



pacific citizen

Newsstand: 25¢
(60¢ Postpaid)

National Publication of the Japanese American Citizens League

ISSN: 0030-8579 / Whole No. 2,336 / Vol. 100 No. 16

244 S. San Pedro St., Rm. 506, Los Angeles, CA 90012-3981 (213)626-6936, 628-3768

April 26, 1985



Photo by George Thow

DESERTED — Remains of garden at Manzanar are inspected by members of Manzanar Committee and officials of Los Angeles City and Inyo County water departments. (Story on page 9.)

'Asians don't value life,' U.S. senator says

WASHINGTON—Sen. Paul Trible (R-Va.) resurrected a Vietnam-era stereotype earlier this month when he said that he didn't think his fighting in Vietnam "would have saved the world" because "Asians have no value for life."

During the war, a similar statement was made by Gen. William Westmoreland.

Trible's remarks appeared in the Washington Post on April 15 as part of a series on the Vietnam war. The Post noted that Trible, a member of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, was photographed for a campaign ad wearing a pilot's uniform in the cockpit of a military plane despite the fact that he received a medical deferment during the war for a slight malformation of the right arm.

On April 17, Rep. Norman Mine-

ta (D-Calif.) sent Trible a letter of protest which read as follows:

"I am writing to express my anger at your highly offensive and racist statement...

"Please consider what you have said with that remark. You have said that you believe that an entire race of people does not value or understand life the way other human beings do. With your statement you imply that an entire race of people feels no compunction about killing other human beings and that an entire race does not care about the conditions in which they live their lives.

"As an American of Asian ancestry, I am personally offended by your remark.

"Perhaps you are trying to give the American people a new explanation for our defeat in Vietnam—

that our servicepeople had to fight against inhumane and bizarre Asian forces. Such a blanket statement is no substitute for a thoughtful analysis of our involvement in Vietnam.

"The Vietnam War was tragic and complex and there are many differing views and opinions about our country's role. Statements such as yours do not address the issues involved, are clearly inflammatory, and only continue to create an atmosphere of hatred and misunderstanding about Asia and its people.

"I find it outrageous that you, a member of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, would have such a distorted and racist view of the world. I urge you to withdraw the statement and apologize to those whom you have offended."

Taiwan official sentenced in Liu murder

TAIPEI—The former head of Taiwan's military intelligence bureau was convicted April 19 of planning the murder of Chinese American writer Henry Liu and sentenced to life imprisonment.

A military tribunal found Vice Adm. Wang Hsi-ling guilty of "taking advantage of the opportunities arising from his performance of official duties to collaborate in the murder" of Liu, a critic of Taiwan's government, who was shot to death at his Daly City, Calif., home on October 15, 1984.

Liu, who wrote for the Chinese-language San Francisco Journal, had written a biography critical of Taiwan President Chiang Ching-kuo.

Wang and two of his deputies

were implicated by two of the men who actually carried out the killing, Chen Chi-li, leader of Taiwan's United Bamboo gang, and fellow gang member Wu Tun.

According to Chen, who was also an intelligence agent for Taiwan, Wang told him that Liu was an intelligence operative for Taiwan who became a double agent for China and that the "traitor" had to be killed. Wang admitted mentioning that Liu needed to be "taught a lesson" and giving Liu's photo and address to Chen, but he denied actually giving orders to kill Liu.

Chen and Wu were sentenced April 9 to life imprisonment. A third gang member said to have taken part in the killing, Tung

Kuei-sen, is still at large and is believed to be in the Philippines.

Wang's deputies, Maj. Gen. Hu Yi-min and Col. Chen Hu-men (no relation to Chen Chi-li), were found to be accessories to murder and were given prison terms of 2½ years each. The three intelligence officers and the two gangsters had all faced possible death sentences.

Court observers representing Liu's family complained that the possibility of higher-level government involvement was not examined at any of the trials. Liu's widow, Helen, who strongly suspects that her husband's murder was sanctioned by officials higher than Wang, said, "A lot of questions still need to be answered."

At his trial, Wang said that his superiors had no knowledge of a plot to kill Liu. Government officials have maintained that Wang ordered Liu killed for unspecified personal reasons.

Support group for Kimura formed

by Katie Kaori Hayashi

LOS ANGELES—More than 55 persons attended a meeting at the Japanese American Cultural and Community Center to help Fumiko Kimura, a native of Japan who attempted suicide by walking into the ocean near Santa Monica Pier on January 29, taking her two children with her.

Kimura was pulled unconscious from the water by two bystanders, but her 4-year-old son Kazutaka and 6-month-old daughter Yuri died. She has pleaded not guilty to two counts each of murder and

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felony child endangering but could face the death penalty if the prosecution's allegation of special circumstance of multiple murder is accepted.

She allegedly became despondent after finding out that her husband Itsuroku was having an affair. In Japan, parent-child suicide, known as *shinju*, is more common and more accepted than it is in the U.S.

During the April 12 meeting, initiated by Yoshiko Yamaguchi, a social worker at the San Fernando Japanese Community Center, people from all walks of life expressed their support for Kimura. Some participants were affiliated with Christian and Buddhist churches or with Onnatachi no Wa, a Japanese women's organization; others were individuals who sympathized with Kimura.

The main theme of the discussion was to help Kimura get a fair trial and to prevent future parent-child suicides in the Japanese community. At the end of the meeting, participants agreed to form a group to support Kimura, including three committees—fundraising, translation for petitions, and agenda.

Gerald Klausner, Kimura's attorney, explained the court proceedings. He said that Kimura resented being rescued and was surprised when she learned that she had been charged with murder. Although she felt that the whole world was against her, Klausner added, she found the will to live when she knew some people cared about her. He urged participants to write letters of encouragement to Kimura.

Concerned individuals can write to Kimura c/o Gerald Klausner, 4676 Admiralty Way, Suite 336, Marina Del Rey, CA 90292.

Congress requests extradition of killers

WASHINGTON—A request that Taiwan send anyone implicated in the murder of Chinese American journalist Henry Liu to the U.S. for trial was passed in the House of Representatives by a 398-2 vote April 17. The Taiwan government rejected the non-binding resolution, as it has done with other such requests.

Rep. Robert Matsui (D-Calif.) said that the overwhelming margin of support in the House "left no question that Congress is unhappy with the lack of progress" in efforts to extradite two gang members who confessed to killing Liu and military intelligence officials who allegedly ordered the killing to punish Liu for his writings, which were critical of Taiwan's government.

Matsui called the House vote "a

signal that we will not stand for any stonewalling in this case, and that we want those responsible for the killing to be brought to justice. The murder of Henry Liu was an act of terrorism and it is reprehensible that more has not been done."

The five men implicated in the murder have been tried, convicted and sentenced in Taiwan, but the question of whether the murder was sanctioned by the Taiwan government has not been answered to the satisfaction of Liu's supporters in the U.S.

The resolution also called for the conclusion of an extradition agreement between the U.S. and Taiwan, which have not had such a treaty since diplomatic ties were broken off in 1979.

News in Brief

Woman jailed for 9 hours, gets \$25,000

CHICAGO — A federal jury awarded \$25,000 to a woman who was jailed after being arrested for feeding pigeons and walking unleashed dogs in a small park, reported the Pasadena (Calif.) Star-News. Anita Kirchoff, who was locked in a jail cell for less than 9 hours, said in U.S. District Court that, "It's not the amount of the award but the principle that counts."

Kirchoff was awarded \$5,000 more than each former internee would receive for an average of 3 years spent in concentration camps if JACL-supported redress legislation were enacted.

S.F. may name street after Chinese activist

SAN FRANCISCO — The public works committee voted unanimously April 12 to change Brenham Place to Walter U. Lum Place. No street in the city is currently named for a Chinese American. Lum was a civil rights activist and journalist of the early 1900s. The board of supervisors will consider the committee's resolution.



