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Video making it into classrooms —page 4

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Friday, March 5, 1993

JACL praises hate crime act

JACL praised the reintroduction of the "Hate Crime Penalty Enhancement Act" Mar. 2 by Rep. Charles Schumer (D-NY). The act, if passed, would increase the punishment for criminals who commit violent crimes targeted against minority groups.

"Penalty enhancement statutes such as the one proposed by Schumer send a strong message to the public that acts of discriminatory violence are particularly reprehensible and will be punished more severely," said Dennis Hayashi, national director. Karen Narasaki, JACL Washington D.C., representative, added, "Such laws are desperately needed because, as many states have found, existing civil and criminal laws fail to effectively protect the rights of hate violence victims."

Democrat apologizes for remark

Marge Davis, Spokane state committee-woman for the Democratic Party, recently apologized to her colleagues for using the word "Chinks" during a November meeting.

The Feb. 26 Spokane *Spokesman-Review* reported that Davis, in a letter to all Democratic precinct officers, said, "I am truly sorry if I have offended anyone and I voluntarily suspend my activities in the Democratic party for a period of 60 days."

Charles Rolland, state party chairman, said he hoped Davis' apology would quell a situation that was "out of control, out of hand." Betty Drumheller, state vice chairwoman, who is accused of using a racial gesture during a February meeting of the Affirmative Action Committee, said that she would send a letter of apology to the committee. Directing their apologies only to the party, neither women indicated that they would apologize to the greater Asian

Pacific American community.

Karen Yoshitomi, JACL Pacific Northwest regional director, said that she couldn't comment on the Davis apology because she had not seen it yet. But the PNW representative stated the position of JACL: "Marge Davis, John Workland, and Betty Drumheller need to resign from their positions and the state Democratic Party needs to apologize to the Asian Pacific Islander community."

Yoshitomi said that JACL is currently preparing a joint statement with the Chinese American Citizens Alliance (CACA) and the Organization of Chinese Americans (OCA).

Noting that Rolland has yet to speak to JACL despite repeated efforts, Yoshitomi said, "Because CACA and OCA have become involved and with their national organizations I am sure through their network there will be some response." (PC)

Member wants national attention

Denny Yasuhara, chairman of an ad hoc committee dealing with the matter, said that the Spokane Chapter is launching a national effort to resolve the alleged racial problems involving the state and county Democratic party officials.

The chapter, Yasuhara said, has begun "communicating with its national network of 114 chapters, five district offices, their Washington, D.C., office and national JACL headquarters for assistance in facilitating a resolution of the issues."

See ATTENTION/page 11

Warren Furutani disqualified from election

In a surprising development, Warren Furutani, Los Angeles Unified School District board member, was disqualified Feb. 25 in the race for the 15th district city council seat for failing to get the required 500 signatures to place his name on the ballot.

Furutani was considered a leading candidate in a field which includes incumbent Joan Milke Flores and Janice Hahn, daughter of Kenneth Hahn, former county supervisor. The city clerk's office told Furutani that his petition fell 67 signatures short.

According to Furutani, he had collected 977 signatures, but was informed by the city clerk's office that 392 of the signatures were from unregistered voters.

The *Rafu Shimpō* reported that the school board member has hired the law firm of Kelly, Ryan and McAuliffe to assist him in going over petitions. He has until March 15 to challenge his disqualification.

The 15th district includes the cities of San Pedro, Wilmington, Harbor City, Harbor Gateway and Watts.

N.Y.'s World Trade Center designed by Nisei

In all of the horror, chaos and tragedy surrounding the World Trade Center explosion last Friday (Feb. 26), the unreported story of its architect, the late Nisei architect Minoru Yamasaki, came to mind.



YAMASAKI

He had designed the soaring 110-story twin towers for the Port Authority of New York-New Jersey in 1968. It was a high-rise breakthrough, New York's tallest, No. 1 in the world

See YAMASAKI/page 10

Nikkei affected by bombing

The explosion which tore through the World Trade Center Feb. 26 disrupted the lives and businesses of many Japanese Americans and Japanese businesses in the area.

Five people were killed and more than 1,000 injured in what authorities are now calling a bombing. The *Rafu Shimpō* reported that at least four Japanese suffered minor injuries including Makoto Nagai of Asahi Bank who was hospitalized for his injuries.

Fuji Bank, which occupies three floors of the building, made preparations to relocate their operations even as they were being

See NIKKEI/page 10

The World Trade Center

Architects: Minoru Yamasaki and Associates of Troy, Michigan; Emery Roth and Sons of New York.
Space: Nine million square feet of office space, two tower buildings each 110 stories high, with every floor approximately one acre in size.
Height: 1,377 feet; second tallest building in the world.
Average daily population: 50,000 workers in the Trade Center; 80,000 business and other visitors.
Elevators: 102 elevators including 32 express elevators in each tower building, with each express elevator capable of handling 55 people—10,000 pound capacity.
Parking: Below-grade parking for almost 2,000 cars.

Source: *New York Times*, Feb. 28, 1971 edition.

JACL: Justice for Wards Cove Act reintroduced

As Rep. Jim McDermott (D-WA) reintroduced the "Justice for Wards Cove Workers Act" before Congress Mar. 2, a coalition of civil rights organizations, including JACL, and legislators voiced their support.

Dennis Hayashi, JACL national director, said, "It is a bitter irony to Asian Pacific Americans and all other Americans who believe in the American ideals of equality and fair play that the workers in one of the very cases which sparked the Civil Rights Act of 1991 are now deprived of any possible benefit from the Act's passage."

If passed, the bill would remove the exemption from coverage under the Civil Rights Act of 1991 to Wards Cove Packing Co. for the employment discrimination class action lawsuit brought against it by Asian Pacific American and Native Alaskan cannery workers.

Doris Matsui, deputy director of public liaison for the White House, read from a letter from the president. In the letter, addressed

See COVE/page 11

Chinese woman gets attacked, then fired from university

She got punched. She got kicked. She didn't get paid. She got fired.

All that happened to Zeng Li Yang, according to *Chicago Tribune* columnist Eric Zorn, who recently wrote about the tragic case of the 40-year-old former Northwestern University research assistant.

It all started in May of 1990 when Yang was promised by psychology professor Joel P. Rosenfeld to work in his lab from Sept. 1, 1990 to May 31, 1993, for \$12,000 a year.

When Lang Y. Xia, Rosenfeld's research associate, heard Yang complaining about

not receiving compensation on Aug. 12, 1992, he physically attacked her, sending her to the hospital.

Xia was arrested, pled guilty, was fined \$100 in court costs and ordered to have no contact with Yang for one year.

Zorn reported that Northwestern then fired Yang, a traditional medicine practitioner from the People's Republic of China who was invited to the university as a visiting scholar.

"Why? It's all in the termination letter to Zeng Li Yang," Zorn reported. "Rosenfeld wrote to Yang that the court order

See FIRED/page 5

N.Y. Chapter member shot

New York Chapter, JACL, member Bonnie Bear was shot in the neck Feb. 23 in an apparent robbery attempt outside her lower Manhattan loft, reported the *New York Times*.

Bear, a graphics designer, was listed in critical condition at Bellevue Hospital Center. The attack occurred as she was loading the trunk of her leased Mercedes-Benz. She was shot as she resisted the robbery attempt. Neighbors told the *Times* that they were shocked by the incident which occurred in an area they thought to be safe.

Two men are wanted in connection with the assault. Police described the suspects as African American, both in their late teens or early twenties.

Clinton asked to fund education program on internment experience

President Clinton is being urged to include in his forthcoming budget money for the Public Education Fund, as authorized by the Congress by the 1988 Civil Liberties Act as amended, to assure that the internment experience will be remembered.

JACL will write the president immediately as the 1994 budget is due later this month. The concern is that the redress public education fund may not be funded because of budget cuts.

Congress had authorized about \$50 million under the act for the public education fund.

In San Francisco, National JACL Director Dennis Hayashi said, "The Public Education Fund is crucial to informing the American public of the internment experience so that such a gross violation of civil liberties and constitutional rights will never happen again."

Newsmaker

Honolulu's Kaneko honored

Bill Kaneko, JACL national vice president for public affairs and president of the Honolulu Chapter, JACL, was recently honored with the U.S. Attorney General's Award for Public Service, the highest award given to a public citizen by the U.S. Department of Justice.

