

# pacific citizen

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Friday, August 9, 1985



COMMUNICATING—Discussing Asian American media issues during press conference at UCLA Photo by J.K. Yamamoto are (from left): NAATA executive director James Yee and filmmakers Loni Ding and Wayne Wang.

## News in Brief

#### Urban League debates quotas, affirmative action

WASHINGTON—Glenn Loury, economics professor at Harvard University's Kennedy School of Government, attacked the use of racial quotas and "inappropriate" use of civil rights strategies in dealing with problems such as low educational achievement among blacks. Such programs could "destroy the possibility of attaining real" equality of status for black Americans," asserted Loury at the annual Urban League conference July 24.

Bernard Anderson, a visiting fellow at Princeton University's Woodrow Wilson School of Public and International Affairs, argued that the government has a continuing responsibility to assure equality of opportunity for the victims of racial discrimination. "Those who urge us now, in the name of self-help and individual initiative, to abandon our efforts to pressure government into acting on our behalf, are really advocating a . . . strategy in which the power of the state would be used to protect and extend the interests of virtually every group except the black population."

Pilipino WW2 vets become citizens after 40 year wait LOS ANGELES—Fifty-eight Pilipino veterans of WW2 became U.S. citizens after a 40-year wait in a ceremony Aug. 1. The veterans were entitled to citizenship for their assistance to U.S. forces in the Philippines under a 1942 Act of Congress. However, it was not until this past January that a U.S. District Court compelled the Immigration and Naturalization Service to implement the act.

## Asian American media group assembles at UCLA

#### by J.K. Yamamoto

LOS ANGELES — Asian Americans involved in film, video and radio came from throughout the country to attend a conference of the National Asian American Telecommunications Assn. (NAATA) held July 26-28 at UCLA.

NAATA executive director James Yee noted that the first conference, held five years ago in Berkeley, arose from a common need "to create some kind of network, some kind of national vehicle to begin to disseminate images and stories of the Asian American experience."

Although there are now more Asian Americans in public broadcasting, commercial television, and the film industry, he said, the problem of racism and sexism in the media has also increased. But he expressed confidence that "we have the strength, we have the artistic and technical experience, we have the creativity" to produce more true-to-life works.

Wayne Wang, director of "Chan is Missing" and "Dim Sum," said the conference provided an opportunity for media people to "meet each other, look at each other's works, encourage each other."

Such encouragement is needed,

said Wang, by independent filmmakers, for whom one film may require "two or three years of your total commitment...everything from writing to editing to distribution...We're not doing this for monetary gain."

Loni Ding, producer of "Nisei Soldier" and keynote speaker for the conference, said that in addition to keeping an eye on Asian portrayals in the mainstream media, Asian Americans should be "in a position to take responsibility for . . our own public images." Many filmmakers, she said, "come to the point where we have to part ways with the industry" and become independent in order to do the projects they want to do.

She said an additional hurdle is that in the mainstream media world, "merely being talented, merely having found the means to produce a program" does not necessarily mean one's program will be aired. "There's absolutely no assurance of that whatsoever... we are going to have to engage in some political work. No one else is going to do it for us."

As an example of political work, she suggested pressure from community organizations in the form of letters and phone calls to broadcasters. Decrying such media images as Charlie Chan, Fu Manchu, the Dragon Lady and Suzie Wong, Ding said that Asian American media artists are driven by "a real sense...that what you are and your parents are is not what they think you are ...If you do not see your image out there, it's almost as if you do not exist. There's a sense in which one's social image is deeply tied to media images of oneself."

She stated that Asian American programs can be of high quality and of interest to the general public, "regardless of the tendency of the established media to continually presume that the general public would not be interested in this kind of program because it's a minority program."

Films screened during the conference included Wang's "Dim Sum"; "Beacon Hill Boys," directed by Dean Hayasaka, Bill Blauvelt and Ken Mochizuki; Spencer Nakasako's "Q It Up"; and Robert Nakamura and Karen Ishizuka's "Fools' Dance."

Workshops covered such practical topics as marketing and distribution, funding, contracts and negotiations, film and video edit-

Continued on Page 3

## Working for ethnic press discussed by journalists

#### by J.K. Yamamoto

LOS ANGELES — Local Asian American editors and reporters discussed the pros and cons of working in the ethnic press at a July 23 program sponsored by Asian American Journalists Assn.

Naomi Hirahara, reporter for Rafu Shimpo, gave an example of how ethnic papers give Asian Americans more in-depth coverage than the mainstream media. "Working for a community newspaper . . . you can follow up on certain issues, whereas in a mainstream paper you'd write one feature story on a certain issue pertinent to the Asian community, but that would be it." Cecile Ochoa, president of the Filipino American Press Club, said that "proximity to issues" is one of the advantages that a community journalist has. "We know who the community leaders are, where they're coming from, what their needs are ... you basically know what the system is." The panel also felt that covering community news is beneficial for the reporter as well. "I think that we work very closely with the community and share its development," said Daisy Tseng, news

anchor for Chinese World TV. "You help it to form its future path, and that's very rewarding."

Sophia Kim of the Korea Times found her job "a wonderful way to get reporting experience...I could do everything from movie reviews to writing personal essays to covering the presidential race to crime stories, lawsuits, and the more humdrum stories." ethnic newspaper, you learn to be really tough with people who think that just because you're Korean and they're Korean, they expect you to write stories a certain way."

