



# the Pacific Citizen

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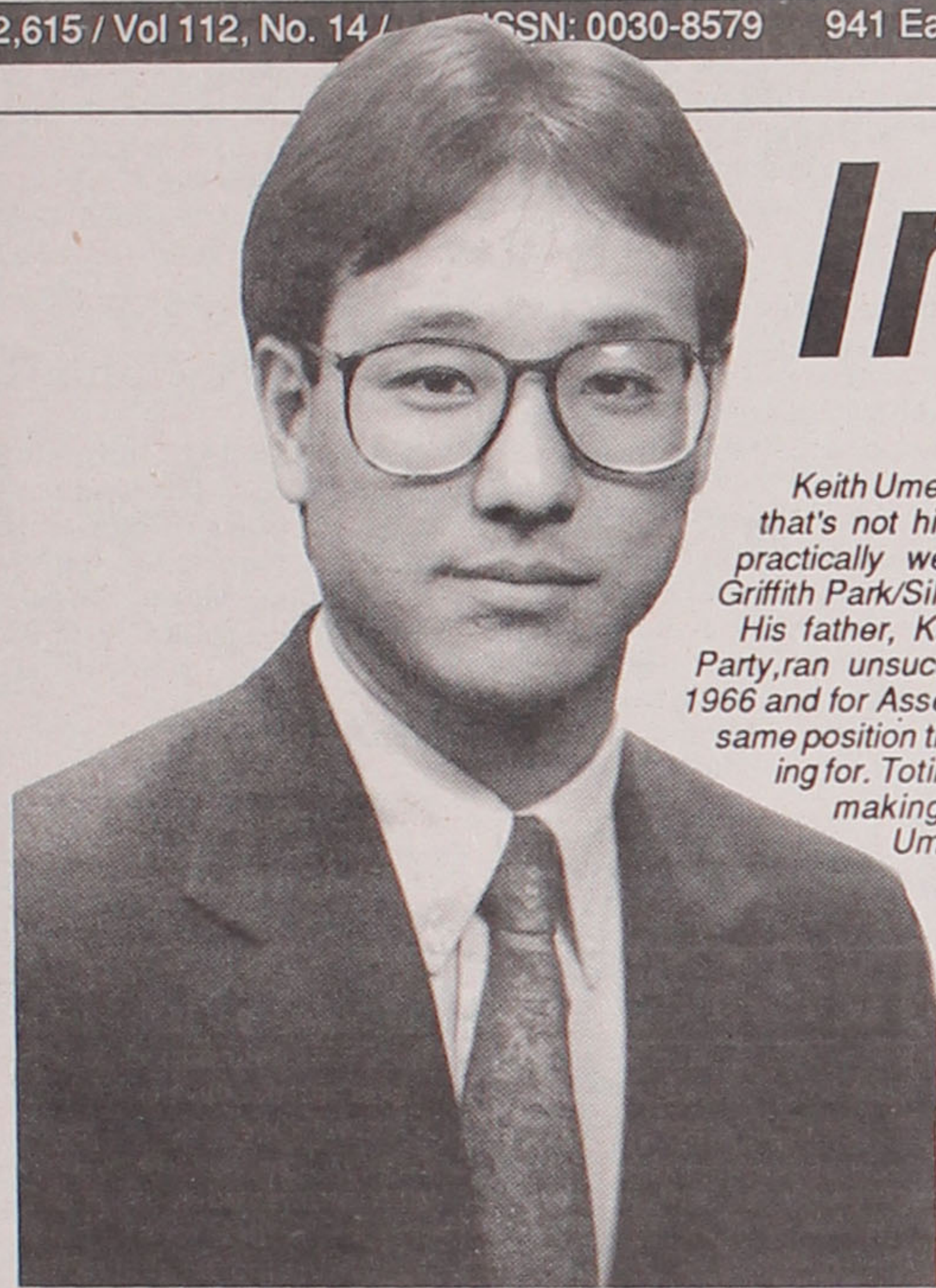
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941 East 3rd Street, Suite 200, Los Angeles, CA 90013

(213) 626-6936

Friday, April 12, 1991



## In the running

Keith Umemoto looks boyish enough to fit into the college scene, but that's not his milieu any more. The 35-year-old Sansei has been practically weaned on the backyard politics of the 46th District, the Griffith Park/Silverlake area of Los Angeles he calls turf.

His father, Kaz Umemoto, a veteran of the California Democratic Party, ran unsuccessfully for the State Senate in 1966 and for Assemblyman for the 46th District, the same position the younger Umemoto is now shooting for. Toting handbills, knocking on doors and making his pitch for his father, Keith Umemoto says he knew at an early age that was the kind of work and life he wanted for himself. By junior high school he was running for office. (He won.)

From that beginning, he went onto the University of California at Berkeley to obtain a degree in Asian American Studies in 1977. Later, he obtained his master's degree in social welfare from UCLA.

Community service came next—and is still a big part of Umemoto's political identity. He worked with the Little Tokyo Service Center as project director of a statewide high blood pressure project, then for the Los Angeles County Human Relations Commission assigned to ameliorate anti-Asian activities in the county. He served in a volunteer capacity as the 46th Assembly District Caucus chair of the State Central Committee. He was also the chief legislative consultant for Sen. Al Alquist of San Jose. Currently Umemoto is a senate budget consultant on health, human services and labor issues.

Still, he is a political novice at running for office. He remains confident, though, in his legislative background and frequently points to his sense of community service, his desire to help the people of the 46th District—not as an outsider—but as one who has been there—who has lived there, been educated there, and has worked there.