Photo from collection of The Morikami Museum
Jo and Sada Sakai, pioneers of Yamato, Florida.

Domestic violence project started

LOS ANGELES—Asian Pacific American Legal Center of Southern California has launched a domestic violence project for Asian Pacific women who have low incomes.

The U.S. Attorney General's office estimates that 50% of married women in California will be assaulted at some time by their husbands. Separate statistics for Asian/Pacific marriages have not yet been tabulated. Domestic violence does occur in these households, as evidenced by Asian/Pacific counseling centers and battered women's hotlines and shelters.

The Center for the Pacific-Asian Family, for example, served 1,571 battered women in 1983. Many of these women are also impoverished, non-English speaking, and pressured by culture into silence.

Everywoman's Shelter, of the Center for the Pacific-Asian Family, Inc., is the only shelter that focuses primarily on Asian/Pacific women. The Korean Family Counseling and Legal Advice Clinic is one of the few clinics that counsels on family matters in the Asian/Pacific community. And throughout Southern California, there are no legal service centers that have the bilingual staff or culturally sensitive programs to provide legal assistance to Asian/Pacific women who have been battered, especially those who

are poor and non-English speaking.

The Asian/Pacific American Legal Center has initiated a project that provides free bilingual legal counseling and referral; multilingual informational brochures on battered women's rights and legal procedures; a multi-service referral guide, including agencies that are equipped to help the Asian/Pacific woman in a culturally appropriate and respectful manner; and community education.

The center's domestic violence project committee includes volunteer Asian/Pacific attorneys and law students, as well as center staff.

For further information call (213) 746-6029.

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Descendants of Yamato colony to return to site of former Florida settlement

DELRAY BEACH, Fla.—One could call it a ghost town, but 43 years after its demise, the spirit of Yamato, Florida, will come alive again as survivors and descendants of the defunct agricultural community reunite.

On May 4, some 35 members of Yamato families, as well as dozens of old-timers who knew them, their parents, and grandparents, will come to Morikami Park, west of Delray Beach, for the dedication of four wooden pavilions to the Sakai, Kamiya, Yamauchi, and two Kobayashi families.

The shelters are being named after five of the last remaining families of Yamato, which was established in the summer of 1905 by Jo Sakai and some fifteen settlers from Japan. The five families, continued to farm land between Delray Beach and Boca Raton into the 1920s and '30s.

Plaques will identify each shelter and provide biographical notes on the Issei who settled Yamato and chose to raise families there. Briefly, they are:

Jo and Sada Sakai, married in 1906. Five daughters were born in Yamato.

Sada returned to Japan with the children in 1924 following her husband's death.

Tamemasu and Etsu Kamiya. They raised six children in Yamato after their marriage in 1909. Kamiya remained in the area for a time following his wife's death in 1936, then joined the family of his eldest daughter in California shortly before the outbreak of World War II.

Jinzo and Naka Yamauchi. Married in 1915, they raised one son, born in Yamato. The family moved to Miami in 1928.

Hideo and Umeko Kobayashi, married in 1920. Four children were born in Yamato. The family was evicted from their property in Yamato by a federal judge in 1942 to make way for the construction of an Army Air Corps training facility.

Susumu and Suye Kobayashi, married in 1922. One daughter was born in Yamato before the family moved to Illinois in 1925.

Yamato family members are coming from California, Michigan, Massachusetts, Pennsylvania, New Jersey, and Japan to share memories with each other and with those still living in Florida.

The land where Morikami Park now rests was donated to Palm Beach County by George Sukeji Morikami, an original Yamatoite, who remained until his death in 1976.

The Morikami park, museum and Gardens preserves and interprets the culture of Japan and the Japanese American heritage in the 150-acre park. The museum, principally run by the Friends of the Morikami, has exhibits that chronicle the early Yamato days, as well as displaying current Japanese culture.

Nebraska Nikkei in city council race

OMAHA, Nebr. — Former city councilman Richard Takechi, a 47-year-old jeweler, will run against District 5 city councilwoman Connie Findlay, who unseated him in 1981, in the May 14 general election.

After receiving 51.8% of the April 2 primary vote to Findlay's 27.8%, Takechi said, "The feeling I'm getting is that she wasn't going out into the district that much." As an example, he cited Findlay's council vote supporting the One Pacific Place development project, which many area residents opposed.

In the eight precincts nearest One Pacific Place, 609 voted for Takechi and 241 voted for Findlay.

"That area is supporting my position of, 'Let's be responsive to the people,'" Takechi said.

Takechi, a Republican, has the support of Rep. Hal Daub (R-2nd) while Findlay, a Democrat, has been endorsed by former congressman John Cavanaugh (D), who represented the same district.

Former Douglas County Republican chairman Chuck Sigeron said, "Richard's friends in the Republican Party will rally behind him." State Democratic chair Thomas Monaghan and Douglas County Democratic chair Herb Millard have vowed to support Findlay.

—from a report by
Omaha World-Herald

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Asian American film festival slated to begin next week in Northwest

SEATTLE—Next week marks the first Seattle Asian American film festival, to be held May 2-5 at the historic Nippon Kan Theatre (628 S. Washington St., in the International District). Sponsored by Kingstreet Media, the festival will showcase the best feature-length and short dramatic films made by independent Asian Amer-

ican filmmakers from around the country.

To be featured is "Beacon Hill Boys," a locally produced film about Japanese American life in Seattle during the early 1970s. "Beacon Hill Boys" premiered in Seattle this January to sell-out crowds, and has been selected to open the 8th Annual Asian American International Film Festival in New York City. The festival then tours 15 cities in the U.S. and Canada.

The Seattle film festival also features the return of "Chan Is Missing," the critically acclaimed 1982 film about two San Francisco Chinatown cab drivers searching for the man who has disappeared with their money.

Michigan Asians continue coalition

TROY, Mich.—About 300 people—primarily Asian Americans of Chinese, Korean, Japanese, Filipino, Vietnamese and Indian ancestry—rededicated themselves to the principles of equality and justice which united them two years ago.

The American Citizens for Justice held a "rededication dinner" on March 30 at the Hilton Hotel, marking the second anniversary since the group was founded on March 31, 1983, following the sentences of probation and fines to the killers of Vincent Chin, the 27-year-old Chinese American computer technician who was brutally slain by two autoworkers who were angry about Japanese auto imports.

Addressing the group was Michigan Lt. Gov. Martha Griffiths, who spoke on what Asian Americans can do to be represented in

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Also returning is "Hito Hata: Raise the Banner," the first Asian American feature film, produced in 1980, depicting the life story of a Japanese American immigrant.

The local premieres of seven recently completed films will highlight the festival, including the Oscar-nominated shorts "The Silence" and "Sewing Woman." Other films are "Freckled Rice," "The Departure," "Fool's Dance," "The Only Language She Knows," and "Fei Tien: Goddess in Flight."

Tickets for the film festival are available at Uwajimaya stores, Mich's Short & Small Shop (2122 Third Avenue), Cinema Books (4753 Roosevelt N.E.) and The Chop House (2552 Beacon Ave. So.). Tickets are \$5 per show, \$4 for senior citizens. Tickets will be sold at the door only as available. Information: 624-8800.

Playwright Yamashita to be honored

LOS ANGELES—Karen Tei Yamashita, the award-winning author, playwright, and poet, will be honored at the third annual Author Recognition Benefit Luncheon given by the Friends of Little Tokyo Public Library Services.

