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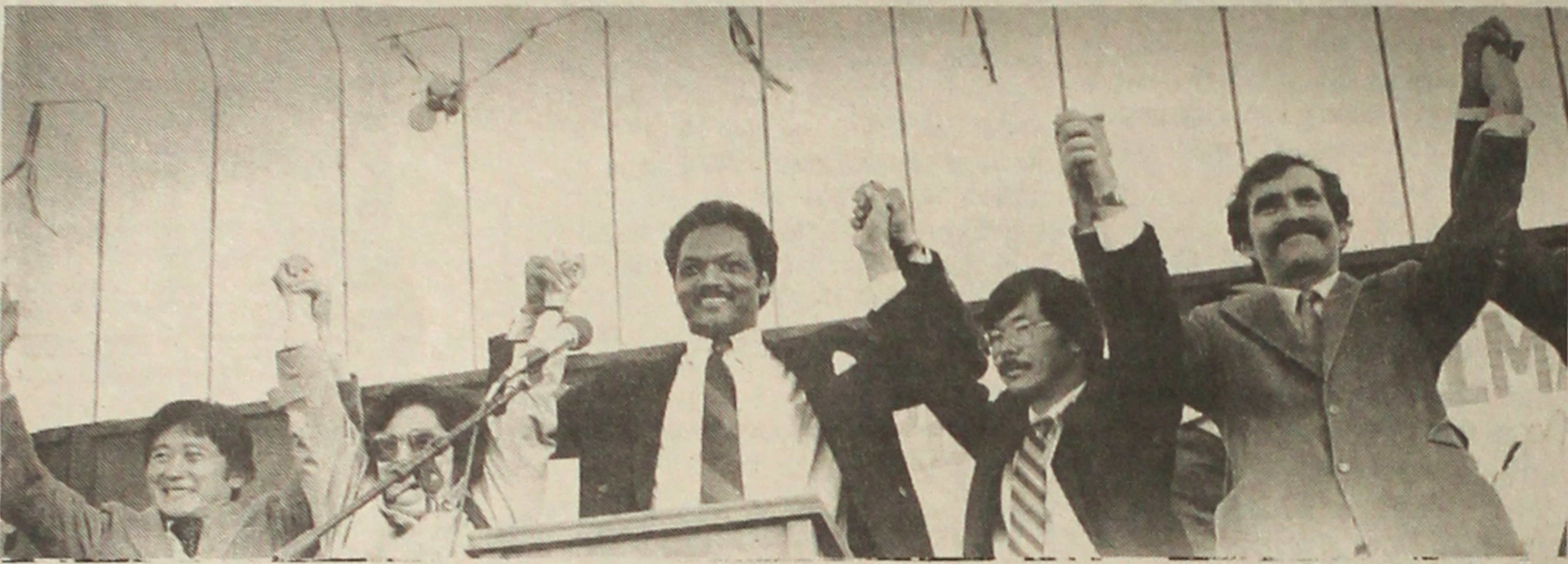


Photo by Isago Isao Tanaka

Taking part in program at San Francisco Japantown Peace Plaza are (from left) Hiroshima survivor Jack Dairiki; peace activist Mary Bonzo-Suzuki (partly obscured); Rev. Jesse Jackson; Lyle Wing, Hiroshima/Nagasaki Commemoration Committee; and Alex Forman, San Francisco Nuclear Weapons Freeze Campaign.

## Jackson, hibakusha speak at Bay Area anti-nuke rally

by Carole Hayashino

SAN FRANCISCO — "I saw the blinding flash, like the sun exploding," recalled Jack Dairiki, who on August 6, 1945 was a 14-year-old student in Hiroshima. "It felt warm and I hit the deck and covered my eyes. The blast followed.

"My body felt like it was floating around and when I looked up, I could not see anything because of the dust, smoke and debris falling all around... I observed victims walking, their arms extended for-

ward, walking like ghosts, dragging their feet, their burned skin hanging from their arms."

Dairiki shared his recollections with 1,500 people who gathered in Japantown's Peace Plaza on August 6 to join the worldwide commemorations marking the 40th anniversary of the bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki. "To the leaders of the world," he pleaded, "Please, please, no more bombs like Hiroshima. We want to live in peace."

Sponsored by the Bay Area Asians for Nuclear Disarmament (BAAND) and the Hiroshima/Nagasaki Commemoration Committee, the program, whose theme was "No More Hiroshimas," attracted a cross-section of old and young activists from ethnic communities throughout the Bay Area.

San Francisco supervisor Nancy Walker welcomed the crowd to the outdoor program and read a message from Takeshi Araki,

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## East Coast Asian families evicted

by G. Tim Gojio

WASHINGTON—Over 90 Asian refugee families have been ordered to leave the Chillum Heights Apartments in Prince Georges County, Maryland, northeast of Washington. Seventy-eight percent of the eviction notices sent out in early July were to Asian families.

Chillum Heights manager Pat DeLuca told the Prince Georges Journal "There are a total of 119 families, including Oriental, Vietnamese, Cambodians, Laotians and some Caucasians. Only 93 [families] are Asian."

Henry Mui, executive director of Organization of Chinese Americans, said that the Asian tenants are going through a second or third relocation after immigrating to the U.S.

"Many of those who are involved in this Chillum Heights eviction are the same families who were forced to move from their homes in New York in 1981-82, who then moved to Philadelphia, where again they were forced to move in 1983-84 [See Oct. 5, 1984 PC]. Now, having settled in the Washington D.C. area, they again are being kicked out of their homes."

The apartments have a long history of housing code violations. Attention was focused on the com-

plex following a police drug raid that ended in a shootout on May 2.

A subsequent Washington Post article focused on the poor standard of housing in Chillum Heights, quoting Joseph Healy, chief of property standards for Prince Georges County, as saying that Chillum Heights was "the worst of 700 complexes in the county." A recent inspection by housing authorities revealed more than 200 code violations.