What is lacking in election experience, he hopes, may be overcome by knowledge of the area, its people, its problems and the understanding to arrive at solutions.

In the midst of a blurring campaign schedule, Umemoto got up early one day last week to squeeze in an interview with Pacific Citizen. Talking to people, he says, has nearly become a 24-hour job...

PC: Okay, let's get right to it. If elected how do you expect to make a difference in the 46th District?

Umemoto: I'll be someone who is going to really put together an agenda that meets the needs of the community. I see four top priorities: education—reassessing what the state invests its money in, making sure education is a priority. Seniors, of course, we are seeing

them adversely affected by some problems; they're victims of circumstances. They make such a contribution to California but some of their programs are first on the table to go. Third, I'd be looking at crime, one of the many problems we see in our budget system. We need to prevent crime activity. We've seen cutbacks in

See UMEMOTO/page 7

### Political profile

NAME: Keith Kazuo Umemoto

AGE: 35

BIRTH: Los Angeles

PARTY: Democrat

OFFICE: Running for 46th Assembly seat (Griffith Park/Silverlake area of Los Angeles) vacated by Mike Roos

ELECTION DATE: June 4

## Bill would increase hate crime penalties

SACRAMENTO—The penalties for hate crimes could get more severe if a bill makes its way through the California Legislature. That could happen as SB 98, which would strengthen both criminal and civil penalties for hate crimes, was approved by the California Senate Judiciary Committee last week.

The bill, sponsored by Lt. Gov. Leo McCarthy and introduced by Sen. Bill Lockyer, would double sentences from six months to one year for misdemeanor hate crimes, and add up to four years to sentences for felony hate crimes. In addition, the bill would allow for unlimited punitive damage awards in civil cases arising from crimes of hate.

"Hate crimes are among the most despicable crimes it is possible to experience—a crime that goes right to the heart of a victim's very identity," McCarthy said. "But when a



JOY MORIMOTO  
Testifies before committee

person is attacked because of who they are, whether they are African American or Jewish or gay or Asian American or Arab American or anything else, it is not just an attack on that person; it is an attack on every one of us."

Lockyer said the bill "will send a strong message to those who commit hate crimes that such behavior is unacceptable.

The bill has received support from JACL. Testifying at the April 2 hearing on the bill were Joy Morimoto, Northern California-Western regional director, Mike Sawamura, Sacramento Chapter, JACL, president, and Carol Hisatomi, Florin Chapter, JACL, president.

SB 98 has the support of district attorneys of Los Angeles, Sacramento and San Francisco and the sheriffs of Riverside and San Bernardino, the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, the Anti-Defamation League, the Lobby for Individual Freedom and Equality and the Mexican American Legal Defense and Education Fund.

CONVICTION: Denver man judged guilty of crimes against Japanese/page 7

## Sen. Simon forms Asian advisory group

CHICAGO—Sen. Paul Simon (D-Ill.) has named Asian American business and civic leaders to a committee that will advise him on key issues of concern to Illinois' growing Asian American communities.

Among the activities of the committee were three scheduled seminars on the new "investor visa" program, co-authored by Simon as part of immigration law reforms enacted late last year. The event brought together mayors, business leaders, local chamber of commerce officials and economic development specialists to learn how their communities can use the program to attract investors and create jobs in Illinois.

In addition, the advisory panel will host an Asian American issues conference on the "Chal-

lenges in the New Decade" in Chicago on the campus of Roosevelt University in Chicago, Saturday, June 1. Keynote speaker Simon will be joined by Asian American participants, including Joy Cheria, Equal Employment Opportunity commissioner, and Charles Wang, vice chairman of the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights. Cheria will discuss the "glass ceiling" problem of discrimination in the workplace and Wang will speak on "Civil Rights and Asian Americans in the 1990s." Simon chairs the Senate panel that oversees the Civil Rights Commission and most civil rights laws.

Community leaders will also meet to discuss common issues and share experiences with ways

See SIMON/page 3

LEGACY FUND CAMPAIGN  
How to reach the \$10 Million Goal

No. of Contributors	Amount of Contributors	Total
25	\$20,000	\$500,000
50	10,000	500,000
200	5,000	1,000,000
500	2,000	1,000,000
3,000	1,000	3,000,000
4,000	500	2,000,000
2,225	200	445,000
10,000		\$8,445,000

IT ADDS UP—Grayce Uyehara shows Legacy Fund progress.

## Legacy Fund: whys and hows

By HARRY HONDA  
Senior editor

VISALIA, Calif.—"If we want to tackle all the issues we want (to solve), the JACL Legacy Fund is certainly needed," challenged National JACL President Cressey Nakagawa during closing remarks at the March 23-25 NCWNP/CCDC/PSW Tri-District Conference at Visalia's Holiday Inn.

"We are not like the federal government (in disbursing funds). We're people-to-people (in gathering funds)—and that takes time," he commented on the nature of the legacy fund and the campaign which has been underway since the 1990

national convention at San Diego, where the chapter campaign goals were formalized.

With a \$10 million goal in the coming three years, Nakagawa reminded that with its attainment, only the interest would be used for programs. Assuming a seven percent return on the \$10 million and after the allocations to the chapters, special projects and a five percent sum back to the Fund, "you only have about \$350,000 for national programs each year," which heretofore were dependent on raising membership dues. There is no dues increase for this 1991-

See LEGACY/page 7

No. 2,615

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## the Pacific Citizen

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JACL-Blue Shield of California Group Health Trust  
1765 Sutter Street, San Francisco, California 94115

# Calendar

## Arizona

**Sunday, May 5, through Saturday, May 11**—Japan-Arizona Conference on Women's Issues, Crescent Hotel, Phoenix. Information: Global Interactions, Inc. 3332 W. Thomas Rd., Phoenix, Az 85017; 602/272-3438, FAX, 602/272-2260.