The award was given in recognition of

See KANEKO/page 11



KANEKO

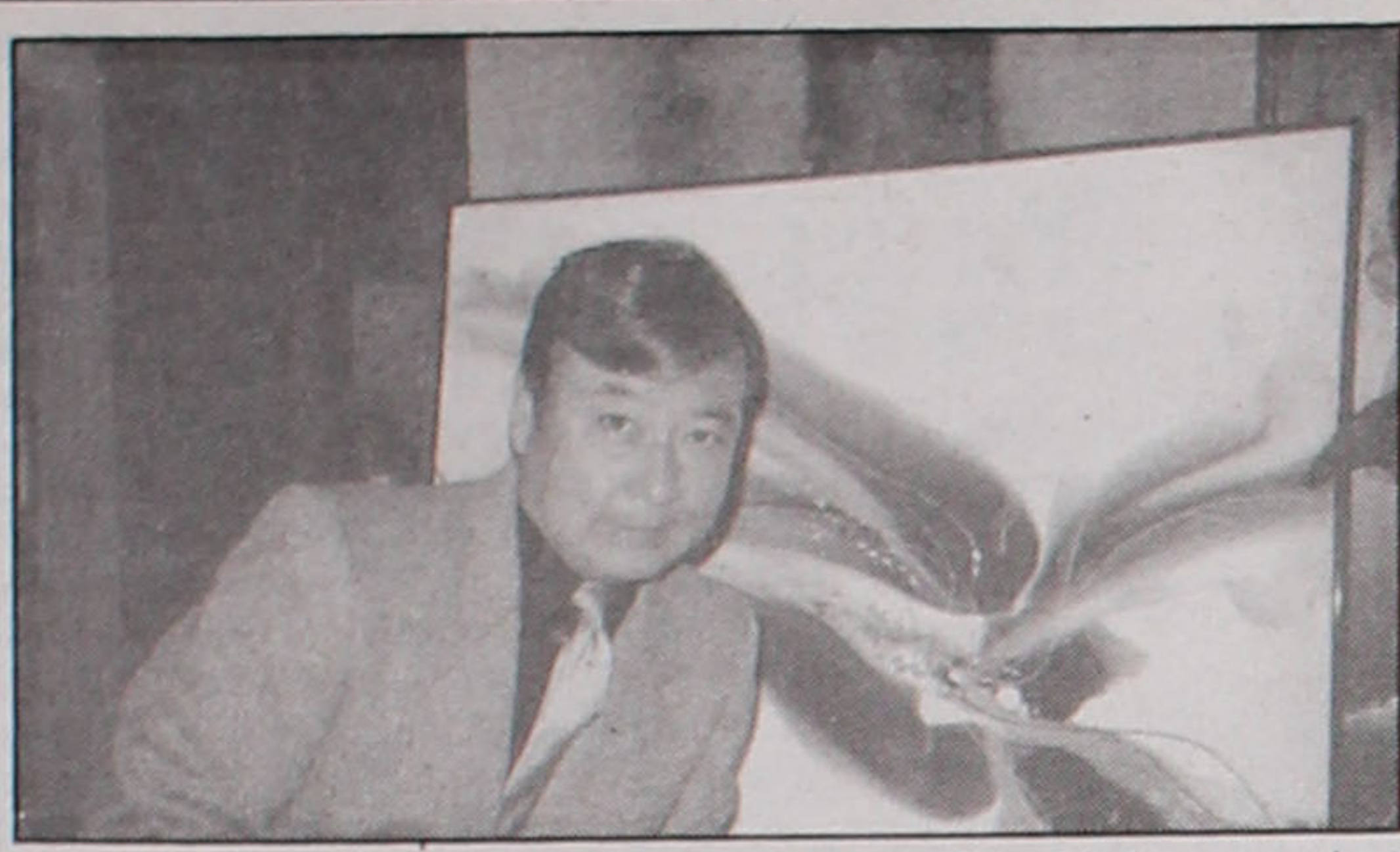
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ARTIST—Frank Gikiu of Gardena, Calif., exhibits his latest work at a show Saturday, March 13, at the New Otani Hotel, Los Angeles.

Nikkei artists to exhibit works

Painter Frank Gikiu and ceramist Isei Anami will exhibit their work at a show Saturday, March 13, at the New Otani Hotel, Los Angeles.

Gikiu, a Gardena, Calif., resident for 34 years and an artist for the past 27 years, has exhibited extensively in galleries, one-man shows, juried and open art exhibitions around the Western states.

A graduate of the Chouinard Art Institute, Los Angeles, Gikiu has also worked in the commercial art field. He works in oil, water color, acrylic, ink, collage and mixed media.

He has been a member of the Gardena Valley Chapter, JAACL, for 25 years.

Anami, retired from his retail nursery business in Glendale, Calif., is a graduate of the Otis Parson Art Institute, Los Angeles. His work is influenced by both Japanese and European artists. He has studied with many well known Japanese potters, including Shamaoka, Munekata, Mizuno, Sakuma and Ota.

The exhibit will be held from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. The hotel is located at 120 So. Los Angeles St. Admission is free.

ORA denies some camp-born children

The Office of Redress Administration has made payment in 74,962 cases as of Feb. 1. The balance of individual payments are scheduled for Oct., 1993, but the ORA has rejected claims in 33 cases involving children who were born in camp after their parent(s) "voluntarily" returned to camp. The JAACL urges these claimants to appeal.

The ORA also has some 800 cases under special review, including 300 involving individuals who claim to have been evacuated out of area in Hawaii. The ORA has located the General Orders but not the evidence they were enforced only against individuals of Japanese ancestry.

The Hawaii Chapter, JAACL, has persuaded ORA to continue its investigation. Anyone with pertinent documentation should contact the ORA in Washington, D.C.

There also are some 1,200 incomplete cases awaiting a response from claimants who have been asked to provide additional information, such as current ad-

resses and birth certificates. Some of these cases, the ORA said, have been pending for over a half-year. The ORA has asked community organizations to assist in contacting the claimants. It is feared some claimants may have become discouraged, have moved or become ill or that the original claimant has died and the children need to be notified of the status of the claim.

Dipping into its own budget, the Justice Department also reprogrammed its current budget to pay non-Japanese spouses and parents who were interned with their families. Rep. Nancy Pelosi (D-Calif.) of San Francisco, led the effort in the last Congress to authorize the reprogramming.

The willingness of the Department of Justice to allocate some of its own budget to the redress program is a testament to their continuing commitment to redress. These claimants can expect payment this year, if they meet the birthdate cutoff.

JACL blasts Clinton, media on 'Nannygate'

JACL has joined several Asian Pacific American and Latino civil rights organizations in criticizing the media and the Clinton administration's handling of "Nannygate."

Karen Narasaki, JACL Washington, D.C. representative said the Clinton administration handling of the controversy "underscores the absence of Asian Pacific Americans in senior-level policy-making positions within the Clinton Administration."

JACL has urged President Clinton to call for repeal of the employer sanctions provisions of the Immigration Reform and Control Act of 1986, one of the laws Zoe Baird is accused of having violated.

Narasaki, critical of the admin-

istration, pointed out: "The controversy presented a perfect opportunity to call for the repeal of the law and to educate the public as to the harm being generated by the law." At a minimum, she believes the White House should work to mitigate the backlash against immigrants created by the controversy. "The D.C. representative also criticized the media including newspapers like the *Chicago Tribune* and *Wall Street Journal* for their coverage of "Nannygate."

"The *Wall Street Journal* reported without comment that placement agencies are being told that clients want citizens, 'not foreigners' despite the fact that permanent residents are eligible to work," said Narasaki.

Actor seeks chapter interest in one-man show

Attention JAACL chapters. Lane Nishikawa and his one-man show, "I'm on a Mission from Buddha" may be heading your way.

Nishikawa, who is interested in bringing "Buddha" to JAACL chapters across the country, said, "A lot of chapters have done it as a fund-raiser."

Dennis Hayashi, JAACL national director, encouraging the idea, said, "I hope that some of our chapters are interested in working with Lance, since part of JAACL's program for action is to support and promote Asian Pacific American artists."

Nishikawa is now trying to get corporate sponsorship for the 90-

minute show. "One thing we're trying to do is offset some of the costs with corporate sponsorship. We've done it at individual locations, we're now trying to do it on a more national scale."

The actor noted that the Seattle, Chicago, and Salt Lake Chapters have all sponsored performances. Nishikawa also performed at last fall's Future of the Nikkei Conference in Los Angeles.

In "Buddha," which was recently broadcast on PBS, Nishikawa switches among 14 different characters and 18 multi-character vignettes. From a "corporate samurai," to a rapper to a

soldier in the 442 based on his own uncle, the actor portrays both the comic and the tragic of the Japanese American experience.

"I poke a lot of fun at myself and at us (Japanese Americans)," said Nishikawa. "I make them laugh at ourselves, make them feel proud of who we are."

Chapters who are interested in bringing "Buddha" to their local area call or write Nishikawa at: DGee Productions, Deborah Gee, producer, 415/ 398-0292; 1736 Stockton St., Studio 9, San Francisco, CA, 94133. Nishikawa can also be contacted at: Asian American Theatre Company, 415/ 751-2600. (PC)

Nikkei councilman to hold fund-raiser

TORRANCE, Calif.—George Nakano, Torrance city councilman, kicks off his bid for the new 28th District State Senate seat on March 17, 6:30 p.m., at the Cultural Arts Centers' Armstrong Theater lobby, 3330 Civic Center Drive. A founder and charter Torrance JAACL president in 1983, he was the first Asian American elected to the city council in 1984.

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Sent to Japan during WWII these Nikkei seek redress

Fourteen individuals who were part of a United States-Japan exchange during World War II have filed suit to be included in the redress program.

The case, *Kanemoto v. Barr*, has surfaced in U.S. District Court in San Jose, Calif., and is being argued on their unusual individual circumstances.

The Feb. 19, San Francisco *Daily Journal* relates the case of Marion Tsutakawa Kanemoto, 65, formerly of Seattle, a Sacramento resident today, who is one of the plaintiffs.

Her story begins when her father, George Tsutakawa, a Seattle community leader, was arrested by the FBI on Feb. 22, 1942, without formal charges and held for 18 months. According to the *Daily Journal*, headlines in the papers implied he was a spy.

With thousands of other Japanese Americans, her mother, Yachiyo, younger brothers Robert, 12, and Richard, 7, were evacuated and detained at the Puyallup assembly center and later at Minidoka relocation center, where they stayed until Sept., 1943.

As soon as her father agreed to be a part of a prisoner exchange,

the family was reunited in New York to board the Swedish ship, the Gripsholm, for the voyage around Cape of Good Hope to Goa, where the exchange was made for American civilians aboard a ship from Japan, Kanemoto recalled in the article.