Many of the problems in Chillum Heights may stem from the pending sale of the property to a Chevy Chase, Md., real estate firm. The county feels that a change in ownership is the long-term solution to the problems and is seeking to expedite the sale by providing a \$42 million tax-exempt county bond to help provide funds to rehabilitate the apartments.

The impact of the recent evictions upon Asian families has sparked concern among many Asian American organizations in the area. Both OCA and the Washington office of JACL are closely monitoring the situation.

At present, the focus is on the immediate need to house the refugees. Groups such as Catholic Charities have been working with the refugees, trying to find affordable housing in the area.

Legal efforts are also ongoing.

An ad-hoc organization of attorneys, including the JACL Washington representative, the president of the Asian Pacific American Bar Assn. of Washington D.C., Prince Georges County Legal Aid, and attorneys from the Washington law firm of Covington & Berling, who are doing *pro bono* work on behalf of the tenants, are investigating the legal implications of the evictions.

"The messages that the refugees are getting," said Mui, "are that they are not really welcome in this country. I would hope that more established Asian Americans would help let these people know that they do have a place in our society, and that they do have rights as legal residents of this country."



Photo by Patty Honda

Bill Hosokawa addresses PANA participants. At left is Malio Sakata of Argentina.

## Hiroshima flame used in L.A. rites

by J.K. Yamamoto

LOS ANGELES—A candle-lighting ceremony using a flame brought last year from Hiroshima's Peace Park highlighted a Hiroshima-Nagasaki commemoration held August 3 at Noguchi Plaza.

Representatives of churches, anti-nuclear groups and other community organizations lit candles and paid silent homage to those who died in the 1945 atomic

bombings. The flame was presented by Rev. Seiko Asahi of Koyasan Temple, where the flame is being kept.

City councilman Mike Woo announced that the L.A. City Council had passed a resolution backing the plans of Asian Pacific Americans for Nuclear Awareness (APANA) to find a permanent home for the flame. "It's important for us to build bridges be-

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Photo by Sachi Yamamoto

Rev. Seiko Asahi of Koyasan Temple and Judy Imai of APANA light candles from the Hiroshima Peace Flame during August 3 ceremony.

## Pan American Nikkei meet in Brazil

by Harry Honda

SAO PAULO, Brazil—A Peruvian Nisei, Enrique Goto, summarized the third PANA (Pan American Nikkei Assn.) convention with three words—"Cada es mejor—each one's better."

Close to 500 were registered; the 160 from the U.S. was the highest number yet. More Sansei and Yonsei participated, leading many to feel PANA is taking root.

Keynote at the convention theme—Americanism (integration) of Nikkei in the Americas—was the host nation's Senator Fernando Henrique Cardoso, a world renowned sociologist and professor and a leading candidate for the Brazilian presidency.

"Each [ethnic] group has contributed its own cultural dynamics to make Brazil what it is today," he said at the Hilton Hotel's convention center, where the gathering was held July 25-28.

Cardoso, who noted that "Nikkei" was a new expression for him, said that the Japanese Brazilians showed by example that they could retain their cultural traditions and still be Brazilians. In addition, they have made important

contributions to the economy, he said, citing as examples their farming know-how and products.

"The Japanese were different, but lucky for us in Brazil," Cardoso continued, "they maintained their culture. Today, we know assimilation does not mean erasing one's own culture. The same feeling is appreciated by the blacks here."

Reports of the history and integration of Nikkei in their respective countries were given by Irma Kudaka, Argentina; Gen. Armando Yoshida, Bolivia; Cassandra Kobayashi, Canada; and Bill Hosokawa, U.S.

Argentine Nikkei (about 65% of them Okinawan), reported Kudaka, arrived soon after WWI, although most arrived after 1929. When WW2 squelched the idea of returning to Japan, Argentinian settlers went into the dry cleaning and flower shop businesses in the rural communities, while some engaged in the import-export businesses in the cities, she said.

Yoshida reported that while no complete survey of Bolivian Nikkei has been attempted, the first

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## Community Affairs

### Women's journal seeks graphics

OAKLAND, Calif.—Asian Women United is soliciting photographs and graphics by and/or about Asian American women for its forthcoming anthology to be published early next year, announced Judy Yung, director of the Asian Women in America Book Project.

The anthology, funded by a one-year grant from the Dept. of Education's Women's Educational Equity Act Program, will include essays, oral histories, and creative writings. "We're really pleased by the amount and quality of written materials on Asian American women that we have received thus far," said Yung. "We're now ready to consider photos and graphics to go with these pieces."

Photographers and artists are asked to submit works that will complement the subjects to be covered in the anthology: tradi-

tional culture and values, early immigrants, impact of war, economic roles, family relationships, alienation and identity, and community and political involvement. Those interested in doing freelance work with the project may also submit sample works.

Contributors will be paid for their work. Slides or photocopies of original works should be sent to Asian Women United, 3538 Telegraph Ave., Oakland, CA 94609, by August 30. Contact Yung or Diane Wong at (415) 547-3258.

### Yanehiro to speak at conference

OAKLAND, Calif.—Jan Yanehiro, co-host of KPIX-TV's "Evening Magazine," will be the luncheon speaker for a Bay Area-wide women's conference, "Japanese American Women in Transition: A Time for Change and Growth," to be held September 21 at Laney College, 900 Fallon St.

Prior to joining KPIX, Yanehiro was public affairs director and news reporter at KFRC radio from 1972-76, a pioneer Japanese American woman in the field. She received the Ohio State Award for her weekly syndicated feminist radio program "Equal Time."

But she is most noted for her work on "Evening Magazine," having been with the show continuously since its debut in 1976. While working on the show, she has interviewed people around the world, from celebrities to barefoot doctors in a Chinese commune.

SAN DIEGO—The House of Japan, a member of the House of Pacific Relations, hosts the Vista Buddhist Temple Taiko group and the Bando Mitsubishi folk dancers on Japan Day, Sept. 9, 1:30-4 p.m., at Balboa Park. Exhibits and demonstrations of Japanese calligraphy and bunkei art will be displayed. Info: Paul Hoshi, 234-0376.

