, Look, Nakamura, Nordyke, Smith, Sullivan, and Wharton families for their warm hospitality.

In addition, CAPE expresses gratitude to the school administrators who made the school visitations possible. They include: Mr. Richard Anbe, Principal of Kawanakaoa Middle School; Mr. Myron Monte, Principal of Dole Middle School; Mr. Irving Emoto, Principal of Lincoln Elementary School; Mr. Clyde Igarashi, Principal of Lunanilo Elementary School; Ms. Hope Staab, Director of the Wo International Center at Punahou School; and Ms. Penelope Tom, Principal of Central Middle School.

Finally, CAPE would like to thank its core faculty instrumental in molding and directing the CAPE workshops. Faculty members include Dr. Graham Crookes, Dr. Richard Day, Dr. Richard Schmidt, Dr. Roderick A. Jacobs, Dr. Dina Yoshimi, Mr. Kenton Harsch, and Mr. Jed Lovingfoss. On behalf of the workshop participants, CAPE thanks all those involved in making the workshop a success.
The 36th International Program for College Students

January 7 - February 16, 2003

The 36th CAPE International Winter Program for College Students gathered 80 students from Chungnam National University in Korea. From January 7 to February 16, 2003, students engaged in sessions that enhanced their English skills. The English classes helped students to speak, write, and read English more effectively. In addition, they developed their cooperative and communication skills by working collaboratively on assignments in class and listening to different perspectives of their classmates. The students also furthered their cross-cultural understanding in the classroom by attending American culture sessions that explained the details of American lifestyle.

The students’ study of American life did not end in the classroom. Through interactive fieldwork activities, students explored Hawaii’s outstanding cultural sites. Students visited such places as Waikiki and Ala Moana Beach Park, increasing their exposure to American people and culture. Students absorbed all the colorful aspects of Hawaiian life through these encounters.

As a result, students formed friendships not only amongst themselves but with Hawaii residents as well. They returned home with fond memories, improved English skills, and unparalleled traveling experiences.

CAPE would like to extend thanks to the insightful and knowledgeable instructors who made this program possible: Mr. Michael Beamer, Ms. Christina Chun, Ms. June Goya, Ms. Alison Hartle, Mr. John Kahle, Mr. Jed Lovingfoss, Mr. Stuart M. Sakoeki, Mr. Winston R. Welch, and Ms. Helen S. Wells.

January 12 - February 8, 2003

The other half of the 36th International Program for College Students brought together 30 talented students majoring in electrical engineering and information science from Kyungbuk National University in Korea. From January 12 to February 8, 2003, students improved their English skills through classroom sessions and interaction with Hawaii residents. Students also developed their professional skills as they attended classes dealing with career preparation, such as sessions on employment interviews and the preparation of credentials. In order to offer a more well-rounded experience, CAPE provided lectures on American culture led by Mr. Jed Lovingfoss. Each of these encounters with English language and American culture broadened students’ cross-cul-

The pinnacle of this group’s program was the opportunity to hear Dr. Vinod Malhotra discuss a design project relating to their majors. These exceptional lectures integrated relevant material, allowing the group to experience an American college class first-hand. As a result, these sessions rounded out this group’s experience here in Hawaii.

Lastly, students explored Hawaii through the fieldwork component of the program. Students were encouraged to visit sites of cultural significance, including the Arizona Memorial. These excursions also presented students with real-world situations to practice their English skills.

CAPE thanks the following individuals for making this program possible: Ms. Charlene Aoki, Kapiolani Community College; Mr. David Courson, CAPE; Ms. Alison Hartle, CAPE; Mr. Jed Lovingfoss, CAPE; Mr. Randal R. Nunokawa, Kapiolani Community College; Professor Vinod Malhotra, Dept. of Electrical Engineering at the University of Hawaii; and Ms. Leslie Ono, CAPE.
The 12th Home Care Workshop

On February 11, 2003, 32 participants from Korea arrived in Hawaii for CAPE’s 12th Home Care Workshop. For one week, these home care specialists broadened their understanding and knowledge about home care management and engaged in meaningful cross-cultural interaction. Home care specialists also shared their own experiences with colleagues, leaving Hawaii on February 17 with an array of new knowledge and cross-cultural friendships.