Yamashita, who recently brought her play "Hiroshima Tropical" to East West Players as part of their works-in-progress series, is well known for her many literary works. Her short stories include "The Bath," "Tucano," "In Brazil, the Earth is Red," and "Asaka-no-miya," which won

first place in the first James Clavell American Japanese Short Story Contest. Her plays include "Omen: An American Kabuki," and "The Misokai Bridge," a series of plays for story theater based on Japanese folktales.

The luncheon takes place on Saturday, May 11, at the Akasaka Hanten Restaurant in Weller Court. Also featured will be a special auction of valuable new art collectibles. Cost per person is \$10, which includes Yamashita's readings, luncheon, and art auction. For more information, call (213) 731-5888.

Hibakusha medical team coming to U.S.

SAN FRANCISCO—In June, a team of doctors from Japan returns to the United States to conduct medical examinations on American survivors of the Hiroshima and Nagasaki bombings. This will be the team's fifth visit since 1977 sponsored by the Japanese government. The doctors arrive in San Francisco on June 12 and will conduct examinations in five cities: San Francisco, Los Angeles, Seattle, Honolulu, and Vancouver, Canada.

There are an estimated 1,000 survivors (hibakusha) of Japanese or Korean ancestry residing in the United States and Canada. The Committee of Atomic Bomb Survivors (CABS) urges all survivors to register for the examinations. Travel stipends and accommodations may be available. All participants can be assured of confidentiality. For more information, write to: CABS, 1109 Shell Gate Place, Alameda, CA 94501.

Community Affairs

LOS ANGELES — The 22nd annual Mothers of the Year Luncheon will be held Sunday, May 5, noon, in the Golden Ballroom, New Otani and Gardens, 120 S. Los Angeles St. Cosponsors are Downtown L.A. JACL and So. Calif. Japanese Women's Society. Honorees are Shizu Abe, 76; Tsuchiyo Domoto, 89; Takayo Kato, 83; and Fusayo Sato, 89. Reservations (by April 29): Mary Nishimoto, (213) 206-8616; Ted/Christine Miyashiba, (818) 355-3934; or Frank Hirata (213) 478-7845 (eves).

Asian/Pacific American Heritage Week Committee hosts the annual Heritage Dinner in honor of the First Asians in Space: Maj. Ellison Onizuka, Dr. Taylor Wang, and R. Eugene Trinh, Friday, May 10, 6 p.m., San Francisco Room, Bonaventure Hotel, 404 S. Figueroa St. Tickets \$30. RSVP by May 3: 485-5198.

Centenary United Methodist Church presents an Arigato Bazaar, named in appreciation of the support received through the years, on Saturday, May 4, 11 a.m. to 6 p.m., at 35th St. and S. Normandie Ave. The Rev. George Nishikawa said the bazaar is "one last fling at a corner that has been a special place since 1928" before the church moves to Little Tokyo.

Featured will be an array of fresh produce, plants, games, arts and crafts and food booths.

UCLA Asian American Studies Center is sponsoring a public lecture by Dr. Alan T. Moriyama on May 4, 2 p.m., at JACCC, 244 S. San Pedro St. Moriyama will speak about his research on Japanese emigration to Hawaii. Information: 825-2974.

KENTFIELD, Calif. — Nisei Widowed Group holds its monthly meeting at the home of Harry Murata, May 5, 1:30 p.m. Information: (415) 453-9248; Yuri Moriwaki, 482-3280; Elsie Chung, 221-0268.

SEATTLE — The city's 10th annual Cherry Blossom and Japanese Cultural Festival, takes place May 3 to 5 at Seattle Center. The free festival features photography exhibits, textile demonstrations, performing arts, martial arts, games, and films. Information: 623-7900.

NEW YORK — Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) is seeking Japanese American bilingual elementary teachers for the 1985-86 school year in Alexandria, Egypt. Certified teachers may contact: Doris Caldwell, Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), 475 Riverside Dr., Room 406; New York, NY 10115.

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EAST WIND

Bill Marutani



EARLIER THIS YEAR the U.S. Dept of Justice, Federal Bureau of Investigation, issued a report titled "Oriental Organized Crime." The report covers Chinese, Japanese and Vietnamese "organized crime." Focusing up on the Japanese phase of the report, we'd like to share some of the information with you.

THE TERM FOR Japanese gangsters that most of us have heard in recent years is *yakuza*; however, the constabulary in Japan refer to these organized crime groups as *boryokudan*, meaning "violent bands" or "gangs." The derivation of the term *yakuza* is from the numbers 8, 9 and 3—taking the first syllable of each of these numbers. While this writer is not a card-player (*hanafuda*), we understand that the worst hand that one can be dealt in such a card game is "8, 9, 3." In short, *yakuza* is a "loser."

THE LAND OF the Rising Sun, while reportedly having one of the lowest crime rates in modern society, nonetheless is said to have almost 2,500 *boryokudan* with a total membership slightly in excess of 100,000. This calculates to an average of 40 members (*kobun*) in each gang. Reportedly, membership and structure are highly formalized with an initiation ceremony into a *kai* (club), with the initiate pledging eternal fealty to the *oyabun* (boss). There is an underboss (*daigishi*) who "takes the heat" for crimes sought to be ascribed to the *oyabun*. These gangs have their own strict code of criminal honor—if criminals can have honor—subscribing to precepts such as *jingi* (humanity and justice), *giri-ninjo* (duty and love) and *ninkyō* (chivalry).

WITHIN THE GANGS there are groups with specialties, one known as *sokaiya* engaged in

economic crimes, primarily extortions against corporations. The *sokaiya* acquire corporate stock, thus entitling members to attend stockholder meetings where subtle pressures are used, and if not successful in gaining their goals, not-so-subtle tactics are employed unless management capitulates with a pay-off. So pervasive is this problem that the Commerce Act of Japan was revised, making it a crime for any corporate officer to divert any portion of the corporate assets to anyone other than stockholders. Sony Corporation reportedly had a stockholder meeting that lasted some thirteen hours because of the activities of the *sokaiya*. Isuzu Motor Company had a stockholder meeting that ran ten hours. With American corporate interests joining with Japanese enterprises, there is concern that the gangster element may infiltrate such international business conglomerates.

THE "TAKE" by these criminal elements is estimated to be some \$31.72 billion, translated into U.S. dollars. That's only for the year 1977. In the Pacific basin area, including centers with sizable Japanese American populations, *boryokudan* elements are being detected by law enforcement agencies. Criminal activities focus upon gambling, narcotics, prostitution and pornography. Reportedly, the *boryokudan* has made inroads into the control of Japanese tourist trade into the States. It is reported that *yakuza* elements have been making overtures in Las Vegas and Atlantic City.

IN THIS WRITER'S comparatively sheltered world, we know next to nothing about the workings and scope of the *yakuza*. However, it is reported that in Japan it is not unknown for politicians and *yakuza* elements to have an open relationship, such as at a funeral for an *oyabun*. For most Westerners, and those with a Western mind (which includes this writer), it is said that one may well associate quite intimately but unknowingly with *yakuza* elements.

WELL, SO MUCH for law and order.



Heroes Reflect Value System

Got any heroes? According to a U.S. News and World Report, my generation (18-24 in the 1970s) didn't have any heroes. Well, all right, I'm stretching it a bit — I was 25 in 1970, but what's a year or two.

The report went on to say that things are different now. The people 18-24 year olds most admire and emulate are — are you ready for this? — Clint Eastwood and Eddie Murphy. Now what does that say about our young adults.

The list is one of glamour, fame and wealth. Men chose Eastwood, Murphy, Ronald Reagan, Steven Spielberg, Julius Erving, Joe Montana, Doug Flutie, Harrison Ford, and Lee Iacocca, with — how's this for bizarre — Pope John Paul II and Michael Jackson tied for 10th.