Do Ngoc Yen, editor of the Vietnamese-language paper Nguoi Viet, also expressed the desire "to serve our readers with objectivity ...We think that we should learn the way of the mainstream to do a

Rape statement by Japanese bureaucrat attacked SAN FRANCISCO—Group Nawa, an organization of Japanese immigrant women, sent letters to the Japanese government calling for the resignation of Shumon Miura, director of the Agency of Cultural Affairs of the Education Ministry, after Miura made public statements indicating his approval of rape.

Miura wrote in the Dec. 1984 issue of the Tokyo publication City Runner that he exercised in order to "have enough physical power and energy to rape a woman if I wanted....Rape is a heinous act and certainly not a gentlemanly thing to do. However, it is a shame if a man is not strong enough to violate a woman." In another article Miura said, "Rapists should attack women whose sense of virtue is such that they expose themselves in nude magazines....They might even boast of being seen as sexually attractive when they are molested."

Fumie Watanabe of Group Nawa said, "We are not so surprised when men are insensitive about the needs and rights of women, but for a Japanese government official to speak and write publicly about rape like this, as if it were something to joke about, is outrageous."

#### **Some Difficulties**

Some of the disadvantages mentioned by the panelists were closely related to the advantages. Because ethnic journalists are usually part of the community that they are covering, Ochoa said, they must distinguish between "our roles as community advocates and as journalists."

"I think that has been a problem in our community—when you're a Filipino reporter, they expect you to write about their induction balls, their parties...[but] by being serious about the job that you have taken, you are essentially educating them that 'Although I'm part of you...I'm here to exercise my professionalism too.' "

Kim had the same kind of experience. "When you work for an

#### newspaper."

Financial and logistical limitations were also noted. "We don't have enough manpower to cover the whole area," said Tan Shihying, city editor of the Chineselanguage Centre Daily News.

Ochoa added that because of the limited budget of many newspapers, "We find writers doing other full-time jobs besides writing." Ochoa herself works as an equal opportunity investigator for L.A. County in addition to her newspaper job.

A limited staff also means a large workload for each reporter, panelists said. "I produce a story a day," said Kim, "and I'm talking about a rather lengthy story, so there is immense pressure."

Continued on page 5

# Ding, Nakamura receive Steve Tatsukawa Award

were honored as co-recipients of cations Assn. (NAATA). the first Steve Tatsukawa Memorial Award at a July 27 reception held at Noguchi Plaza.

The awards were created to recognize "distinguished achievement in creative expression and advocacy in film and the video arts on behalf of Asian Pacific Americans," said Bruce Iwasaki of the Steve Tatsukawa Memorial Fund.

at age 35, combined his community concerns with media and administrative skills in such projects widespread concern . . . that his vias Gidra newspaper, Amerasia sion, his energy be remembered Bookstore, Little Tokyo People's Rights Organization, East Wind "Generous donations were sent in magazine, UCLA Asian American from all over the country...We

## Media group plans 15th anniversary celebration

LOS ANGELES-Visual Communications, an Asian American media resource and production center, celebrates its 15th anniversary at Japan America Theater in Little Tokyo on August 24 with a program highlighted by the premiere of a VC-produced documentary on actor Yuki Shimoda.

"Yuki Shimoda: Asian American Actor" traces the struggles and achievements of the Sacramento-born Nisei, who died in 1981. The film includes clips of Shimoda's performances in "Farewell to Manzanar" and other movies and TV shows as well as interviews with actors Nobu Mc-Carthy, Mako, Beulah Quo, and Soon Teck Oh, agent Guy Lee, director John Korty and Broadway producer Harold Prince.

Funding for the film was provided, in part, by JACL Pacific Southwest District Council Trust Fund, the Henry & Chiyo Kuwahara Arts Scholarship, and donations from West L.A. JACL and WLA JACL Women's Auxiliary, Pan Asian JACL and San Diego JACL.

The program will also showcase short documentary and animated

Loni Ding and Robert Nakamura Asian American Telecommuni-

He became administrative director of Visual Communications in 1978 and served as executive producer of "Hito Hata," VC's dramatic feature-length film about the life of an Issei. (He also has a brief on-screen role in the film.) From 1981 until his death. he was manager of program development at PBS station KCET-TV. He was posthumously given the Lifetime Achievement Award Tatsukawa, who died last year of the Assn. of Independent Video and Filmmakers in May.

"When Steve died, there was a in a suitable way," Iwasaki said.

LOS ANGELES - Filmmakers Studies Center, and National wanted this award to symbolize Steve's devotion to craft . . . and to recognize his leadership in advocating on a national level for accurate, positive portrayals of Asian Pacific people in the media."

> The awards were presented by Tatsukawa's parents, Kiyoshi and Kaye Tatsukawa of Gardena.

> Ding has produced such films as "How We Got Here: The Chinese" (1975) and the TV programs "Bean Sprouts" (1980), a series for children, and "With Silk Wings: Asian American Women at Work" (1983). Her most recent project is "Nisei Soldier," a documentary about Japanese Americans who served in Europe during WW2, which has been seen on PBS.

