

Pacific Citizen

National Publication of the Japanese American Citizens League

Chinese finds it tough in Texas —page 4

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Friday, September 25, 1992

Redress amendment clears Senate; Bush expected to sign

WASHINGTON, D.C.—Complete funding for redress is almost a reality as the Senate Sept. 16 passed by unanimous consent H.R. 4551, the House version of the redress bill. The bill has been sent to President Bush, who has ten days to sign the bill into law.

"We are elated by the Senate's unanimous approval of this important legislation," said Lillian Kimura, JACL national president. "We urge President Bush to sign

the bill immediately."

H.R. 4551, which passed the House Sept. 14, would increase the amount of funds authorized by the Civil Liberties Act of 1988 to pay reparations to former internees. Under the bill, an additional \$400 million would eventually be authorized to make payments of \$20,000 each to an additional 20,000 eligible individuals. The increase was required because original projections of the

See REDRESS/page 6

New redress group

By KAREN NARASAKI
JACL Washington, D.C. representative

The Civil Liberties Act Amendments of 1992, H.R. 4551, which was sent to the President for his signature this week, contains a provision which makes spouses and parents of non-Japanese descent, who were interned or relocated, eligible for redress pay-

See GROUP/page 6

Mineta urges Bush to sign

Rep. Norman Mineta hailed the Senate passage of H.R. 4551 Sept. 16 and urged President Bush to sign the redress bill.

"The United States Senate has given us our second victory this week," said Mineta, who authored H.R. 4551.

"Now it's up to the President, who I know will follow in the footsteps of President Reagan and sign this second redress legislation into law."

PBS to air Hirabayashi documentary Oct. 18

The Gordon Hirabayashi story will gain national attention when a PBS documentary focuses on his 43-year struggle to overturn his wartime convictions in a documentary airing Sunday, Oct. 18.

"A Personal Matter: Gordon Hirabayashi vs. the United States" chronicles Hirabayashi's challenge that the internment had violated his constitutional rights.

See HIRABAYASHI/page 5



HIRABAYASHI

Film facts

PROGRAM: "A Personal Matter: Gordon Hirabayashi vs. The United States."

AIR DATE: Sunday, Oct. 18 (check local listings)

NARRATOR: Scott Simon

PRESENTER: National Asian American Telecommunications Association, San Francisco.

PRODUCTION COMPANY: The Constitution Project, Portland, Ore.

LENGTH: 27 minutes, 40 seconds.

INFORMATION: Constitution Project, 503/224-6722.

Appropriations needed for Manzanar site

By KAREN NARASAKI

JACL Washington, D.C. representative

The Senate and House versions of the Interior and Related Agencies Appropriations bill, H.R. 5503, are before the Conference Committee which has begun work on a joint agreement. The House version contains a provision which added \$1.1 million to the National Park Service for the purpose of implementing the Manzanar National Historic Site Project. The Senate version does not contain any money for the Project.

JACL urges a letter-writing campaign to the members of the Interior and Related Agencies Appropriations Conference Committee, urging them to appropriate \$1.1 million for the project. The following House members should be encouraged to work to preserve the House funding provision: Congressmen Sidney Yates (D-Ill.), John Murtha (D-Pa.), Norman Dicks (D-Wash.),

See MANZANAR/page 5

Honolulu Chapter study

Marine Corps shows pattern of discrimination



BRUCE YAMASHITA

Fighting the marines for justice

Report reveals institutionalized racial problems

By WILLIAM KANEKO

and STEVE OKINO

Honolulu Chapter, JACL

HONOLULU—A pervasive and consistent pattern of discrimination against racial and ethnic minorities by the United States Marine Corps during the 1980s has been uncovered by the Honolulu Chapter of the Japanese American Citizens League.

The pattern of discrimination was discovered during recent developments involving the case of Bruce Yamashita, who is challenging his "disenrollment" from the Corps' Officer Candidate School (OCS) in 1990. Yamashita, who was dropped from OCS two days before he

was to graduate, was subjected to nine weeks of racial and ethnic harassment, incidents which the Marines admitted occurred and for which an apology was issued.

"These statistics, which are the Marine Corps own and which were obtained under the Freedom of Information Act, destroy any pretense about Mr. Yamashita receiving fair and equal treatment in OCS," said William Kaneko, Honolulu Chapter, JACL, president. "The data show that there was statistically little or no chance for Bruce to be commissioned because the system was stacked against him and every other minority candidates for almost a decade.



WILLIAM KANEKO

See HONOLULU/page 7

Chapter statement on Yamashita case

After more than three years, Bruce Yamashita's battle for justice in his racial discrimination case against the United States Marine Corps remains unresolved. That lack of resolution, in itself, is revealing. "Disenrolled" from the 140th Officer Candidate School after being subjected to nine weeks of racial and ethnic slurs and harassment, Mr. Yamashita decided to fight for the officer commission he believes he deserves. Based on the Marine Corps' handling of this case over the past 40 months, serious doubts have been raised about the ability and sincerity of the Marines to deal with issues of prejudice and equal opportunity, as well as about the integrity of Marine Corps administrative and

See STATEMENT/page 7

A case chronology

February, 1989: Bruce Yamashita enrolled in 140th Officer Candidate School (OCS), United States Marine Corps, Quantico, Va. On the first day of class, a staff sergeant told him, "We don't want your kind around here. Go back to your country." A master sergeant spoke to him only in Japanese. He was asked why he didn't

join the Japanese army. He was "re-minded" that in World War II, the U.S. "whipped your Japanese ass!"

April 1989: Two days before graduation, candidate Yamashita was "disenrolled" from OCS for "unsatisfactory leadership." He was told the racial remarks and behavior were

See CHRONOLOGY/page 7

Education doesn't mean more pay for Asian Americans

Education doesn't always translate into salary dollars

Especially if you're Asian American. According to a recent U.S. Census Bureau report, about 39% of Asians and Pacific Islanders aged 25 and over had completed four or more years of college in 1991—nearly twice that of whites at 22%. Median earnings of Asians and Pacific Islanders with four or more years of college, however, were \$34,470—compared to whites with similar education at \$36,130.

Asians and Pacific Islanders who had completed high school and worked full-time,

Matsui: Report proves glass ceiling exists

"These figures put some paint on the glass ceiling."

That's the comment Rep. Robert Matsui (D-Calif.) made after seeing the latest census statistics that, according

year-round, had earnings of \$19,290—compared to whites with similar education at \$22,050.

The report says that about 82% of Asians

and Pacific Islanders in 1991 had completed at least four years of high school, a rate only slightly higher than the 80% of whites.

See MATSUI/page 5

Census highlights

Additional highlights from the report are:
• The estimated Asian and Pacific Islander population in the United States was 7.0 million, or about 3 percent of the nation's total.