## Seattle

**Friday, April 26**—"After Long Silence," poetry reading by Tina Koyama, Arlene Naganawa and Mayumi Tsutakawa from "The Forbidden Stitch," North Seattle Community College, 9600 College Way N., North Star dining room, 7:30 to 9:30 p.m. \$3. Pre-register: 206/527-3705.

**Saturday, April 27**—Japanese Baptist Church's annual sukiyaki lunch, 11 a.m. to 2 p.m., dinner, 4 to 7 p.m., cultural program, 7 p.m. Tickets: \$6, adults, 4, seniors 70 and over and children 12 and under. Information: 206/622-7351.

**Through Sunday, June 30**—Wing Luke Asian Museum, History of Sagamiya Confectionery, 407 7th Ave. S. \$2.50, adults; \$1, students, seniors. Information: 206/623-5124.

**Wednesday, Aug. 21 through Saturday, Aug. 24**—Asian American Journalists Association National Convention, Sheraton Hotel & Towers, Seattle.

## Chicago

**Wednesday, May 2**—Kick-Off Celebration of Asian Heritage Month, noon to 1 p.m., Daley Plaza, Chicago. Cultural program. Information: 312/744-4479.

## Salt Lake City

**Saturday, April 20**—Mt. Olympus Chapter, JACL, annual Fund-a-Rama, 6:30 p.m., Central High School, 3031 South 200 East. Dinner tickets, \$6 per person. Baked goods, omanju and sushi for sale, games for children, raffle and bingo. Information: Carolyn Valentine, 801/561-3678.

## Washington, D.C.

**Tuesday, May 8**—U.S. Pan Asian American Chamber of Commerce and the Organization of Chinese American Women's 3rd annual Excellence 2000 Awards Banquet, Hyatt Regency Washington. Program: "Success Through Quality," "Economic Power: International and Domestic Success, An Asian American Perspective." Guests: Sen. Daniel K. Inouye, cellist Yo-Yo Ma, Wendy Gramm, chairwoman of Commodity Futures Exchange Commission, actor Dustin Nguyen, architect I.M. Pei and Kenji Yoshino, 1990 Rhodes scholar. Information: 202/296-9200 or FAX, 202/296-0023.

## California

### San Francisco area

**Friday, April 12, through Sunday, April 14, and Friday, April 19, through Sunday, April 21**—24th annual Cherry Blossom Festival, Japan Center, Post and Buchanan Streets, Japantown, San Francisco. Entertainment, cultural exhibits, food. Information: 415/563-2313.

**Saturday, April 13**—Tomodachi, University of California, Berkeley Japanese and Japanese-American Cultural Club, "Momotaro, The Peach Boy," cultural night, photo exhibit, demonstrations, displays. 6:30 p.m., International House, 2299 Piedmont Ave., Berkeley. Free. Information: Diane Nakagawa, 415/649-1736.

**Saturday, April 13**—Community Family Potluck, 5-8 p.m., San Mateo Buddhist Church, Social Hall, 2 South Claremont St., San Mateo. Information: JACL Community Center, 415/343-2793.

**Wednesday, April 17**—"The Japanese in California: Their Impact on the Formation of Race Relations," free public lecture, University of California, Berkeley, Maude Fife Room, 315 Wheeler Hall, 4 p.m. Sucheng Chang, professor of history and Asian American Studies, UC, Santa Barbara. Information: 415/642-3734.

**Sunday, May 5**—Nisei Widowed Group meeting, 2-4 p.m. New members welcome. Information: Elsie Uyeda Chung, 415/221-0268, or Yuri Moriwaki, 415/482-3280.

**Saturday, May 18, Sunday, May 19**—Berkeley Buddhist Church Satsuki Bazaar, 2121 Channing Way, Japanese American food, baked goods, book shop, crafts, raffle, silent auction. Saturday, 3-10 p.m.; Sunday, 11 a.m. to 9 p.m. Information: 415/841-1356.

### More redress workshops scheduled

Redress workshops in Denver, Salt Lake City, Fresno, San Diego and Orange County in California have been announced by the Department of Justice and the Office of Redress Administration.

Here is the workshop schedule:

- **Denver:** Wednesday, April 17, 7:30 to 10:30 p.m., Nisei Post #185, 2015 Market St.; Thursday, April 18, 2-5 p.m., Sakura Square, Tamai Tower, 1255 19th St.

- **Salt Lake City:** Friday, April 19, 4-7 p.m., Japanese Church of Christ, 268 W. 100 South St.

- **Fresno:** Wednesday, May 1, 3-7 p.m., Fresno Buddhist Church (annex), 1340 Kern St.

- **Garden Grove:** Thursday, May 2, Garden Grove Community Meeting Center, 11300 Stanford Ave.

- **San Diego:** Friday, May 3, 1-7 p.m., Holiday Inn, On-the-Bay (Coast Ballroom) 1355 North Harbor Drive.

Workshop participants are encouraged to bring any correspondence received from ORA and all documents relating to their redress claims.

### San Jose

**Friday, April 12**—Asian Law Alliance's 14th Anniversary Spring Event, San Jose Fairmont Hotel, 70 S. Market St., 6 p.m. Entertainment. Speaker: L.A. Councilman Michael Woo. Information: 408/287-9710.

