Vietnam war film cited for campus melee

POMONA, CA — Garry High School reopened Monday, Nov. 24, with additional police patrol after it was shut down by Pomona Unified School District officials for two days this past week following a violent melee.

Principal Pedro Garcia said tensions increased after a Vietnam war film, "The Deerhunter," was shown on television the day before. The film had completed as early as Oct. 23 to school officials of physical abuse sustained by their children at several schools in the district, according to school officials.

The latest incident, according to Garcia, was started by some 30 to 40 Chicano students on the 1,800-student campus in the predominantly Hispanic neighborhood on the southside. They seemed to regard "Vietnamese as cruel and violent; look what they did to their countrymen," he added.

The film, which included Vietnam's down this week before.

When the Chicano lad, his eye swollen from the fight, returned to school, school officials tried unsuccessfully to have him identified.

New bank head

Seattle mayor picks Mamiya to muni bench

SEATTLE, WA — Mayor Charles Royer has appointed John Mamiya, 21, a junior at the University of Washington and a current Seattle JACL board member, to the municipal court bench being vacated Jan. 1 by Judge Charles Johnson who moved to superior court.

Mamiya's appointment requires city council confirmation and shall be effective as of the fall 1981. The Sawlo attorney, among 40 applicants for the municipal judgeship, was interviewed by the mayor after recommendations of a 12-member screening committee, which included Seattle attorneys and chief of police.

Mamiya's prosecuted municipal court misdemeanors in Spokane before entering private practice in Seattle. He handled the Internal District Economic Assn. and the 1982-84 Davis graduate student ($12,000 for the power in the recent Nov.-April season) and has been active in the Seattle branch of the Japan America Citizens League. His contribution of five dollars to the reorganization was publicized.

New bank head

Seattle mayor picks Mamiya to muni bench

SEATTLE, WA — Mayor Charles Royer has appointed John Mamiya, 21, a junior at the University of Washington and a current Seattle JACL board member, to the municipal court bench being vacated Jan. 1 by Judge Charles Johnson who moved to superior court.

Mamiya's appointment requires city council confirmation and shall be effective as of the fall 1981. The Sawlo attorney, among 40 applicants for the municipal judgeship, was interviewed by the mayor after recommendations of a 12-member screening committee, which included Seattle attorneys and chief of police.

Mamiya's prosecuted municipal court misdemeanors in Spokane before entering private practice in Seattle. He handled the Internal District Economic Assn. and the 1982-84 Davis graduate student ($12,000 for the power in the recent Nov.-April season) and has been active in the Seattle branch of the Japan America Citizens League. His contribution of five dollars to the reorganization was publicized.

New bank head

Seattle mayor picks Mamiya to muni bench

SEATTLE, WA — Mayor Charles Royer has appointed John Mamiya, 21, a junior at the University of Washington and a current Seattle JACL board member, to the municipal court bench being vacated Jan. 1 by Judge Charles Johnson who moved to superior court.

Mamiya's appointment requires city council confirmation and shall be effective as of the fall 1981. The Sawlo attorney, among 40 applicants for the municipal judgeship, was interviewed by the mayor after recommendations of a 12-member screening committee, which included Seattle attorneys and chief of police.

Mamiya's prosecuted municipal court misdemeanors in Spokane before entering private practice in Seattle. He handled the Internal District Economic Assn. and the 1982-84 Davis graduate student ($12,000 for the power in the recent Nov.-April season) and has been active in the Seattle branch of the Japan America Citizens League. His contribution of five dollars to the reorganization was publicized.
Gov. W. Higuchi resigns PSW post

Los Angeles—Pacific Southwest JACL President W. Higuchi has resigned from his post for personal and business reasons, making the announcement at a district meeting here at the Little Tokyo Towers. Voted in last November, he is a district member here at the Little Tokyo Towers. Voted in last November, he is a district member here at the Little Tokyo Towers.

At the same time, Gary Nishimura, general counsel, was appointed vice governor and Masaomi Kojima, former JACL planning director, was named national JACL vice president, will be legal counsel.

Shimatsum, Ogata and Kubota

Mortuary

911 Venice Blvd., Los Angeles 749-1449
SEIJI DUKE OGATA R. TUTAKA KUBOTA

EDEN TOWNSHIP mourhs loss of key person: Masako Minami

By TOMI MIYAMOTO

Seiichi Fukui, President

James Nakagawa, Manager

Nobuo Osumi, Counselor

J.D. Holzoyama, acting national director, updated JACL activities and announced National JACL President Jim Tsujimura has been invited to visit Japan in the spring to discuss development of JACL cultural programs and meet with JACL there as well as government officials.