SAN JOSE—All are invited to Wesley United Methodist Church's annual Aki Matsuri Japanese Fall Festival/Bazaar, Sept. 7, 3-7:30 p.m., in Japantown at 566 N. 5th St. An array of food, including sushi, sashimi, teriyaki, manju and yakisoba will be available as well as farm-fresh produce, handmade crafts and games offering prizes. Boxed chicken teriyaki dinner tickets

are available for \$4.50 from church members or by calling the church, (408) 295-0367.

CULVER CITY, Calif.—The East-West Toastmistress Club meets Aug. 21, 7:30 p.m., at Mercury Savings, 2920 Sepulveda, West L.A. The WLA JACL Auxiliary will be guests at this meeting, which will deal with improvement of communication skills, leadership and organizational techniques, and gaining self-confidence. Info: 398-2124.

LOS ANGELES—T.H.E. Clinic for Women, Inc., holds its 7th annual Children's Day on Sept. 7, 9 a.m.-2 p.m. Free health services and goodies (balloons, posters, etc.) for children 4-17 years old will be offered. Health services include TB skin testing, immunization, school physicals (by appointment only), eye and dental screening, and health education materials. The clinic is at 3860 W. Martin Luther King Blvd., near Crenshaw Shopping Center. A bilingual staff will provide Japanese translation.

In 1984, the United Nations Assn. of San Francisco honored Yanehiro with the Eleanor Roosevelt Humanitarian Award for her contribution to focusing media attention on international affairs.

She maintains an active interest in the community, volunteering much of her free time to charitable organizations. She is a member of JACL as well as American Women in Radio and Television, Women in Communications, and the National Academy of Television Arts and Sciences.

Women are invited to hear Yanehiro speak and to participate in the conference's various workshops. Cost is \$15 (lunch included) until September, \$20 thereafter. Checks made payable to Women's Concerns Committee JACL may be mailed to Alice Nakahata, 148 Woodbine Dr., Mill Valley, CA 94941. Call Lia Shigemura, (415) 921-5225 for more information.

### Board nominees for LEC sought

SEATTLE—August 31 is the deadline for nominations by mail for the three at-large positions on the Legislative Education Committee (LEC) board of directors, reminds LEC chair Minoru Yasui. The lobbying arm of JACL is responsible for major fundraising and the implementing of legislative strategies for passage of redress bills by Congress.


Any organizations or individuals wishing to nominate a candidate for the LEC fall election are asked to request a nomination form from LEC nominations chair Cherry Kinoshita, 3520 S. Thistle, Seattle, WA 98118; completed forms are to be returned to the same address.

If the candidate's name and information regarding his/her (1) redress background, (2) fundraising experience, (3) community service and (4) relevant personal background are submitted by the August 31 deadline, the candidate's signed statement can be submitted after that date.

The three at-large board members whose terms expire this year are Yasui, David Nikaido and James Tsujimura. The JACL representatives to the LEC board, whose terms also end this year, are Yosh Nakashima and Kaz Mayeda.

For further information, call Kinoshita at (206) 721-0717.

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## Prewar Issei, Nisei newspapers topic of L.A. conference

LOS ANGELES — Controversy and memories are sure to be conspicuous ingredients of an unprecedented gathering of Issei, Nisei, Kibei and Japanese scholars and journalists, according to Yuji Ichioka, principal organizer of the symposium "Coming of Age in the Thirties: The Nisei and the Japanese Immigrant Press."

Among the participants in the symposium, set for September 14-15 at the Japanese American Cultural and Community Center (244 S. San Pedro St.), are Yori Wada, University of California regent; Togo Tanaka, director of the Federal Reserve Bank of San Francisco; Frank Miyamoto, professor emeritus at University of Washington's department of sociology; labor organizer Karl Yoneda; retired Denver Post editorial director Bill Hosokawa; and former Playboy picture editor Vince Tajiri.

Formal papers presented at the conference will place emphasis on the Nisei "coming of age" in the 1930s, a period enlivened by widely differing opinions on such issues as the rise of Japanese militarism

and the invasion of China, the Depression, the upsurge of organized labor and the "Nisei mondai (issue)."

The Japanese contingent of scholars is led by Norio Tamura, specialist in communication studies at Tokyo Keizai University and a visiting scholar at UCLA's Asian American Studies Center (AASC).

Included in the program is a discussion about Nisei writers. Participating writers include Hisaye Yamamoto DeSoto, Mary Korenaga Sutow, Mary (Mollie Oyama) Mittwer, and James Omura. Physician-poet Yasuo Sasaki will chair the panel. A reading by Pacific Asian American Women Writers West of works written or published in the 1930s will follow.

Scholars taking part in the symposium are sociologist Harry Kitano, researcher Yasuo Sakata, lecturer Jerrold Takahashi, historian Arthur Hansen, anthropologist James Hirabayashi, and historian Gary Okihiro.

Writers and journalists attending include Jin Konomi, Howard Imazeki, Masamori Kojima, Dyke Miyagawa, Joe Oyama, Harry Honda, Seizo Oka, and Richard Kenmotsu. Tamotsu Shibutani, author of *The Derelicts of Company K*, will monitor the sessions.

## PANA

Continued from Page 1

Issei came from Peru around 1910 and most Nisei have non-Japanese Bolivian mothers. In Bolivia, the primary Nikkei contribution has been in farming, though some Nikkei are now in the cities and engaged in business, he reported.

Kobayashi and Hosokawa discussed the redress efforts in their respective countries. Kobayashi noted that the National Assn. of Japanese Canadians is now spearheading efforts to seek redress from the Canadian government. Their demands include: (1) an official acknowledgement of the injustices committed against some 22,000 Japanese Canadians; (2) the start of compensation negotiations; and (3) a review of the War Measures Act, which was invoked in 1942 to remove Nikkei from their homes.