• About six in 10 (59 percent) of all Asians and Pacific Islanders lived in the western region of the United States.

• The median age of the Asian and Pacific Islander population (30 years) was about four years younger than that of the White

See HIGHLIGHTS/page 4

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Chinese-Hawaiian fights Texas bias

ARLINGTON, Texas—While the fast-growing Asian American group is finding that the Fort Worth-Dallas area offers new opportunities, there also are some painful realities, according to a Sept. 7 story headlined "Asian Enclave", in the *Dallas Morning News*.

Kansas-born Lincoln D'jiang, 33, born of a Chinese father and a Hawaiian mother, grew up in New Mexico and has lived in Arlington for the past eight years. Yet within the past month, he was called a foreigner and accused of trying to steal an academic scholarship reserved for people born in this country.

D'jiang, an instructor with Swim Team Arlington, a local branch affiliated with the U.S. Olympic Committee, is a graduate student in engineering at University of Texas, Arlington.

"I am disappointed that outside appearances still result in discrimination," he said.

While registering for classes, a woman processing his application told him he wasn't eligible for an academic scholarship from the college because it was limited to Americans. He said he informed the woman that he is an American and one of 10 UTA students awarded an engineering scholarship.

"I was born here in the United States. I don't speak any other language but English," D'jiang insisted.

Rather than accept his explanation, the woman verified the

information with another school official who later apologized and granted the scholarship.

On another occasion in July while at a pay phone in Austin, D'jiang recounted, a stranger began cursing him and demanded that he hang up. "He said I wasn't born here and that we ought to get all these bastards out of this country."

As an Asian American, he belongs to one of the fastest growing ethnic groups in Texas, especially in the past decade when the U.S. Census shows the Asian count in Arlington quadrupled from 2,479 (1.5% of the total 164,180) to 10,271 (3.9% of the total 262,323.)

According to the Asian American Voting Coalition, about 4% of the nation's Asian population lives in Texas. Outside of California, the coalition notes, Houston has the second largest concentration of Asian Americans in the United States. The Fort Worth-Dallas area has the second largest Asian American population in Texas.

With that growth has come a mixture of bright new economic growth and painful social realities, such as crime and discrimination, observed *Dallas Morning News* bureau chief Jason B. Johnson in his story.

The access to affordable higher education, availability of jobs and the size of the Asian population in the Fort Worth-Dallas area has made the city attractive to Southeast Asian refugees, according to Tom Ha, vice chairman of the Vietnamese Community of Fort Worth

and Vicinity.

About 2,000 immigrants come every year, he added. The growing community, however, leaves many Asian Americans vulnerable to crime.

Earlier this year, a string of robberies and shootings in the Asian American neighborhoods in southwest Arlington led to calls for greater police protection.

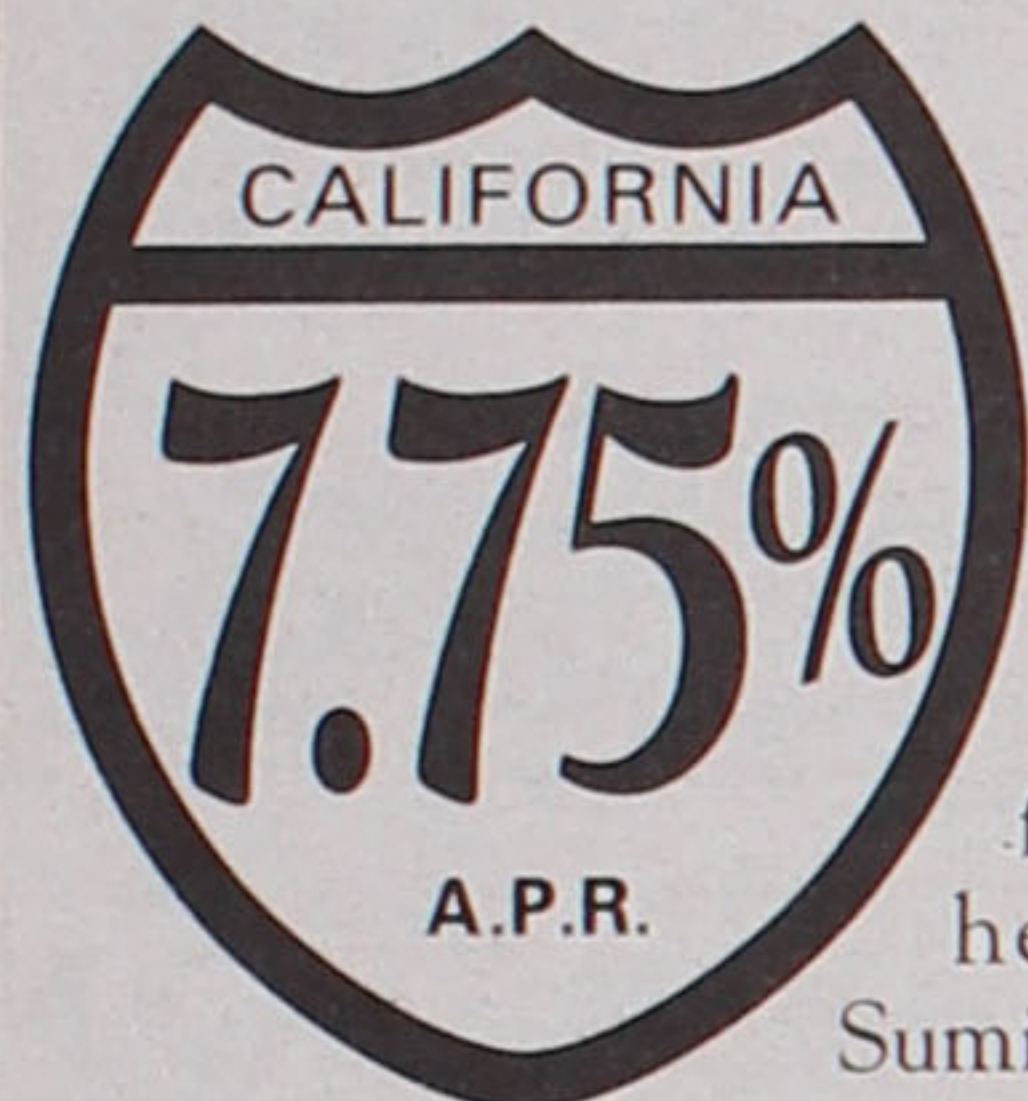
Police blamed Asian gangs for much of the problems. Ha said police and local groups are working together to end gang activity. **Five Asian eateries robbed**

Three Asians were indicted July 28 in Dallas for one of a string of restaurant robberies that police attribute to an Asian youth gang. Dung Thai Hoang, 21, Dung Thanh Le 22, and Bhin Van Nguyen, 18, were accused of holding up diners June 5 at Sakura Japanese Restaurant, one of the top dining spots in northeast Dallas. Police said the suspects also terrorized other well-patronized four-star restaurants, including Nakamoto in Plano, the August Moon and Thai Siam in Dallas, for six weeks before their arrest.