PC Editor Harry Honda looked into the future—hoping that information in PC file would be accessible via the computer to the public and the prospect of JACL membership renewals being processed by PC via its mailing list is computerized.

Three resolutions were adopted: (1) condemning the Central Calif. Asian/Pacific Women for its failure to publish the CCD Convention for holding a workshop panel; (2) recognizing the leadership of Yo

EDEN TOWNSHIP mourns loss of key person: Masako Minami

By TOMI MIYAMOTO

Seiichi Fukui, President

James Nakagawa, Manager

Nobuo Osumi, Counselor

J.D. Holzoyama, acting national director, updated JACL activities and announced National JACL President Jim Tsujimura has been invited to visit Japan in the spring to discuss development of JACL cultural programs and meet with JACL there as well as government officials.

PC Editor Harry Honda looked into the future—hoping that information in PC file would be accessible via the computer to the public and the prospect of JACL membership renewals being processed by PC via its mailing list is computerized.

Three resolutions were adopted: (1) condemning the Central Calif. Asian/Pacific Women for its failure to publish the CCD Convention for holding a workshop panel; (2) recognizing the leadership of Yo

EDEN TOWNSHIP mourns loss of key person: Masako Minami

By TOMI MIYAMOTO

Seiichi Fukui, President

James Nakagawa, Manager

Nobuo Osumi, Counselor

J.D. Holzoyama, acting national director, updated JACL activities and announced National JACL President Jim Tsujimura has been invited to visit Japan in the spring to discuss development of JACL cultural programs and meet with JACL there as well as government officials.

PC Editor Harry Honda looked into the future—hoping that information in PC file would be accessible via the computer to the public and the prospect of JACL membership renewals being processed by PC via its mailing list is computerized.

Three resolutions were adopted: (1) condemning the Central Calif. Asian/Pacific Women for its failure to publish the CCD Convention for holding a workshop panel; (2) recognizing the leadership of Yo...
Chapters ratify new couples memberships

SAN FRANCISCO—JACL chapters ratified by mail the Puyallup Valley JACL amendment proposing a couples memberships dues structure as of July 7, 1980, the regular national dues. It was announced Nov. 7 by George Kodama, JACL national secretary-treasurer.

Out of 12 chapters sent ballots, 7 were in favor, 5 against, 1 abstained and 9 did not vote. Thus the national total was 38 with a majority needed to adopt it.

Regular national dues are $9.50 for 1, $12.50 for 2 and $19.50 for 3. With one PC subscription for $12.50 included. The $5 deduction would apply if one is a member in the same household and the other is not.

• Business

William H. Tolon, CLU, regional director of the Equal Life Assurance Society of the United States announced the appointment of William Tolon as new president of the Orange County JACL Peter T. Yamashita, CLU as regional director of Asians Affairs. His responsibilites will include development and promotion of programs involving Asians and American communities including career opportunities for Asians with The Equitable. Yamashita is also assistant agency manager with the Richard Bonda Agency in Santa Ana.

Sacramento JACL William M. Matsuzawa, agent for the West Coast Life Insurance Co., D.C., was awarded the coveted National Quality Award for the fifth year, according to Acting President John Mergler of the company.