Women chose Jane Fonda, Sally Field, Eastwood, Mother Teresa, Murphy, Nancy Reagan, Pope John Paul II, Geraldine Ferraro, Reagan and Meryl Streep. Overall, the order of the top five: Eastwood, Murphy, Reagan (Ronald), Fonda, with Sally Field and Spielberg tied for 5th. Think about that. All six spots occupied by show-biz people. The next four were the Pope, Mother Teresa, Michael Jackson and Tina Turner.

But with a show-biz president what can we expect? People are impressed with glamour. With wealth. They don't want to hear about what's wrong, just what's nice, what doesn't jog our conscience. We're in the '50s again.

ONE THING LEADS TO ANOTHER

Bob Shimabukuro



Eisenhower mentality. But never fear. The '60s followed the '50s.

Right now, more people are falling under the poverty line. I look outside the JACCC building and I see these folks running around with their cardboard looking for a place to sleep. Every night. A little further down the road, they line up to sleep on the sidewalk on 5th, 6th, 7th St. I wonder who their heroes are.

Mario Savio is back on the campus at Berkeley where a new round of sit-ins takes place. Columbia University students are emulating their 1960s ancestors also. All for divestiture of school funds in South Africa. It used to be free speech. Now it's school investments. The young seem to understand the connection between wealth and power and status quo. Is this the generation of Eastwood and Murphy?

I was in the seventh grade (or eighth, I can't remember, it's been a long time) when my teacher asked who my heroes were. My dad, who influenced my thinking a lot, was what you might call

"progressive," and that's probably a euphemism.

"Sun Yat Sen [the Chinese revolutionary], Harriet Bouslong [who was defending the ILWU and the Hawaii Seven from HUAC interrogation], and Patsy Takemoto Mink [who at that time was defending crew members of the Phoenix — the pacifist boat cruising the nuclear test areas in the Pacific]," I offered cautiously. I agreed with my dad. These were courageous people.

My teacher didn't agree, needless to say. I'll never forget the look on her face. Or the reaction of the rest of the class. Until I went to college the only heroes I'd admit to after that were good safe ones: Jackie Robinson, Roy Campanella, and Don Drysdale. Sandy Koufax was not a hero. He was a god, somebody you worshipped. His fastball and curveball was evidence enough that he was divine.

In college, I said, "Che." After all, he was an asthmatic revolutionary. Talk about identification. Got a pretty good response in college.

Later, at a JACL wine-tasting gathering of "youngsters" who were being recruited, I offered the same answer to the hero question. The reply? "Che? Che, who?" I knew I was in different company. Shades of 7th grade.

How about you? Have any heroes? Asian American ones? Write, let us know. I'll write about one who qualifies next week.

U.S.-Japan Relations: What Can We Do?

by Floyd Shimomura

What specifically can we do to help U.S.-Japan relations in our own communities?

Certainly there are many possibilities. However, I would begin by encouraging Japanese companies and individuals to be good

rights laws in their own hiring and promotions; to create jobs and not unemployment for our American workers; and to support the civic and cultural life of the communities in which they do business. In other words, we should encourage the Japanese to create "goodwill" and not "backlash."

the conduct of a few; and to welcome them into the civic and social life of the communities in which they reside. In other words, to again help create "goodwill" and not "bad will."

In this way, I believe we can begin to make a positive contribution to better U.S.-Japan relations in our own community and minimize the possibility of backlash and ill-feelings.

On the other hand, we should encourage our fellow Americans be fair "hosts" to the Japanese companies and individuals that come to the U.S.; to treat them with equality—neither better nor worse than anyone else; to judge them on their individual merit and not condemn all because of

"guests" when they are in our country; to learn about the history of the treatment of Japanese Americans so they can better appreciate the opportunities they possess; to abide by our civil

Fourth in a Series.

Remember to double-space all submitted articles and letters to the editor.

ISSN: 0030-8579



pacific citizen

Nat'l JACL Headquarters, 1765 Sutter St., San Francisco, CA 94115, (415) 921-5225

Published by the Japanese American Citizens League every Friday except the first and last weeks of the year at 244 S. San Pedro St., Los Angeles, CA 90012; (213) 626-6936 • 2nd Class postage paid at Los Angeles, Ca. Annual Subscriptions—JACL members: \$10.00 of national dues provides one-year on a per-household basis. Nonmembers: \$18, payable in advance. Foreign addresses: Add U.S.\$8 • News or opinions expressed by columnists other than JACL staff do not necessarily reflect JACL policy.

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POSTMASTER: Send address changes to Pacific Citizen, 244 S. San Pedro St., #506, Los Angeles, CA 90012.

Prewar Pigskin Preview

As I was saying before running out of space last week, American football was introduced to Japan in the 1930s by Nisei who were there to study in Japanese colleges. In 1934 Nisei at Meiji and Waseda organized pickup teams which played to a 0-0 tie.

In the fall of that same year a Nisei college all-star team played the Yokohama Country and Athletic Club. Since the Country Clubbers were mostly overweight Europeans who knew something about rugby but not much about American football, it's understandable that the Nisei won 26-0. By 1942 there was a six-team intercollegiate league.

In the last few years American college teams have been playing in Japan, but against each other in the absence of suitable opponents. But, I've learned recently, there was a trans-Pacific football game back in 1936, played on Sunday, Dec. 27, at Gilmore Stadium in Los Angeles.

George Kondo of San Francisco passed along the information and loaned me a four-page souvenir program (which sold for a dime) as proof. The game was between the "Japanese All-Star Squad" and the "Southern California All-Star Squad." Unfortunately the program doesn't explain who the

FROM THE FRYING PAN:

Bill Hosokawa



athletes were.

The people who put the program together employed the frustrating Issei custom of simply using initials instead of first names. Thus the starters on the Japanese team are listed as M. Shimoda, M. Inouye, A. Fukuda, T. Imamura, S. Machida, M. Hata, T. Ariga, A. Nagai, K. Nakamura, S. Yasuda and H. Hata. The Americans had names like J. McDonald, W. Blaisdell, H. Sargent, E. Dempsey, B. Clow and L. Bach. The one recognizable name is Dean Cromwell, listed among the officials. If memory doesn't betray me, he was track coach at USC.

Somewhat more interesting are the program advertisements purchased by Li'l Tokyo supporters. The Miyako Hotel at First and San Pedro, and the Japanese Theatre Assn. at 201 N. San Pedro bought the biggest ads. Among other ad-

vertisers were the T. Iwata Art Store at 256 E. First; I. Nishikawa, jeweler at 233 E. First, the Olympic Hotel at 117 N. San Pedro, Tanaka Photo Service at 114 N. San Pedro, Nada Sake & Wine Co. at 459 E. Third; Tenshodo Drug Co. at 260 E. First; G. Sumida Co., sporting goods and musical instruments, at 325 E. First; San Pedro Garage at 211 N. San Pedro; S. Kataoka, jeweler, at 301 E. First; and Mikawayo confectionary at 246 E. First.

Considering that the only way to get from one side of the Pacific ocean to the other was by steamboat, and that the voyage took two weeks, it must have been a staggering endeavor to get the team from Yokohama to Los Angeles and back again. And what kind of shape were they in for playing football after all that time cooped up in a ship?

Unfortunately, George Kondo didn't tell me who won the game. Maybe some fan with a long memory can recall. Or some kind person will take the time to look into the files of the Rafu Shimpou or Kashi Mainichi, which certainly must have covered such a momentous community event, and give us a brief rundown if not a play-by-play account.



Photo by Chris Komuro
SURPRISE — The widow Chizuko (Shizuko Hoshi) beams upon receiving a gift from Kawaguchi (Soon Teck-Oh) in East West Players' production of Wakako Yamauchi's "The Music Lessons."