The symposium is sponsored by AASC and JACCC. Funding was provided by the Toyota Foundation, California Council for the Humanities, and Times Mirror Co. For more information, contact Yuji Ichioka at (213) 825-8420.

Hosokawa said that although there was no controversy over asking the U.S. government for an apology, there were two stands regarding redress: those who seek financial compensation and those who don't because there can be no monetary value affixed to the experience JAs were forced to undergo. His report also mentioned the *coram nobis* cases of Gordon Hirabayashi, Min Yasui and Fred Korematsu.

Acknowledging the progress of Brazilian Nikkei, Hosokawa concluded by saying that the U.S. contingent was in Sao Paulo to learn from the Brazilian experience and that he hoped the U.S. Nikkei could achieve the same level of acceptance.

Malio Sakata, an official of the Argentina Central Nikkei Assn., assumed the task of hosting the next PANA convention in Buenos Aires in 1987. A \$4,000 budget (in U.S. dollars) was approved to cover convention-related communications.

Across town, the Miss Colonia-Miss Nikkei International contest was being staged. 1984-85 Miss Nisei Week Tamlyn Tomita of Los Angeles was crowned Miss Nikkei International.

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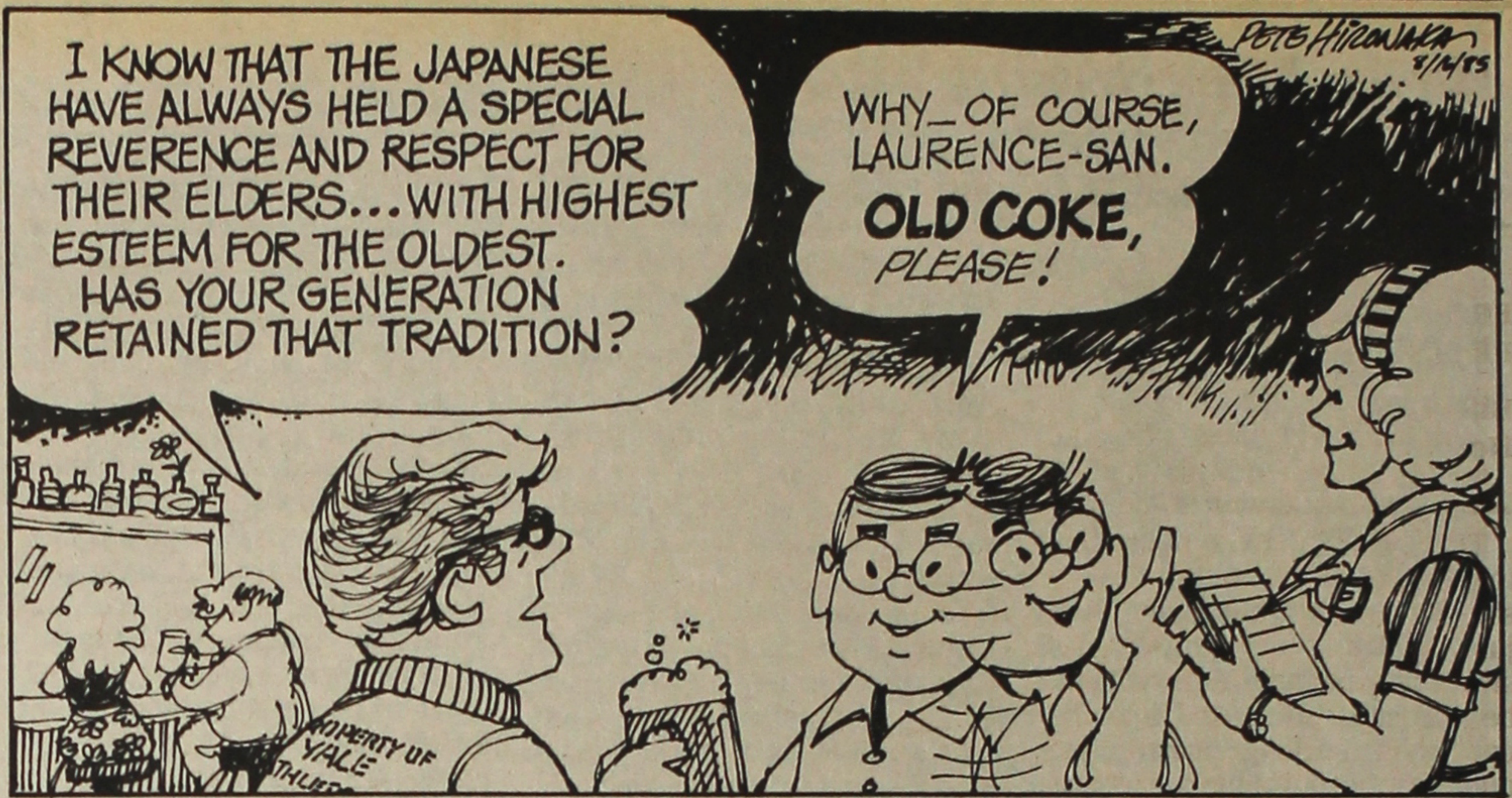
risk. One cannot win, or have the chance of winning, without incurring the risk of losing. One can avoid the risk of losing by not committing oneself, which then means that one also has no chance of winning, of succeeding. Thus, in measuring the win-loss values, one must consider the goal. Is the goal important enough to risk, the inescapable risk, of defeat?

WE'VE HAD OCCASION to mention the subject before in this column: the cultural "hang-up" that AJA's, and Nisei in particular, have about "losing." Since childhood we've been so indoctrinated with the *haji* of losing—whether it be in the sphere of academics, sports, business, etc.—that we're unwilling to take risks, to commit ourselves, to step forth. Whatever we undertook, we "had to win" or else we were reluctant to get involved. Having experienced life's hard knocks, hopefully we've learned a few things—particularly from those all-too-frequent defeats. Hopefully, we've matured.