> After hearing of Tatsukawa's death, she sent a copy of the film

to his parents. "'Nisei Soldier' embodied a kind of struggle ... that was so powerful for me that I felt I had to do that film, and it represented the work that I felt I had done best ... I wanted to give the best that I had to Steve, who gave his best to the community."

Nakamura, an associate professor of theater arts at UCLA and one of the founders of VC, worked closely with Tatsukawa. His works include the documentaries "Manzanar" (1972) and "Wataridori" (1975) and the dramatic films "Hito Hata" (1980) and "Fools' Dance" (1982).

"Steve really symbolized the progress we have made," Nakamura said as he accepted his award. "Steve was able to develop administrative abilities. He had the political savvy to work in the established media and yet remain firmly rooted in the community."

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-J.K. Yamamoto





Actress Beulah Quo (left) with the late actor Yuki Shimoda when they

films from VC's Filmmaker Development Program. Made possible by a grant from the National Endowment for the Arts, the program provides intensive filmmaking instruction for individuals selected from the Asian Pacific community through an open application process.

Honorary guest hosts include Nobu McCarthy, Beulah Quo, Edward Asner, Mako, Pat Morita, Jose De Vega, Sumi Haru, Pat Li, Ernest Harada, and Ron Wakabayashi. The Motown-style vocal group Asian Persuasion will provide entertainment.

Another highlight will be a reunion of-and tribute to-the founding members of VC: Robert Nakamura, Eddie Wong, Alan

Ohashi and Duane Kubo. VC be-

worked together on "The Immi-

grants," a movie for television.

gan as an educational committee of JACL. Two complete programs are scheduled, the first at 5 p.m. and the second at 8 p.m. A guest reception will be held between the two programs at 6:30. Tickets are \$15 for reserved seating and \$30 for Golden Circle select seating and a reception pass. For further information, call (213) 680-4462 or 680-3700.



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## JACCC library receives \$40,000 grant

LOS ANGELES-The Times Mirror Foundation has approved a \$40,000 grant for expansion of the Franklin D. Murphy Library at the Japanese American Cultural and Community Center, announced **JACCC** executive director Gerald Yoshitomi.

"Coupled with the \$60,000 Ahmanson Foundation grant we received earlier this year, it will enable us to expand our library services to children, something which

we have been planning for over a year," said Kats Kunitsugu, director protem of Murphy Library.

Kunitsugu explained that the expansion will be in the eastern end of the library on the JACCC's second floor, an area currently being used as the library workroom.

"Although we are still shortstaffed for budgetary reasons, we will try to set up regular story hours and other programs in conjunction with the JACCC's Education Department, in keeping with our goal of preserving Japanese cultural traditions for young Japanese Americans," she said, adding that she hoped to enlist the aid of retired Nisei schoolteachers as volunteers. Currently, retired professional librarians and other volunteers are helping to catalogue the library's books.

The Times Mirror Foundation also contributed \$30,000 to furnish the library prior to its opening in November 1982.

## Fund named after Topaz principal

## Community Affairs

LOS ANGELES-The New Otani Hotel will be the site of a reunion for Peruvian internees Aug. 16. A reception from 6:30-7 p.m. will be followed by dinner at 7:30. Approximately 120 people from California, Chicago, Hawaii, New York and Houston have already registered. Info: Chieko Kamisato, (213) 838-0871.

The Kinnara Taiko group, Okinawan dancers and the film "Lost Generation" are among the attractions at Club Lingerie, 6507 Sunset Blvd., Aug. 11, 7 p.m., when a fundraiser for Committee of Atomic Bomb Survivors in the U.S. will be held.

Kinnara will also appear at the L.A. Arts Council's Festival Without Words in Century City, Aug. 10-11. There is no charge for the festival, which will be open 11 a.m.-4:30 p.m. at the ABC Entertainment Center and Century City Shopping Center.

Eleventh Hour, an Asian American dance band, gives a special performance 1-3 p.m. at Japanese Village Plaza on Aug. 17. The band has performed in clubs such as The Golden Tale, Gung Hay Restaurant, and Sea Palace.

PORTLAND-"Issei Artists in America," an exhibition by Asian Artists of Oregon, will feature six Issei artists: Michiro Kosuge, Robert Dozono, Kanetaka Ikeda, Yaeko Nagata, Toru Yoshikawa and Ruri. The exhibition, sponsored by Interstate Firehouse Cultural Center (IFCC), is at IFCC, 5340 N. Interstate Ave., until Sept. 7. Hours: 10 a.m.-5 p.m.

SALT LAKE CITY—The family of the late Dr. C. Laverne Bane, longtime speech department faculty member at University of Utah, has established a memorial fund in his name.

Bane joined the faculty in 1929 and taught until his retirement in 1971. During WW2 he took a leave of absence to serve as director of adult education and principal of the junior and senior high schools at the Topaz internment camp.

His widow, Lora Kibbe Bane, of Vancouver, Wash., and daughters Margaret Marie Eberle of Portland and Helen Louise Larson of Vancouver, Wash., have established the Dr. C. Laverne Bane Memorial Fund in the Dept. of

L.A. Asians present anti-apartheid show

gazine sponsors "Break the Chains: Asians & Pacific Islanders Join the Struggle Against cause we understand the difficul-Apartheid" August 16, 7:30-9:30 p.m., at Little Tokyo Service Center, 244 S. San Pedro St., Rm. 410. students, seniors and unemployed.