According to Gen Fujioka of the Asian Law Caucus and one of the attorneys who filed the suit last September: "The Japanese and U.S. governments chose who would be exchanged. Our basic understanding was initially that Japanese Americans were put on a list because the Japanese government put their names on the list."

Fujioka, who has been working on redress issues, commented: "When you look at the situation of these children—we're talking about patriotic American children caught by this exchange policy."

The Americans who returned from Japan were U.S. government officials, missionaries, journalists and other civilians.

The second boatload on the Gripsholm consisted of 314 people, including 149 American citizens—predominantly children of permanent Issei resident aliens.

According to the *Daily Journal*, once in Japan, the Nisei always felt like outsiders because they were Americans in a foreign country, several of the plaintiffs said.

Another plaintiff, Louise Watanabe Tung, who was born in San Francisco and now resides in Austin, Texas, remembered missing her friends, her freedom, and not being able to finish eighth grade in 1942.

Plaintiff Evelyn F. Akiyama, Alameda-born resident in Sacramento, stipulated in her individual redress claim that "at no time in this odyssey did I ever renounce my American citizenship. Nor did I ever give up my desire to live in the United States, despite the injustices we experienced here."

Another attorney, James F. McCabe pointed out: "The War Relocation Authority had on its books that minors be consulted and be given the opportunity to stay within the United States. It was not applied in the camps."

The Justice Department interprets a provision that excludes eligibility of any individual who during World War II—Dec. 7, 1941

See REDRESS/page 10

Into curriculum, classroom

JACL chapters, members promote Hirabayashi video

By GREG MARUTANI
 San Francisco Chapter, JACL

Back in Nov., 1992, the *Pacific Citizen* ran an article about the videotape, "A Personal Matter: Gordon Hirabayashi vs. the United States" being available for a special price of \$50 per copy including a curriculum and teacher guide containing sample lesson plans. The regular retail price is \$125. With the support of the producers, The Constitution Project and the distributor, CrossCurrent Media, the San Francisco Chapter, JACL, was able to obtain the special price for the videotapes through June 30, 1993, with the provision that they would be offered to educational institutions (K through 12) and JACL chapters for local use.

To obtain the special price, the chapter agreed to handle the shipping, sales tax, and postage costs, using its Legacy Fund allocation to cover these expenses. As of Jan. 31, 1993, 50 copies of the videotape have been purchased through the special offer. The project achieved this number primarily through the efforts of JACL members working with individuals in-

involved in the education field including teachers and school administrators.

The local San Francisco Unified School District ordered 15 copies, one for each high school in the district, with five additional copies for the video library. The chapter covered the cost of six copies through fund-raising revenue from their annual Spaghetti-Crab Feed. Roger Tom, Instructional Improvement and Staff-Development, and Chris Hiroshima, Office of Integration, were instrumental in this effort.

George Ikuta, president of the San Mateo Chapter, JACL, arranged to have the videotape shown at the Sunrise Rotary Club in December where Sonny Damarto, assistant superintendent for the Foster City School District, asked for additional information and material, and as a result ordered two copies. Damarto also introduced a "Day of Remembrance" resolution which was scheduled to be heard Feb. 18.

After viewing the videotape at the San Mateo Chapter board meeting, Karyl Matsumoto, arranged to have the videotape

shown at the installation dinner. Matsumoto invited state Sen. Quentin Kopp along with Mary Janney, vice president and trustee for the San Mateo Union High School District, and other local elected officials. Kopp not only ordered two copies of the videotape, he asked Matsumoto to prepare a letter for his signature to go to the high schools in his district describing the videotape and urging them to purchase copies.

Hero Shiosaki of the Pocatello-Blackfoot Chapter, JACL, has been a one-man representative and promoter of the video in Idaho. His personal contacts and presentations at schools in his area have resulted in 11 copies of the videotape for 10 different high schools.

Sharon Ishii-Jordan, governor for Mountain Plains District, participates on an advisory committee to the Omaha Public Schools in Nebraska. Through her efforts, nine videotapes were ordered, including a copy donated by the Omaha Chapter, JACL.

Al Hida, governor for the Midwest District, will be showing the videotape as part of a workshop

See VIDEO/page 11

Nikkei gun dealer reports widespread illegal trafficking

Licensed gun shop owners in Las Vegas, Nev., are reporting the number of renegade gun dealers has grown to gargantuan proportions as authorities step up plans to curb such activity.

George Tsukamoto, owner of Pacific Tactical Weapons and one of the largest volume gun dealers in the state, told the *Las Vegas Review Journal* recently that guns are being sold out of garages, kitchens and at swap meets by people who don't have a business license.

"The cooker on the whole gig is these people don't even charge sales tax, so there's the loss of sales tax revenue," he noted.

The U.S. Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms Bureau agent for the area added that a federal firearms license is a requirement to commercially buy and sell guns. The police department, which dispenses federal firearms license forms, also cited a Las Vegas business license is required, according to the *Review Journal*.

Tsukamoto explained he had a background check before securing his Las Vegas business license, a firearms license and a second-hand store license. He hopes the situation improves to enforce compliance.

"I believe in everyone's right to bear arms and also believe in gun control to a certain point. Just because the constitution says you have a right to bear arms doesn't mean you have a right to a firearms license." (PC)

1994 convention set for Aug. 3-6 in Salt Lake

Mark your calendars now and plan to attend the 1994 JACL Convention scheduled for Aug. 3-6, 1993, at the Marriott Hotel in Salt Lake City.

An opening social will be held Wednesday evening, Aug. 3, with business sessions on Thursday, Friday and Saturday. A golf tournament is planned for the early part of the week before the business sessions begin, and

booster and recreational events are also being planned in addition to the usual banquets.

An old timers reunion will be one of the highlights of the convention for some of the stalwarts of JACL. The convention committee encourages JACL members everywhere to plan to be in attendance.

Carol Hayashino of the national staff and Neal Taniguchi,

vice president of operations, have visited the city to meet with committee members and to tour and check out the facilities.

Anyone interested in tourist information or to help in planning a vacation to Utah should write to the committee: 1994 JACL Convention Committee, P.O. Box 17715, Salt Lake City, Utah, 84117. (PC)



Photo: SHIG FUJII

DAY OF REMEMBRANCE—Recently receiving plaques from the Sacramento Chapter, JAACL, for their redress support were, front row, from left, Priscilla Ouchida, for California State Sen. Patrick Johnston; ex-mayor Annie Rudin; author Elizabeth Pinkerton, Illa Collin, supervisor; and State Sen. Ralph Dills of Gardena. In back row, from left, are Nate White, NAACP; Robert Dresser, Jewish Council; Darrel Steinberg, city council; Jim Henley, Sacramento History Museum; Phil Isenberg, assemblyman; and Toko Fujii, event coordinator.

Sacramento Chapter honors those who helped redress

By TOKO FUJII
Sacramento Chapter, JAACL

SACRAMENTO—Despite stormy weather, 250 Japanese Americans and friends gathered to thank and honor organizations and individuals for their early and continued support of the Nikkei redress and reparations efforts.

Plaques of recognition with a message of thanks and appreciation for their recipients' early support and commitment to the belief that all Americans should be treated equally under the Constitution, were presented to the following: Priscilla Ouchida, for Sen. Patrick Johnston; Sen. Ralph Dills of Gardena; Sen. Quentin Kopp of San Francisco; Sen. LeRoy Green of Sacramento; Sen. and President Pro Tempore David Roberti (received by aide Georgette Imura); Assemblyman Willie Brown; As-

semblyman Phil Isenberg of Sacramento; former assemblyman and now Judge Lloyd Connelly (received by his wife, Jean Shaw-Connelly); former mayor Anne Rudin; Illa Collin of the Board of Supervisors; Sandra Gin, former local television reporter; and Elizabeth Pinkerton, producer of "Perceptions," author and educator; Rev. Ron Swisher of a local Methodist church; George Matsuoka on behalf of the Presbyterian Church; Nate White of the NAACP; Councilman Darrel Steinberg of Sacramento City Council; Robert Dresser, Sacramento Jewish Community Relations Council; and Jim Henley, Sacramento History Museum.

A letter from Rep. Robert T. Matsui was read by his aide Reiko Kawakami.

Jerry Enomoto, two-time JAACL national president and present

chair of the JAACL/LEC, gave the keynote address, tracing the redress movement from its inception to its near-completion. He said that without the help of non-Nikkei, such as those honored by the chapter, the success of the Civil Rights Act of 1988 might not have been possible. He added that because they have received help from others, Japanese Americans must step up to help and support others in need.

Presentation of colors and the pledge of allegiance were conducted by Nisei Post 8985 VFW; the prayer was offered by Rev. Nobu Hanaoka, followed by the singing of "God Bless America," by the Sacramento United Methodist Church Choir, under the direction of Paul Ito.

Benediction was offered by Rev. Bob Oshita of the Sacramento Betsuin. (PC)

U.S.-Japan relations discussed in Tokyo

By TED SHIGENO
Japan Chapter, JAACL

Twenty-one Japanese Americans in the Tokyo area met with four Japanese Diet members and other Japanese leaders interested in U.S.-Japan relations in the Shina-gawa district, Feb. 16.

The group discussed how the revision of the Constitution of Japan, especially Article 9 which renounces war as a sovereign right of the nation and prohibits the maintenance of military forces, would affect U.S.-Japan relations.