According to court records, five men walked into Sakura about 1:30 a.m., ordered drinks and a short time later, three men jumped up, waved handguns and ordered everyone to the floor. The robbers took money and jewelry from customers before fleeing. No one was injured.

—Special reports: **HARRY HONDA, HERB OGAWA**

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HIGHLIGHTS

(Continued from page 1)

population (34 years).

• Asians and Pacific Islanders were more likely than whites to be single (31 percent versus 24

percent), as likely to be married (56 percent and 58 percent), and less likely to be divorced (4 percent to 8 percent) or widowed (5 percent to 7 percent).

• About 78 percent of Asian and

Pacific Islander households were family households, compared with 70 percent of white households.

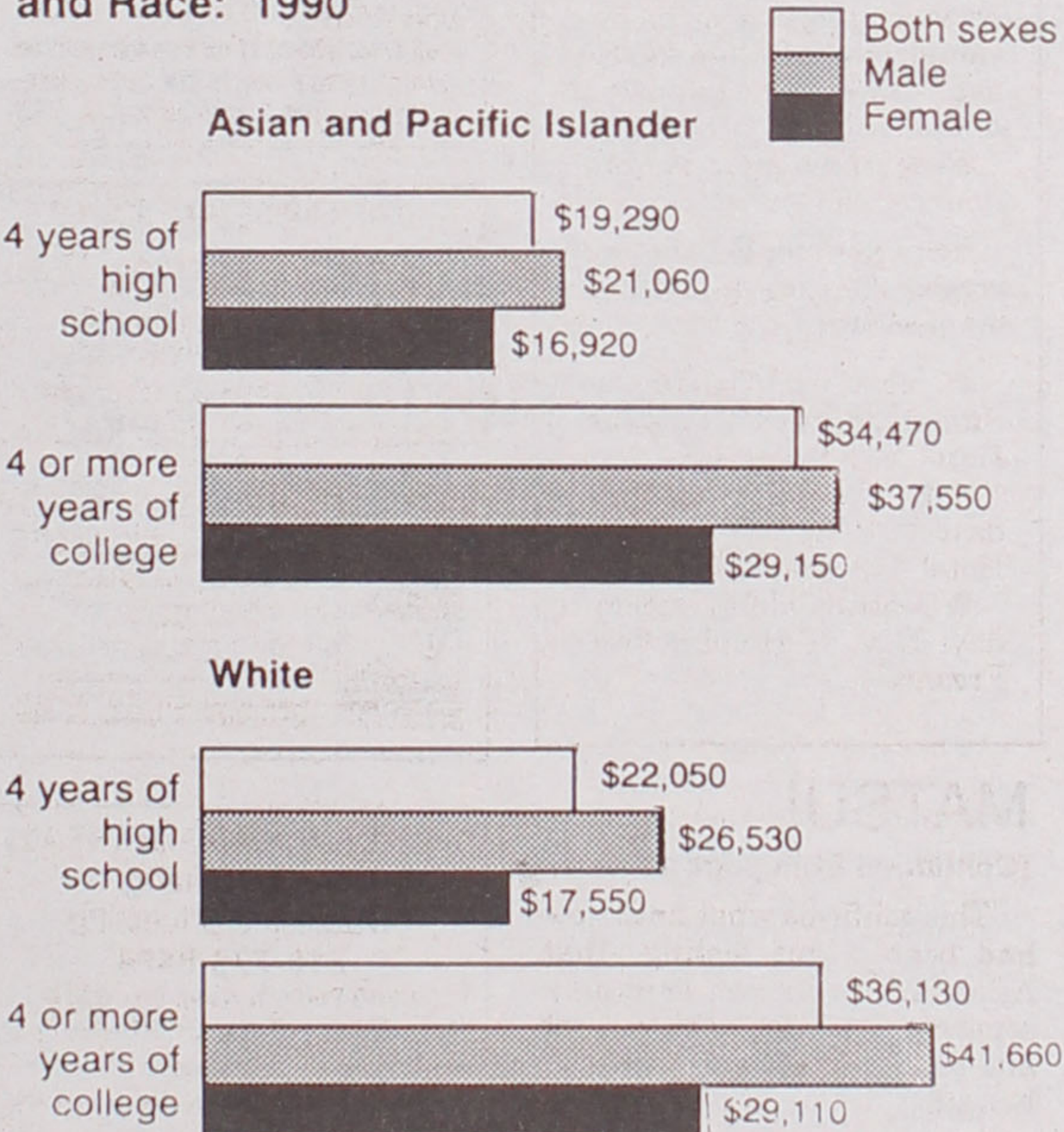
• Seventy-four percent of Asian and Pacific Islander families consisted of three or more persons in contrast to 57 percent of White families. Asian and Pacific Islander families were larger partly because a higher percentage of related children under age 18 lived with both parents compared with the white population.

• The median money income of Asian and Pacific Islander families was \$42,240 in 1990, compared with \$36,910 for white families. However, the per capita income of the Asian and Pacific Islander population (\$13,420) was lower than that of the white population (\$15,260). The fact that, on average, Asians and Pacific Islanders have larger families and households than the white population contributes to the lower per capita income figure.

• A larger proportion of Asian and Pacific Islander families (19 percent) than white families (14 percent) had three or more earners per family.

• In 1990, a larger proportion of Asian and Pacific Islander families (11 percent) than white families (8 percent) lived in poverty. In total, about 12 percent, or less than 1 million, of all Asians and Pacific Islanders lived in poverty. By comparison, 11 percent or 22 million whites lived in poverty.

Median Earnings of Year-Round, Full-Time Workers 25 Years and Over, by Selected Years of School Completed, Sex, and Race: 1990



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Gwen Muranaka

Former ORA administrator to be honored

SAN FRANCISCO—Bay Area Nikkei will hold an appreciation program and dinner for Bob Bratt, former administrator of the Office of Redress Administration (ORA), on Oct. 3, at the Japanese Cultural and Community Center of Northern California, 1840 Sutter St., in San Francisco's Japantown. Sponsored by a host of community organizations, the event will run from 4 to 7 p.m. in the JCCCNC gymnasium.

Much credit has been given to Bratt for the successful implementation of the redress program. Speaking about the accomplishments of Bratt, who left the ORA in April to assume a new position in the Justice Department, Rep.