**Sunday, April 14**—Yu-Ai Kai 12th annual benefit luncheon and fashion show, Red Lion Inn, San Jose. Tickets (\$35): Yu-Ai Kai office, 565 N. 5th St., San Jose 95112. Information: 408/294-2505.

**Saturday, April 20**—Nikkei Singles 2nd Invitational Golf Tournament, Tony Lema Golf Course, San Lenadro, dinner follows at Brass Putter Restaurant on course. Information: Susi Yawata, 415/465-3196; Tee Yoshiwara, 415/523-5205; Yuki Shibata, 415/352-3115.

**Saturday, April 20**—West Valley Chapter, JACL, bridge/bowling night, 6 p.m., chapter clubhouse, 1545 Teresita Dr., San Jose. Dinner: \$3, adults; \$2, children under 12. Information: Brett Uchiyama, 408/867-0255.

**Sunday, April 28**—Nikkei Matsuri/Benefit 8K Nihonmachi Run, 9 a.m., start/finish Jackson Street between 6th and 7th Sts., \$12 entry

fee. Information: Yu-Ai Kai, 565 N. 5th St., San Jose, 95112, 408/294-2505.

### Tule Lake

**Friday, Sept. 27, through Sunday, Sept. 29**—Tule Lake Pilgrimage. Tour of Tule Lake Campsite, Abalone Hill & Castle Rock tour Workshops. Memorial Service, cultural program. Information: San Francisco: Julie Hana, 415/221-2608, eve.; East Bay: Stephanie Miyahiro, 415/524-2624; San Jose: Tom Izu, 408/292-6938; Sacramento: Diane Tomoda, 916/443-6917.

### Marysville-Yuba City

**Friday, Sept. 27 through Sunday, Sept. 29**—Third Yuba, Sutter Butte and Colusa Counties Nikkei Reunion. Newsletter, registration information: Mazie Sasaki, 938 Chestnut St., Yuba City, 95991.

### Sacramento

**Saturday, April 20**—Off-Broadway Dance Club dinner-dance, 6-11 p.m., Red Lion Hotel, 2001 Point West Way; Fred Morgan, Famous Foursome, dance band. Information: Bill Kashiwagi, 916/635-2815 or 916/427-2960. Tickets not sold at door.

**Saturday, April 20**—"Financial Dynamics of Retirement," 10 a.m., Holiday Inn Holiday. Special guest speaker: Sherwood Harris, vice president, Pioneer Group of Boston. Information, reservation: 916/481-8492.

### Watsonville

**Wednesday, April 17**—Stanford University's Asian American Speakers Series: "Japanese American Amerasian Multi-Ethnic Identity," Velina Hasu Houston, 8 p.m., Asian American Activities Center, Old Union Clubhouse. Information: Don Fujino, 415/497-6250 or Ed Morimoto, 415/497-1172.

**Wednesday, April 24**—Stanford University's Asian American Speaker Series: "Hate Crime on the Rise?," Dr. Alan Seidd, Dennis Hayashi, Chuong Chung, 8 p.m., Asian American Activities Center, Old Union Clubhouse. Information: Don Fujino, 415/497-6250 or Ed Morimoto, 415/497-1172.

**Sunday, May 5**—Bonsai Club annual show, Watsonville Buddhist Temple, 423 Bridge St., 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., plant sale and 2 p.m. demonstration.

### San Diego area

**Sunday, April 21**—Japanese Film Classics series, "Snow Country," 2 p.m., Kiku Gardens, 1260 3rd Ave., Chula Vista. Directed by Shiro Toyota, film focuses on geisha striving for individuality in a system that emphasizes family and group values. \$2 donation (seniors free) Sponsored by San Diego, JACL, Union of Pan Asian Communities, VFW Post 4851. Information: 619/422-4951.

### Los Angeles area

**Saturday, April 13**—Orange County Sansei Singles picnic outing and nature walk, Will Rogers State Park, 14253 Sunset Blvd, Pacific Palisades foothills, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Information: Alan, 213/926-3540, Fumi, 213/434-4689, or Alice, 213/324-0582.

**Saturday, April 13**—Special screening of "Takeshi: Childhood Days," a film by Japanese director Masahiro Shinoda, Japan America Theatre, Little Tokyo, Los Angeles, 1p.m. and 5 p.m. \$6 general admission; \$4, seniors, students. Information: 213/680-3700.

## Reunion features model of camp home

SAN DIEGO—What was it like to live in a relocation camp? What were living conditions like? What was the home like?

You can see for yourself if you attend the Poston 111 Reunion scheduled for May 3, 4 and 5 at the Holiday Inn on the Bay (near the Embarcadero). On exhibit will be a full-scale model of a typical Arizona relocation camp home that a Japanese American internee family might have resided in.

The theme of the reunion is "A Time for Reflections." Along with the camp exhibit, the event will feature a booth sponsored by the Japanese American National Museum, which is readying its own Issei Pioneer Exhibit for next year.

According to Ben Segawa, the main force behind building the model, the house will represent a "typical unit after we just got there. Not after three years, but right when we got there."

Segawa explained that the ex-

hibit, which will be open to the public, will include two walls and the floor and one window. In the room will be a cot from that era and other paraphernalia, including some original clothing.

The reunion will also include a military exhibit featuring a uniform worn by a 442nd Regimental Combat Team veteran and several medals won by Japanese Americans during World War 11. There will also be a slide presentation made from some 500 photographs from the period.