Alameda, Artesia, Arvada Valley, Berkeley, Boise Valley, Carson, Chico Valley, Cleveland, Crellin Valley, Coloma Valley, Corona, Costa Mesa, Detroit, Diamond Valley, Eden Towne, Fremont, Fresno Valley, Garden Valley, Glencoe, Golden Gate, Greater Phoenix, Granada Hills, Houston, Japan, Las Vegas, Lodi, Marin County, Marysville, Modesto, Madera, Modesto, Monterey Peninsula, North San Diego, Oakland, Orange, Port Hueneme, Rancho Cucamonga, Redlands, Riverside, Sacramento, Salinas Valley, San Diego, San Fernando Valley, San Francisco, San Luis Obispo, San Mateo, Santa Barbara, Santa Maria, San Jose, San Leandro, San Leandro, San Martin, San Ramon, Santa Rosa, Santa Cruz, Santa Cruz, San Mateo, Santa Cruz, San Mateo, San Jose, San Jose, San Jose, San Jose, San Jose, San Jose, San Jose, San Jose, San Jose, San Jose, San Jose, San Jose, San Jose, San Jose, San Jose, San Jose, San Jose, San Jose, San Jose, San Jose, San Jose, San Jose, San Jose, San Jose, San Jose, San Jose, San Jose, San Jose, San Jose, San Jose, San Jose, San Jose, San Jose, San Jose, San Jose, San Jose, San Jose, San Jose, San Jose, San Jose, San Jose, San Jose, San Jose, San Jose, San Jose, San Jose, San Jose, San Jose, San Jose, San Jose, San Jose, San Jose, San Jose, San Jose, San Jose, San Jose, San Jose, San Jose, San Jose, San Jose, San Jose, San Jose, San Jose, San Jose, San Jose, San Jose, San Jose, San Jose, San Jose, San Jose, San Jose, San Jose, San Jose, San Jose, San Jose, San Jose, San Jose, San Jose, San Jose, San Jose, San Jose, San Jose, San Jose, San Jose, San Jose, San Jose, San Jose, San Jose, San Jose, San Jose, San Jose, San Jose, San Jose, San Jose, San Jose, San Jose, San Jose, San Jose, San Jose, San Jose, San Jose, San Jose, San Jose, San Jose, San Jose, San Jose, San Jose, San Jose, San Jose, San Jose, San Jose, San Jose, San Jose, San Jose, San Jose, San Jose, San Jose, San Jose, San Jose, San Jose, San Jose, San Jose, San Jose, San Jose, San Jose, San Jose, San Jose, San Jose, San Jose, San Jose, San Jose, San Jose, San Jose, San Jose, San Jose, San Jose, San Jose, San Jose, San Jose, San Jose, San Jose, San Jose, San Jose, San Jose, San Jose, San Jose, San Jose, San Jose, San Jose, San Jose, San Jose, San Jose, San Jose, San Jose, San Jose, San Jose, San Jose, San Jose, San Jose, San Jose, San Jose, San Jose, San Jose, San Jose, San Jose, San Jose, San Jose, San Jose, San Jose, San Jose, San Jose, San Jose, San Jose, San Jose, San Jose, San Jose, San Jose, San Jose, San Jose, San Jose, San Jose, San Jose, San Jose, San Jose, San Jose, San Jose, San Jose, San Jose, San Jose, San Jose, San Jose, San Jose, San Jose, San Jose, San Jose, San Jose, San Jose, San Jose, San Jose, San Jose, San Jose, San Jose, San Jose, San Jose, San Jose, San Jose, San Jose, San Jose, San Jose, San Jose, San Jose, San Jose, San Jose, San Jose, San Jose, San Jose, San Jose, San Jose, San Jose, San Jose, San Jose, San Jose, San Jose, San Jose, San Jose, San Jose, San Jose, San Jose, San Jose, San Jose, San Jose, San Jose, San Jose, San Jose, San Jose, San Jose, San Jose, San Jose, San Jose, San Jose, San Jose, San Jose, San Jose, San Jose, San Jose, San Jose, San Jose, San Jose, San Jose, San Jose, San Jose, San Jose, San Jose, San Jose, San Jose, San Jose, San Jose, San Jose, San Jose, San Jose, San Jose, San Jose, San Jose, San Jose, San Jose, San Jose, San Jose, San Jose, San Jose, San Jose, San Jose, San Jose, San Jose, San Jose, San Jose, San Jose, San Jose, San Jose, San Jose, San Jose, San Jose, San Jose, San Jose, San Jose, San Jose, San Jose, San Jose, San Jose, San Jose, San Jose, San Jose, San Jose, San Jose, San Jose, San Jose, San Jose, San Jose, San Jose, San Jose, San Jose, San Jose, San Jose, San Jose, San Jose, San Jose, San Jose, San Jose, San Jose, San Jose, San Jose, San Jose, San Jose, San Jose, San Jose, San Jose, San Jose, San Jose, San Jose, San Jose, San Jose, San Jose, San Jose, San Jose, San Jose, San Jose, San Jose, San Jose, San Jose, San Jose, San Jose, San Jose, San Jose, San Jose, San Jose, San Jose, San Jose, San Jose, San Jose, San Jose, San Jose, San Jose, San Jose, San Jose, San Jose, San Jose, San Jose, San Jose, San Jose, San Jose, San Jose, San Jose, San Jose, San Jose, San Jose, San Jose, San Jose, San Jose, San Jose, San Jose, San Jose, San Jose, San Jose, San Jose, San Jose, San Jose, San Jose, San Jose, San Jose, San Jose, San Jose, San Jose, San Jose, San Jose, San Jose, San Jose, San Jose, San Jose, San Jose, San Jose, San Jose, San Jose, San Jose, San Jose, San Jose, San Jose, San Jose, San Jose, San Jose, San Jose, San Jose, San Jose, San Jose, San Jose, San Jose, San Jose, San Jose, San Jose, San Jose, San Jose, San Jose, San Jose, San Jose, San Jose, San Jose, San Jose, San Jose, San Jose, San Jose, San Jose, San Jose, San Jose, San Jose, San Jose, San Jose, San Jose, San Jose, San Jose, San Jose, San Jose, San Jose, San Jose, San Jose, San Jose, San Jose, San Jose, San Jose, San Jose, San Jose, San Jose, San Jose, San Jose, San Jose, San Jose, San Jose, San Jose, San Jose, San Jose, San Jose, San Jose, San Jose, San Jose, San Jose, San Jose, San Jose, San Jose, San Jose, San Jose, San Jose, San Jose, San Jose, San Jose, San Jose, San Jose, San Jose, San Jose, San Jose, San Jose, San Jose, San Jose, San Jose, San Jose, San Jose, San Jose, San Jose, San Jose, San Jose, San Jose, San Jose, San Jose, San Jose, San Jose, San Jose, San Jose, San Jose, San Jose, San Jose, San Jose, San Jose, San Jose, San Jose, San Jose, San Jose, San Jose, San Jose, San Jose, San Jose, San Jose, San Jose, San Jose, San Jose, San Jose, San Jose, San Jose, San Jose, San Jose, San Jose, San Jose, San Jose, San Jose, San Jose, San Jose, San Jose, San Jose, San Jose, San Jose, San Jose, San Jose, San Jose, San Jose, San Jose, San Jose, San Jose, San Jose, San Jose, San Jose, San Jose, San Jose, San Jose, San Jo...
Japanese American Citizens League was not only a privilege, but broadened my experience, and helped me become a better human being. This enables me to make an early point that I feel is very important, and that is that service is a two-way street—it enriches you as well as those to whom you give your time.