'Music Lessons' a Powerful Play

by Elizabeth Lu

LOS ANGELES—In "The Music Lessons," playwright Wakako Yamauchi dares us to bare our feelings. The consequences, as the hardworking widow Chizuko Sakata (Shizuko Hoshi) discovers, can be painful, but taking that risk, going out on a limb, is a part of loving and living that makes each of us feel alive.

Building on Yamauchi's succinct but effective script, set in the Imperial Valley during the Depression, director Mako communicates to the audience the vulnerable, feeling side of every parent. Mako skillfully choreographs Chizuko's transformation from a beleaguered mother of three who hides her emotions behind farmwork and drab, unisexed overalls, to a woman with emotions, desires, and dreams that go beyond the obligatory ones centered on her children.

The production features a strong performance by Shizuko Hoshi, who portrays with special insight the lonely mother and widow Chizuko. With every long day she labors away in the fields and with every heavy sigh, she epitomizes the self-sacrificing parent that each of us remembers.

In what was the most powerful scene in the play, Chizuko and her daughter (Susan Haruye Ioka) open a floodgate of emotions as they throw accusations back and forth and say things they had always felt but dared not express. Ioka, in what was an otherwise unassuming performance, is at her best in this mother-daughter confrontation.

The catalyst that sparks the conflict is Kaoru Kawaguchi (Soon-Teck Oh), an itinerant worker who comes to the family's

farm with a painful past of his own. As the visiting stranger, veteran actor Oh has the good looks and gentle manner that makes the subtle love triangle believable. However, Oh at times looks inappropriately dazed when he should express only mild surprise or embarrassment.

Dana Lee, as the affable old neighbor Nakamura, is wonderful as comic relief. He shuffles to and fro and downs cheap red wine while he quips with Kawaguchi, filling the audience in on each character's past. Darrell Kunitomi as Chizuko's eldest son Ichiro provides the solid yet low-keyed support appropriate for his character. Janellen Steininger as the waitress spices things up with her very brief but interestingly sultry moment with Kawaguchi at the bar.

The physical production has some minor flaws. For example, there is the impossible angle of view from the house to Kawaguchi's separate shed. The backdrop of what is supposed to be the hills and fields seems to be trapped in papermache. Then there are the occasional slips in synchronizing Oh's violin playing with the soundtrack. These shortcomings tend to distract the audience from the action and dialogue.

Despite these minor problems, "The Music Lessons" at East West is sure to set one thinking about its message of hope and disillusionment. The production offers a provocative evening of powerful emotions.

"The Music Lessons" is playing at East West Players, 4424 Santa Monica Blvd., Thursday (\$8), Friday, Sunday, Sunday matinee (\$9), and Saturday (\$10). Information: (213) 660-0366.

ship in different PSWD chapters, which was a prime purpose of the conference. An outlying Ventura County JACL chapter attendee, Dorene Tsukida, wants another conference held next year. Thank you, Mary Nishimoto, for developing a super membership recruitment leaflet for PSWD. We needed one for a long time. I am both proud and delighted by Irene Hirano's effective representation of JACL on the "Inter-ethnic Dialogue" panel with co-panel personages like Harvey Schechter, Anti-Defamation League, B'nai B'rith; John Huerta, Mexican

American Legal Defense and Education Fund; and Mark Ridley-Thomas, Southern Christian Leadership Conference. It was a super conference. Community outreach was effectively accomplished. It will be tough to top, but PSWD needs to continue this community outreach to inform and acquaint the people about JACL and increase PSWD membership to 10,000 by the JACL national conference week in 1986.

HARRY KAJIHARA
Oxnard, Calif

Letters

Praise for PC

This letter is an enthusiastic support for your fine newspaper and its excellent coverage.

I recently took a copy of your issue to an Asian community meeting. People attending were ages 24 to 70. All were very impressed with the issue; in fact, an older couple has decided to resubscribe and rejoin JACL. You can expect many more new subscribers from our area.

Our group agreed that your articles on community networking to grapple with racism, articles raising awareness of discrimination against Asian people (whether it is police brutality or problems in the schools), articles about important Asian leaders, internationally and nationally, made your paper more valuable than ever.

We also enjoy the editorials, and contributions by writers. Another aspect of the paper we especially appreciate is more news which concerns us locally here in the Northwest. Helping all of us learn what is happening to one another up and down this coast and nationwide is a real contribution your paper makes for a more effective and educated community.

As a Japanese American, I appreciate a newspaper which takes seriously connecting me and my community to important issues which, in the end, impact all of us.

D. MISA JOO
Eugene, Ore.

Author! Author!

Seldom does an author react to the plaudits or barbs his books get from reviewers. It is sort of an unwritten code. However, in the case of my *Chikara!* I think the gentleman's criticisms in the Pa-

cific Citizen were an unwarranted burst of outrage triggered by more than dislike for the content. I am sorry the book disturbed him so much.

Yes, as he said, I am a white man. But when a writer is down to the bare bones searching for truth, color is hardly important. Two of the greatest facets of the Japanese Americans have been their fierce patriotism and adherence to the concepts of democracy. I care about those JAs who found something of value in *Chikara!*—something of pleasure, or maybe pride... which is why I dedicated the book to them. I am thankful that I was able to write it.

ROBERT SKIMIN
El Paso, Texas

Chikara! was reviewed by Raymond Okamura in the June 22, 1984, PC.

Shinji's Cartoons

I found Shinji's cartoon in the March 8 PC very interesting. It touches on so many issues and feelings all Japanese Americans must be dealing with.

There is the desire to be a PART. To be assimilated.

There is the desire, at the same time, to hold onto what is Japanese in us, and for the Japanese not to be totally assimilated into the population.

I have a child who is half-White. I am interested in a Black community organizer/political activist. I grew up with mostly White friends, later with many Black friends, now with Japanese friends as well.

Where else but America could all this dazzling/puzzling mixing take place?

I look forward to seeing more of Shinji's cartoons.

PATTI ADACHI
Chicago

More Conference Kudos

I wish to publicly commend and express appreciation to J.D. Hokoyama, chairperson of the recent PSWD community outreach "Japanese American Involvement: A Commitment to the 80's" conference, co-chair Irene Hirano, Shirley Chami, Ron Doi, Glen Fukushima, Linda Hara, Miki Himeno, Janet Kajihara, Midori Watanabe Kamei, Harry Kawahara, Sandi Kawasaki, Betty Kozasa, Ford Kuramoto, George Nakano, Marilynn Nakata, Mary Nishimoto, George Ogawa, Patrick Ogawa, and Emily Takeuchi.

The conference was superbly done. The national JACL director Ron Wakabayashi commended the conference planners. He informed me that he had distributed the PSWD conference handout material to all district governors for use as resource material. President Frank Sato was very much impressed by the talents of the conference planners and professionalism of the participants. The conference also provided a forum for Frank to "spread his gospel" pertaining to preparing, supporting, and getting Sansei, Yonsei, and Gosei into decision-making positions in industry and government. I, of course, voice a resounding "yes" to Frank's idea! Tom Shimasaki, Tri-District (NCWNP-CC-PSW) conference chair, was very impressed and complimentary on the conference content.

I have heard that a number of people have applied for member-

Pacific Citizen editor to leave

LOS ANGELES — Pacific Citizen editor Karen Seriguchi has been named the first national executive director of the Asian American Journalists Assn. (AAJA). She leaves her current position May 7. Bob Shimabukuro will become acting editor.

"Karen's outstanding skills and experience as a manager, community organizer and journalist are ideal for our efforts to increase the number of Asian Americans in news media and improve coverage of our communities," AAJA president Tria Toyota said.

Seriguchi's appointment comes as the Los Angeles-based AAJA, a four-year-old non-profit professional corporation, is beginning to organize on a national basis.