NO ONE LIKES to lose, of course. But losing is always a

THERE ARE SOME goals in life that deserve all-out effort, all-out commitment, notwithstanding seemingly difficult odds. There are some goals, some principles, in life that are so important that one cannot afford not to take the risk of losing. And, yes, each of us have faced up to a situation where the odds were so much against us that defeat seemed inevitable, but the goal, the principle, was so important that we were prepared to meet possible loss. With dignity.

SINCE LOSING IS an inescapable risk of any effort, it becomes most important *how* one loses. Did we go all out, give it our best shots? If, in the aftermath of loss, we can answer "yes" to this



query, then we can have peace of mind, be satisfied that we did our best. And accept the loss, with dignity. On the other hand, if we failed to put forth effort, failed to get involved, and suffer defeat, the harsh verdict is that we've "defeated ourselves." And that's a harsh verdict to accept.

That, in our minds, is the greatest *haji* of all.

THERE MAY BE some goals with which some of us may not entirely agree. Particularly is

this so where the goal has been forged by a group decision. There may be segments of the goal with which one disagrees while concurring with the motivation behind it. But if we waited until everyone agreed with every facet of a particular goal, nothing would ever get done. And so, in the spirit of collegiality—to serve the overall common good—we accept. And support.

At other times, one may disagree with the consensus decision

of the group, even while acknowledging the justness of the objective underlying that decision. In such a situation, the question that such individual must pose to himself/herself is: "Is defeat better than attainment of that goal?"

THESE ARE SOME thoughts we pass along to you, for they represent many of the troublesome concepts I've agonized over. We are, of course, referring to one subject. Redress.

# 'Hadashi no Gen'

by J.K. Yamamoto

Because of the 40th anniversary of the bombing of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, the media have been focusing on those events like never before. In interview after interview, editorial after editorial, the overall message has been that using the bomb was regrettable but unavoidable.

Since few journalists question the argument that the sole purpose of the bombings was to end the war, many questions are left unexplored: Would Japan have surrendered even without being atom bombed? Were two cities bombed in order to test the two types of bombs (one uranium, one plutonium)? Did the U.S. want to show Russia that it had the bomb and was willing to use it?

The human suffering inflicted by the bomb is glossed over, giving the impression that it was like an ordinary bomb, only bigger. The grim aftermath—people with melted skin hanging like sheets, or with shards of glass protruding from every part of their bodies—is well documented in drawings by eyewitnesses and in photographs,

but is virtually unknown in this country.

To anyone familiar with the real thing, the 1983 TV-movie "The Day After," which some reviewers described as "graphic," was laughable. The "survivors" shown in that film looked like they had escaped a mudslide or a brush fire, but certainly not a nuclear holocaust. And to show people being vaporized, the film used a cheap trick—simply making people glow—a far cry from seeing someone literally melt before your eyes.

"Pika-don," a short animated film produced in Japan, can truly be described as graphic. It shows the horrifying effects of the bomb on people who were closest to the blast. In one scene, a hand reaches out from the rubble, waving for help. When someone grasps it, it comes off at the wrist.

Shocking the audience is not enough, however. To fully appreciate the impact of the bomb, we must see the people who were bombed as living, thinking human beings, not just as pathetic victims. To that end, "Hadashi no Gen" ("Barefoot Gen"), another

animated film from Japan, is just what is needed.

The film is based on a cartoon series by Keiji Nakazawa, who was a 7-year-old living in Hiroshima when the bomb was dropped. First serialized in a children's magazine and later published in book form, "Gen" is the story of young Gen Nagaoka and his family. After experiencing the death and destruction of the bomb, Gen must struggle for survival in a defeated country where food, medicine and other necessities are in short supply.

Surprisingly for a cartoon, "Gen" is deeply affecting. The reader experiences with Gen the tragedy of the war, the anger at both the Japanese militarists and the conquering Americans, the determination to survive no matter what.

Two of the seven volumes of "Gen" have been translated into English, under the title "Barefoot Gen," by a volunteer group called Project Gen. Probably due to lack of funds, the other volumes remain untranslated.

Unlike the "Gen" books, which go from the last weeks of the war to the postwar Occupation, the film covers a shorter period before, during and after the bomb, eliminating several characters and subplots in the process. Still, the essential message is conveyed, and the horror of the bomb is shown more strongly than on the printed page.

The film, with English subtitles added, made its U.S. debut before a capacity crowd of over 300 at L.A.'s Higashi Honganji on August 4 in a program sponsored by Asian Americans for Nuclear Disarmament. It needs to be shown more widely—on American television, if possible—to give both children and adults a taste of nuclear war.

"Gen" is made all the more important by the likelihood that a live-action movie that does the subject justice is a long time coming—if one is ever made at all.

# JACKSON

Continued from Front Page

mayor of Hiroshima:

"No more Hiroshimas! Let us unite together so that we will never repeat the mistake. Today, on the occasion of the 40th anniversary of the atomic bomb, we pray for the repose of the souls of the victims, and pledge ourselves that we refuse any kind of nuclear weapons to enter Hiroshima and we make an effort toward achieving world peace."

Representatives from Physicians for Social Responsibility, Friends of Hibakusha and S.F. Nuclear Weapons Freeze Campaign echoed Araki's message, calling for an end to the nuclear arms race.

The program also focused on the living legacy of the Hiroshima and Nagasaki bombings—the *hibakusha*, survivors of the atomic bomb. Friends of Hibakusha estimates there are 1,000 Japanese American survivors who, like Dairiki, continue to suffer the physical and psychological effects of the bombings.

Lyle Wing, coordinator of the Hiroshima/Nagasaki Commemoration Committee, commented on the courage and determination of the *hibakusha*. "Although the A-bomb survivors have traveled the path alone, shouldering the burden of surviving the A-bomb by themselves...it is the survivors who most eloquently and passionately issue the appeal—no more Hiroshimas, no more Nagasakis."