Yoshimi Ishikawa, author of "Strawberry Road," a novel about a Japanese post-war immigrant in the United States, pointed out that many Japanese are worried that if Article 9 is revised, U.S.-Japan relations will deteriorate. With the high technology in Japan it is inevitable that Japan's military might will grow, he said. Even if Japan wants to maintain friendly relations, the United States will fear a strong military Japan. The current friction between Japan and the U.S. on trade problems will be nothing in com-

parison to what it could be if Japan becomes strong militarily as well, Ishikawa concluded.

Ichiro Aisawa, a Liberal Democratic Party member of the House of Representatives and Parliamentary vice minister of the International Trade and Industry, said that many Japanese still say that the United States is their favorite country, but that the percentage has declined from 10 years ago. Aisawa wonder if in the next 10 years the U.S. will still be the favorite country for the Japanese.

Another question put forth to the group was: "Does the U.S. policy toward Japan encourage Japan to review the Constitution and to increase its military power?"

Hideo Den, a United Socialist Democratic Party member of the House of Councillors, told the group about P3C surveillance planes that search for enemy submarines for the U.S. planes to attack. Japan had 49 P3Cs but the plan is to increase them to 100 by the end of next year, Den said, adding that there is not justifica-

tion for that many P3C planes. Even the United States doesn't have that many, he said. Den believes the increase is a result of U.S. insistence.

Ishikawa and Haruhiko Mori, CEO of Mori Kosan, proposed bazaars be held between sister cities in each country. If 300 or more cities held such events each year, the trade surplus could be reduced, they said.

Also participating were Masao Kunihiro, a Social Democratic Party member of the House of Councillors. He worked with Sen Nishiyama of the Japan Chapter as interpreter in the War Crimes trial. Kunihiro has spent 11 years as a student and teacher in the United States.

Also offering their views were Takeshi Iwaya, a freshman Liberal Democratic Party member of the House of Representatives; Katsundo Tanaka, president of the National Institute of Political Research; and representatives of World Dynamics and Hokkaido Morris Corp. (PC)

Xia was contacted by phone several times but did not call back.

In the meantime, the Asian American Women's Support Group on campus scheduled a Feb. 23 demonstration against the administration's handling of the case.

When asked why Yang took so long to complain about not being paid, a spokeswoman for the group, Lisa Sun-Hee Park, told Zorn that "it had a lot to do with being an Asian woman. Asian women do not have a voice politically, socially or economically. And when you're in that subservient role, there is a great fear

built in that if you make waves you will lose face."

Yang still works at her parttime job in food service at the university, chopping vegetables to support her family.

Zorn also reported in his column that a Cook County Circuit judge had ruled last December that a university professor not only sexually harassed a graduate student but plagiarized her work. She was subsequently driven from the school by a departmental conspiracy, Zorn said.

The university is appealing the case. (PC)

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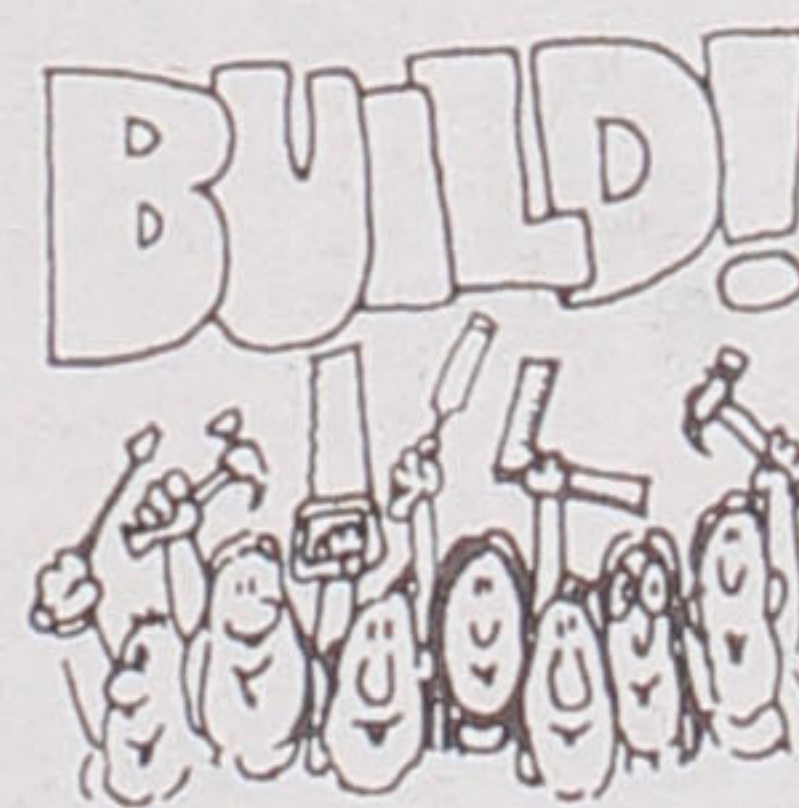
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(Continued from page 1)

forbidding the assailant, Lang Xia, from having contact with her makes it 'clearly impossible for you to perform your duties.'


Yang has filed suit in Cook County Circuit Court against Northwestern and Lang Xia, alleging breach of contract, retaliatory discharge and medical and emotional injuries resulting from the attack.


According to Zorn, university spokesman Chuck Loebbaka and Rosenfeld had no comment when asked to respond to the lawsuit.

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ON the Agenda
 By TAIHEI SHIMIN

Toronto Chapter, NAJC

Shirley Yamada, past chapter president of the National Association of Japanese Canadians in Toronto, was recently acknowledged for her dedication and work, particularly in the area of human rights, as well as to her long-term commitment to redress in the 1980s. New President **Van Hori** promises to do as well. He says one or two human rights workshops are being planned with the Symposium Committee on Race Relations.

Portland Chapter, JAACL

The chapter is planning its annual graduation banquet, for Sunday, May 2. The committee is interested in identifying and locating students of Japanese ancestry to issue invitations. From the list of seniors who respond, the committee will select outstanding graduates as possible recipients for scholarships and awards given by community organizations. Deadline for the local application is April 2. To qualify applicants must have one Nikkei parent or have parents belonging to one of the participating organizations. Applicants will be interviewed by a committee in April. Information: **Al Abe**, 503/639-5166.

Nisei Veterans Committee

One of this group's favorite projects is its annual luncheon for Nikkei senior citizens residing in the Seattle area... What's nice about this affair is that everyone pitches in. Helping out were the Sansei Support Group which handled the program and the Women's Auxiliary... Commander **Yoshi Iwamoto** welcomed guests, which included the senior class of 1993 and "three Gold Star parents: Mrs. **Asano Kanzaki** and Mr. and Mrs. **George Yamane**... **Joe Yada** served as emcee.

Fresno Chapter, JAACL

Quick! What's the oldest JAACL chapter? Well, you know, it's this chapter—and on Aug. 28, 1993, members will celebrate the 70th anniversary of what was originally known as the American Loyalty League. Founded on May 5, 1923 it has the longest continuous history in the organization... **Ken Yokota**, anniversary committee chair, said that chapter is seeking photos and mementos of the chapter and its activities to photo-document them into a slide show. If you have any such memorabilia, contact the chapter c/o CCDC, JAACL, Regional Office, 1713 Tulare St., Ste. 1265, Fresno, CA, 93721; or call 209/486-6815.

442 Veterans Club

The 50th anniversary celebration of the 442nd RCT is coming up March 24-28 in Honolulu... **George Nakasato**, chairman of the Steering Committee, reports that the event will be a memorable commemoration of the founding of the 442nd Regimental Combat Team. Some 2,700 veterans, spouses and friends have registered for the reunion... Scheduled are exhibits and displays, a veterans parade, and, of course, lots of banquets and get-togethers for reminiscing...

Dayton Chapter, JAACL

With an artist like PC cartoonist **Pete Hironaka** on board, you'd expect the chapter to set up an art tour... A special tour of the "Tales of Japan: Three Centuries of Japanese Paintings" on exhibit at the Dayton Art Institute has been set up for the chapter's scheduled meeting March 7. The exhibit is said to be drawn from one of the most outstanding collections of Asian and Middle Eastern art ever assembled into a private collection... The chapter is also planning its March 20 installation dinner featuring **Ken Kashiwahara**, the ABC Network bureau chief in San Francisco.

Marin Chapter, JAACL

How do you yell out "bingo" when you've got a mouth full of spaghetti? I don't know, but you can find out from chapter members who recently gathered for their annual bingo night and all-you-can-eat spaghetti feed... The group also sponsors a ballroom dancing class and plans an upcoming outing to see "Fish Head Soup" at the Asian American Theater in San Francisco.

Detroit Chapter, JAACL

Dayton's dinner meeting is also Detroit's, as well as Cincinnati's, Cleveland's, Chicago's and Indianapolis'. This big joint event will be held at the Hotel Baronette in Novi, Mich. Also invited are many local Asian American community members, students groups at the University of Michigan, and several Filipino American organizations.

Arizona Chapter, JAACL

The chapter is planning a testimonial dinner for **Tom Kadomoto**, Arizona's honorary consul general of Japan, on Saturday, March 13, in Phoenix. The event will be co-hosted by the Arizona Buddhist Church... Tom was awarded a Japanese national medal (*kunsho*), the "Order of the Sacred Treasure, Gold Rays with Neck Ribbon," by the Emperor of Japan last year. Information: **Fumiko Okabayashi**, 602/979-8501, or **Kathy Inoshita** at 602/937-5434.

Got a tip for Tai? Send your tidbits to PC at 701 E. 3rd St., Suite 201, Los Angeles, CA, 90013. Agenda is a roundup of organizational news which appears regularly in the Pacific Citizen.