In the years since my active service with JACL, I have seen many changes, as well as a continuation of some of the same problems struggle with them.

I addressed the national youth conference in Seattle this past summer and tried to pass on some of what I felt that I was back in the 1960s...Young people still hold out expectations for JACL that they do not fulfill...problems were expressed about token support, and no today as their range of attitudes and values. They cannot simply be respected, at least slowed down. I do not see in our lifetime the heritage. . . . .

The reality is that JACL leadership in the last two decades has tried to attract the interest of youth, with limited success. Like many of the problems before us, one of the issues of issues that face the JACL today, Japanese Americans, young or old, today are more informed. They make up a diverse range of attitudes and values. They cannot simply be identified as "liberal" or "conservative". Young people are not all social activists, filled with zeal to change the world, and older Nisei are not all rigid advocates of the status quo, intolerant or insensitive to the wrongs of our society.

Regardless of where Japanese Americans today are with their values and beliefs, what matters is how much they are that is credible, visible and willing to be involved in the important issues that face us all. It is being and say tomorrow that the past over the past couple of decades, when dramatic issues were absent and complaints about JACL were the loudest, member-...

My personal experience with JACL has been nothing short of a rip-off. Last December, I was approached by Minn Okino and was to work. We do so. The Japanese American Experience Project (a project that was perished in budget cuts) then discarded as a JACL project and the NEA funding. This is a comment on the terms, we consider a "Washington..."

We have been treated as second-class citizens when it comes to the redress of the years of infamy. The national president of the JACL, after looking at his column "East Wind," M. YAMASHITA, ISSEI Palo Alto, CA.

We asked for a copy of that letter, which we have never received to date—Ed.

Experience Project

I see a rash of apologies and retraction letters from the Nisei leaders of the Pacific Citizens Council in regard-...tactics that have become the hallmark of JACL policy. "Inflation" is being used to refer to the "Years of Infamy" for the JACL leadership. It has become a personal interest because the JACL is not an organ representa-...tive and ISAA of the Pacific Citizen does not assure us of "honest and candid reporting." My own experience with JACL has been nothing short of a rip-off. Last December, I was approached by Minn Okino and was to work. We do so.