"It's vital that more Asian Americans attain key management posts in the news media," Seriguchi said. "I would like to stress programs to help Asian American journalists improve their job skills."

"In addition, more Asian Americans in the newsroom will help the media become more sensitive to minority issues. My hope is that the number of Asians in journalism will double within the next few years."

AAJA's membership includes nearly 100 working journalists throughout the nation, in such cities as San Diego, San Francisco, Sacramento, Stockton, Seattle, Milwaukee and Washington, D.C.

Seriguchi has been editor of

rights of Americans of Asian ancestry, by their efforts personally and governmentally in the Vincent Chin matter."

Entertainment at the event was also notable. Jerry Woo, a 17-year-old Filipino award-winning singer-breakdancer performed several popular recording hits. China's prima ballerina, Hui-Fang Mao, who played the starring role in the movie "White Haired Girl," performed classical ballet. And famed folksinger-songwriter Charlie Chin flew in from New York to sing pieces from his show, "An ABC from NYC," and his "Ballad to Vincent Chin."

Last year, ACJ organized a courtwatch in the federal civil rights trial of Ronald Ebens and Michael Nitz, which resulted in the conviction of Ebens, who was sentenced to 25 years. Nitz was acquitted of all charges, but now faces a civil suit for his part in the wrongful death of Vincent Chin. Ebens is free on bond, pending appeal; ACJ continues to monitor the case.

But with the completion of the federal trial last June, ACJ's efforts to obtain equal justice for Asian Americans have not lessened. ACJ successfully led two other national campaigns to remove a racially derogatory exhibit at the federally funded Six Flags Auto World in Flint, Michigan, and to eliminate the demeaning "Charlie Rum" character from a local television station. ACJ has also joined with a number of groups to monitor legal efforts in the racial attacks against a Vietnamese man and his family in Grand Ledge, Michigan.

the Pacific Citizen since September 1983. Bill Sing, AAJA chairman and business reporter for the Los Angeles Times, noted that, "Many community leaders have credited her with significantly improving the quality and scope of the newspaper."

Seriguchi, a JACL staff member since October 1980, is a former regional director of the Pacific Northwest District, based in Seattle, and was assistant director of Performing Arts Services in San Francisco, managing director of San Francisco's Asian American Theater Workshop, and an editor at the Carnegie Council on Policy Studies in Higher Education at Berkeley.

For the Record

In the April 19 issue, a line was omitted from Henry Sakai's commentary ("On Nikkei Celebrities and PSW Conference," p. 8). The paragraph originally read:

"One thing that bothered me at the conference was that Frank Sato, JACL national president, said that U.S.-Japan relations was JACL's second highest priority. *It would seem that some other programs have equal priority*, including aging and retirement, youth, women's concerns, health fairs, employment discrimination, etc. Let's not forget we are supposed to be a civil and human rights organization. Maybe the National Board needs to reevaluate where they are spending our time and money. What has happened to outside fund-raising and membership recruitment?"

Chapter Pulse

Marina

MARINA DEL REY, Calif.—Harry Kitano, professor of social welfare and sociology, UCLA, is guest speaker at the chapter's May 2 meeting. Kitano will be presenting new findings on why people seek interracial relationships. Information: Larry Takahashi, (213) 479-8479.

San Francisco

SAN FRANCISCO — The chapter voted unanimously to sponsor a track team in the 1985 Junior Olympics. President Cressey Nakagawa said that, "Since the San Francisco Chapter originated the Junior Olympics 33 years ago, it was felt that the chapter should become involved again." Anyone interested in joining the team may pick up applications at the Paper Tree in Japantown, or call David Nakayama, JACL headquarters, (415) 921-5225.

San Jose

HAYWARD, Calif. — The 33rd annual JACL Junior Olympics will be held June 2 at Chabot College. By virtue of its second consecutive team victory last year, San Jose JACL again acts as the host organization.

Age divisions from 10 years old and under the masters divisions for adults are open to participants in a long list of track and field events. Over 350 entrants

from all over Northern California typically participate. Information: Tom Oshidari, (408) 257-5609; Robert Setoguchi, (408) 247-1494.

Venice-Culver

LOS ANGELES — The highly acclaimed documentary "Unfinished Business" by Steven Okazaki will be shown with the film strip "Gaman" on Friday, May 3, 7:30 p.m., at the Venice Japanese Community Center, 12448 Braddock Dr. Admission is free.

Ventura County

OXNARD, Calif. — A cooking demonstration of three Japanese dishes is offered on Sunday, April 28, 2-4 p.m., at Oxnard High School. Information: Ann Asaka (805) 484-0481; Marcia Miyasaka 499-2117.

South Bay

TORRANCE, Calif. — An udon booth is the offering of the chapter at the 12th Bunka-sai, a Japanese cultural festival sponsored by the Torrance Sister City Assn., April 27-28, at Torrance Recreation Center, Torrance Blvd. and Madrona. Hours are 11 a.m. to 6 p.m., Saturday; 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., Sunday. Free admission to exhibits and demonstrations of bonsai, karate, calligraphy, dance, sumie painting, music, and other activities.

ACJ

Continued from Page 3

the decision-making levels of government. Griffiths served in the U.S. Congress for 20 years and was the chief sponsor of the Equal Rights Amendment.

Griffiths also announced the appointment of ACJ president Helen Zia to a newly formed state commission on criminal justice.

Michigan Dept. of Civil Rights director Ronald Quincy spoke on the growing awareness by state government of the concerns of Asian Americans. The civil rights department currently has no bilingual Asian employees, a situation which exists in most of the state's service departments, including the bilingual education program.

To remedy the absence of Asian Americans in meaningful positions in state government, ACJ president Zia advocated the formation of a Governor's Advisory Commission on Asian American Affairs. ACJ has been working with the governor's staff, in conjunction with other groups, for over a year to establish such a body to improve communications about Asian American concerns.

ACJ presented its 1985 Justice Award to a number of individuals in the U.S. Dept of Justice, including William Bradford Reynolds, who heads the civil rights division; Leonard Gilman, local U.S. attorney (posthumously); and Theodore Merritt and Amy Hay, the Vincent Chin trial attorneys. The award was given in recognition "for their understanding and dedication in upholding the civil

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'Let's Samba'

by George Kondo

As of now, approximately 100 persons have registered for the Pan American Nikkei Conference III being held in Sao Paulo, Brazil, July 25-28. Many have attended the conferences in Mexico City and/or Lima, Peru, with fond memories of a very enjoyable time, especially visits with the host families.

These experienced travelers are from throughout the States and their itinerary is being processed by Unique Adventures, who successfully handled the tour to Lima in 1983. Unique Adventures specializes in Latin American travel and has been designated by the North American and Royal Canadian Astronomical Societies and the Smithsonian Institute as their official operator in conjunction with the Peruvian Astronomical Society for the Halley's Comet Watch Tour in the spring of 1986.

The majority of tourists are taking a tour which, in brief, will cover Sao Paulo, the conference, overnight tour of Iguassu Falls, staying at the Tropical Hotel das Cataratas, Rio Palace Hotel in Rio de Janeiro and the Rio Corcovado, and Sugar Loaf Tour with breathtaking views and historical sites as well as lunch and a special jewelry fashion show.

Also included in this tour will be attendance at the "La Scala" Cabaret with its show-stopping Samba Revue, cocktail and dinner included. This tour will be from July 23-August 3.

Those who were unable to attend the 1983 conference are extending their travels to include Lima, with visits to Cuzco and Machu Picchu, which are must places to see in South America. Others are taking individualized tours which the operator can arrange.