The program features the Southern California premiere of "Woza Albert," a film based on a play written and performed by two black South Africans. Speakers include Evelyn Yoshimura, L.A. representative of East Wind.

East Wind has released an antiapartheid statement that reads, in part: "Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders have experienced a history of racial discrimination and a denial of our rights in this

Communication and have designated it to assist graduate students studying speech.

They invite all former students, friends and associates to contribute to the fund. Donations should be payable to C. Laverne Bane Memorial Fund and sent to Development Office, 306 Park Building, University of Utah, Salt Lake City, Utah 84112.

LOS ANGELES-East Wind ma- country ... We feel a sense of kinship in suffering with those who live under the Pretoria regime beties of the struggle for equality, justice and human rights.

"We join all who call for the es-Admission is \$3 general, \$1.50 for tablishment of majority rule and for an end to the Reagan Administration's policy of 'constructive engagement.' We support the demands for divestiture and economic sanctions as a demonstration of our commitment to freedom and political power for all peoples. We pledge our unqualified endorsement of concrete proposals such as Assembly Bills 134 and 1134, the Anti-Apartheid Act of 1985 [in Congress], and Mayor Tom Bradley's 6-point proposal for divestiture."

JACL Pacific Southwest District governor Harry Kajihara has issued a resolution endorsing the statement and the program. The resolution states that "South Africa's system of racial segregation ... cannot be accepted by the Japanese American Citizens League, which is itself a civil rights organization dedicated to the principle of equality for all people.'

For more information on the program, call (213) 620-0761.

#### CONFERENCE **Continued from Front Page**

ing, cinematography and directing, and radio production.

Larger panel discussions dealt with political and philosophical issues of Asian American participation in media. Filmmakers Nakamura, Renee Cho ("Jazz is My Native Language"), and Christine Choy ("Mississippi Triangle"), Sandra Gin Yep, producer of "Perceptions" for KCRA-TV in Sacramento, and others discussed the issue of gaining power in the media.

Nakamura, formerly of the community media organization Visual Communications, said that after spending 21/2 years trying to get "Fools' Dance" aired on PBS, he was returning to community media work. Cho talked about the

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years it took for her to fund her film about jazz musician Toshiko Akiyoshi, and Yep discussed her struggle to keep her Asian-oriented community affairs program on the air.

Giving their views on conflicts between the way the individual artist wants to tell a story and the way the community being covered wants to be seen were Spencer Nakasako ("Monterey's Boat People"), Steven Okazaki ("Unfinished Business"), Dean Wong of Kingstreet Media, Julian Low of Asian American Resource Workshop, Renee Tajima, associate editor of the Independent, and Yuet-Fung Ho of New York Chinatown History Project.

Ho worked on "Mississippi Triangle," a film about Chinese, blacks and whites living in a Mississippi delta region. She said that

some members of the Chinese community objected to a segment about a poor Chinese family, which many felt was not representative of the community, and segments dealing with racial prejudice.

Stereotyped images of Asians in the media were critiqued by actors Ernest Harada and James Hong, Richard Katsuda of Asian Pacific American Advocates of California, and Bok Lim Kim of National Committee Concerned with Asian Wives of U.S. Servicemen.

Panelists discussing the extent to which Asian American media artists have created their own unique aesthetic perspective included Wang, video artist Shigeko Kubota, actor George Takei ("Star Trek"), and writer Genny Lim ("Paper Angels").





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## **East Asian Cultures**



THE OTHER WEEKEND we were invited to a reception and dinner for Dr. Tai Wah Park, President of the Inha University in Korea. Of course, not unexpectedly there were a number of Korean American community leaders from this metropolitan area in attendance, a number of whom we were acquainted with. One was Dr. Yun, a medical doctor who was the driving force behind the establishment of a medical clinic in one of the principal areas where Korean immigrants had settled. Another was Doh Shick Joe, one of the most successful entrepeneurs of the community, a "go get 'em" type of performer. Yet another was Oh Young Lee, a young up-and-coming businessman, also a delightful personality.

While frau Vicki was busy chatting with Mrs. Lee and a few others, Dr. Yun, Mr. Lee and myself-who happened to be sitting near to one another-fell into conversation.

AS A YOUNGSTER, Dr. Yun had apparently resided in Korea during a portion of the time that Japan had dominated that nation. (Japan annexed Korea in 1910 and relinquished its hold in 1945.) In fact, he was given a nihon-mei, a rather complicated monicker; the exact designation I do not recall at this point. I sensed that it was not a matter of his choice so much as it was "advisedly compulsory" under the circumstances. We did not probe. Some further vestiges of those times were that he can read and speak some nihongo.

So there we were: two Korean Americans who had received an appreciable portion of their education and upbringing in Korea, and this AJA who had been born and educated in the U.S.

DURING THE COURSE of our conversation, we discussed the cultures of Korea and Japan-a topic "well-suited" to this Nisei as an expert. (We say this, of course, very much with tonguein-cheek.) Tongue or not, we had enough cheek nonetheless to unabashedly address the subject. During the course of the discussion, this Nisei threw out some observations on the table for pon-



dering. One of them was that whereas the Chinese and the Koreans respectively had their own distinctive cultures-be it language, writing, dress, etc.the Japanese, rather than evolving their own, adopted those of another culture, namely Chinese. This was reflected in the written and spoken language, architecture, dress, cuisine and so on. In short, everything was borrowed. But was this indeed so?

