

Response to Michelle Malkin

by Karen Yoshitomi, PNW Regional Director

By now, many of you have heard or read about the recently released book by Michelle Malkin, "In Defense of Internment: The Case for 'Racial Profiling' in World War II and the War on Terror." Some may remember Ms. Malkin from her stint with the Seattle Times from 1996 to 1999, or from our encounter with her over Initiative 200 and the anti-affirmative action debate. Well, she's now a syndicated columnist living in Maryland and creating quite a buzz.

The book defends both the evacuation and relocation of ethnic Japanese from the West Coast and puts forth the argument that there was a justification and military rationale for those actions. Malkin relies heavily on high-level Japanese foreign office diplomatic cables that were intercepted and decrypted. The information derived from these cables were designated "magic" by the United States.

In 1977, approximately 4,200 cables dating from February to December 1941 were published by the Department of Defense, a small number of which referred to Japan's intelligence efforts within the United States and Hawaii. What Malkin fails to acknowledge is that there is a vast difference between raw intelligence and an analysis of that information with collaborating evidence to substantiate the argument that she makes regarding the "...alarming extent of Japan's ongoing espionage operations on the West Coast... and its vital importance in shaping FDR's national security policies..." (In Defense... p.37)

Malkin also submitted a column to the Honolulu Star Bulletin which ran on August 9th that began with the following statement, "Almost everything you'll hear this week from the Japanese American Citizens League about the internment of ethnic Japanese during World War II is false. It's time to correct the record." David Forman, a board member of the Honolulu chapter-JACL ran a guest column along with Malkin's piece and did a masterful job of countering her attempt to incite debate and capitalize on the JACL's presence in Hawaii.

On August 6th Malkin was in Bellevue where she gave a pre-launch speech about her book. I spent most of the time in utter bewilderment while she purported to present the "truth" about the historical facts of the internment, contrary to decades of research and findings by numerous scholars and historians, including U.S. District Court Justice Donald S. Voorhees, the judge who presided over the action to overturn Hirabayashi's wartime conviction. Malkin's speech (as in her book) relied heavily on the "magic" cables as her defense of the internment. Malkin stated that there are myths about the internment in terms of the presence of a security threat and evidence of disloyalty among ethnic Japanese and therefore a military necessity to evacuate and intern all of the West

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NHAW Board

Selects Cultural Center Site

The Executive Board of the Nikkei Heritage Association of Washington voted unanimously to select the Seattle Japanese Language School site at Rainier Ave. S. and S. Weller Street as the location for the new Japanese Cultural Center. The vote at its July 20, 2004 meeting capped a lengthy discussion of three potential sites studied. "It was a difficult decision," said NHAW Board President Ron Mamiya. "However, the Japanese Language School site was determined to be best suited for our planned uses and the suggested lease terms were hard to refuse." Jeff Hamlett, an architect with Arai Jackson Ellison Murakami LLP added: "An advantage of the Language School site is the Center can be built there in phases."

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A Beautiful Day to Beautify

What started as an overcast day, ended with rays of sunshine and a more beautiful landscape. On Saturday, August 28, from 9 AM - 1 PM, over 30 individuals of all ages and backgrounds came together with the common goal and bond to beautify the grounds of the Aki Kurose Middle School Academy. Through much sweat equity and fun, the front entrance was weeded, edged, pruned, cleared of debris and laid with barked. In the honor of Aki, our purpose is to ensure that the students, staff and community can start the new school year entering a well-groomed school.

The following is a list of those who participated, thank you very much. If we missed anyone, please accept our apologies: Dave Asamoto, Rick Asamoto, BiHoa Caldwell, David Cunningham, Karen Cunningham, Katie Cunningham, Kristen Cunningham, Derrik Hattori, Jeffrey Hattori, Kiku Hayashi, Kazzie Katayama, Hugo Kurose, Kenji Kurose, Marie Kurose, Paul Kurose, Toshio Kurose, Kenji McCullough, Tadd Mitsui, Tatsuo Nakata, May Namba, Arlene Oki, Akiko Sakurai, Mariko Sata, Lauree Seko, Joy Shigaki, Bill Tashima, Alan Yabui, Margaret Yanagimachi, and Bob "The Gardner."

Special thanks to: BiHoa Caldwell, May Namba and Elaine Akagi for organizing; Margaret Yanagimachi for sharing her home gown and *oishii* cucumbers and green beans; Marie Kurose for the watermelon and orange juice; Bill Tashima for his leadership and donuts; May Namba for home made cookies; Karen Cunningham for chips/salsa and water; Sharon Maeda for the veggie tray; and "Gardner Bob" who brought all the tools, pruned all the shrubs and provided much assistance and encouragement.

If you are in the neighborhood of the Aki Kurose Middle School Academy, take a look and consider saving the 4th Saturday in August 2005 to join us.

Mission Statement: The Seattle Chapter JACL is a non-profit, grassroots civil rights organization dedicated to empowering our local community through high-quality programs and strategic partnerships focusing on activism, education, and youth leadership development. As a chapter of the Japanese American Citizens League, we strive to be a leading Asian American advocacy group for civil and human rights while promoting and preserving the values and cultural heritage of Japanese Americans.

Chapter Board Meeting: Our primary means of carrying out our mission is a monthly meeting, held at 6 PM on the third Wednesday of each month, except August, at the chapter office, 316 Maynard Ave. S, Seattle. Those wishing to make presentations or be added to the meeting agenda should contact President Bill Tashima prior to the meeting.

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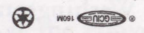
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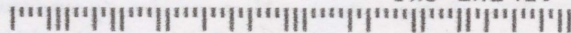
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