Varig Brazilian Airlines will be the principal carrier from gateways New York, Miami and Los Angeles, as well as for air travel while in South America. In addition, those flying Varig will receive an invitation from Amsterdam Sauer of Brazil, gem dealer, for cocktails and a jewelry fashion show in the Bandeirantes Room, Sao Paulo Hilton, at 6 p.m., July 24, the day of arrival in Sao Paulo.

All persons attending the 1985 Pan American Nikkei Conference must preregister by sending the registration fee of \$100 to Pan American Nikkei Assn. (North America), 1765 Sutter St., San Francisco, CA 94115. After June 1, registration fee will increase to \$125. Additional information on the conference can be obtained by reading the article by Charles Kubokawa, secretary/treasurer for PANA, in the April 5 edition of the Pacific Citizen, page 6.

JACL scholarships

UC alumni to expand programs

SAN FRANCISCO—California Japanese Alumni Association (CJAA) board of trustees at a meeting held in San Francisco on March 15 proposed the following resolutions:

1. To increase the number of scholarship recipients and/or to increase the amounts of the awards for 1985 by adding \$15,000 to the fund allocated for scholarships in the national JACL scholarship program. This will result in a total of \$25,000 available for distribution. The eligibility requirements remain the same: Any student enrolled in undergraduate or graduate studies at any of the University of California campuses will qualify.

2. To expand its programs to cover social activities and membership recruitment. The present membership of CJAA, approximating 150, are principally graduates of the UC Berkeley. Efforts will be made to recruit graduates from other campuses. With nominal membership dues and tax exempt donations the programs benefitting Japanese American students can be expanded to include contributions specifically to campuses which have a large number of Japanese American students.

3. To amend the name of CJAA to reflect more clearly the composition of its members; i.e., Americans of Japanese ancestry. In the past, the present name has been misinterpreted.

During the past few years CJAA has contributed \$10,000 to the national JACL scholarship program, \$10,000 to UC Berkeley Alumni Assn.'s 50th Anniversary Scholarship Endowment Fund for

the benefit of the Japanese American scholars, \$5,000 to Harry L. Kingman Memorial Fund, \$1,500 to the UC Berkeley Asian American Studies Library, \$5,000 to UC Berkeley Alumni Assn. Scholarship Fund, and \$5,000 to national JACL redress campaign.

To become a member of this organization alumni of the University of California system may send one-time membership dues of \$5 and/or contributions to: CJAA, 1890 Sutter St., #305 San Francisco, CA 94115.



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Shinju: A Cultural or a Criminal Act?

With this issue, Katie Hayashi joins the PC as a freelance reporter. A native of Japan, she will be writing about Japanese newcomers to the U.S.

This commentary concerns the case of Fumiko Kimura, a Japanese woman who attempted suicide in Santa Monica, Calif., by walking into the ocean holding her son and daughter. Both children died, but Kimura survived and has been charged with murder (see story on page 1). A suicide in which one takes the lives of loved ones as well as one's own is called shinju.

The following is an expanded version of an article previously printed in the Santa Monica Corsair and the Los Angeles Times.—Ed.

by Katie Kaori Hayashi

Five and a half years ago, I came to the United States with my husband and my one-year-old son because my husband wanted to continue his studies in this country. I am almost the same age as Fumiko Kimura. When I found out about her shinju, I empathized with her, although my American friends sympathized with the two children. I was surprised that Americans didn't understand the Japanese custom of shinju.

In my English as a Second Language class at Santa Monica College, the instructor used a Los Angeles Times article about Kimura as discussion material. I was also surprised that people of other ethnic groups didn't understand shinju. But some of my classmates agreed that American courts should consider her cultural background because her act was caused by Japanese custom and her despair.

Kimura's shinju is a crime by American standards, but in Japan it is an accepted cultural act. Shinju is treated like involuntary manslaughter in Japan. The Japanese don't find malice in the intent of shinju survivors. Survivors of parent-child suicide are ceremonially prosecuted and brought into court. They are usually given a short sentence in prison, but their sentences are suspended, and most of them are

immediately placed on probation. If they commit no crime while on probation, they are released without serving time in prison.

Inseparable Bond

The Japanese don't see shinju survivors as criminals. The Japanese are sympathetic towards shinju survivors because the survivors are regarded as the persons who have struggled against harsh realities and have been finally engulfed by them. For the Japanese, Kimura isn't a merciless criminal, but she is a Japanese mother who was bound to the traditional Japanese concept and loved her children deeply. Her shinju is caused by the inseparable bond between mother and child.

From the time a Japanese child is born, his or her parents see themselves as father and mother, no longer as just a man and a woman. They are also expected to behave as a father and mother in society. Japanese parents, especially mothers, view their children as part of themselves.

Japanese mothers protect, dominate and devote themselves to their children. They would willingly sacrifice themselves for their children. They give up pleasure until their children become adults. Mothers take their children wherever they go. If a mother leaves her child with a babysitter to go to a movie or party, she is frowned upon and labeled an irresponsible mother.

Deep Devotion

Because of their deep devotion to their children, they believe that they are better protectors than anyone else. A Japanese mother and child are joined by a strong bond. A Japanese proverb says that what a child receives from his or her mother is higher than a mountain and deeper than an ocean.

When a Japanese mother commits suicide, she feels obliged to take her children with her. She believes that her children will suffer without her protection and care.

In Japan, to be raised by a single parent or in an orphanage is a stigma. Those experiences traumatically damage children's lives. Those children are looked down upon and often discriminated against in employment and marriage. For example, a bank will not hire a person who doesn't have a father.

Children are deprived of their opportunities because of their parent's death or divorce. To save their children from eventual suffering and humiliation, parents are obliged to take their children's lives along with their own lives.

When Kimura submerged herself and her children in the sea, she didn't think of her act as murder, but suicide. She killed her children to complete her suicide successfully because she saw her children as an extension of herself. She couldn't leave her children behind because of the strong bond between her and her children and her love for her children.

Japanese mothers usually commit suicide with their children, but fathers do not do so as often. But single fathers will take their children with them because they know that nobody will take care of their children.

Two Categories

Shinju is broken down into two categories. One occurs between parent and child, and the other between lovers. The Japanese are moved when it occurs between lovers because it is considered the culmination of love.

Almost 300 years ago, this kind of shinju became an epidemic under a strong restriction against marriage outside social caste. To prevent the consecutive occurrences, the shogun ruled that the

shinju survivors would be relegated to the ranks of "hinin," the lowest rank in the social caste, and also deprived of human rights, regardless of their previous status. But the law didn't prevent lovers from committing shinju. Writers at that time beautified it, and people relished the stories. After that time, shinju became a part of Japanese culture. Shinju stories between lovers are still played in kabuki, bunraku and movies.

Shinju occurs every day in Japan. Seven years ago my friend and her mother committed shinju, but the incident did not appear in the media because the Japanese media didn't consider it news. The extensive media attention given to the Kimura case was a surprise to me. Later I learned that a socially accepted deed in one culture is a cruel crime in another.

Suicide is regarded as a sin in Christian belief, but for the Japanese it is a way to save a person from a living hell. In 1983, 25,202 Japanese committed suicide.

The cherry blossom analogy may help Americans understand Japanese propensity for shinju. The most beloved flower in Japan is the cherry blossom. At the prime of spring, the cherry blossom brightens up Japanese towns by its pink flowering. But the blossoms fall in one day by strong winds or violent rain. Unlike other flowers, it doesn't expose darkened, shriveled petals to people's eyes. Because of its ephemeral and glamorous life, people love it and say, "I want to live like the cherry blossom." The Japanese choose to die if they know only humiliation awaits them.

For example, during World War II, Japanese soldiers were taught that it was a shame to be

captured by the enemy. When they were surrounded by the enemy force, they often killed each other because they did not want to surrender themselves to humiliation. The Japanese prefer committing suicide to floundering miserably.