Responding to the argument that the atomic bomb helped end the war faster, thereby saving millions of lives, Wing countered, "We know it was absolutely crucial to defeat the fascists in World War II, but there was absolutely no justification whatsoever for the dropping of the atomic bombs."

"There is an insidious racism that surrounds the atomic bomb-

ing...where Asian people were the victims of this act of genocide...where Asian people were considered expendable."

The highlight of the evening's program was a speech by the Rev. Jesse Jackson. He was introduced by Donna Kotake, a founding member of BAAND and president of Golden Gate JACL, as "a man who stands for justice at home and peace abroad."

Jackson's impassioned speech began by calling August 6, 1945 "the day the single greatest crime in world history was committed... We look back with a sense of horror, and some of us look back with a sense of regret. The innocent never had a chance. There was no hiding place. Only under the rules of war is it not called mass murder, is it not called genocide?"

"The bombs were not necessary for military surrender," he declared. "We, in fact, used the dropping of those bombs to fulfill our own sickness about the 'yellow peril.' The same forces that put Japanese in concentration camps in California put them in crematoriums in Japan. It must never happen again. Our generation must learn. We must be intolerant of fascism and racism."

Jackson's warning of the growing danger of nuclear destruction and his criticisms of U.S. and Soviet nuclear proliferation brought rounds of applause from the crowd. "Forty years ago there were three bombs. Today there are 50,000. Nuclear annihilation is more possible, more likely... The nuclear buildup is too dangerous, too costly and too likely to take place."

Before leading a candlelight procession to a nearby church, Jackson urged the racially mixed audience to continue to work together for "humane rights at home and human rights abroad... let us walk together and fight for peace in our day."

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# pacific citizen

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## This Memory Cuts Deep

FROM THE  
FRYING PAN:

Bill  
Hosokawa



The age of 6 may be too tender to own a pocket knife but Grandson Steve would not agree. We, just the two of us, went to see a swimming meet the other day and he was scarcely belted into the car when, smiling broadly, he pulled a knife out of his pocket and displayed it for me.

I had never seen it before. It was a handsome red Swiss army knife with two blades.

"Hey, oh wow, where did you get that?" I asked in the exaggerated tone adults for some reason use when talking to little kids.

"My Dad bought it for me at the sporting goods store."

"Wow," I said. "That's neat-o. But aren't you too little to have a real knife?"

"Naw," Steve replied. "I'll be careful with it."

"I know you will," I said. "But never forget that a pocket knife

can be dangerous. It's a tool to cut wood and things, and not to cut other people or..."

"Or yourself," he broke in.

I was pleased. Steve had been briefed adequately before being entrusted with what may be the first symbol of the transition from babyhood to boyhood.

Over the years I've owned dozens of pocket knives, including Boy Scout knives that had a built-in can opener-screwdriver, an awl and, if I remember correctly, a corkscrew in addition to a long blade and a short one. If I did not lose them, they became dull and refused to keep an edge, or they rusted, or the blade snapped off, and the knives just disappeared. But I treasured each of them, and I could understand Steve's delight at owning his first.

Two of Steve's cousins, Matt and Jon, were swimming in the meet. Matt has grown into a lean, muscular 13-year-old who swims like a seal. Jon is a couple of years younger and it is obvious that at his current stage of development his chief talents lie in areas other than the pool, but he gives swimming a good try.

Each was entered in three or four or maybe five events if you

include the relay. Matt's big race was the 100-meter freestyle in which he faced formidable competition. He was trailing after the first lap but he made a good turn and, stroking powerfully, he gained the lead. At the end he was pulling away and won handily. Jon did well too, placing in each of his races although not in as spectacular a fashion as his brother.

The meet dragged on and Steve and I had to leave before it was over. We missed the relay events entirely, but we knew that Matt and Jon had swum some good races. They will continue to practice and before the summer is over their form and strength will improve and they will win many more races.

Steve is taking swimming lessons, too. It is too early yet to know whether he will be good enough to compete but that really doesn't matter. The important thing is that he enjoy the water. He was quiet as we drove home, thinking perhaps of swimming but more likely fingering with pleasure the red knife in his pocket.

The grandchildren are growing up, and in their experiences I see a repetition of the childhood pleasure my own youngsters enjoyed. And sometimes, as when I first saw Steve's knife, I recalled my own boyhood so long, long ago.

## FLAME

Continued from Page 1

tween Los Angeles and Hiroshima to show the growing support for efforts to bring...an end for the prospect of nuclear war," he said.

Kaz Suyeishi of Committee of Atomic Bomb Survivors (CABS) said Hiroshima-Nagasaki *hibakusha* (a-bomb survivors) were not the only such victims in the U.S. "Over 10 years ago we thought we are the only *hibakusha* in this country. But today [there are] over 1 million...such as former soldiers who happened to be at the bomb testing. The wind blew to another state—those citizens become also *hibakusha*. They are also suffering just like we are."

She had difficulty holding back tears as she remembered the bombing, but added that she was partly crying for joy. "I feel so strong because it's not only us... all of you too are concerned about the world peace."

Jackie Goldberg of the L.A. School Board spoke of the nuclear issues curriculum she has been promoting. "For many young people in high school today, the Vietnam War is ancient history, much less the history of an event that occurred 40 years ago... Today, most young people are very aware, however, of the fear and the dangers of nuclear war.

"But they are not aware that there is a role that young people as well as adults can play in saying that we should have no more Hiroshimas... The way that you can deal with this... is to say that there has to be something other than armed conflict... to teach children ways to resolve conflict in our lives that don't involve violence, so that we can become a nation that does that."

"Many people would rather not

think of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, would rather not remember the past," said Kent Wong of APANA. "And yet Hiroshima and Nagasaki are very close indeed... when Ronald Reagan... renames weapons of mass destruction 'The Peacekeeper,' weapons that make the Hiroshima and Nagasaki atomic bombs look miniscule by comparison.