With the help of Kokua Nurses, Maluhia Hospital, Prime Care Services, Kaiser Permanente Home Health Agency, Hospice Hawaii, Health Care Association of Hawaii, St. Francis Home Care, and Kaiser Hospital, participants listened to informative lectures and visited home care facilities. Lecturers included Ms. Pamela Kaopua, Intake Coordinator of Kaiser Permanente Home Health Agency, and Mrs. Rose Ann Poyzer, Vice President of the Health Care Association of Hawaii. This combination of lectures and observations provided participants with a more complete picture of professional home care techniques and the business itself.

CAPE extends a warm Mahalo to the following people for their assistance: Ms. Cheryl Burnett, Administrator of Kokua Nurses; Mr. Jay Duquette, Administrator of Maluhia Hospital; Ms. Beth Hoban of Prime Care Services; Ms. Pamela Kaopua, Intake Coordinator of Kaiser Permanente Home Health Agency; and Mrs. Rose Ann Poyzer, Vice President of the Health Care Association of Hawaii. This commitment of lectures and observations provided participants with a more complete picture of professional home care techniques and the business itself.

CAPE Fellowships/Scholarships

CAPE awarded 20 scholarships and merit awards to deserving and outstanding students. In addition, CAPE awarded a fellowship grant to the Department of Family and Consumer Services of the University of Hawaii to support its faculty and research. CAPE expresses deep gratitude to all the donors who made these scholarships possible.

CAPE General Grants and Merit Awards

Young-Tae Kim Grant: Mr. Yong-Man Cho, Ms. Mi-Soon Han, Dr. Moon-Sook Jung, Ms. Eun-Seok Koh, Mr. Chun-Su Na, Mr. Hyun-Jik Yang, Mr. Wook-Yeol Yi; Myung-Seok Park Grant: Ms. Sun-Young Chin, Mr. Hyung-Soo Lee, Ms. Hyun-Jin Shin; Choon-Hak Cho Grant: Mr. Se-Young Choi, Ms. Mi-Sun Lee; Susie Kim Grant: Ms. Yoon-Jeong Choi, Mr. So-Min Kim; Eui-Sook Kim Grant: Ms. Soo-Hyun Kim, Mr. Il-Sik Shin; Jong-Young Park Grant: Ms. Woo-Joo Kim, Ms. Seong-Ja Hwang.

CAPE Scholarship Award to University of Hawaii:
Department of Family and Consumer Services

2004 Programs... Exciting Programs Ahead!

Winter
- 10th Workshop for Elementary English Teachers December 30, 2003 - January 27, 2004
- 34th Workshop for Asian-Pacific Teachers of English January 6 - February 1, 2004
- 21st Program for Middle/High School Students January 11 - 23
- CAPE Culture Studies Workshop January 11 - 23, 2004
- 37th Program for College Students January 18 - February 14, 2004
- 35th Workshop for Asian-Pacific Teachers of English (for Graduate Students) February 4 - 19, 2004
- 14th Workshop on Home Care February 10 - 17, 2004

Spring
- 18th Asia Today” Series April - May, 2004
- 38th Int’l Program for College Students February - March

Summer
- 24th Annual American Studies Forum August 3 - 10, 2004
- 36th Workshop for Asian-Pacific Teachers of English August 2 - 11, 2004
- 39th Int’l Program for College Students August 2 - 28, 2004
- 15th Home Care Workshop July/August

Fall
- 15th Language & Culture Seminar October - November
- 9th Workshop for Clinical Nurse Specialists November 9 - 20, 2004
Mahalo To Our 2002 Contributors

A sincere thanks goes to all who supported CAPE in 2003. Your continued support is very much appreciated. We have ambitious plans to develop programs serving the educational and professional development needs of the peoples of the Asia-Pacific. We also continue to work towards obtaining sufficient funds to erect the planned CAPE Center on the site of the current CAPE Home.