IT WAS POINTED out by the Korean conversationalists that the Japanese had developed their

own system of writing, namely the hiragana and katakana. Perhaps. But then, maybe not perhaps. From this Nisei's limited knowledge, even this was not true; for what the Japanese did was to take the Chinese characters (kanji) and merely modify them. To take but one example: ahn ("safety") also pronounced as "yasui" (kun-yomi) written with an u-kammuri (basically a flat roof with an "accent" mark on top) and the character onna underneath. A Chinese character. (Which makes sense in one respect: a woman under a roof is

deemed "safe.") Anyway, the Japanese simplified this to hiragana "ah" which bears a striking resemblance to the kanji or Chinese form. Then the hiragana was further simplified to katakana "ah" which, in turn, bears a striking resemblance to its cousin form of the hiragana.

**DURING THE COURSE of that** evening, we touched on a number of various aspects of the three cultures: religion, mores, early developmental history, and so on.

But space does not permit us to continue with this exposition.

## Aids For Holiday Issue

**ONE THING** LEADS **TO ANOTHER** Bob Shimabukuro

Charles Fullert is back in the office and that can only mean one thing: it's Holiday Issue (HI) time again. Fullert, for the uninitiated, does the ads for the HI. The HI ad kits will be going out right after Labor Day, he says, and the ads should be in by Nov. 30. Fullert advises, "Get your con-

became Portland chapter president, "Bob, HI ads sales is the easiest way to make some money for the chapter." I should have listened to him. I expended a lot of energy to break even on a lot of events.

This year's HI theme will be interracial families with an emphasis on the children, so all of you writers out there who wish to contribute, get your thoughts together. We will stretch out a bit and include related topics such as interracial households and friendships; how grandparents relate to the "new" families; how children view their role in the community.

We are not looking for articles tacts and drinking buddies set up only. Poems, short stories, drawright now so you can make a ings, and photos are being solicquick sale come November." ited. What we are trying to do is And remember, all you chapput out an issue which takes a ter reps, this is a good way for chapters to make some money. new look at the Nikkei commu-As Walt Sakai told me when I nity in the U.S., with good Nikkei

names such as Chin, Murphy, Nash, Weinstein, Colunga, Weglyn, Whitaker, De Soto and Wong.

As editor, I will have the final say as to what is printed and what is not. I would like to stay away from too many articles explaining why people marry out of their race. I find those articles irrelevant in this day and age primarily because I haven't seen any article which explains why people get married in the first place. Nor have I seen anywhere

a good explanation of why people fall in love. Or out of love. People just do. So anyway, the idea is to have maybe 1 or 2 articles which set up the "facts" and move on from there.

#### 

What with Live-Aid, Band-Aid, and all other kinds of AIDs in the news these days, it was only natural, I guess, that someone asked me my opinion of the concert. Skeptic that I am. I must grudgingly admit that I liked it, at least, what I saw of it. But in political terms, rock musicians really flexed their muscle: \$40 million worth. I'm sure politicians were watching. Closely. Remember when Carter enlisted Greg Allman's help in fundraising? Or Eugene McCarthy gathered Iron Butterfly's assistance? I wonder what will happen in next year's elections. Will everyone be after Lionel Richie to write a campaign song for them? And speaking of Richie, when you hear, "We are the children" what do you think of? African relief? Think again. The first "We are the children" song was written by Nobuko Miyamoto and Chris Iijima in 1973. Would have made a much better anthem.

#### **Rights as Individuals**

Every so often someone comes up with the question about not receiving individual redress compensation but to go for a community trust fund. This time it's Richard Mayemura (July 5 PC) who suggests a community trust to develop leadership amongst Japanese Americans.

First of all, individual civil rights were violated, and as such the individual should be compensated or redressed.

That doesn't mean that there can't be a community trust fund too; in fact, that is part of the proposal. In addition, if some people do not want to accept any monetary redress, then that money can go into the trust. There is no requirement to accept the money.

Over 80% of the people who responded to the polls said they wanted individual monetary compeople involved the sum total seems large.

HENRY S. SAKAI Long Beach, Calif.

#### **Dwindling Down**

Letters

When Dr. Clifford Uyeda was national president of JACL, he came to San Diego to make a pitch for redress. I think the year was 1981 and the redress he specified was \$25,000.

Assuming a moderate inflation rate of 5% a year, that \$25,000 would be over \$30,000 in 1985. Instead, today I read \$20,000.

Have the leaders in the redress movement forgotten arithmetic? Or is this the old Japanese enryo syndrome?

If this keeps up, when and if redress is conceded, a recipient might be able to buy an older used car.

NAOMI KASHIWABARA San Diego

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pacific citizen

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pensation, which is right under the American form of justice. In other words, each individual whose rights were violated should receive that compensation and have the right to refuse it, accept it, give it away or spend it as they see fit.

Hopefully, some money will go into the community trust fund and most people will remember JACL for being a prime mover in this struggle, as well as the other groups involved. JACL has raised and spent about three-quarters of a million dollars so far, and with the shift to LEC it will take another million to a million and a half dollars.