FYI

Legal help

The Filipino Community Legal Center and the Asian Pacific American Legal Center's legal clinic have been consolidated into one office in Gardena, Calif. The legal clinic will continue to provide free legal services in the areas of poverty law. The clinic is held every second and fourth Monday of each month, from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. at the Asian Community Service Center, 14112 S. Kingsley Dr., Gardena, CA. 90249. Appointments: 213/748-2022.

students currently attending an Illinois high school are eligible to compose an essay addressing racial disharmony, economic revitalization and multicultural education in an Asian American community. Finalists will present their essays and answer questions from a panel of judges. Information: **Christine Takada**, 312/814-6712.

producer, 701 Markham St., Toronto, Ontario M6G, 2M2, Canada. Cost: \$39.95 plus \$4 for shipping and handling (\$43.95)

Student contests

Illinois Gov. Jim Edgar, the National Association of Asian American Professionals and the Asian American Bar Association of the Greater Chicago Area are sponsoring the 1993 Essay and Speech Contest. Entry forms for the contest are being distributed in schools throughout the state. All

Video viewing

From Lucius H. Horiuchi of Sonoma, Calif., comes this recommendation: the film recently shown at the Smithsonian Institution in Washington, D.C., "Pool," or reflections on the Japanese Canadian internment. It was produced and directed by Mark de Valk and Joy Kogawa. The 55-minute video, which is on VHS format, is primarily based on Kogawa's book, "Obasan." It is, Horiuchi says, a "masterpiece and should be seen by all of us who experienced camp life."
 To obtain a copy: Mark de Valk,

Bilingual voting

From Jill Medina of the Asian Pacific American Legal Center (APLC), Los Angeles: In Aug., 1992, the federal government reauthorized the Language Assistance Provisions of the Voting Rights Act. For the first time in Los Angeles County history, voting materials will be available in Chinese, Japanese, Tagalog, and Vietnamese. In the county, voting ballots and materials will be translated into Spanish, Chinese, Japanese, Tagalog, and Vietnamese. For technical reasons, the Korean language is not covered, but the city of Los Angeles is voluntarily providing ballots and voting materials in the Korean language.

To obtain bilingual voting materials, individuals must call their local registrar of voters. Even if

All aboard

All aboard is a listing of new 1993 board members of various organizations. Send us your list and an in-focus photo and we'll run them as soon as possible.

SAN JOSE, JACL

President: Tom Nishisaka
Vice president (activities): Mark Kobayashi
Vice president (civic affairs): Claire Omura
Vice president (education): Kathleen Takeda
Vice president (finance): Kaz Uyesugi
Treasurer: Miles Yamamoto
Delegates: Susan Nakamura, Tom Shigemasa
Board: Alan Aoyama, George Fujii, William Fujii, Carl Fujita, Katie Hironaka, Art Honda, Gary Jio, Leon Kimura, Karl Kinaga, Curt Matsushima, Helen Mineta, Susan Mineta, Wayne Mitsunaga, Yoshi Morimoto, Aiko Nakahara, Richard Nishida, Janis Okawaki,

Darryl Pang, Stan Sakai, Phil Sakakihara, Eiichi Sakayue, Carol Shinmoto, Ann Shiraishi, Karen Shiraki, James Takasugi, Wayne Tanda, Sharon Uyeda, Fred Yoshida.

PLACER COUNTY, JACL

President: Chester Yamada
1st vice president: Bob Takemoto
2nd vice president: Martha Miyamura
3rd vice president: David Oseto
Treasurer: Ellen Kubo
Recording secretary: Maria Kuntz
Corresponding secretary: Thaya Mune Craig
Directors: (1993-94) Judy Buckley, Aster Kondo, Ellen Kubo, Maria Takahashi Kuntz, Martha Miyamura, Dick Nishimura, David Oseto, Mike Takayama, Bob Takemoto.

FREMONT, JACL

President: Christine Nishihira
Vice president: Alan Mikuni
Vice president of activities: Diane Endo, Michi Handa, Kaz Kawaguchi, Eleanor Toi, Frank Nakasako.

Recording Secretary: Lance Yanagihara
Treasurer: June Hashimoto
Historian: June Handa
Education: Mas Yamasaki
Scholarships: Gail Tomita
JASEB representative, 1000 Club: Ted Inouye
Blue Shield: Jim Yamaguchi

NIKKEI WIDOWED GROUP (L.A.)

President: Karl Oike
Vice President: Sally Tsujimoto
Recording secretary/publicity: June Ichinose
Corresponding secretary/bulletins: Fumie Yahiro
Treasurer: Take Shibuya
Sunshine: Aiko Yoshida
Hospitality: Claire Nakashima, Rae Naritomi, and Kay Morimoto.
Activities: Henry Ohmoto, Yukie Sakamoto, and Hazel Endo.
Bulletin mailings: Clarence Miura
Greeters: Aki and Aiko Muranaka, and Masi Takayoshi.
Co-advisors: Henry Ohmoto and Fumie Yahiro.



Wisconsin installation

Board members of the Wisconsin Chapter, JACL, were recently installed. They are, front row, from left, Nancy Jonokuchi, program chair; Robbie Kimura, secretary; Roy Mukai, treasurer; Allan Hida, Midwest District governor. In second row, from left, are Jim Miyazaki, board chair; keynote speaker, Lillian Kimura, JACL national president, ; Andy Hasegawa, membership; and Dave Suyama, vice chairman.

Personally speaking

Education

• California School of Professional Psychology (CSPP) at the Merritt-Peralta Health Education Center, Oakland, formally installed **Katsuyuki Sakamoto, Ph.D.**, as chancellor of its Alameda campus on Feb. 20, a position to which had been named in the fall of 1991 by CSPP President John O'Neil. The Alameda campus is located in Marina Village. Involved in having school work with local government on projects, Sakamoto negotiated an agreement with the city to provide counseling services to tenants of the housing authority for reduced rent for the school's clinic. He grew up in Heart Mountain, Central California and received his B.A. and M.A. degrees in psychology from CSU, Fresno, and his Ph.D. (1971) from Southern Illinois University at Carbondale. He, his wife Edna and two sons live in Alameda.

A graduate school of psychology, CSPP has 22 facilities in the nation including three in California at Los Angeles, San Diego and Fresno. It is considered a nationwide leader in training psychologists to work with multicultural clients.

CSU-Dominguez Hills accounting major **Sondra K. Sakita** of Torrance is among 350 students from throughout the 20-campus California State University system selected for the 1992-93 CSU International Program. Sakita is studying at Waseda.

Veterinary medicine

At the 1992 meeting of the American Veterinary Medical Association at Boston, **Allen Y. Miyahara, DVM** (Iowa State, '54), again represented Hawaii at the House of Delegate sessions. **Teresa Y. Morishita, DVM** (UC Davis, '89) and **Bryan Mayeda, DVM** (Michigan State '49), were certified among the first class of diplomates of the American College of Poultry Veterinarians by passing an all-day examination in this newly created specialty. Mayeda, 69, of Sacramento was the oldest to qualify.

Richard Yamamoto, Ph.D. (UC Davis, '57) was accorded the honorary diplomate status by the American College of Veterinary Microbiologists in recognition of his research in mycoplasma infections of avian species. Yamamoto is former director of the UC, Davis, master program in preventive veterinary medicine.

Awards, honors

The Japanese government has decorated **Dr. Walter Y. Kato**, senior scientist, Brookhaven National Laboratory, Upton, N.Y., with the Order of Sacred Treasure with Neck Ribbon in recognition of his contributions to nuclear safety and nuclear engineering in Japan, which began as a Fulbright exchange professor in 1958 at the University of Tokyo and the Japan Atomic Energy Research Institute. A New York JACLer, Kato is currently a member of the board of directors and fellow of the

American Nuclear Society, a professional body of some 17,000 scientists and engineers from around the world.

While a senior physicist at Argonne National Laboratory in Illinois and responsible for reactor physical experiments in liquid metal, he spent an academic year (1974) as visiting distinguished professor at the University of Michigan. He is married to the former **Anna Chieko Kurata** of Gardena, Calif. They have three children, Dr. Norman, assistant professor of cardiac surgery at UCLA Medical Center, Cathryn Kato-Lapp of Wellesley, Mass., and Barbara Kato of Philadelphia.

The Asian Pacific Family Center, a mental health agency in San Gabriel Valley at Rosemead, Calif., will hold its sixth annual award dinner May 20 at Pasadena Center and honor **Sue Kunitomi Embrey**, founding member and Manzanar Committee chair, for community leadership. Hollywood TV personality Mario Machado will emcee with proceeds benefiting the center's program. The clinic is funded by the Short-Doyle plan of the Los Angeles County, United Way and private donations. Information: Becky Murray, (818) 795-8471.

Government

Helen S. Kawagoe, city clerk for Carson, Calif., was reappointed last November to the Los Angeles County consumer affairs advisory commission in one of the final appointments of now-retired Supervisor Kenneth Hahn.

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Opinions



From the frying pan

BILL HOSOKAWA

A life built on solid foundation

In all the news coverage given the bomb blast that devastated the 110-story World Trade Center towers in New York, I did not see any mention of the late Minoru Yamasaki, the Seattle-born Nisei architect. It was his firm, Minoru Yamasaki and Associates, of Troy, Mich., which was chosen over 40 of the world's leading architectural firms to design the center in 1962, and to supervise its construction in a work that was completed in 1976.

It may well be that the design Yamasaki built into the towers prevented greater damage when the car bomb was detonated in one of the underground parking areas. He tells of the design in his 1979 book, *A Life in Architecture*.