Divorce Still a Stigma

For Fumiko Kimura, who survived shinju in Santa Monica Beach, it was her second marriage. Divorce is still a stigma in Japan. She didn't want to shame and subject herself to more humiliation, nor did she want to bicker with her husband and her husband's mistress.

For Japanese women, marriage is a life goal. Women aren't fully accepted in the work force. They are discriminated against in employment, promotions and salary raises. Women feel obliged to quit their jobs when they get married or give birth to a baby. Most women with a college education quit their jobs in three years after being hired and live as mothers. Women joke that marriage is the most secure employment. When a marriage is threatened or falls apart, a Japanese woman becomes desperate.

I feel empathy for Kimura. Her crime by American standards is forced upon her by despair and Japanese custom. I feel sorry for Kimura because she is going to be punished by the American law. We newcomers gladly abide by the American law, but culture is ingrained in people's mind. We try hard to assimilate to American culture, but to deny our original culture means to deny our self-esteem and identity. I hope that Americans can consider her cultural background and interpret their law, accordingly.

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Interviews will be held on May 2 (Thu.), May 3 (Fri.), and May 4 (Sat.), 1985, at the New Otani Hotel, 120 South Los Angeles Street, Los Angeles, California. For further information and to schedule an interview appointment, contact Mary Brandenburg, (213) 547-6124, 547-6125.

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Credit union enjoys year of growth

CHICAGO—Dudley Yatabe was re-elected to a third consecutive term and ten years in the aggregate as president of the Chicago JACL Federal Credit Union at the first meeting of the newly elected board of directors held on April 11.

Serving on the 1985 board are Roy Teshima, vice president; Sumi Shimizu, secretary; Ariye Oda, treasurer; and Sumiko Ono, asst. treasurer. **Credit Committee:** Chairman Roy Teshima, Richard Hikawa, Thomas Masuda, John Tani, Dudley Yatabe. **Supervisory Committee:** Chairman Rich Yamada. **Education Committee:** Chairman Jack Nakagawa, Mits Kodama, Roy Ku-

roye, Aki Matsushita, Janet Suzuki, Tak Tomiyama, and Carol Yoshino.

Pursuant to the bylaws, two non-directors will be appointed by the board to serve on the supervisory committee. A replacement will likewise be appointed for John Tani, who has accepted a position with Kimberly-Clark Corp. at its headquarters in Wisconsin.

The 38th annual meeting of shareholders was convened at Como Inn on March 29, at which President Yatabe reported that the past year was another year of growth, surpassing records of the previous year. Historical highs were evident in loans outstanding

of \$664,400, shares on deposit of \$665,370, total assets of \$766,175, and the dollar value of loans made during the year of \$452,392. Although gross income of \$83,381 was not a record, it was second only to that of the previous year.

At Dec. 31, 1984, the loan/share ratio was 101.84% and the percentage of delinquent loans was 2.74%. An all-time high was also attained in the declaration of an 8 1/4% dividend per annum.

Among the significant events of 1984 were, once again, the appraisal of a #1 rating by the federal examiner, the purchase of a computer for the automation of all records and accounts, and reaching the \$750,000 mark in assets. It is hoped that the \$1 million mark will come to pass in 1986 to coincide with the 40th anniversary of this credit union.

Storm Lake, Iowa



REDRESS UPDATE

by Minoru Yasui
Legislative Education Committee

Chiye Tomihiro of Chicago knows the country around Storm Lake, Iowa, in the northern part of Iowa, about 120 miles north of Des Moines. It is a pretty, bucolic, rural and agricultural part of Iowa—and no doubt beautiful during the spring, summer and fall.

But, during winter, it is bone-chillingly cold! We were in Storm Lake lecturing at the small Buena Vista College during January. We were struck by the sense of isolation and provincialism of that community, at least during the bitter cold of winter. Most of the 900 students at Buena Vista are local, and after graduation, we are told, most stay within a hundred-mile radius of their home towns.

We were trying to bring the message of redress to this part of Iowa. We emphasized that what happened to Japanese Americans could well happen to German Americans, or Russian Americans—or to anyone who might be willy-nilly ancestrally linked with a perceived enemy. That seemed like a far-fetched possibility to most of the students, because they were secure on their farms and homes that had been in their families for several generations—and despite the fact that many were of German ancestry.

We noted, too, that the members of Congress from Iowa were

relatively moderate. Rep. Berkeley Bedell from northern Iowa, who became a multi-millionaire in the manufacture of fishing equipment, is rated as an open-minded representative. We know that his local office sent a representative to hear me speak at the college in Storm Lake.

Four other Iowa congressmen, Rep. James Leach of Davenport, Rep. Tom Tauke of Dubuque, Rep. Neal Smith of Altoona, and Rep. Cooper Evans of Grundy Center, are all rated as being liberal. The sixth congressman is newly elected Jim Ross Lightfoot, reportedly a former sheriff from southwestern Iowa.

The two Iowa Senators are influential. Sen. Charles Grassley has already held hearings on redress, as chairman of the Senate sub-committee on Administrative Practices and Policy of the Judiciary Committee. Sen. Grassley is a businessman, and relatively conservative, but not unreasonable. The other Iowa senator is newly elected Sen. Tom Harkins of Ames. Sen. Harkins is known as a civil rights advocate and was a liberal member of the House until his elevation to the U.S. Senate.

We know of Dr. Neil E. Nakadate, a professor at Iowa State University in Ames. However, we do not have contacts with other Nikkei, or friends in the State of Iowa. We believe that the Iowa delegation can be of great help to us in redress, if only we could reach them.

Could any Pacific Citizen readers give us names, addresses and telephone numbers of friends or relatives in the State of Iowa?

Manzanar desert may bloom again

MANZANAR, Calif. — Members of the Manzanar Committee met with Duane Buchholz, northern district engineer, Los Angeles Aqueduct Division, for a walking tour of the former WW2 internment camp on March 28. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss an Enhancement/Mitigation Project, one of 17 projects mandated in the pending Inyo-Los Angeles 5-year water agreement recently approved in San Bernardino Superior Court.

Joining the tour were Greg James, water director for Inyo County, and Shiro Nomura, curator of the Manzanar project at the Eastern California Museum of Independence, and other staff from both water departments.

The tour was to familiarize agency officials with the gardens and other remains in the one-mile

square area where more than 20 gardens have been identified by members of the Manzanar Committee.

"Manzanar must not become a divisive issue in carrying out the water agreement," Manzanar Committee spokespersons emphasized. "It would be nice to see Manzanar green again with debris cleaned up. However, we do not wish for this project to take precedence over other projects which would benefit Inyo County residents," stated Sue Kunitomi Embrey, committee chairperson. She added, "We are anxious not to disturb what is left since it is a historic landmark."

Pilgrimage

The committee reported further that plans for the April 27 pilgrimage are proceeding smoothly. Bus reservations for the Little

Tokyo area charter may be made by calling (213) 626-2249. The bus departs from in front of JACCC, 244 S. San Pedro St., at 7 a.m. San Fernando Valley residents may reserve seats by calling Nancy Gohata, (818) 899-4237, in the evening. Departure location is the Japanese Community Center, 12953 Branford St., in Pacoima. Departure time is 7 a.m.

For the fourth year, the Asian Pacific Committee of the United Teachers of Los Angeles is sponsoring a district-approved, one-day salary credit workshop/pilgrimage for teachers of the Los Angeles Unified School District.

Persons attending the pilgrimage are reminded to wear comfortable walking shoes, clothing for both warm and windy weather and to take flowers for the cemetery, as well as food and drinks.

For additional information, in Los Angeles, call (213) 662-5102; in San Francisco, (415) 567-1814.

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