"Hiroshima and Nagasaki are very close when we have men in positions of power in this country who plan on winning a nuclear war, who speak of casualties in the tens of millions as 'acceptable.'"

Citing the precedents of the Japan bombings and the present displacement of South Pacific islanders in order to use their islands as nuclear testing ranges, Wong declared that "people of color have a special role to play in the peace movement."

Also featured were a poetry reading by actress Rosalind Chao, a litany by Rev. Wes Yamaka of Sage Methodist Church, a performance by West Covina Taiko, and solidarity statements from Interfaith Center to Reverse the Arms Race and Hollywood Women's Coalition, which co-sponsored the event with APANA and CABS.

Emily Levine of Hollywood Women's Coalition said, "When I heard that APANA had decided this year to make this vigil not just for the Asian community but for the whole Los Angeles community, I was very deeply moved to have accomplished that much understanding of our mutual concern."

The program was part of "Imagine There's a Future," a month-long, citywide series of exhibits, performances, symposiums, and other activities remembering Hiroshima and Nagasaki and protesting the arms race.

## 'Beacon Hill': A Seattle Sansei Story

by J.K. Yamamoto

At first, the idea of filming a period piece about the '70s may seem a little premature. But if one were to go back 12 years, one would indeed find a different era. The "Black Power" movement had inspired other minorities, Asians included, to become militant; the Vietnam War was still going on; the drug scene and "generation gap" of the late '60s were continuing into the '70s.

It is this period that filmmakers Ken Mochizuki, Dean Hayasaka and William Satake Blauvelt hoped to capture in "Beacon Hill Boys," a story that takes place in 1973. Mochizuki and co-stars Chris Wong, Gregg Hashimoto and Ed Locke portray restless Sansei who emulate Black mannerisms and cruise the streets of Seattle by night.

Shot last year, the film premiered at Seattle's Nippon Kan Theater in January, drawing well over 1,000 viewers. It has since been screened at various film festivals and community events in Olympia, Portland, Sacramento, Los Angeles and New York.

Those familiar with the Seattle Nikkei community will readily recognize many of the locales and people that appear in the film, but Mochizuki has found that a lot of people can relate to it wherever it is shown.

### Based on Real Life

The story is derived from Mochizuki's own experiences during that period. "It's all fiction—no body's life is that interesting," he hastens to add. "I took a lot of things I heard of happening to other people, or made composites of different people put into one character."

The film, which includes a good deal of profanity and references



International Examiner photo

A scene from "Beacon Hill Boys." From left: Chris Wong, Gregg Hashimoto, Ed Locke, Harry Fujita and Ken Mochizuki.

to drugs, brings varied reactions, says Mochizuki. "Some people said it ain't nothing compared to what really happened. Some people were totally shocked by it, especially the Nisei."

"Beacon Hill Boys" began as a manuscript for a novel. Hayasaka and Blauvelt, both film students at Evergreen State College, heard about Mochizuki's story and approached him with the idea of turning it into a film.

"At first I wasn't too crazy about it," recalls Mochizuki. "But they kept working on me, and slowly condensed the whole 300 pages' worth of double-spaced typewritten manuscript into a 30-minute screenplay... And from then on, it's history."

### Community Support

That history included two months of shooting, a \$10,000 bud-

get, and a tremendous amount of support from the community. "All the talent, cast and crew, were all volunteer," said Hayasaka. "The locations were all donated." Aside from the four leads and two other actors, the cast had little or no acting experience. Equipment came from Evergreen or from Kingstreet Media, a Seattle-based Asian American media collective.

The project received a big boost when Mochizuki and Hayasaka were awarded a \$5,000 JACL Henry and Chiyo Kuwahara Memorial Award. That and other financial support not only allowed the film to be completed but also made possible the filming of additional scenes which filled in gaps in the action and expanded the film's length to 42 minutes.

Many of the film's closing credits are devoted to thanking the

many individuals and organizations who took part in the project.

### Odd Hours

Even with the funding, cast and crew worked long, hard hours. When shooting at locations such as Imperial Lanes bowling alley, "We were there during their off hours... 2 a.m. to 8 a.m.," said Hayasaka. "So we had to make kind of a priority list—shoot all the extras first, let them go home, and then shoot the main actors, let them go home."

Thus, in some cases Mochizuki would be talking into empty air, the other cast members having long since gone home. The scene would be intercut with previously shot footage, simulating an actual conversation.

Shooting at night was further necessitated by the fact that cast members had jobs or went to school in the daytime. Actors had to rehearse carefully so as to avoid doing additional takes.

### A '70s Atmosphere

The '70s feel is created by early Motown hits, the long hair and dress styles of the actors, and the cars they drive. But care had to be taken to eliminate anachronisms, Mochizuki said. "Things like taking video games out of the bowling alley" and getting pinball machines "with the old kind of counters instead of the digital types." And when shooting outdoors, "you

had to make sure no new model cars came over the top of the hill."

One of the unique aspects of "Beacon Hill Boys," says Blauvelt, is that "it's from a Sansei perspective, which is why certain things might disturb certain people... the language, the relationship between the generations."

In a scene at the dinner table, the Issei grandmother (Tama Tokuda) speaks only in Japanese. "We didn't use subtitles... because it's from the Sansei's perspective. He doesn't understand Japanese. We want the audience to feel the same, through his eyes."

This year, it's Blauvelt's turn to receive the Kuwahara Memorial Scholarship for Creative Arts. He will use it for a 90-minute comedy-drama, also set in Seattle, about an Asian American couple.

The three continue their work with Kingsreet, with Mochizuki and Blauvelt also donating their services to the Northwest Asian American newspaper, International Examiner.

"Beacon Hill Boys" has won an award for best dramatic short film at the Best of the Northwest film competition in Seattle and was one of the finalists in the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences Student Film Awards in Portland.

The film will continue to reach new audiences this fall when it goes on a tour coordinated by Asian Cinevision in New York.