High winds, Yamasaki wrote, make the design of skyscrapers a critical matter. His engineers came up with a system that enables the ends of floor beams to act somewhat like automobile shock absorbers. While the upper floors of some older buildings in the 60-story range have to be evacuated because of movement in a high wind, movement in the Foreign Trade Towers was, Yamasaki wrote, "limited to eight inches over 10 seconds in a 100-mile-wind, which is hardly any movement at all."

The towers not only survived the horren-

dous bomb blast, some in the uppermost floors said they scarcely felt the impact.

Yamasaki's book recounts his childhood in a Seattle Japantown tenement where the plumbing consisted of a cold water tap and an outhouse in back of the building. Like many Seattle Nisei teenagers he went to Alaska each summer to work incredibly long hours at coolie labor in a salmon cannery. For some now forgotten reason, we called him Tinky.

By 1933 Yamasaki had compiled one of the best records in the history of the school of architecture at the University of Washington. Each year the top student was given a trip to Paris. Yamasaki was told the scholarship had been cancelled the year he was the winner because of the Depression, a transparent excuse for racial discrimination. Yamasaki went job-hunting to New York where, to keep from starving, he wrapped dishes for a chinaware distributing company.

Yamasaki says in his book that he writes in considerable detail about his early privations because he learned that life could be lived more beautifully—"not solely a material life, but one in which aesthetics and gentility were much more involved, no matter at how fundamental a level." Forti-

fied by this philosophy, he grew into a gentle, soft-spoken, tough-minded but self-effacing American who never forgot his roots.

Some of the world's most striking buildings are the product of Yamasaki's imagination. His first major commission was the airport terminal in St. Louis, Mo. He also designed the Federal Science Pavilion at the Seattle World's Fair, the Rainier Bank Tower also in Seattle, the Century Plaza Hotel in Los Angeles, and the Dhahran Air Terminal in Saudi Arabia.

Of the plaza between the towers of the Trade Center, Yamasaki wrote: "Like many other important plazas of the world, it is designed as an end in itself, to set off the buildings facing it and to create an environment made totally for pedestrians and away from automobiles."

Ironically, it was a bomb built inside a car and parked in a garage under the Trade Center that almost destroyed it. ☐

Hosokawa is the former editorial page editor of the Denver Post. His column appears weekly in the Pacific Citizen.

Letters

Pacific Citizen encourages and welcomes letters to the editor. Letters must be brief, are subject to editing and those unpublished can be neither acknowledged nor returned. Please sign your letter but make sure we are able to read your name. Include mailing address and telephone number. Fax letters to 213/626-8213 or mail to Letters to the Editor, Pacific Citizen, 701 E. 3rd St., Ste. 201, Los Angeles, CA, 90013.

Nikkei remembers Thurgood Marshall

The name of the game is to drop names, but not really—although some Nisei do it very subtly. But this is not my intent.

When I lived in New York City on the Upper Westside, I had a shop in the Morningside Gardens Shopping Center at 124th and Amsterdam Ave., bordering Harlem.

Morningside Gardens, a middle-class high rise apartment development, covers an entire city block, where Thurgood Marshall and his young Filipina American wife lived upstairs of our store and were frequent customers. (This is before he moved to his Supreme Court job in Washington, D.C.)

One day they invited my wife and I to dinner at their apartment, but I cannot recollect what was cooked nor what was said during the course of the evening, but I do remember he talked about several civil rights cases and was indignant about the treatment of the Japanese Americans during World War II, their forced removal from their homes and incarceration in concentration camps.

(He was) soft-spoken and low profile. It wasn't in Thurgood Marshall's nature to pontificate or educate; he was just as interested in what you had to say.

As Dennis Hayashi wrote (PC, 2/5/93), quoting Thurgood Marshall, "People are people—But treat them with respect and decency give them equal access to the levers of power, attend to their aspirations and grievances, and they will flourish and grow and, if you will excuse an ungrammatical phrase, join together to form more perfect union."

And that was what the evening was all about. There was **humility** in his greatness.

Joe Oyama
Berkeley, Calif.

Praise for achievements of Women in JACL

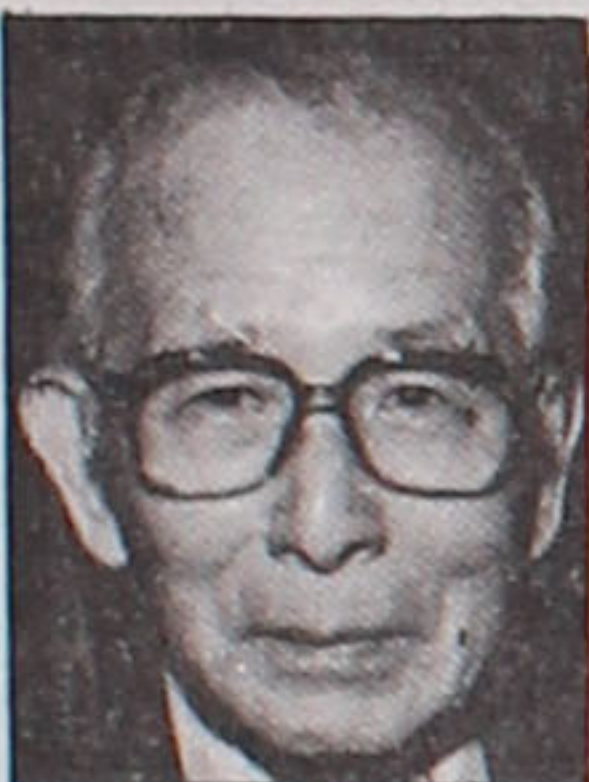
Congratulations to the PC for saluting the ladies of JACL (in the 1992 Holiday Issue). Without them, our organization would not have done so well in such a short time. As a JACler for about 45 years, serving in various positions and moving up to being the National 1000 Club chair, I remember the Chicago, JACL, 1000 Club Committee consisted of six women, Susan Odanaka, Toe Sakamoto, Janice Chinn, Emily Matsumoto, Winnie Furusho and May Kawamoto, who came up with the goal of 2,000 members by 1968 at the national convention in San Jose, Calif.

And to anticipate this goal, architect John Kitazaki was persuaded to design hula hoops for the 1000 Club whing-ding and Ron Harano was persuaded to become the 2,000th Thousand Club member at San Jose.

The celebration took place as anticipated as newly elected 1000 Club chair Tad Hirota of Oakland announced plans for the Tokyo whing-ding in 1971. We had four charter flights heading for Tokyo. Japanese Foreign Minister Bunroku Yoshino honored us as well as visiting California Gov. Ronald Reagan by their presence. Then U.S. Ambassador Armin Meyer accompanied the governor. And I was told in confidence by a Japanese official that were it not for Mike Masaoka, our two countries would not have this great relationship. Close to 1,000 members and guests attended.

The 1000 Club can be promoted with various programs. We congratulate our new 1000 Club chair, Mrs. Mary Nishimoto of New York. I know she will come up with unique ideas and programs.

Frank F. Sakamoto
Chicago, Ill.



Moshi Moshi

JIN KONOMI

Reversal of reversal

A few years ago I presented in this space my argument for writing the names of Japanese persons the old Japanese way, i.e., the family name first and given name last. I was not at all militant about my belief; I did not expect the *Pacific Citizen* to humor the seemingly out-of-the-blue proposal, and it did not. But the newspaper gave me space anyway, and I am grateful for its broadmindedness. Since that time I have never wavered in my belief, and have practiced what I advocate.

A recent development in Japan seems to indicate a majority of the Japanese are of the same opinion as I. More and more of them have been writing their names in Latin alphabet the old Japanese way. And a few influential periodicals have been doing so for some time. They are: the *Japan Quarterly*; *Asia Weekly*; the *Mainichi Weekly*. The first is published by the *Asahi Shimbun*, and the last mentioned, by the rival *Mainichi Shimbun*, caters to the students of the English language.

Here a tribute is due to the *East*. You will see this magazine in most large libraries.

As long as I have known it, which is nearly 50 years, it has steadfastly adhered to its policy of presenting Japanese names in the old traditional way. It must have taken the publishers and editors considerable courage of conviction, probably with a touch of contrariness, to have held out against the general fashion for so long.

How, in the first place, did the fashion start?