Segawa noted that Don Tsuchida, director of video for San Diego City College, and Don Estes, a professor with SDCC, are working together on a slide presentation and a 15- to 20-minute video. Segawa called Estes "our unofficial historian" for the Japanese community. Estes has done research about the Japanese in America going back as far as the 1800s.

Adding to the exhibition will be handmade objects created by

camp internees. Segawa called this the "arts and crafts section. Whatever they did with their time, whatever they made (in camp) will be shown."

Highlighting the reunion banquet on Saturday will be the honoring of Clara Breed, a former children's librarian for San Diego. When the Japanese Americans were forced into the camps during World War 11, Breed stayed in touch with many of the Nikkei children, sending them books, candy and clothes without accepting any compensation. Some families stored personal items at the San Diego Buddhist Church during the war, and Breed managed to find and ship some of these items to the internees in Poston.

The event is open to the public free of charge. Those interested in the exhibition or the reunion should write to the Poston 111 Reunion, 2929 Market Street, San Diego, California 92102. (PC)



MISUMI



SHIOMI



NAKAMA



NAKANO

## Mother of year awards to be presented May 5

LOS ANGELES—Four Nikkei women will be honored at the Annual Mother of the Year luncheon co-sponsored by the Downtown Los Angeles Chapter, JACL, and the Nanka Nikkei Fujinkai.

The event will be held 12:30 p.m., May 5, at the New Otani Hotel, Los Angeles.

This year's honorees are Iris Aiko Misumi, Ushi Nakama and Masumi Nakano, all from Los Angeles, and Fumi J. Shiomi of Arleta, Calif.

Misumi, originally from Denver, Colo., was married in 1932 to James Y. Misumi, until his passing in 1981. She has two sons and four grandchildren. She has been a member of Centenary United Methodist Church for 65 years and a volunteer for the Japanese Blind Association for 10 years. Misumi has also been active with Centenary's Evangelist Visitation Committee, a program aimed at health care, seniors, nursing, hospital and half-way centers and private homes.

Nakama of Okinawa was married in Fresno, Calif., to Jiro Nakama until his passing in 1965. She has three sons, three daughters and eight grandchildren. She was baptized in 1933, was interned at Heart Mountain Relocation Center from 1942-45, and became a naturalized citizen in 1954. As a retired farmer, and later, garment industry worker, Nakama served her community through Centenary United Methodist Church, the L.A. County Senior Volunteers,

Okinawa Club and Seinan Senior Citizen's Club.

Nakano was born in 1898, and later married in Hiroshima, Japan. She and her husband, Jirokichi, of 56 years, were relocated from Florin, Calif., to Manzanar and then Tule Lake camps. After the war, they began raising a family—three sons, three daughters, 14 grandchildren and five great-grandchildren. After her husband's death in 1971, Nakano became an active member of Hiroshima Kenjinkai and a devoted supporter of Nishi Hwonganji Church programs. She recently moved to Little Tokyo Towers where she volunteers as a Keiro Home visitor.

Originally from Seattle, Shiomi married Roy Y. Shiomi, a mechanical engineer in 1932. They lived in Japan and Manchuria for 12 years. Returning the states, they raised a son and daughter, both graduates of UCLA. Shiomi now has seven children.

Shiomi joined the San Fernando Valley Holiness Church in 1955 when she also began teaching arts and crafts at various elementary schools as a volunteer. She later served as an office worker for the S.F.V. Community Center for Senior Citizens. Currently, Shiomi is a volunteer receptionist at the Senior Citizen's Nutrition Center.

Event costs \$25 per person. Information: Amy Tambara, 213/722-3897, or Lillian Inatomi, 213/636-8456. (PC)

## SIMON

(Continued from page 1)

of mobilizing their respective communities.

Another speaker at the event will be Simon aide John Trasvina, staff director of the Senate Judiciary Committee's Subcommittee on the Constitution. He will speak on the role of the Asian American community in achieving legal immigration reform last year.

Members of the Asian American Advisory Committee include: Rashid Chaudry of Bedford Park; Andres Botuyan, John Lee, Suk

Soon Lee, Dac Mai, Arthur Morimitsu, Prisco Olaya, Sandra Otaka, Paul Park, Ashish Sen, Kompha Seth, Niranjana Shah, Kishore Thampy, Ping Tom and Sandra Yamate of Chicago; Chaiwat Chaiphiphap of Glencoe; David L.Y. Liu of Naperville; Mohammed Arain, Biswamay Ray and Yin Wu of Oakbrook; Nakares Thepjatri of Palos Heights; Chien Wu of Skokie; and Herbert Chang of Winfield. Otaka is chairwoman of the committee.

Simon is considered one of the nation's most active lawmakers on issues affecting the Asian American community. (PC)

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## Opinions



From the frying pan

BILL HOSOKAWA

### Joshua Tsujimoto's 'Helping Hand'

Buffalo, N.Y., isn't the kind of place one expects to run into an interesting story about Japanese Americans. Neither is Bangladesh. But the two are linked to California's Imperial Valley by way of the Poston WRA camp in the person of Joshua Tsujimoto and his wife Alice.

Tsujimoto was a farm boy with dreams, but scant hopes, of studying agriculture at some big Eastern college when he and his family were evacuated to Poston in 1942. The dream came true when he was accepted by Cornell University in upstate New York during the war.

Tsujimoto liked the area. After graduation he and his wife Alice began growing vegetables on a little farm outside Buffalo. After a while they opened up a roadside stand which grew into a year-round store. Customers came from miles around and the Tsujimotos prospered, but they felt there was more to life.