## Chapter Pulse

### Mid-Columbia

HOOD RIVER, Ore.—Recipients of chapter scholarships were recognized at a graduation banquet held June 8 at Sundown Restaurant. Hood River County School District superintendent Frank Lariza was guest speaker. Those honored were: Stephanie Ann Gale, Teresa Suzanne Tyrrell, Michael D. Lay and Monique Tam Kennard, Hood River Valley H.S.;

Robin Marie Brockman, Eric Andrew Williams, and Lenora Rae Holcomb, Dalles H.S.; and Natalie R. Wall, Wahtonka H.S.

### Monterey Peninsula

MONTEREY, Calif.—The annual Tri-County Picnic will be hosted by the chapter on Aug. 18, 11 a.m.-3:30 p.m., at Dennis the Menace Park Youth Center. In the past, the picnic has attracted around 180

senior citizens from Morgan Hill, Gilroy, Watsonville, Salinas, and Monterey. This year around 200 are expected to attend.

### West Los Angeles

LOS ANGELES—A steak dinner and Las Vegas night will be held Aug. 24 at West L.A. Buddhist Church, 2003 Corinth, at 5:30 p.m. The \$12 admission buys a steak dinner prepared by the West L.A. Ladies Auxiliary and a chance for numerous cash and merchandise prizes. George Kanegai and Fred Miyata co-chair this event. Info: (213) 826-9805.

### West Valley

SAN JOSE—The Daruma Folk Festival will be held Aug. 17. Traditional music, costumes and cultural presentations are to be featured hourly starting at 10 a.m. at the Saratoga Lanes parking lot, Saratoga Ave. & Graves St. in the Westgate area. About 40 booths featuring Japanese arts, crafts and food along with presentations of minyo, taiko, classical dance, kendo, koto and shakuhachi are among the offerings. Proceeds from the festival will be used for the popular West Valley senior citizen program.

## Vets hold Hawaii reunion

by Frank Sakamoto

LAHAINA, Hawaii—The Maui Marriott hosted 1,495 veterans from Hawaii, the Mainland and Canada as the Nisei Vets gathered for a reunion on the Valley Isle in July. Featured were speeches by two distinguished Nisei vets, Sen. Daniel K. Inouye (D-Hawaii) and Hawaii governor George Ariyoshi.

Ariyoshi led a memorial service for those who gave their lives, stating, "These were people of great courage who stepped forward when their loyalty was questioned and proved them wrong. They knew full well what sacrifices would be involved, but still went ahead and did what was necessary for the sake of their children and all Americans."

Inouye stated that the Nisei vets could be proud to say that they have paid their dues. "They helped Hawaii achieve statehood and they are still fighting racism." He urged the vets to let their sons and daughters know what duty and sacrifice meant to all of them.

Inouye also mentioned the work of the 442nd Regimental Combat Team in the rescue of the "Lost Battalion," made up of Texans of the 1st Battalion, 141st Regiment, 36th Infantry Division. He announced that the Battle of the Lost Battalion will be selected by the Department of Defense as one of

the ten outstanding battles in U.S. military history, ranking with the Battle of Lexington. Inouye also recognized the special role of the Military Intelligence Service in shortening the Pacific War by at least six months.

Leonard Wilkerson, executive secretary of the 36th Infantry Division Association, commented on the reunion, "Some questioned the loyalty of the Japanese Americans and the Nisei soldiers proved them wrong. Some of us would not be here were it not for the 442nd boys, so we are very thankful to them. As a way of thanking them, the 442nd members were named Honorary Texans in recognition of the rescue of the Lost Battalion in the Vosges Mountains on Oct. 19, 1944."

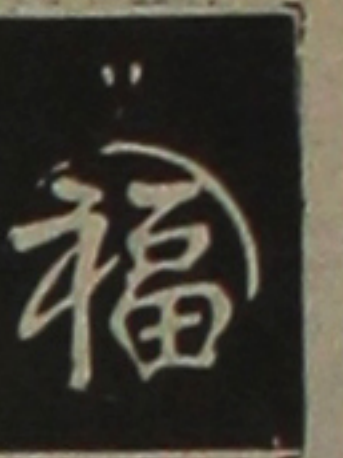
Wilkerson added, "Let us assure you that we of the 36th will do all we can to spread the story of the heroism of the Nisei vets."

The 1988 Nisei Vet Reunion will be hosted by Wilson Makabe in Reno, June 8-12. Makabe stated that the MGM Grand Hotel will be the headquarters and 1,000 rooms will be reserved at the \$60/night convention rate.

Zuke Matsui chaired the 1985 Maui reunion and was aided by I Company members: Kaz Takekawa, Bruno Yamada, Champ Suzuki, Mits Oshiro, Miram Doi, Hideo Matsumoto, Mino Suzumoto, and Terry Aratani.

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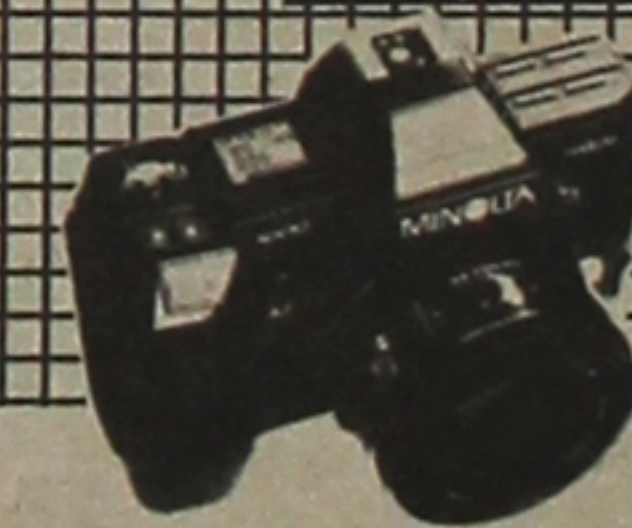


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