Norman Mineta said, "The Japanese American community owes Bob Bratt a real debt of gratitude for his work in turning the promise of redress into a reality."

The appreciation dinner is open to the public and those planning to attend are asked to bring a dish (entree, side dish or salad) to share. Refreshments and cake will be provided. Dean Ito Taylor of Nihonmachi Legal Outreach will serve as emcee in a brief program prior to the dinner.

"This will be the community's first opportunity to thank Bob for his work as administrator of ORA," said Tsuyako (Sox) Kitashima, a redress activist and part of the dinner planning committee. "I

hope people haven't forgotten the struggle it took to get this far and it's my hope they turn out and demonstrate their appreciation to Bob."

A partial listing of participating groups include: the Peruvian Japanese Oral History Project, the National Japanese American Historical Society, Go For Broke, VFW, National Coalition for Redress and Reparations, Asian Law Caucus, Nihonmachi Outreach Committee, the San Francisco and Berkeley chapters of JACL, JCCCNC and NLO.

Also supporting the event are the offices of Congressmen Mineta and Robert Matsui. Information: Sox Kitashima at 415/922-1534.

Bay Area Asian American voting to be studied

SAN FRANCISCO—Voting patterns of Asian Americans in Daly City and San Francisco will be the subject of a study by the Asian Law Caucus and Sonoma State University Prof. Larry Shinagawa.

Funded by a grant provided by the Voting Rights Program Southern Regional Council of Atlanta, Georgia, the study will make recommendations increasing Asian American voter participation.

"Asians constitute 45% of Daly City's population, yet there has never been an Asian American on

the City Council, which should raise many questions about the existing voting schemes and patterns," said William Tamayo, managing attorney of the Asian Law Caucus.

"With the growth of the Asian American community in these two cities, advocates must study ways to increase voter participation and get more Asians in elected office," said Shinagawa, director of the California State University systems Census Information Center, and professor of Asian American Studies. Part of the study will

include exit polls on Nov. 5, election day, aimed at Asian American voters.

Emphasizing the importance of voter participation, Alice Bulos, president of the Fil-Am Council of San Mateo County, said, "Because of the importance of this study, we want eligible voters to register for this November's election."

"The deadline date is Oct. 5. This study will mean a lot to the Asian community, and especially the Filipino community in Daly City," he said.

JAs most prone to colon cancer, report says

Japanese Americans are most prone to colon cancer according to a recent American Cancer Society report in the *Los Angeles Times*. The report, which includes new data on Asians and cancer had some interesting and sobering news for Asian Americans.

- Koreans are more prone to stomach cancer and Vietnamese to lung cancer.

- Prostrate cancer is the most common form of the disease for male Asian Indians, Hispanics and Caucasians.

- In all ethnic groups, breast cancer is the most common cancer for women age fifteen and older.

The report, based on data from the Department of Health Services, emphasized early detection for successful treatment.

Helping victims of Hurricane Iniki

The Honolulu Chapter, JACL, is involved in relief efforts to help victims of Hurricane Iniki.

According to Bill Kaneko, chapter president, JACL donations will be reported in aggregate in the *Honolulu Advertiser* newspaper. The acknowledgment will be earmarked for the American Red Cross.

Anyone wishing to contribute should make checks payable to: Advertiser Kokua, Kauai Fund. Send them to the Honolulu Chapter, JACL, P.O. Box 1291, Honolulu, Hawaii, 96807.

HIRABAYASHI

(Continued from page 1)

The film documents his 1943 appeal to the U.S. Supreme Court which unanimously upheld his conviction, and unfolds events leading up to the 1980s when new evidence revealed the illegality of Executive Order 9066.

The documentary features interviews with Hirabayashi, his family and friends, as well as comments by defense lawyer Art Barnett and law professor Peter Irons, who discovered important documents that first brought the government's culpability to light.

Blue Shield modifies plan

The JACL Blue Shield program will soon announce modifications to the present plan, according to John Yasumoto, chairman of the JACL Blue Shield Health Trust.

The upgraded changes that are scheduled to begin Jan. 1 will create a managed care program that will offer a Blue Shield preferred provider program or an optional Blue Shield HMO available in selected areas of California.

New rates will be announced in October.

Here is a schedule of upcoming district commissioners meetings:

- Northern California: Sunday, Oct. 18, Miyako Hotel, San Francisco.

- Pacific Southwest: Friday, Oct. 25, New Otani Hotel, Los Angeles.

- Central California: Sunday, Nov. 1, Holiday Inn, Fresno.

MATSUI

(Continued from page 1)

"This confirms what until now had been a gut feeling—that Asian Americans are kept on a separate track for achievement and earnings in the workplace," he said.

"I see this disparity as one of the primary challenges for the Asian American community in the 1990s, and an issue around which all ethnic Asian subgroups must come together," said Matsui.

MANZANAR

(Continued from page 1)

John Murtha (D-Pa.), Norman Dicks (D-Wash.), Les AuCoin (D-Wis.), Tom Bevell (D-Ala.), Chester Atkins (D-Mass.), Ralph Regula (R-Ohio), Joseph McDade (R-Pa.), Bill Lowery (R-Calif.) and Joe Skeen (R-N.M.) at "U.S. House of Representatives, Washington D.C., 20515."

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HONOLULU

(Continued from page 1)

"Tragically, the Marine Corps did nothing to address or correct the discrimination that continued during all of those years," Kaneko said.

Yamashita's class, the 140th OCS, reflected the worst cases of discrimination against minority candidates, the chapter reported. Sixty percent of the minority candidates in the 140th were dropped, as opposed to 28 percent of white candidates.

The JACL analysis covers 25 classes during the eight-year period from 1982 to 1990. It was conducted by James Dannemiller, president of SMS Research, and David Takeuchi, associate professor, School of Social Work, University of Hawaii. They found that "there is statistical evidence of an institutional bias against minority candidates . . . The discrepancy between the actual number of minority candidates who were disenrolled and the expected number of minority disenrollments was substantial.

"If there was an institutional bias against minorities, we would expect to find a greater rate of disenrollment among minorities than whites, a bias that has a low probability of occurring by chance alone," they observed.

"Institutional bias does not operate in isolation," they note, concluding that "race was a factor in the disenrollment of minority candidates" in all OCS classes during this period.

Four different officers headed OCS during the eight-year period studied. The commanding officer in charge of Yamashita's class, referred to as Colonel "C," displayed the worst record of the four in discriminating against minorities. For the five OCS classes under Colonel "C," the cumulative minority disenrollment rate was 49 percent, 17 percent higher than for whites. Still, none of the four commanders stood out in equal opportunity performance. For the entire period, the minority disenrollment rate was more than 41 percent (459 of the 1107 minority candidates who were accepted into OCS); the rate for whites was 33.55 percent (1845 of 5498 white candidates).