In 1978 they sold out with the intention of going to the Naga hill country of northern India to help a friend start a university. The area was in political ferment. The

Indian government refused to let them enter.

Then the World Relief Corp. of the National Association of Evangelicals invited the Tsujimotos to take a post in Bangladesh, one of the world's poorest nations. Their job was to provide aid in case of outbreaks of disease or natural disasters such as drought or floods of the monsoons that wreaked vast damage.

While trying to grow a few vegetables for his own use Tsujimoto discovered a key reason for the poverty in his area. Seedlings for transplanting could not be started until heavy seasonal rains ended. That meant everyone's crops went into the ground at the same time, matured at the same time, went to market at the same time. And by the simple law of economics, the sudden oversupply made prices miserably low. Farmers could not prosper.

Tsujimoto set out to solve the problem. First, he devised a way to protect the soft soil of the seedbeds with plastic shielding to avoid erosion from the driving rain, and a system of ditches to drain the water.

Thus seedlings, rather than the seeds, were ready to plant when the rainy season ended and crops were ready for market weeks earlier when prices were high.

Tsujimoto also found a way to extend the growing season into fall. The torrid tropical sun had made starting seedlings impossible in summer except in the shade. But there was no shade except under trees where, because of the competition for nutrients, nothing grew. The solution was to build up compost beds on top of the soil under the trees. There, seedlings could be started for fall crops.

The Tsujimotos worked in Bangladesh for three two-year tours of duty until health problems made it prudent to come home. Last month, en route to Denver and points west to visit friends, they stopped in St. Louis, Mo., to accept the prestigious Helping Hand Award at the Evangelicals' national convention.

How many other Japanese Americans are involved in interesting and worthy activities outside the ethnic community, unnoticed by the ethnic press? There must be many, and more power to them. ☐



East Wind

BILL MARUTANI

### Manga

IN COLUMNS PAST I voiced a yearning for a Japanese-English language videotape, including the bonus of a section on *reigi-sahō* (etiquette). It seems such a "natural" device that I continue to be surprised that my search in bookstores and ads has yielded nothing. An alternative has been a Japanese comic (*manga*) book, particularly an edition which appears in both English and *Nihongo* titled "*Nihon Keizai Nyūmon*" (Primer on Japanese Economics). The cartoon drawings are by the well-known (in Japan) Japanese cartoonist, Ishinohara Yoshitaro—which is a penname. His (or her) black-and-white line drawings are works of art in themselves. In addition to the masterful artwork however one is introduced to the fundamentals of U.S.-Japan trade tensions and economics, at least that of the Japanese viewpoint. There are generous amounts of footnotes providing statistics. Not unlike most books Japanese, the price is a bit rich so I limited myself to one from a series of about a half

dozen. A CALIFORNIA READER, reading of my frustration, kindly took the time to point me to a magazine entitled "Mangajin" meaning "comic, cartoon character" or "person." A clever play on words. After checking a sample, I was sufficiently impressed to be moved to mail in a subscription. It's an outstanding tool, liberally featuring Japanese vernacular and forms of modern speech. While it employs the *manga* approach to teaching, its coverage is academic and meticulous. Each issue is devoted to a theme; for example, one of the issues covered the subject of "Politeness Levels" of Japanese forms of speech, depending upon with whom one is conversing: a superior, an equal or contemporary, one answerable to you, a woman, a child and such. (While one may resent such categorization, such does not change the reality of what's out there and one would do well to realize its existence.) Another issue featured "Foreigners in Japan" and cov-

ered language bloopers committed by *gaijin's* (foreigners) - which includes you and me, friends. Many of the bloopers are quite amusing. (This column is not the only source for bloopers.) One of the later issues focused upon *wa-puro's* (word processors): types, functions, approximate prices, software, etc. while deftly passing along Japanese terminology.

If you wish to subscribe, it's \$30 for ten issues. Mangajin, P.O. Box 49543, Atlanta, GA. 30359. (I had urged the magazine to run ads in this newspaper.)

SPEAKING OF READING, I acquired a Japanese copy of the book entitled "Mōze To Yobareta Otoko, Mai-ku Masaoka." I've leafed through it and am looking forward to the time when I can sit down and read it, or "try" to read it. The subject of the book being known to me in a personal sense will make the reading enjoyable and easier.

One step at a time. ☐

## Letters

### Commenting on Hosokawa commentary

As a long-time PC reader and occasional book-reader, I have great respect for Bill Hosokawa's lifework of documenting Nisei history. However, as a Sansei, I also feel compelled to respond to his March 22nd column, in which he implies that the national coherence of the Japanese American community will be lost with the death of the Nisei generation.

Hosokawa correctly points out that many Sansei, too, have been widely scattered across the United States. In our case, it has been educational and employment opportunities, rather than forced relocation, that drew us out of the Japanese American communities we grew up in. Yet it is still with mixed feelings that we follow our individual roads. Thus, as Sansei far from home, we, too, find comfort in the pages of the PC and through the newsletters of local JACL chapters passed to us by friends. In my case, during the past few years, it was nice to learn that Mays Nakashima, a college classmate, is still pursuing his recreational singing in the Washington, D.C. area. I had lost track of Mays during the decade after we parted ways. Similarly, it was inspiring to read that Cyril Nishimoto, my freshman counselor, can still run a respectable time in the New York City marathon. (This is much more than I can say for myself!) From the PC, it is evident that Wendy and Marilyn Tokuda, my former babysitters, are doing well in California, as always. And from the PC, I also learned that Sherry Hashimoto, from my Saturday morning Nihongo Gakko class in Seattle, is still as cute as ever, and isn't even married yet!