Another item noted was the furore over the unfortunate piece about my "politics" in JACL. In my estimation, the misapprehension at the base of the "Years of Infamy" that was used in the JACL testimony on redress. My perspective on that inci-...millions of people that it would be false to the writers who were supposed to be drafting a writers' conference. Rather, that was the time for which the JACL had told the writers that they would be the writers for all of JACL. The others were supposed to be the "experts" who would consult with us on the presentation for the writers. Nothing was ever really told that the writers had "forced" the two writers into an unfair agreement. I stated that I was not in a position to pay anyone a bonus, especially since no work had been performed and our budget had been turned down by the NEA. Also, given the nature of government grants, it is impossible that we paid even a token sum of $3. This was not ac-...and both writers attended the final meeting. No agreement was ever offered by the writers.

The name of another writer was denied and approved by NEH and the project continued. There followed over the next few months a series of letters between the writers, myself, and the respective at-...to support their inability to function in a professional manner.

What we have here is not only a failure to communicate, but a basic misunderstanding born out of the nature of new funding being appropri-...picture and against the backdrop of economic adversity. I, along with the writer, can see that we are a couple of people that we are going to look at their own close at our own behavior before acting and believing. They should also give us their "facts" straight before pre-...Perhaps, in the future, we can all work together on the "facts" and misapprehensions and come to some even more creative and productive.

PETE YAMAUCHI
San Francisco, CA

HI Boxscore

HI Boxscore

HI Boxscore

HI Boxscore

HI Boxscore

HI Boxscore

HI Boxscore

HI Boxscore

HI Boxscore

HI Boxscore

HI Boxscore

HI Boxscore

HI Boxscore

HI Boxscore

HI Boxscore

HI Boxscore

HI Boxscore

HI Boxscore
Redress Campaign, Good & Bad

FROM THE FRINGY PAN: by Bill Hosokawa

Denver, Colo.

With reluctance, I return once again to the subject of the JACL redress cam-
paign. I fear that the organization is locked into a strategy and whatever I or any other outsider may say will fall on deaf ears. Where there is a will, there is a way, yet I would like to use this space than talking to myself. Yet it is difficult not to feel we are about to make some costly mistakes and it would be in everyone's interest to try to avoid them.

The problem stems from confusion about the goals of the campaign. Public Law 96-317, signed by President Carter, set up a Commission to review the circumstances and impact of Executive Order 9066 in 1942. The Commission is charged with determining whether "any wrong was committed against any American citizens or perman-
ent resident aliens" affected by the order, and to "recommend appropriate remedies."

The JACL committee's guidelines stress two related but not identical objectives: the campaign's goals do not preclude encompassed in the law, in seeking recompense for the admitted injustice of the 1942 Evacuation:

1—to seek financial compensation for material loss
2—to educate the American public as to how human rights were violated in the hysteria of war, and to make certain that our country never again will commit such a terrible error.

While these goals may be laudable, they are not neces-
sarily compatible. Furthermore, the most effective strategy to achieve the objective may be the damage of achieving the other.

But first, let's go back to the responsibilities of the federal commission. Whether it is required to determine whether any wrong was done, there are Presidents already have acknowledged the wrong: Carter when he signed the commission bill last summer, Ford when he pro-
claiming the redress order in 1976, and Truman when he signed the Evacuation Claims Act in 1948. On the face of the facts, chances of any objective investiga-
tion remain remote. JACL, speak-
ing for Japanese Americans, has a powerful case.

JACL, however, gives the appearance of preparing to orchestrate the hearings to prove once again that a wrong was done. Why else is it going to the public with

plea for around $320,000 to conduct its campaign? But rather than reiterate the obvious, the need at this stage is to demonstrate there was damage that deserves recompense without making it look as though a price is being put on a sacrifice which Japanese Americans accepted at the time as their patriotic duty. The oral injustice is hardly open to question; the material loss requiring re-
dress is more difficult to measure"

JACL's first objective, to obtain monetary compensa-
tion for individual victims of the evacuation order, al-
ready has drawn criticism as an attempt at a rip-off. We do not necessarily agree with this criticism but it is only realistic to take note of it because as it grows more strident, it can obscure the very important second goal of educating the public.

The JACL committee's proposed budget includes a sub-
campaign for purchasing advertisements in newspapers in conjunction with the Commission's hearings around the country. Such ads could serve a useful purpose if the primary objective is to inform the public about the facts of the Evacuation.

But the same ads could well create such a severe backlash to the idea of giving billions to a relatively well-off segment of the population, particularly in a time of national austerity, that the education message would be lost.