In a statement, the Marine Corps admits to the disparity, and to doing nothing about it. "Although OCS had available the statistical drop data it was not using it in support of its Equal Opportunity (EO) programs," the Corps said. "In addition, no other headquarters was monitoring this data for EO alarm signals."

All of the facts raise alarming implications, Kaneko said. "Because this discrimination existed for such a long period, and because it was done by Marine Corps officers responsible for training Marine Corps leaders, the obvious conclusion is that the message that 'it's okay to discriminate,' learned by thousands of Marine Corps officers, is being handed down to the hundreds of thousands of Marines under their command.

"Those attitudes result in cases like Mr. Yamashita's, in episodes like Tailhook, and in an atmosphere so poisoned that the increasing number of reports of the kinds of problems in the military comes as no surprise," Kaneko said.

"Drastic action must be taken so that this self-perpetuating spiral of intolerance doesn't become the legacy left by this generation of Marine Corps officers and veterans," Kaneko said.

STATEMENT

(Continued from page 1)

watchdog systems in general.

The continuing embarrassing performance of the Marine Corps in this case—a record riddled with errors, confusion, and apologies—

heightens suspicions about whether justice can be served.

And a new JACL analysis of Marine Corps statistics that reveals a pervasive and consistent pattern of discrimination against minorities in Officer Candidate School adds further questions about racism in the Corps—an issue that should have been settled decades ago. Coupled with recent sexual harassment and assault cases against the Marines and the Navy, the situation is one more appropriate to 1952, not 1992.

In October, 1990, Mr. Yamashita began the administrative process that is the first phase of appealing his disenrollment. During the past twelve months of that process, the Marine Corps has:

- Misinterpreted its own regulations as to jurisdiction of its administrative boards.
- Mistakenly and inexplicably delayed consideration of this case for an eight-month period.
- Denied Mr. Yamashita the opportunity for a public hearing of his case, in violation of the Marine Corps' own regulations.
- Ordered Yamashita's case closed without consideration before one administrative board; an order issued in error.
- Violated federal privacy laws.
- Misrepresented commitments made by an officer beyond his authority and responsibility.

Yamashita's attorneys now are attempting again to clarify the requirements for the administrative appeal. The Corps is being asked to state in writing preliminary findings from one administrative board, the Discharge Review Board; and to commit, in writing, to scheduling a public hearing at which Yamashita and expert witnesses can present their cases.

These actions ultimately are aimed at addressing key issues in this case—whether the racial harassment and discrimination directed at Mr. Yamashita violated Marine Corps regulations; whether it negatively affected his evaluations leading to his "disenrollment"; and whether there was a concerted effort at Officer Candidate School to discriminate against minorities.

For the past three years, the Honolulu Chapter, JACL, has supported Yamashita with legal, financial, and communications assistance. According to Kaneko, it will continue to support him until his case and the issues raised by his case are resolved. It will continue to rally others who support Yamashita, from members of the community to members of Congress all of those who believe the Marine Corps must be held accountable to defend the principles of democracy . . . not undermine them.

CHRONOLOGY

(Continued from page 1)

consistent with Marine Corps policy. Of the five candidates dropped from Yamashita's class, four were minorities.

May-December, 1990: Yamashita spoke with several active duty officers in the U.S. Army, Navy, and Marine Corps regarding the incidents that occurred at the 140th OCS. He was told that such behaviors are strictly prohibited, contrary to what he was told during out-processing interviews at OCS.

January, 1990: Yamashita wrote Marine Corps Commandant Gen. Alfred M. Gray outlining his experience at the 140th OCS. "It tainted the way I was viewed and evaluated by the staff and fellow candidates and thereby prevented fair judgement of my leadership ability," he wrote. "Despite all that has happened I still want to be an officer of the Marines."

Yamashita was informed that the commandant had directed Lt. Col. Eugene Brindle to investigate the allegations.

February, 1990: Lt. Col.

Brindle submitted his report on Yamashita's allegations. Based on Brindle's report, the Marine Corps denied the allegations of racial discrimination. In a letter to U.S. Sen. Dan Inouye, Gray stated, "Mr. Yamashita is looking for reasons outside of himself to fault . . ."

May, 1990: Yamashita wrote to the Honolulu Chapter, JACL, and requested its assistance as a measure of "last recourse." The JACL board adopted a motion to provide legal and all other support to assist Yamashita gain redress. Honolulu Chapter legal counsel Clayton Ikei agrees to represent Yamashita.

June-September, 1990: Statements submitted from members of the 140th Officer Candidate School support Yamashita's charges and provide details as to each individual's recollections of specific incidents of racial harassment and discriminatory behavior.

Statements expressing support for Yamashita's position are received, including one from a retired career Navy officer, who wrote:

"It is shocking and disappointing to me to learn that the Marine Corps . . . still condones the practice of racial discrimination and disparity by members of the training staff at O.C.S.

"Acts premised on racial hatred should not and cannot be tolerated in the United States Armed Forces; otherwise, my thirty years of dedicated and honorable service will have been for naught."

October, 1990: Yamashita filed appeals with the Naval Board for the Correction of Naval Records and the Navy Discharge Review Board on the basis of racial discrimination and harassment. Included in the appeal applications are two statements from members of the 140th OCS supporting these allegations.

Statements of support for Mr. Yamashita are issued by members of Hawaii's Congressional delegation, other members of Congress, and local and national community, legal, and civil rights organizations.

November, 1990: The Marine Corps informed Yamashita that it is reopening the investigation into the allegations of discrimination.

December, 1990-January, 1991: Marine Corps Deputy Inspector General Col. J.R. Williams indicated the investigation is "anticipated to be completed during February, 1991."

Letters of inquiry from members of Hawaii's Congressional delegation are transmitted to Navy and Marine Corps officials. In a letter to Marine Corps Commandant Gray, Rep. Neil Abercrombie stated:

"Mr. Yamashita did impress me as intelligent, serious, and highly motivated. Furthermore, his charges seem well documented in terms of particulars . . . Most disturbingly, the pattern that emerges suggests we may have not just a few isolated instances of racial prejudice on the part of unrepresentative individuals, but something much more serious: a pervasive, systemic infection that warrants vigorous and immediate corrective action at the policy and leadership levels.

"It seems incredible that we should be contemplating the possibility of being forced to re-fight the battle for racial equality within the Marine Corps at the very time Marines of all races are putting their lives on the line in the Persian Gulf."