The individual compensation of \$20,000 is a very small amount considering the violation and impact, but due to the number of

## **A Concerned Citizen**

I would like to suggest that we Americans of Japanese ancestry consider involving ourselves with a national problem. This includes groups that represent us and the publications whose primary purpose it is to express our views.

The concern is our expressed opinions and stands on the balance of trade with Japan. We are Americans and it is our country that is suffering from the imbalance of trade with a foreign country to which many of us have ethnic and family ties.

I believe that because of the potential positive impact that we Americans of Japanese ancestry can have on Japan, we should be on the forefront in this country's **Continued on Next Page** 

## Good Try, But No Cigars

**FROM THE FRYING PAN:** Bill Hosokawa

Well, as an attention-getter it was a good try but no cigar. Back on June 21 this column asked whether the apparent inability of Japanese Americans to establish their identity as unhyphenated Americans might be due in part to our own emphasis on the Japanese part of our heritage.

The response to that column amounted to about half the comment we received after writing about the origins of American football in Japan. Is that a commentary on where our priorities lie?

Be that as it may, let me share with you the comments of a couple of correspondents. Philip Tajitsu Nash, who recently did some thinking on the implications of the term "Asian American" compared to "Oriental" in his New York Nichibei columns, wrote:

"My own feelings, based on my

efforts to correct the problems. I

have no specific solutions, and I

have very limited detailed knowl-

edge of what the exact problems

are. I do know that we as a group

are affected by the circumstances

one of the goals of Pacific Citizen

and JACL to vigorously address

this problem. I believe that it

should be addressed from the

standpoint of being very con-

I also believe that it should be

research into American and Asi-, an American history, are that the development of a 'white' consciousness distinguished from an 'Irish,' 'English' or other consciousness was necessary to keep blacks, Asians and others in subjugation.

'With the advent of new emphasis on cultural pluralism in the 1960s, 'black pride' and other similar movements in minority communities served as catalysts of positive feelings among all minorities, including Asian Americans.

"Unfortunately, the white mainstream does not see that liberation of minorities from stereotypes and misconceptions will also free everyone to be themselves and feel good about it. After all, 99.9% of us feel bad about ourselves when we are told by Madison Avenue that only Cheryl Tiegs or Robert Redford are 'good looking.' "

The second correspondent is a retired California Sansei whose mother, daughters and grandchild attended the same high school from which he was graduated. He and two brothers served in the 442nd and one of them was killed in action. He writes in part:

"Most Japanese Americans

All of us of Japanese ancestry

should offer our assistance in any

way possible to the President, to

all members of Congress and to

all of the trading partners that can

effect a change in this problem. I

believe because of their potential

influence, JACL and Pacific Citi-

zen can have a very positive im-

pact on this national problem, and

at the very least, help to improve

and reinforce our image as Amer-

**GLENN ASAKAWA** 

San Diego

icans.

cerned citizens of the U.S.

feel that they are not accepted as unadulterated Americans and they have only themselves to blame. They want to be treated as white Americans, yet they cling to their ethnic traditions and you can't have it both ways.

"I have never had any doubts about being an American even though I have been subjected to the same prejudices as other Japanese Americans. After the war I was the first JA to come back to my home town. I went to a meeting of the V.F.W. with my discharge, intending to join. I didn't know anybody there and I didn't know I had to have a sponsor to become a member.

"One of the younger members told me the situation and offered to sponsor me. Later I learned he was our state assemblyman. Some months later, when most of the JA vets came back, they called a meeting to form their own V.F.W. post. I was appalled since I had already paved the way for them to join the main post. It goes to show you how JAs act to ostracize themselves from the American mainstream."

This man, a wounded vet, had much more to say but unfortunately there isn't space to quote the entire letter. I'm not naming him to save him possible harassment, and that too is a commentary cnour times.

#### Hosokawa to be honored

**DENVER**—Denver Press Club and Daniels & Associates, Inc. will hold a luncheon and program to honor Bill Hosokawa as Colorado's Outstanding Communicator on August 14, 11:45 a.m., at Cherry Creek Inn, 600 S. Colorado Blvd. The PC columnist will be honored for his 37 years as a Colorado journalist and a bronze plaque will be put on permanent display at Daniels Communications Commons. Contact: Mary Kay Burns, (303) 321-7550.

## **Dangerous** Precedent



Perhaps I am overly sensitive to intrusions by the military into civilian affairs because of the historical ineptness with which such affairs are handled. As such, I was alarmed, yet cautious, when I read that the Pentagon wants a greater role in combating the flow of illegal drugs from Central and South America ("Military Urges Wider Drug War," Washington Post, June 20, 1985, p. A22).

The plan would allow U.S. military personnel to assist countries, such as Columbia, Peru, and Venezuela, in combating the drug trade. This would include the use of U.S. aircraft and ships in trying to stop the export of drugs, as well as the training of military teams within these countries, to stop the production of drugs.

Adm. James Watkins, chief of Naval Operations, says that the sale of such drugs finances "insurgents attempting to destabilize or topple anti-Marxist governments in the hemisphere" and that makes the drug war "a national security problem."

There may be merit in not overreacting, but I feel that all due exercise of caution should be taken towards protecting the constitutional and civil rights of the citizens of this nation. That is why the military proposal must be thoroughly examined, and ultimately, rejected.