A warm Mahalo goes out to each of the following CAPE contributors for support received through August 30, 2003:

**Benefactors**
- Dr. Rosie Chang
- Dr. Jong-Young Park

**Sustaining**
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- Mr. Samuel Song

**Associate**
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- Mrs. Noriko Totani

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- Ms. Miyoko Shimoda
- Mr. Shinji Soneda
- Mr. Ramond Starbuck
- Mrs. Noriko Totani

CAPE Membership Increases in 2003

Transcription from Dr. Katharina Heyer’s presentation:
Reinventing Japan, Reinventing Iraq?

Starting about last fall here in the United States, we started hearing U.S. policy makers talk about extensively the Allied occupation of Japan [at the end of the Second World War, from 1945 - 1952] as kind of this positive and successful model of a military occupation. They were saying, “Look, at the end of the Second World War, we had defeated our former enemies, Germany and Japan, they were countries led by militaristic and authoritarian leaders, but we turned them around. We tuned them into peaceful, cooperative, democratic, and highly industrialized nations. So we succeeded then, after the end of WWII, and we are going to succeed again, now in Iraq.” And as a student of both German and especially Japanese history, I immediately listened up. I wondered, “Well, is this really a valid comparison to make? Can we really use the successes of the Allied occupation in Japan and apply them to our current situation in Iraq?” The question I want to ask is, “What do we need to learn from the Japanese occupation in 1945 - 1952?”

So if we’re going to make such a claim that there’s really a parallel between what happened in Japan at the end of the Second World War and what’s going to, or what we hope will happen in Iraq, I think we need to look back at the situation of Japan fifty years ago. In other words, we need to look at the lessons from history... I believe that the lessons that we learned in Japan should not lead us to believe that the same thing is going to happen in Iraq today. And I’m going to argue that very few of the ingredients that made the Allied occupation of Japan so successful are actually present...
in Iraq today... I’m going to list 5 points of why I think the parallel between the occupation of Japan and the future occupation of Iraq is not going to work. 

**The first is resistance to occupation forces**

Remember that [Supreme Commander of the Allied Powers, General Douglas] MacArthur landed on the [Japanese] airfield without any weapons. He was quite confident and quite sure that he was not going to be attacked, that the Japanese were going to respect and accept his authority. But some voices in the occupation expressed concern, and rightfully so, “Are the Japanese going to rebel against us occupying their land, especially the Japanese soldiers who have sworn loyalty to their emperors, are they going to accept us, or are they going to revolt against us?” But as we saw...there was no resistance to the American occupiers, and they welcomed them quite friendly... Here is a quote from MacArthur’s secretary on why he was so brave to have landed in Japan without any weapons: “MacArthur knew the basic Japanese character too well, to have thus gambled blindly with death. He knew and trusted the national spirit of traditional chivalry called bushido, the warrior code.”

The idea was that the Japanese had internalized this warrior code and that they would honorably accept their defeat and accept the occupying forces. What also helped the Japanese accept the occupation forces was because the emperor was the symbol that showed them, “Do like me, I’m the one welcoming the occupying forces and you should do the same.” But acceptance also occurred because it sent a kind of collective responsibility by the Japanese to kind of rise out of the ashes and accept American help in rebuilding themselves. And I’m going to argue that really no such sentiment exists in Iraq today. Of course, we saw Iraqis cheering on American soldiers as they marched in Baghdad, and we saw them all topple the statue of Saddam Hussein, and while I think it was certainly an overplayed footage in the American media, I think its safe to assume most Iraqis were quite happy to see Saddam out of power. But there’s a growing fear in Iraq about who and what will replace him. Moreover, there’s a growing resentment of the American influence in Iraqi affairs and American influence in general in Middle Eastern affairs. Of the Americans imposing their western way of life on them just as they did in Japan...There’s a sense that Americans are waging this war for oil, and that the American companies are really coming in to, and I quote from New York Times, “Force their product on us.” In other words, there’s this fear that the U.S. corporate interests are going to carve out Iraq.