U.S. Sen. Daniel Akaka wrote Secretary of the Navy H. Lawrence Garrett:

"I am certain that upon your review of the enclosed affidavit, you will be as appalled as I am over Mr. Yamashita's revelations of his troubling experiences with

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Opinions



From the frying pan

BILL HOSOKAWA

Changing of the guard

That gentle Fresno patriarch, Fred Hirasuna, said it well in a letter published not long ago in *Pacific Citizen*: "We older Nisei have passed the torch and the destiny of the Organization is in their hands."

The Organization is JACL and the hands belong to its newly elected officers who, aside from the president Lillian Kimura, are said to average a tender 32 years of age.

That would make the hypothetical average year of birth 1960, 18 years after the Evacuation, 15 years after the end of World War II and closure of the camps, a decade after the great legislative victories that won legal equality for Japanese Americans.

That leadership should pass into these hands was as inevitable as the passage of time, but most of us didn't realize the inevitability. Change began with war's end when JACL's founders, who nurtured the ideals and maintained the faith in a very rough time, yielded responsibility to a group of

outrageously audacious Young Turks, most of whom were no older than those recently elected to the leadership.

Now these Turks (no ethnic slur is intended, the term is used properly and with admiration), no longer young and their work done, have vanished or faded into the shadows. New hands with new skills and new styles are appropriate for the organization's new goals in new times.

They face a formidable task. Most of the urgent old ethnic problems that forged community unity, such as it was, have been overcome. Those that remain are focused less on our particular group than on a broader society. There will be a major challenge to maintain the membership's commitment to goals that seem less personal, less community-oriented, less urgent.

Although JACL is by far the largest and most influential civic organization of Japanese Americans, it has never been able to claim mass membership. Some would shun

it as elitist which, of course, it isn't. Some resent JACL for various reasons, baseless as well as with foundation. Perhaps because its purposes are so serious, the chief reason for its inability to attract a greater following except in time of emergency is popular apathy.

Even as new hands take over, the nature of the community is changing. The die-hard JACL-haters are vanishing while the old leadership fades away. The new leadership has an opportunity to win the support of their peers in communities dominated by a new generation with new priorities.

To reach these people, old strategies and old promises will not get the job done. Perhaps sensing this, the membership has installed a new slate headed by a president with excellent credentials who is not young but not yet old.

The torch has been passed, and like Fred Hirasuna, we look to new people to lead the way. ☐

Letters

PC letter policy

Letters should be brief and are subject to editing. Please sign your letter but make sure we are able to read your name. Include mailing address and telephone number. You may fax letters to 213/626-8213 or mail them to Letters to the Editor, Pacific Citizen, 701 E. 3rd St., Ste. 201, Los Angeles, CA, 90013.

Books keep alive history of Nikkei

I agree that Americans of Japanese Ancestry (AJAs) should not become complacent about citizens' rights (Mike Hoshiko, Aug 14-21, 1992). Most of the rights available to AJAs were granted less than 40 years ago after great sacrifice by Isseis and Niseis.

Hoshiko suggested JACL membership by younger AJAs as a way to increase their involvement in citizens rights issues. I would like to share my plan to interest my children in the history of AJAs. I decided to give each of my children two books that I felt every AJA should read. I was disappointed to learn that both books, *Uprooted Americans* (Myer, 1971) and *Nisei: The Quiet Americans* (Hosokawa, 1969), were out of print.

I was elated to learn that *Nisei* will be available again in October, 1992. I am confident that someday my children will read this excellent book and will do what they feel is right to be respected citizens and to uphold the rights of others.

I found *Nisei* to be a thoroughly researched text that documents events during a period of time that many would like to forget. The factual information about the West Coast evacuation of Isseis and Niseis is made readable by Hosokawa's writing style and the descriptive and pictorial accounts of almost unimaginable physical and psychological pressures, the losses and suffering experienced by those involved and their unwavering loyalty, faith and inner strength.

Hosokawa suggested more than two decades ago that because of residual feelings, Niseis might again experience discrimination. I am anxious to read that new *Nisei* with the author's afterword. We must not forget what happened.

Haru Hiramata

Auburn, Pa

APAN chapter sets the record straight

We take this opportunity to dispel any rumors you may have heard about the Asian Pacific American Network (APAN) chapter.

APAN, originally named the Nikkei Leadership Association, was formed along with the SCAN chapter in 1986, with the blessing, guidance and seed money from the West L.A. Chapter. The West L.A. Chapter also provided us with an advisor for an entire year until we received our charter at the 29th Biennial JACL National Convention in Chicago. We continue to work with many other JACL chapters in the community, including West L.A., Marina, SCAN and Venice-Culver.

Our chapter has a very diverse membership with Chinese, Filipino, and Latino American members. At the 30th Biennial JACL National Convention in Seattle, it was this chapter that amended the preamble to our Constitution to support all people regardless of age, sex, sexual orientation or disability and at the following biennial convention in San Diego, we wrote the resolution that formed the National Standing Committee on Civil Rights.

Our events and meetings are open to anyone interested. There are occasions when members of other chapters attend our events. APAN's position has always been that it is more important for a person to be a member of JACL as an organization than specifically our chapter.

APAN has been involved in many different community projects and events. Among them have been sponsoring the Nisei Week Fashion Show, community CPR training classes and hosting Easter and Halloween parties at Para Los Ninos, a downtown Los Angeles children center.

In October, APAN is one of the sponsors

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East Wind

BILL MARUTANI

An illustrated 'jiten'

APPARENTLY IT WAS a book that I had purchased while browsing in a bookstore in Aoyama Center (wherever that is in Japan) and had simply put away upon returning home. Vicki found it while rummaging in a search for something else. Entitled "Illustrated Japanese Characters"—or if ordering from Japan the *eibun* (English text) "Nihon Etoki Jiten # 13"—it is a book I heartily endorse for those studying *nihongo*. Very simply organized, it helped to clarify many puzzling areas. Some examples.

I'D HEARD about Japanese poetry styles of *tanka* and *haiku* but I never was sure as to the differences between the two; that a fellow by name of Matsuo Bashō (1644-1694) was the preeminent *haiku* composer, revered to this day in Japan. The book informs that *tanka* came on the scene earlier, during the 8th century and consists of 31 syllables, in five lines of 5, 7, 5, 7, and 7 syllables—and approached subject-matters with stern realism; that *haiku*, which came later, consists of 17 syllables in three lines of 5, 7 and 5 and focuses upon nature and natural phenomena.

In these parts here on the East Coast, we have George M. Oye, a resident poet-writer in *senryū*, an off-shoot of *haiku*. It is said to differ from the latter in that *senryū* approaches subject matters objectively (rather than subjectively), treats with human affairs (rather than nature or seasons), and communicates in colloquial language (rather than the restrictive classical medium). We have a 1981 40-page booklet of *senryū* compositions by George, with English and Japanese cross-translations. Now I can again review George's compositions with a better appreciation.