Talk such as that of Adm. Watkins should strike an unsympathetic chord among those who know of the military-inspired deprivation of constitutional and civil rights of Japanese Americans during WW2.

In that case, the military violated the rights of 120,000 Japanese Americans, forcibly removing them from homes along the West Coast, and placing them in desolate detention camps in the interior of the U.S. as a "military necessity," a theme which sounds uncomfortably similar to the unsubstantiated claim of "national security" made by Adm. Watkins.

A fundamental premise of this nation is that the military is subordinate to civilian power. This is seen where a civilian, the president, is the commander-in-chief of all military forces of the U.S. The founders of this nation felt that this was such a fundamental principle that they assigned its violation by the king of Great Britain as one of the causes which impelled them to declare independence.

The war against illegal drug trafficking is a noble and worthy cause. More resources are probably needed to combat the menace which drug abuse poses to this society. The military forces of the U.S. are an invaluable resource which afford vital protection to the security of this nation.

However, the use of such resources in enforcing the civil laws of this nation is a pernicious precedent, as was seen by the racist folly of military intervention against Japanese Americans during WW2. The proposal to allow the use of the military in drug enforcement, as proposed by the Pentagon as well as in Congress by Rep. Charles Bennett (D-Fla.), must be closely scrutinized. Although the proposal seems "tempting," in the words of the Washington Post editorial of June 21, I feel it must ultimately be rejected because of the dangerous precedent which such actions would engender.

AAJA Continued from Front Page

LETTERS

**Continued from Page 4** 

and events.

Hirahara found that covering a wide range of topics is a mixed blessing. "You have to cover everything ... you really have to be a well-rounded person and have all

## We're looking for

this information at your fingertips.'

#### **Political Pressure**

The issue of political pressure from the home or ancestral country was raised, particularly with regard to Taiwan and the Philippines. Tan said that two of the nationwide Chinese papers published in the U.S. are owned and operated by Central Committee members

Her personal opinion was that 'a Chinese American owned and operated newspaper should always take the position of ... whatever is good for Chinese Americans.'

When covering the ongoing investigation into the murder of journalist Henry Liu, a critic of the KMT, Tan's attitude was, "I'm only doing my job, I'm a reporter,

"subsidized" paper or to do parttime or volunteer work for an "independent" one.

Bringing up a domestic issue also regarded as sensitive, Kim said that the mainstream coverage of the conflict between Korean and Black inner city residents often serves only to exacerbate the situation because mainstream reporters "don't have to worry about the consequences" of what they

tensions between the two communities...We did this by writing about a lot of events that were going on between the two communities, like the exchange of culture .things you never hear about in

the mainstream papers." All of the panelists expressed

interest in continuing to use AAJA as a vehicle for communication between ethnic and mainstream journalists, facilitating more m nority input into the mainstream "The Korean newspapers try to media and better journalistic

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of the Kuo Min Tang, Taiwan's ruling party.

She recalled that when the China Times folded last year, "They said they folded up because they don't have enough money, but...the real reason is because the KMT leaders don't like the editorial policy of that newspaper ... and gave them a lot of pressure."

Despite the KMT influence, she said, the Communists on the mainland are making inroads into the Chinese American community, as exemplified by the recent publication of a U.S. edition of the People's Daily. Due to the large number of Chinese immigrants here, both sides "have special people to work on overseas newspapers, because through us they can influence our readers...both sides try very hard to influence our position.'

I have no obligation to cover up anything for any side."

Ochoa said that the issue of support for the Marcos regime is "a very sensitive issue in our community" and that it is rumored that several newspapers are subsidized by the Manila government.

But because of the influx of professionals from the Philippines, including those seeking political asylum, "We've experienced a difference in many of our papers' orientation ... You see more and more anti-Marcos things being published."

Since the papers said to be subsidized are often more economically viable than the struggling independent papers, she commented, "Reporters, including myself, found ourselves in a kind of dilemma"-to be paid to write for a

write.

play the role of trying to heal the standards for the ethnic press.



photo by J.K. Yamamoto

MEET THE PRESS-AAJA panelists include (from left): Do Ngoc Yen, Nguoi Viet; Sophia Kim, Korea Times; Naomi Hirahara, Rafu Shimpo; and Cecile Ochoa, Filipino American Press Club.



Ed Yamamoto, 1918-1985

## More redress endorsements

In coordinating the ongoing efforts to secure endorsements in support of redress, the Pacific Northwest District JACL office continues to keep members informed. The following resolutions were not previously listed in the Dec. 7, 1984 or March 29, 1985 issues of Pacific Citizen.

Please direct any questions or comments to JACL Headquarters, 1765 Sutter St., San Francisco, CA 94115, or PNW regional director Tim Otani, 316 Maynard Ave. S. #108, Seattle, WA 98104.

#### Ethnic/Civil Rights Organizations

Asian Pacific American Advocates of California (1984)

#### **Religious Organizations**

American Lutheran Church (Minneapolis)

-Office of Church in Society (March 1985)

-Executive Committee (April 1985)

Asian American Baptists (Los Angeles, 1978)

Minister and Elder Commissioners of the 94th Presbyterian Synod of Alaska Northwest (Tacoma, June 1985) Second Unitarian Church (Chicago, June 1985)

## Ed Yamamoto: End of an Era

#### by Denny Yasuhara **PNWD Governor**

On July 24, 1985, an era of JACL history in the Pacific Northwest came to an end wih the death of Ed Yamamoto.