**The second point that I want to make is one of legitimacy**

As I mentioned earlier, the two main goals of Japan were demilitarization and democratization. So the dream that everyone had for Japan was that as a nation, Japan would never wreak that kind of havoc on its neighbors and on itself ever again. And when I said that everyone had this dream, I don’t mean only the victorious Allies. I also mean especially Japan’s neighbors in Asia. There was a sense of relief that Japan was going to be occupied, demilitarized, and democratized so that Japan could never wage this kind of aggressive war. So the rest of Asia was really in support of this occupation. And I’m also thinking about the Japanese people themselves. They were mourning their dead relatives, they were living in a country that was completely destroyed, they had been in war for almost 15 years, and they were really ready for a new beginning. So the post-war occupation in Japan possessed what we in political science call a great sense of legitimacy in the eyes of the Allies, of Japan’s neighbors, and most importantly, within the Japanese people themselves. And this legitimacy was both moral and legal. Now, I don’t think we find this legitimacy towards the United State’s war and future occupation of Iraq. The U.S. has actually found its legitimacy very widely challenged in multiple parts of the world. And not only in Iraq itself, but also within the Middle East. There are a lot of countries worried about U.S. influence and also within the NATO allies of the United States. Really key American sup-porters in the world all told the U.S. that they are alone in this war; they do not think this is a good war and that they would challenge U.S. legitimacy in this war. So there’s this sense in the international community that the U.S. is becoming another rogue superpower, acting unilaterally, and in economic self-interest, all the while alienating the international community. So that same kind of sense legitimacy that occurred in Japan, I don’t think is present in the world today.

**The third point, I call, “What kinds of reforms?”**

Let’s remember that the bulk of the reforms in Japan were all inspired by this New Deal idealism and this great faith in government, or in big government, as what we call it today. The U.S. drafted [in Japan] what is still considered one of the more progressive constitutions in the world; they gave labor rights, they protected workers from the exploits of capitalism, they established gender equality, they gave the state the right to insure the basic good living of its population, and they essentially took land from the wealthy and gave it to poor farmers. All of these were progressive reforms. And it’s these reforms that made the U.S. occupation of Japan so successful, at least until it became consumed by the Cold War. It was really a moment in history to allow people to sit down and ask, “What is a good society? And how do we go about achieving one? ...How do we rebuild our country? What went wrong, and how can we be sure it never happens again?” And it’s these kinds of questions and these kinds of reforms that amount to today what we would call nation-building. The United States was very successful with nation-building in Japan, and I want to argue that if they want to do a good job in Iraq, they would have to use the same kind of nation-building in Iraq as well. Ask the same kind of important, big questions. But nation-building in today’s political climate is no longer a part of the U.S. foreign policy vocabulary. If you remember President Bush, when he campaigned for President, he completely

Continued from page 6

Continued on page 8
rejected this idea that the U.S. would ever again engage in nation-building again. He said this is no longer a part of what we do in the world. And in a sense, look at what happened in Afghanistan, we went in and bombed them, we got rid of a very repressive regime, and then we left, because we said that we are not in the business of nation-building, and it’s really not our business to impose our values on you. And look at what’s going on in Afghanistan today, the country is in the process of falling apart again. So we’re not in the business of nation-building anymore. We’re not in the business of promoting radical, democratic reform. In today’s political and conservative climate, really, it’s no longer really an option. Now the reforms [in Japan] were also successful because they lasted. The [Japanese] constitution has never been amended...if any changes are ever going to be made in the future, they are not going to uproot the fundamental, democratic principals that were imbedded in the Japanese constitution. They are never going to repeal popular sovereignty, they’re never going to repeal the basic civil rights in the constitution, and they’re never going to step away from anti-militarism. Remember the Japanese are very proud of Article 9, of being a kind of anti-militaristic and peace-loving country. So there’s never this sense that once the U.S. left in 1952, the whole system that they set up was going to crumble, and then people are going to take over, and make it go back to the way it was. Now I’m wondering if we can have that same kind of continuity in Iraq. Even if we do occupy Iraq for longer periods of time and institute democratic reforms, I’m not sure that once the United States leaves that the system won’t go back, to some degree, to where it was before, and then we might see the emergence of another repressive leader. It’s a big question.