But back to the *etoki jiten*.

THE JITEN is particularly well done. In two colors (black and red) to highlight differences, it provides derivations of *kanji* (Chinese characters), illustrations of some compounds (*jukugo*), and best of all (for me) cartoon drawings in case the message doesn't get through any other way. There are brief, and welcome sections on abbreviated forms of *kanji* (writing has changed from Ft. Snelling days) as well as abbreviated forms of *jukugo*, many of which will be helpful to the old-fashioned Nikkei travel-

ling in Japan. For example, if inquiring as to the locus of the bus stop, the formal *jukugo* is "basu tei-ryu-jo"; in local jargon, it is shortened to "basu-tei." If you employ the formal term, you probably will see a puzzled look. I know.

AMONG THE AREAS that have always plagued me, and continue to do so to this day, is understanding various days of the month in *nihongo*. For example, I'm immediately thrown off the track when the speaker fixing a date for a meeting refers to *muika* (6th), *kokonoka* (9th), or *hatsuka* (20th). I have enough problems as it is with the days of the week: *nichi*, *getsu* (Sunday, Monday) and so on. The *etoki jiten* covers all this.

HOW TO ORDER this book? First a brief description: approximately 4x6 inches, 191 pages, 3rd edition, 1991, and the title I've given above. It is #13 in a series of 14 books published by Japan Travel Bureau, Nomura Building, 7th Floor, 1-10-8 Shibuya, Shibuya-ku, Tokyo 150, Japan. The price about 1,000 yen retail in Japan.

For those at my level of comprehension, it'll be a good investment. ☐



IN-SIGHT

In the nation's capital

By LILLIAN KIMURA
JACL national president



Last week I spent two days in Washington D.C. visiting leaders of Congress and organizations which have supported JACL. Karen Narasaki planned a full schedule. An unexpected treat was the invitation to attend the annual Hispanic Congressional Caucus dinner at the Washington Hilton. It was a very impressive affair with over a

thousand people in attendance. Retiring Congressman Edward Roybal of California was the honoree.

Also during my visit, the Civil Liberties Act Amendments of 1992 was passed so you can imagine the excitement that generated. We are especially appreciative of the work done by Marie Blanco of Senator Inouye's office and Chris Strobel, legislative assistant to Congressman Norman Mineta.

In addition to meeting with Senators Daniel Akaka and Bill Bradley, Congresswomen Patsy Mink and Nancy Pelosi, Karen and I delivered the Edison Uno Civil Rights Award to Congressman George Miller who was unable to accept it at the Denver convention. He was gracious enough to spend a few minutes with us and expressed his appreciation for the recognition.

Also on the Hill, we met with Ian Spatz, legislative director to Senator Frank Lautenberg (D-NJ); Greg Rowe, legislative assistant to Senator Daniel Patrick Moynihan (D-NY); and Chris Strobel.

Other contacts made were with Richard Womack, director, and Suzanna Gomez, staff representative, AFL-CIO Department of Civil Rights; Matt Finucane, executive director, Asian Pacific American Labor Alliance of AFL-CIO; Tony Califa, legislative counsel, ACLU; Wade Henderson, director, Washington bureau, NAACP; Judy Golub, legislative director, American Jewish Committee; Jesse Hordes, director, and Michael Lieberman, associate director, Anti-Defamation League; Raul Yzaguirre, president, and Claire Gonzales, senior civil rights policy analyst, National Council of La Raza.

In each case, we thanked the individuals for their support of our legislative initiatives and with the organizations, we discussed what other issues in which we may collaborate. One of these can be work on prejudice reduction among school children.

It was good to meet Leslie Hatamiya, personal assistant to Bill Bradley, and thank her for the fine job she did on producing "Walk with Pride: Taking Steps to Address Anti-Asian Violence." I understand we have received funding to reprint more copies. It was cited as a particular valuable tool by the folks at ADL.

During our running around, Karen and I bumped into and were introduced to the Asian Americans who are part of the Okura Foundation Leadership program. They were having an exciting time. Because of a change in schedule, I was able to meet with Paul Suddes of ORA and he took me to visit the operations. They are geared up to mail redress checks by the first two days in October now that the bill has passed and the President is expected to sign it very soon. I also greeted Bob Bratt at the Justice Department.

Finally, I was proud to accept accolades about the wonderful work Karen Narasaki is doing as our Washington representative. In the short time she has been on the job, she has played a significant role in furthering JACL's public policy agenda. We can all be proud.

That's "Thirty" for now.

Lillian Kimura's column appears regularly in the Pacific Citizen.

Agenda

West Valley

The West Valley Daruma Festival on Aug. 22 was the largest in its history, according to chapter president Ed Kawahara, who reported with even the 25% increase in the quantity of food to be served, many food booths were sold out by early afternoon. Thanks to the "Next Generation" group, new wrinkles were successfully added to expand participation by outside groups, food coupons and complimentary T-shirts to the volunteer workers and a sponsorship program associated with fundraising and publicity.

The Daruma Festival is the fund-raiser for the chapter's senior center at 1545 Teresita Drive, San Jose. Happily, the two American Airlines tickets to Japan were won by Sam and Sadie Furumasa, who "perhaps can finally get that much deserved rest after building and taking down all those booths at the festival year after year," the chapter announced.

Washington, D.C.

A personalized Virginia auto license plate, which read "JAP BOX," was seen at a shopping center lot in Warrenton by a Washington, D.C. JACLer who was deeply offended by the use of word, "JAP." A protest was lodged Aug. 26 by Washington JACL representative Karen Narasaki with the Virginia Dept. of Motor Vehicles, Richmond.

"For Japanese Americans, it is a term used to justify racial discrimination, bigotry, and too often acts of violence against members of our community," Narasaki pointed out. "In WWII, over 110,000 Japanese Americans were rounded up and sent to concentration camps by the U.S. government amid cries of 'Japs go home!' ... 'Jap' is a racial slur as egregiously offensive as 'Nigger' or 'Spik.' We are appalled then that the term 'Jap' was deemed acceptable ..."

Sequoia

When the San Mateo County JACL split north and south 40 years ago, a new chapter was born in the south, centered in Redwood City, and named the Sequoia Chapter. On Saturday, Oct. 17, the chapter's 40th anniversary will be celebrated at the Palo Alto Buddhist Temple gym at 6 p.m. with a potluck dinner.

Aki Yamamoto is the 1992 chapter president.

Monterey Peninsula

In preparing for the 1993 installation dinner, which will be held Jan. 15 jointly with the Salinas chapter as hosts, the Monterey Peninsula chapter recognitions chair Ken Esaki called for nominations from the membership for three awards: (1) "JACL Silver Pin" for a member with at least ten consecutive years and has performed outstanding service; (2) "JACL Creed Award" to the person who has performed unselfish service to the Chapter and (3) "Citizenship Award" to a person, not necessarily a JACLer, who has performed extraordinary service in his profession, community organizations or activities which merit special recognition.