One can chronicle a long list of community activities and accomplishments during his forty years of JACL participation. First, his role in eastern Washington in the repeal of Washington's Alien Land Law in 1966 after 4 tries and nearly 10 years; the establishment of the first Japanese language class in eastern Washington in 1963; the activation and establishment of the Moses Lake Judo Club and Columbia Basin Chapter in 1968; his active participation in the Moses Lake Human Rights Commission; the successful legislative effort to obtain resident student privileges for alien dependents in Washington schools in 1977; the JACLer of the Biennium in 1978; the futile, but outstanding effort to obtain federally subsidized housing for Moses Lake's elderly and handicapped in 1981-82; and finally, few remember that Ed was among the first who insisted that JACL mount the effort to obtain redress from the U.S. government for all Japanese Americans, back when it was neither fashionable nor popular.

Yet, this recitation of his achievements gives one only a partial story of his single-minded devotion to JACL and Japanese Americans and the magnitude of his personal effort on their behalf-for Edward Masakiyo Yamamoto was a paraplegic the last 15 years of his life, an invalid confined to a wheelchair and needing assistance in the simplest tasks of daily living: eating, dressing, bathing and even in sleeping.

His many memos to us were typed with a pencil or stick clenched in his mouth to punch the letters on the keyboard of his typewritersome requiring many hours and even days to complete, a laborious, tedious, and very trying task at best. The last 3 years of his life were spent in and out of hospitals beset with illnesses, pain and sometimes near death, as his strength began to ebb and his body slowly deteriorated from neural damage sustained long ago.

Through all of this, his commitment to JACL and its people never waned. Even in the last week of his life, he tried to contact PNWD governors to discuss concerns he had for the 1000 Club, the Masaoka Fellows, and JACL. Yes, he loved this organization.

His passing leaves me with sadness and regret, and some guilt; perhaps because I should have given him a more sympathetic ear than I did. It behooves us all to be more sensitive to our grassroots people.

If the rest of us would have the vision, tenacity, and dedication to JACL and its people as he has had, redress would be a reality today. The Pacific Northwest, JACL, and all Nikkei have lost one of our truly remarkable leaders and he will remain an inspiration to me as long as I live.

Ed Yamamoto was born Feb. 10, 1918 and died July 24, 1985 from intestinal ulcers. He is survived by his wife, Kazuko, and his brothers, Dick and Floyd. The funeral services were held July 29.

## Singles 'Getting It Together'

SAN JOSE-The Second National JACL Singles Convention "promises to be a great time of getting together, be it to make new friends, renew old acquaintances, learn about starting and building new relationships or communicate with others in a more effective, constructive and caring way," reports Meriko Mori, publicity director for the convention.

The convention, scheduled for Labor Day weekend, Aug. 30-31 and Sept. 1 at the Hyatt-San Jose, features workshops, mixers, bowling, golf, sightseeing and a dinner/dance. Sponsors of the convention are the Northern California Asian Singles and the Greater Los Angeles JACL Singles.

Midori Watanabe Kamei, chair of the first convention and presentchair of the National JACL Singles Concerns Committee, will moderate a panel, "How to Cope with Loneliness." Watanabe Kamei is presently a professor of psychology at El Camino College in Torrance, Calif., as well as a practicing licensed marriage, family and child counselor. She received her for LDP official education at Colorado Women's College, Columbia University and USC.

Jeannette Zane, supervisor of Child Welfare and Attendance in the San Jose Unified School District, will conduct a workshop on "Effective Partners in a Relationship." Zane, a native of Honolulu, received her training at the University of Hawaii (UH) and has lectured at demonstration schools at UH and CSU Sacramento.

John Newsom, sociologist and training consultant in human relations, will be the guest speaker at the Saturday Dinner/Dance. He has done extensive research on singles and will speak on "The

Nine Seasons of Seeking to Get It Together-Relationship-wise."

In addition to the many Northern California JACL chapters expressing interest, singles groups including L.A. Nisei Singles, Fresno Singles, San Francisco Widowed Group, Bay Area Sansei Group and San Francisco Singles are helping the San Jose and Sacramento Nikkei Singles put together the covention.

"With singlehood as a common denominator," said Mori, "members of these various singles organizations are working together, sharing their individual talents, and coordinating their efforts as a cohesive unit proving that singlehood can be a unifying factor for a real team effort."

Those planning to attend are asked to send a check for \$70 made payable to No. Calif. Asian Singles, c/o Yuri Katai, 925 N. 7th St., San Jose, CA 95112. This registration fee covers mixer/refreshments, workshops, dinner/ dance and brunch.

# **JACL** hosts reception

SAN FRANCISCO - Approximately 35 people attended a JACLsponsored reception for Wataru Hiraizumi, director general of the International Bureau of the Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) of Japan, on July 27. A member of the Japanese parliament, Hiraizumi, was visiting the U.S. on a friendship mission.

About a dozen JACL members attended a dinner with Hiraizumi and Consul General Masaki Sed after the reception.

The LDP International Bureau is responsible for programs educating Americans about Japan, including the annual visits to Japan by a delegation of Sansei.





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