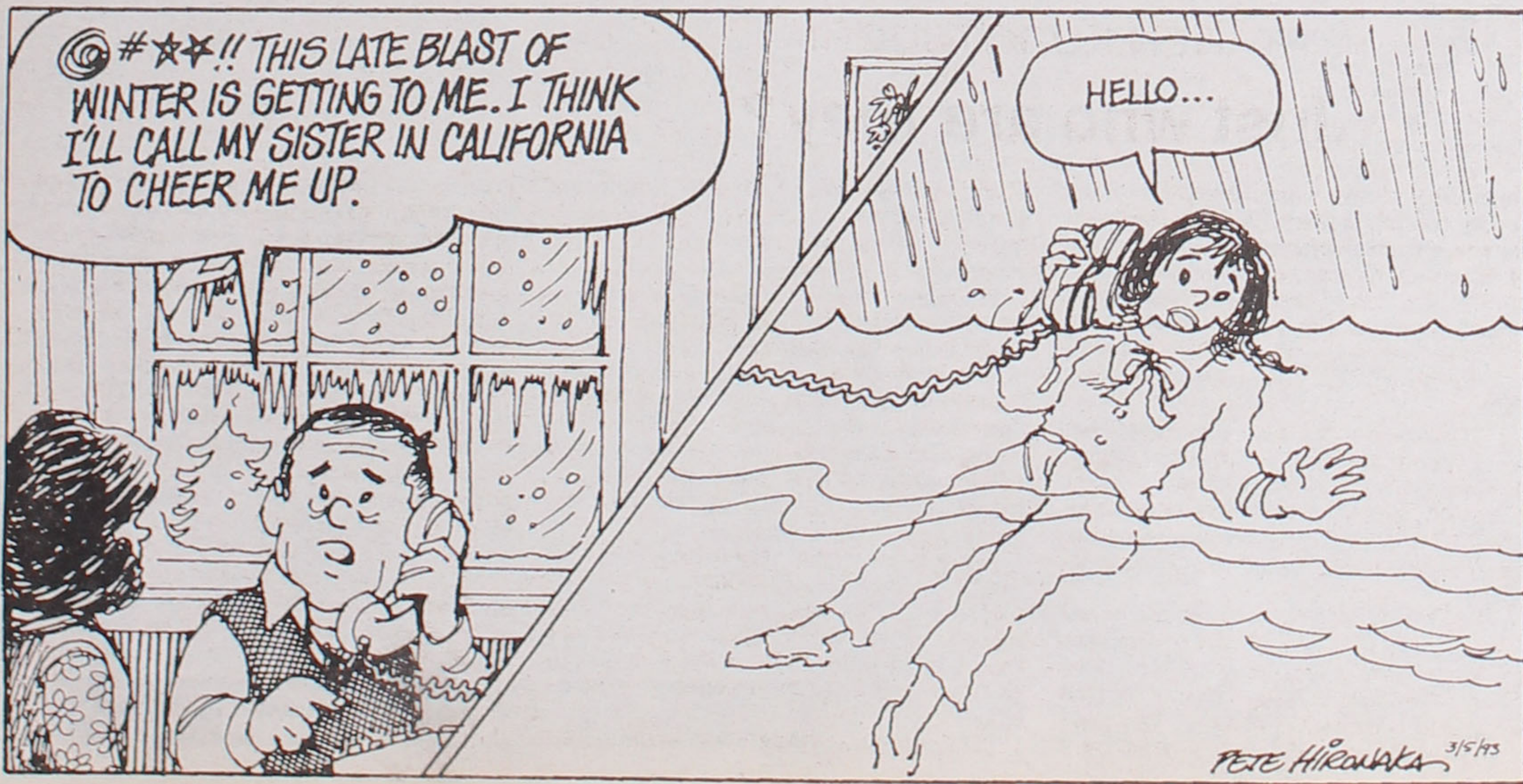
I entered the Shuyukan Chugakko in 1926. But my cousin had taught me two or three years before to spell my name in Romaji, given name first and family name last. When I asked him why the two names are reversed, he told me "Because that's the way they do it in the West." I did not question him further, and I'd been doing so till my column mentioned above.

According to the weekly magazine *Aera* (9/15/92: *A Japanese Puzzle: Why Was The Family-Given Name Order Reversed?*), historian Sougou Masaaki, who is an authority on Japan's English studies, from the end of the Tokugawa era to the early Meiji, speculates that the reversal began during

the Rokumeikan era. In the 1880s, Japan was in a frenzy of hurry to shed its barbarian image. The most urgent priority of its national policy was the revision of its treaties which conceded too many, too great advantages to America and the European countries. The quickest way, the Japanese decided, to win the Westerners' respect was to become Europeanized; to dress like Europeans, to eat their food, to socialize with them, in short, to become virtual Europeans. Europeanization (*ookashugi*) became the obsessive motivation of the Japanese government. Rokumeikan, the sumptuous Italian Renaissance building explicitly built to hold the social activities—games, masquerades, bazaars, etc.—became the name and symbol of this period. In such cultural atmosphere, it was a natural development, thinks Sougou, that the Japanese started to write their names in the Western manner. He convinces me.

Pierre Loti's *Japonnerie a Automne* has a chapter on one of the balls which he at-

See MOSHI MOSHI/page 10





Sidebar

MEI NAKANO

A clash of cultures

When you're a Japanese American female, you know your boundaries. In your own community, you don't go out on a picket line, rail against war, or throw out your bra. In the larger world, you pull more than your share in the workplace, don't talk about gays in the military and don't talk back. Get the picture?

Many of us write uncomfortably under such strictures and struggle to free ourselves. We succeed only in varying degrees, I think, first because of deeply-rooted cultural values that drive our actions and secondly, because of stereotypical images that govern the way we are perceived. I hasten to add that I see nothing inherently wrong with those cultural values. It's just that they're apt not to be understood in this society, hence, often work as barriers to whatever it is we want to accomplish.

Jean Ishibashi, a Nisei of sorts (her father is Issei, her mother Kibei), has filed suit against the American Friends Service Committee (AFSC), charging racial and sexual harassment. You know right off by that that she is no stereotypical Nisei. But wait. It is

that part of her—that quintessential Japanese in her—that may have necessitated the suit in the first place.

Long known in the greater Bay Area Japanese community for her civil and human rights work, Jean is not the sort you might ask to help with, say, making sushi for the local church benefit. Nor—to paraphrase Hillary Clinton, at my peril—the kind you would expect to see at home baking cookies. But traditional Japanese values resonate in much of her behavior.

Jean worked for the AFSC for more than eight years, charged with strengthening ties between the peace movement and oppressed communities, then with working on their Affirmative Action Committee. She consistently got high marks for her performance until . . .

"Being a good Japanese woman," Jean says, with a bitter smile, "I took my responsibility seriously." So when AFSC's hiring practices did not comply to its own affirmative action policies of hiring targeted, qualified women or persons of color in certain positions, she took them to task.

Uh, oh. Big trouble. An Asian woman challenging authorities? "I was called on the carpet (by the executive director) and told if I wasn't a team player, goodbye." She claims she was then systematically discredited and humiliated.

To top it off, a male AFSC volunteer allegedly began harassing her, touching her and stroking her long, black hair. While the AFSC dismissed the man from the premises, it took no steps to assure that he would not return. And when he did reappear on the premises, Jean refused to return to the office. "I thought they didn't really care about my health or safety," she says.

Jean subsequently suffered severe stress-induced health problems over a period of time, necessitating a hospital stay, at one point. While she was out, disabled, the AFSC dismantled her program entirely and terminated her job.

You can see many factors of gender/race at work here. Asian women are expected to be quiet: when they break out of that role, they're treated more harshly than white

males. Women's concerns tend to be trivialized—as in the case of Jean's sexual harassment. And, who could miss the "exotic" Asian female image that must have drawn the unwanted attentions of the misguided man?

Too, Jean's tendency to stick it out longer than was prudent, may have been misunderstood by her employers. "Since I held AFSC in such high esteem, I felt these things would work out," she says ruefully. Things might very well have worked out by way of compromise and cooperation, had she been dealing with a Japanese company, which could appreciate *gaman*, *enryo* and *haji* (roughly "perseverance," "restraint" and "shame"). But you can see where the male employers might have interpreted her hesitation as weakness and vacillation, hence, felt no need to deal with it. And they probably didn't have the remotest clue that she might be feeling shame over the experience.

Those fearsome trio of cultural factors, by the way, also underscore Jean's reluctance

See CULTURES page 10

Voices from Japan

There is no statute of limitations for rape, argues sociologist Chizuko Ueno, defending the right to compensation of the Korean women, estimated at up to 200,000, who were forced to provide sex to Japanese troops during World War II. The issue isn't just the government's involvement but also the sex crimes of its soldiers, who unspeakably degraded helpless women for years. What kind of men could have derived pleasure from sexual slaves? Ueno asks, in the blunt style that has made her a prominent voice in Japanese feminism.

In June 1992, the Tokyo District Court began hearing a suit by 41 South Koreans seeking compensation for treatment they suffered at the hands of the Imperial Army during World War II. Many of the plaintiffs are women who were held captive at military-operated brothels and forced to have sex with Japanese soldiers. The fact that more than four decades have passed since the conflict ended does not weaken the women's claim. There is no time limit on retribution for sex crimes.

Note the official terminology. In Japanese, the women who were forced to work in the brothels are referred to euphemistically as "comfort women." Yet their plight was nightmarish, totally degrading. And consider the men involved. What kind of a person could find comfort in committing rape? When I learned that the term often used in English is "sexual slaves," it was a real eye-opener.

Research I did in Okinawa Prefecture last year provided a wider context for the

CHIZUKO UENO

professor of sociology, Kyoto Seika University

Japan's enduring shame

issue. I met with members of the Study Group on Okinawan Women's History, which has drawn up a map showing the locations of 121 so-called comfort stations that were operated in the Ryukyus during the Pacific War.

My hosts explained the tangled web of discrimination that was spun throughout the brothels. Korean women were used by enlisted men, while Okinawans were reserved for officers. The local people were cruelly mistreated by mainland soldiers and in turn were contemptuous of Koreans, who were colonial subjects at the time. The Imperial Army had opened the comfort stations on Okinawa as a benefit to soldiers because it didn't consider the area part of Japan proper.

A psychological barrier has made it difficult for Okinawan women to come forward: unlike the Koreans who were under duress, they were paid small sums for being violated.

The lawsuit by Korean survivors shows that a few strands of the web have been drawn forward across time. The plaintiffs were spurred not only by nationalism but also by greater self-confidence from South Korea's prosperity. It is a legal action by the

citizens of another country against the government of Japan.

The premises underlying the Koreans' demand for compensation would appear to deny Okinawan women their day in court simply because they are Japanese nationals and were remunerated for their "services."