Puyallup Valley

Two Puyallup Valley members were recently recognized for their years of dedicated service to the community and chapter: a special recognition to the late Yosh Tanabe, who died in a tragic automobile accident, and the JACL Silver Pin to Dudley Yamane.

San Mateo

The annual San Mateo Community Center clean-up has been scheduled for Saturday, Oct. 24.

Committee co-chair Richard Nakanishi and Mariko Endo mentioned that "for those who are allergic to detergent and dust, they would appreciate some snacks for the mop & bucket brigade and workers."

Contra Costa

Having been awarded \$1,500 for a Curriculum Project Update from the National JACL Legacy Fund Grant committee, Contra Costa JACL project chair Jim Oshima (510 / 237-0323) announced volunteers will be needed in the production of training materials and in training, when it is implemented in the Richmond Unified School District.

The main goal is to ensure that the WWII history of Japanese Americans is accurately represented. Oshima spelled out three phases: (1) development and approval of the curriculum guide, (2) training of the trainers, and (3) a four-month program training educators.

The same school district made national headlines when the school board declared bankruptcy, resulting in severe fiscal readjustments. June Kodani, a teacher in the school district and also the chapter education committee chair, has addressed local groups on steps which have been taken and on how citizens and parents can help.

Las Vegas

Community events sponsored by the Las Vegas JACL are coming up on Sunday, Oct. 18, with a luau at St. Viator's Community Center, 4320 Channel-10 Drive [nearest major intersection: Eastern and Rochelle], to raise scholarship funds, and the Dec. 28 mochitsuki at the Zelzah Shrine Temple, 2222 W. Mesquite, it was announced by Chapter President George Goto. Luau tickets at the door will be \$13.50 at the park for adults, \$6.75 for children. Stephen Endow said response has been good when he requested door prizes from the different casinos.

Convention impressions

Inside chapter newsletters [received the first week of September] are comments and reports from representatives at the National Convention at Denver. Excerpts follow:

Contra Costa

By JOANNE MUKAI

Delegates had very little time to enjoy the scenery of Colorado, but most enjoyed just having the chance to rekindle old friendships and make new ones. Several informal evening gatherings were held to give delegates the opportunity to meet the candidates for National Offices.

I feel the newly elected Board officers are very capable leaders with a common goal of strengthening the JACL. It is interesting to note that seven officers are from our (NCWNP) district and that they fall within the 20-40 age range. I hope that this trend encourages the "younger generation" to become more involved in JACL, thus assuring the future and success of our organization ...

The Denver convention was an eye-opener for me with regards to the impact of our organization has across the nation. In these trying and changing times, JACL faces difficult challenges, especially with the prevailing anti-Asian sentiment and severe economic hardships. With our strong leadership and your support, however, we can achieve our goals and make a significant impact to society.

[Mukai, chapter president, has moved to Los Angeles to pursue an MBA degree and a promising tax career with an internation-

ally-known entertainment firm. Chapter first vice president Jim Oshima is filling the vacancy until the next election.]

Contra Costa

By ERNIE IYAMA

Chizu and I learned that there was still some unfinished business; namely, that we lacked the funds to pay all the former internees or eligible persons. Paul Suddes, director of the Office of Redress Administration, said there were approximately 77,800 confirmed individuals eligible for redress. This is significantly higher than the original estimate of 60,000. He estimated that 12,500 payments should be made in October to those born before March 1935.

[The bill, HR 4551 / S 2553, the Amendments to the Civil Liberties Act, has passed both houses and was expected to be signed by President Bush this week.]

The majority of the delegates to this convention, by the way, were Sansei and Yonsei. And they were a mature group. It was very encouraging sign for us Nisei.

Puyallup Valley

By JEFF HIROO

Having spoken to previous delegates to the National convention, I was prepared for a busy schedule. I was not let down - from the time I arrived and departed, I was busy with meetings, workshops, banquets and more meetings. I enjoyed the experience of seeing how well organized and efficient our National convention was run.

Sequoia

By AKI YAMAMOTO

Overall, I was impressed with the increasingly important role played by women and youth in our National leadership. We have elected the first woman president, Lillian Kimura. Other board members are all quite young and have demonstrated a lot energy and capabilities in their previous JACL leadership positions. Also, the majority of the paid National staff positions are currently held by women.

I was encouraged by the willingness of JACL to take positions on current civil rights issues. However, there is one aspect that is disturbing: Many delegates argued that because we are a civil rights organization that we must "by definition" support the particular position that they propose. In the United States, the civil rights and liberties of citizens are embodied in the Bill of Rights. As a civil rights organization we strive for equality and the preservation of these rights. However the interpretation of the Bill of Rights, conservatively or liberally, is a choice of its citizens. We must be careful that we not become intolerant of one another's views on civil rights.

Lastly, I was impressed with the harmony apparent between all age groups represented at the convention. They seemed to be able to communicate and work with each other without the previous "too old or too young" hangups.

(Editor's note: For additional highlights, see Al Nakai, the co-official delegate. He has some good stories to tell ... if you've got a couple of hours.)

Washington, D.C.

By LILY OKURA

Lily and Pat Okura "subbed" for the two delegates who were to go but couldn't: president Key Kobayashi was recuperating from a heart attack sustained July 16 while umpiring a baseball game but was improved enough to see the Little League championships Aug. 29 at Williamsport, Pa., and

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LETTERS

(Continued from page 8)

of the Future of the Nikkei Community Conference in Los Angeles. APAN was awarded a Legacy Fund grant to help support this conference, which is the last event of the 50 Year Remembrance of the beginning of the Japanese American internment. Besides being a financial supporter of the conference, several APAN members are actively involved with the planning, chairing of workshops and the publicity of the conference.

We hope the JACL membership is now clear about what APAN stands for and who we are. We hope that our enthusiasm and activism will inspire other members to become not only active in their respective communities but also become active as a voice at the national level. It is due to the involvement and leadership exhibited throughout APAN, that the 12 undersigned members of

our chapter were present at this past convention. We welcome other members to contact us to find out how they can form chapters similar to APAN. If we can serve as a resource to any districts or chapters, we should be happy to do so.

Shari Uyeda

APAN chapter, JACL, Co-President

May Yamamoto

APAN chapter, JACL, Co-President

Kay Gamo

Danny Goto

Eric Kurimura

Craig Minami

Stan Mukai

Trisha Murakawa

John Okanishi

Kimberlee Tachiki

Warren Wong

Nobuko Yamamoto