Hosokawa also forgets that many of us Sansei, given the large families and wide dispersal of the Nisei, have always had aunts, uncles, and cousins across the country. In our family, my mother has always felt anshin when my brother or I were away from home, because there was ALWAYS an aunt or uncle who lived nearby who could invite us over for dinner occasionally to make sure we were doing okay.

Like Nisei, we Sansei are also visibly different from the white society that we work in, and our similar features immediately give us common ground. Like Nisei, displaced Sansei ask the same questions of one another when we meet on the street. Where are you from? Why are you HERE? Do you know so-and-so?

In summary, it is my view that the national Japanese American village of which Mr. Hosokawa writes will persist at least through my generation.

Best to all (especially to Sherry).

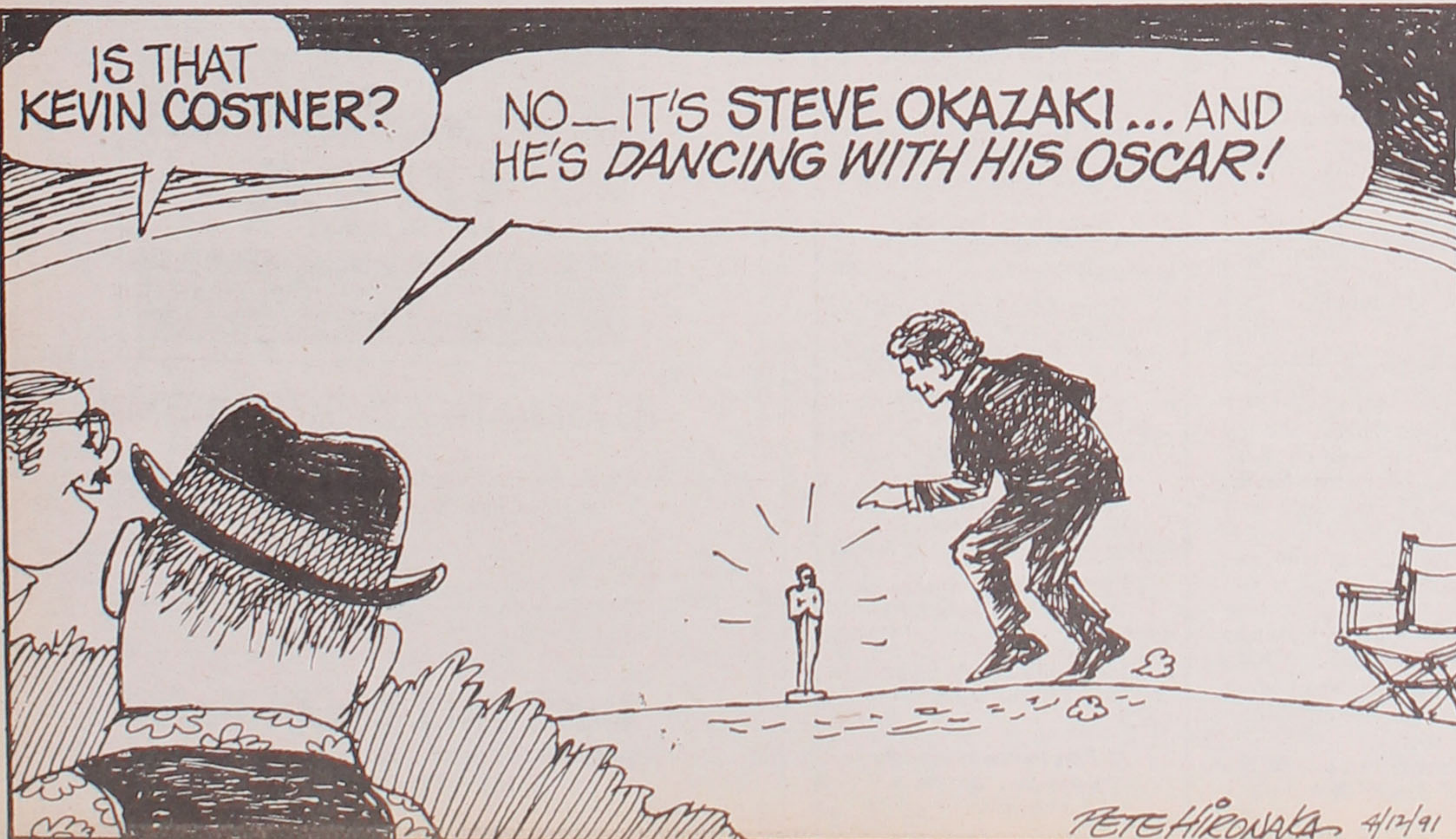
David K. Yamaguchi  
Boulder, Colo.

### Here's list of suggested books on evacuation

Could you send me a list of your books for sale on the evacuation of the Japanese American during World War II?

My grandson chose that topic for something he entered in his high school and came in third. Then he competed again and this time he came in first in the history category.

See LETTERS/page 5



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## Visalia snapshots



Enjoying horseback riders at the recent Visalia Tri-District Conference were, standing, from left, Larry Ishimoto, CCDC vice governor and event host, Dana Busek, and Cressey Nakagawa, JACL national president.



Hosting the event were, from left, Ken Yokota, CCDC governor, Kathy Kaneichi, CCDC secretary, and Larry Ishimoto, convention chairman.

CCDC Photos by Ben Nagatani

## Commentary

### Nikkei Images

By DAVID MAS MASUMOTO

Here's the scenario: It's Dec. 7, 1991. "They're bombing Pearl Harbor."