Sexual slavery, however, is not just about a wrong done by the state. It is also about sex crimes by "mankind." Failure to recognize this aspect only prolongs the wartime distinction between the Okinawan and Korean comfort women. In fact, they were sisters in servitude.

That the suit was filed at all indicates how much attitudes have changed in half a century. Writing in the Dec., 1992, issue of *Shiso no Kagaku*, an intellectual journal, sociologist Ehara Yumiko analyzes why the women remained silent so long.

It has taken 46 years, Ehara believes, "for the feminist perspective to gain currency, for people to understand that the perpetuation of cultural norms that make the victims of rape or sexual assault feel ashamed and conceal the situation is itself a terrible sex crime."



Crossroads

KAREN KUROTUCHI

Just who are they?

Perhaps one of the countless reasons why Americans are so divided stems from our willingness to embrace the nameless "they" as the source of our problems. Example: "They are taking our money and spending it in ways that only benefit themselves." Who are "they?" (I could be talking about a whole range of "theys" here—perhaps Congress, perhaps special interests, perhaps lawyers, etc.) Even worse, we also use "they" as a means of slander: "They just aren't as smart. That's why they don't do well in school."

Why is it so easy to accuse and/or attack this "they?" Are we really just using "they" as a way of avoiding specific people we are criticizing? Doesn't saying "they" instead of acknowledging our subject by name imply that we think we're somehow better, or at the very least, different from "them." Isn't that racist?

Using "they," we are removing the re-

sponsibility of our words from ourselves. We are making it seem like this comment had arisen from nowhere, and thereby lending it a certain amount of credibility by default. The "they" comments become acceptable societal norms. We didn't originate the comment, and it now seems to be common knowledge. The comment is now a label.

It is like the cosmological concept of matter—no one knows where matter came from, but once matter is created, it can never be destroyed. Just as matter becomes a permanent fixture to the earth's environment, the label becomes planted in our society's psyche.

Or, as Harry said to Sally in the movie "When Harry Met Sally," about why men and women can never be friends because sexual attraction impedes them: "It (the 'sex thing') is already out there. You can't do anything about it." It is almost as if

Harry believes that his simplistic model of gender relations was derived from an orbiting cosmic force "out there," and that force guides our relationships with people.

Tragically, the label leaps from a vague "they" to a specific "they." What's the difference? I offer this statement as an example: "They have no concept of law and order. Look how they all just go around killing themselves in their own neighborhoods." I am reasonably sure that anyone reading the above can figure out which group of people is being referred to, although the group is never specified.

Another example: "Their very presence would disrupt the military."

Here's an example closer to home: "They come to this country, speak only to their own, buy up everything in sight, and then go home and help their country cheat us blind."

This practice of using "they" as the scape-

goat can be used as both an offensive and defensive mechanism. We can attack others with sweeping and discriminatory labels and seem less blatantly racist by never specifically naming our victims. We also dodge the responsibility of these labels by using another "they" (whomever "they" may be) as our source of these comments. Have you ever heard anyone (or yourself) saying, "Hey, THEY started it." Who is this racist "they?" Is it the same nebulous source that enlightened Harry labels men and women?

Yes, "they" may have started it, but we all perpetuate these lies and racist charges by letting them continue to exist.

As Japanese Americans of different generations and ethnic mixes, we all share experiences of discrimination. Be it overt or covert, just about all of us can remember something that has happened in our lives that we could attribute to the ignorance

See 'THEY'/page 10

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Yuki Sato, escort
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May 10 - 20
Yuki Sato, escort
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May 17 - 30
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YAMASAKI

(Continued from page 1)

[but now No. 2 after the Sear's Tower in Chicago]. Ground was broken in 1966 for the \$400 million project; it opened in 1974.

Yamasaki, who died at age 73 in Detroit in 1986, was also a cover-story in Time Magazine Jan. 18, 1963. National JAACL recognized him as the 1961-62 Nisei of the Biennium. At the time of death, he was an active 29-year 1000 Club and 13th-year Century Club member of Detroit JAACL.

— HARRY K. HONDA

NIKKEI

(Continued from page 1)

evacuated, according to a *New York Times* report. The *Times* quoted Katsuma Ohara of Fuji Bank saying that of the 450 employees, 150 would relocate to offices in New Jersey and the remainder would be in areas throughout Manhattan.

Lillian Kimura, JAACL national president, was travelling on the PATH train underneath the center only an hour before the explosion.

"I was through there an hour before. I was lucky. I and a group of Asian Americans had gone to see the general manager of the

local CBS station and he couldn't meet with us because of the explosion."

Kimura and a group of Asian Pacific American leaders had gone to meet with the general manager to discuss a local Asian American newscaster whose contract was not renewed.

"I usually go through the World Trade Center if I don't take my car," said Kimura. "I take the train over from Newark. But because of what happened I had to figure a way to come back."

The national president also noted that the local television stations, except CBS, were blown off the air, because their transmitters were on top of the twin towers.

REDRESS

(Continued from page 4)

to Sept. 2, 1945—relocated to a country while the United States was at war with that country.

Kanemoto said: "It is unfair to exclude us from redress, just because we were sent to Japan. Under the Constitution, minors are protected. We were lost in the shuffle. We were aware but so helpless."

"It's difficult when you know your parents were not wrong either. They (the U.S.) didn't have proof my father was a spy. I don't think the children should bear the sins of the father. But in this case, my father did not sin. If we had not been evacuated, we would never have left."

Kanemoto added she wants an apology more than a reparations check.

Other Nikkei who suffered directly from the exclusion and internment orders during WWII and denied redress may secure advice for appeal through the Asian Law Caucus. Call 415/391-1655. (C)

FYI

(Continued from page 6)

voters do not receive anything in their language prior to an election, all information will be available at the polling site in the requisite language. Additional items that will be translated include absentee ballots, sample ballots, and language assistance at the polling site.

Information: Language Rights Project of the APLC, 1010 S. Flower St., Suite 302, Los Angeles, CA, 90015, or call 213/748-2022. (C)

'THEY'

(Continued from 9)

known as racism.

And, like all other minorities, no matter what multi-ethnic mix, religion, gender, or sexual preference, this ignorance hurts us and prevents us from achieving equality in our society. This ambiguous "they" that all of us have employed in our speech at one time or another can turn on us just as we have turned it on others. America will never achieve equality until ALL of us are treated equally.

This is why Japanese Americans, as minorities in America, must not let the "they's" denigrate us or any other minority. An attack on any minority—people of color, women, homosexuals—is an attack on all minorities. Even white, Anglo-Saxon Protestants are now minorities (by demographic percentage), and they, along with all of us, should not be targeted and should not target others.

Do not allow the "theys" who are making up the lies and damaging labels to stay hidden behind a third-person pronoun. Expose the "they," and when you find out who the "they" are, let him/her/them know that you do not approve of or accept their methods. If you think the government is a "they," let your representative know how you feel. If you think the media is a "they," write a letter to the editor or call your local TV station. No "they" is bigger than you. "They" are not an institution; all rivers lead to a source.

If you think that you could be a "they," then stop yourself every time you think you could be contributing to the problem. Just as you do not like being judged by labels you had no part in spreading about the Japanese, Japanese Americans, and Asian Americans, do not be a part of the spreading of other labels of other people.

Why must we stop with the "Year of the Woman?" Let it also be the "Year of the Man." And the "Year of the Child." And, when I say the year of the man, woman, and child, I mean EVERYONE, regardless of race, religion, or sexual preference. Let's turn the "they" into "us."

Kurotsuchi is a 1992 international studies and Asian Studies graduate of Northwestern University, and is now employed there.

CULTURES

(Continued from page 6)

tance to call upon the Japanese American community for help. She did so, only recently, on the urging of a friend.

It's going to be a hard go. Charging the AFSC with racial and sexual harassment is akin to attacking the JAACL for anti-Asian bias. AFSC is internationally recognized for its work for peace and justice and is one of the few agencies which helped Japanese Americans during the internment.

Nonetheless, a sizable number of women and Japanese Americans have come forward to support Jean. Judging by their testimonies, many have undergone similar experiences in their workplaces or in their volunteer work. They agree with Jean's assessment that some organizations and firms hold a "colonial attitude" toward employees of color, tending to patronize them or to ignore internal problems of inequity.

"I feel that a lot of Asian women have gone through this and are hurting inside," Jean says. "The suit may not help me, but in the larger picture, it may help other Asian women in similar situations to speak up."

Let's hope so. It's an exercise in the American way.

Nakano, Nisei author of "Japanese American Women: Three Generations," is presently working on a book about her father. Her column appears monthly in the Pacific Citizen.

MOSHI MOSHI

(Continued from page 8)

tended as captain of a French man-of-war. I have been wanting for years to read it but haven't had the chance to yet.

From there on it became mandatory to write Japanese government has not made any pronouncement on the matter. One middle level diplomat in the Japanese Foreign Office spells his name the old Japanese way on his calling card.

So the pendulum with the hundred-year rod had finally begun to swing back. The trend today definitely is for the old, traditional Japanese way of name notation. Many Western writers on Japan are doing so. Frank Gibney is one of them. Regrettably, I don't recall the title of the book which I read but I remember him chiefly because of his most witty Latin pun: *Amiae vincit omnis*, explaining the role of *amae* in the Japanese mores.

But please do not misunderstand me. I am not advocating to change the way the Nikkei Americans write their names. They are Americans, their names are on their birth certificates as they still write them. And I, too, am an American, so I write my name Jin Konomi. (C)

Columnist Konomi is a prewar newspaperman who lives in Alhambra, Calif. His column appears regularly in Pacific Citizen.

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