In other words, if the primary goal is money, chances of getting it would be better with a more personal campaign such as the Indians have waged over the years. But if the chief goal is education, then the more publicity the bet-	ter. It can only be served by the same strategy: each requires a different kind of campaign. A determination of priorities needs to be made before we go farther.

The size of the proposed budget is troublesome. The case for compensation may well be confused by the act of soliciting hundreds of thousands of dollars from the mea-
Sure being pushed. And nothing should be done to hurt the movement's credibility in the eyes of the commis-
sion, Congress and the public.

JACL has succeeded in building up great expec-
tations among Japanese Americans. It cannot afford to come away from this campaign without a large measure of success. But its chances may well be damaged by strategy shaped more by zeal and sincerity than an un-
derstanding of the realities.

---

Special Price with coupon: $11.00

Also cash & carry at all JACL Offices and Pacific Citizen.

Please send me copy(ies) of EAST TO AMERICA: A History of the Japanese in the United States. I enclose my check made payable to JACL-JARP in the amount of $__; at the special price of $11.00 per copy, which includes mailing and handling costs. My cancelled check is enclosed.

Name

Address

City

State

Zip
Fund Raisers

I am probably not much different than a great many people in this area. It appears that just about the beginning of the holiday season my mail, both at the office and at home, gets heavy with solicitations for fund raising, receptions and testimonials.

Our family works on a tight budget. I make sure that the necessities, i.e., mortgage, car, tuition and utilities payments are tight before any other spending is done. I don’t know how my wife does it, but she is still on the same food budget that we revised 3 years ago. A family dinner out usually means saving enough for a Big Mac or a Quarter Pounder. For the price that I have to pay at McDonalds I can almost go and enjoy a family outing at a Chinese restaurant. I still think that a Chinese dinner is still the best deal in town.

Therefore, wherever there is a fund raising event coming up I have to plan a little cutting here and there to have a few extra buds for their big day.

One of the last events I attended I was prepared to reciprocate at the bar and buy a round of drinks but district board member Mike Mitoma said “John, put your wallet away, anyways the motts might fly out of your wallet,” to which I returned “Thanks Mike, I didn’t want to part with my silver certificates anyway.”

Many fund raisers expect variability on the part of JACL and visibility means money.

There is no way in which you can graciously say I can’t afford it or I can’t afford it.

I have been fortunate on occasions because the district or chapters have paid for the way for me but there are times when I have to pay my own way and that puts me on the same level as the rest of the membership.

Morry regret is that the coconuts in my wallet will never have a chance to become motts.

At a very recent event I attended, I was prepared to reciprocate at the bar and buy a round of drinks but district board member Mike Mitoma said “John, put your wallet away, anyways the mottles might fly out of your wallet,” to which I returned "THANKS MIKE, I didn’t want to part with my silver certificates anyway.”
"My Father the Actor"

San Francisco

"Hey dad, can I have your autograph?" I asked him before I had finished watching the premiere of "Hito Hata: Raise the Banner," a feature-length film presented by the San Francisco Asian American Film Festival. Dad, the actor, grew up in San Francisco, a librarian, San Franciscan, and now-a movie star! He may say he's too busy for a single banner, but when he does get mad—watch out.

"Sure," he said smiling. He took my pen and, scribbled something and handed it back to me. "Just sign your name." I signed it and handed it back to him. He said jokingly, "To your little girl," and signed it again.

Hiroshi Kashiwagi, a former librarian, raised in Japan, and now an actor, has been a fixture in the San Francisco film community for many years. He is perhaps best known for his role as the main character, Oda, played by Mako. Through a series of flashbacks, the audience is taken on a journey through his life, from his youth in Japan to his current life in America. In one scene, he is shown as a young boy, sitting in a classroom, and wearing a school uniform. When the bell rings, he stands up and runs out of the room, excited to play with his friends. In another scene, he is shown as a young man, standing in front of a crowd of people, speaking, and holding a piece of paper. The audience is left to wonder what he might be saying.

I asked him if he had any advice for someone who wants to become an actor. "Never give up," he said. "Keep working hard, and never lose your passion for acting. Always be willing to learn and grow as an actor. And most importantly, have fun!"

He then signed my new copy of "Hito Hata: Raise the Banner," and wished me good luck in my future endeavors. I thanked him, and smiled as I held the movie poster in my hand. It was a great day, and I was happy to have met such an amazing actor.