The Japanese American response: "We're honest, compassionate, articulate and confident."

Judging from a workshop on "image and the media" conducted during the March, 1991, JACL Tri-District Conference in Visalia, that's what our response would be.

For an afternoon a group of 100 Sansei and Nisei watched themselves on video-taped street interviews. Most perceived themselves as nervous, modest, self-conscious. (In truth most of the interviewees were articulate).

We discussed image, describing characteristics Japanese Americans should portray, then voted on what image we'd like to have and the results (in ranked order with similar items combined):

"Japanese Americans," the group agreed, "would like to be known as: honest and credible; confident and proud; articulate; compassionate and sensitive; creative and resourceful; and intelligent."

A solid image. A safe image. An image I as a Sansei was taught to emulate. Are we Sansei now becoming Nisei?

As a group of us from the Central Valley planned the workshop, at first we thought of media only in terms of the popular media and broadcast journalism. But it wasn't realistic to have a few public leaders carry the weight of a people's image. We sought to broaden the scope of the discussion beyond (L.A. news anchor) Tritia Toyota and Cressy Nakagawa.

We hoped to define our own agenda, formulate our public image and public relations campaign. Or were we developing our own stereotype?

During the workshop discussion, Sansei and Nisei did speak out. They were not quiet Americans. Afterwards many said they enjoyed the exercise. "(It got me thinking too much" said one.

Defining image challenged us in uncomfortable ways. We were given the opportunity and responsibility to direct our communities and organizations. For some, it seemed easier when someone else told us who and what we were supposed to be.

The image list contains positive traits probably most everyone aspires to have. I can't help but interpret them in a slightly different, cultural way.



MASUMOTO

## LETTERS

(Continued from page 4)

Anyway he is going to Baton Rouge to compete again in April.

I sent him whatever I had in booklets and pamphlets and I do have the book ("The Quiet American") and I did give his mother the book with "Infamy" in the title by Michi Weglyn.

I would appreciate it if you could put a book mark on what you think, would be good reading for a high school student, since I can't buy them all.

Thanking you in advance.

Mrs. I. Kozen  
Redding, Calif.

Pacific Citizen no longer sells books but we can provide you with a useful list of publications. Here they are:

- "America's Concentration Camps," Allan R. Bosworth. New York: W.W. Norton, 1967.
- "The Bamboo People: The Law

and Japanese Americans," Frank F. Chuman. Del Mar, California: Publishers, Inc., 1976. (Available at JACL headquarters in San Francisco.)

- "Concentration Camps USA: Japanese Americans and World War II," Roger Daniels. New York: Holt, Rinehart, Winston, 1972.

- "The Politics of Prejudice: The Anti-Japanese Movement in California and the Struggle for Japanese Exclusion," Roger Daniels. Berkeley: University of California Press, 1962.

- "The Great Betrayal: The Evacuation of the Japanese Americans During World War II," Audrey Girdner. New York: Macmillan, 1969.

- "Americans Betrayed: Politics and the Japanese Evacuation," Morton M. Grodzins. Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 1949.
- "Nisei: The Quiet Americans," Bill Hosokawa. New York: William Morrow, 1969.

- "Prejudice: Japanese Americans: Symbol of Racial Intolerance," Carey McWilliams. Boston:

Little, Brown, 1944.

- "The Japanese American Cases—A Disaster," Eugene V. Rostow. The Yale Law Journal, Vol. 54, No. 3, pp. 489-533, June, 1945.

- "Prejudice, War and the Constitution," Jacobus tenBroek, Edward N. Barnhart, Floyd W. Matson. Berkeley: University of California Press, 1954.

- "The Spoilage: Japanese American Evacuation and Resettlement," Dorothy S. Thomas and Richard S. Nishimoto. Berkeley: University of California Press, 1946.

- "Years of Infamy: The Untold Story of America's Concentration Camps," Michi Weglyn. New York: William Morrow, 1976.

- "Justice at War: The Story of the Japanese American Internment Cases," Peter Irons. New York: Oxford University Press, 1983.

- "Personal Justice Denied," Report of the Commission on Wartime Relocation and Internment of Civilians. Washington, D. C., USGPO, 1982.

Compassion: Did that have something to do with a Japanese sense of taking care of family? Being creative and intelligent: Was that meant to be in "R&D" and not "A-R-T"? Do I sense a type of "hard working spirit" when I see the characteristic honest? Wanting to be articulate, how different was that to being outspoken?

Or was I too conscious of the past and by doing so trapped by it? The image list sounds close to something I was taught to become. The ghosts of the "model minority" had reappeared, but like Casper, they appeared as friendly ghosts, positive stereotypes, comfortable and easy to believe in.

There are characteristics missing from the list. Aggressive was listed but not highly ranked. Leadership garnered little attention. Political was not even listed. Community and culture were mentioned in passing. And one fourth of the group didn't vote. (I

suspect some condescendingly felt this was old material, something finally we in the Central Valley were getting around to).

Part of the genesis of this workshop was concern over the upcoming 50th anniversary of Pearl Harbor. If we take our lead from the image list, one course of response would be to have a type of "inner strength," be confident and compassionate, honest in acknowledging the tragedy, and having leaders articulate our side of the story: Japanese Americans were not responsible for Pearl Harbor.

Why does that sound like a page out of history, Pearl Harbor and JACL revisited?

A safe and secure image. A comfortable and positive image. And in accepting this image, do we run the risk of becoming invisible? And the next question begs to be asked: What do we do with that image? (PC)

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