Fourth point, diversity.

Japan was in ruins after the war. But what survived was an exceptionally literate, well-educated population that, especially during the war, had really advanced its technological skills. It was a population that was especially homogenous...and had been easily mobilized for a common national cause. Now that common national cause was defeated during the war. But that did not destroy this kind of general sense of collective national purpose that the Japanese had after the war. Now the occupation forces then harnessed...this collective national purpose, and changed it away from support to the emperor...towards a new support for democracy and peace. So just as the nation was united behind the emperor and the war machine, it was now united behind democratic rebuilding. Now unlike Japan, Iraq is not a homogenous country. It’s divided into fierce, tribal, religious, and political factions. A lot of political commentators today call Iraq the “Arab Yugoslavia.” The country that’s divided among Kurds, Shiites, and Sunnis that were forged by British power and has always been held together by an iron fist. So if we want to transform Iraq into a democratic state, we have to do more than just getting rid of Saddam, we actually have to, for the first time, build an integrated Iraq, which in Japan was a lot easier, but in Iraq is going to be so much harder because its so diverse a country.

Okay, my final point:

I call it continuity, for lack of a better term. Much has been said about the incredible flexibility we see among the Japanese to kind of switch, to make that transformation, from a repressive, military state to a democratic one. And again, the emperor played a large role in this; he provided a chameleon-like leadership necessary to symbolize this transition. Overnight he transformed from a military leader and demi-god, in whose name the war was being waged, to a sponsor of the new constitution, and to a supporter of the occupation. Of course the Americans very happily welcomed this sponsorship and, in a sense, white-washed him from all discussion of war guilt...So the emperor became a beacon of continuity in the midst of dramatic change in Japan, and I’m really wondering who or what would play that role of continuity in Iraq today, and I can’t really think of anybody. Now, in Japan, much of this same kind of continuity took place at the level of national and local government. Remember that SCAP [Supreme Commander of the Allied Powers] was very careful in leaving bureaucracy in place to implement their reforms from top to bottom. So to a far greater extent than anyone had anticipated, the bureaucrats cooperated in implementing the reforms. Now we know that Iraq has skilled bureaucrats and civil servants, but it’s difficult to smooth transition and redirection of administrative structures in current Iraq as we saw in Japan in the past.

Now finally, let’s look at something that Japan did not possess, and that’s natural resources. Oil. It was really because of their desperate quest for natural resources that the Japanese waged this war in Southeast Asia in the first place, they were looking for new markets and new resources, Japan as a country has almost no natural resources. Once Japan was defeated in the war, nobody had dreamed that it would become such an incredible superpower one more time, and because Japan never had any resources of its own, it was never worried that any nation was going to invade it; who would ever want to invade Japan? Therefore, the Japanese could focus on the one natural resource they did have, and that’s people power. They spent tremendous effort in educating their population; creating a very skilled workforce; Japanese students routinely scoring in the top 5% of international test scores, and really thus became leaders in the high-tech industry. So they could focus on their one natural asset. Now Iraq, in contrast, does not have that kind of breathing room, Iraq will always know that their primary resource is oil. And they will always know that their oil resources will always be part of their relationship with the rest of the world, and particularly now with the United States.

So those are some of the reasons that I feel really, that the parallel that has been made between, “We did it so well in Japan, we’re gonna do it really well in Iraq,” does not hold for me.