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Friday, September 13, 1985

## Inouye considers Senate leadership post

HONOLULU—Sen. Daniel Inouye of Hawaii acknowledges he may make a bid for the Senate's top Democratic leadership post in 1986, according to the Honolulu Advertiser.

"For the first time, I'm looking at it," he said of the minority leader slot held by Robert Byrd of West Virginia. Inouye, third in the Democratic senatorial leadership behind Byrd and Democratic Whip Alan Cranston of California, has often been mentioned as a possible successor of Byrd.

Inouye has steadfastly refused to openly seek the job. Last year, however, Byrd was challenged as minority leader by Lawton Chiles of Florida, and many senators were reported ready to replace the West Virginian in 1986.

Adding interest in the Democratic leadership lineup is the possibility that the party might retake control from the majority Republicans in the 1986 elections. There are 53 Republicans and 47 Democrats in the Senate; these seats of 22 Republicans and 12 Democrats (including Inouye) will be up for election next year.

Inouye has been active in fundraising and campaigning for fellow Democratic senators and expects to continue his cross-country speechmaking into next year. Such appearances are bound to generate gratitude if the Hawaii senator wins reelection and seeks the top leadership spot.

First elected in 1962, Inouye is the ninth most senior senator. He is "deeply moved" by the thought of becoming minority or majority leader, but he is quick to say the job comes with a lot of negatives, including security and logistical hassles, increased travel and political obligations, and the press of social and diplomatic responsibilities.

As Democratic leader, Inouye said, he would also be forced to cut back on trips to Hawaii. He's averaged 21 round trips a year between Washington and Hawaii over the past 15 years.

However, he added, assuming the leadership post would bring with it "additional power and influence," a big increase in staff and greater say over the direction of the Senate.



Yori Wada

## Cambodian dies after being beaten

BOSTON—In one of the latest incidents of violence against local Asian immigrants, a Cambodian refugee died August 14 from injuries sustained in a beating 10 days earlier.

Charged with murder in the death of Bun Vong, 35, of Lowell were Scott Arsenault and John Febbi, both 23. Also beaten in the attack was another Cambodian, Som Bunyoeun, who was slightly injured.

On the night of August 4, the two victims, driving on Veterans Highway, inadvertently cut in front of another car. Shouts were exchanged, and the Cambodians pulled over, hoping that the other car would pass. The two white men in the other car pulled over and beat the two Cambodians, fracturing Vang's skull.

A defense attorney has maintained that the act was not racially motivated.

Other recent incidents involving Southeast Asians include the beating of four Cambodians by eight whites in East Boston and the burning of a Revere house where five Cambodian families had been living.

In May, the home of three ethnic Chinese from Vietnam was broken into and its occupants terrorized by about 30 white males, eight of whom were arrested. That same month, Robert Glass was given a life sentence for the 1983 stabbing murder of Anh Mai, a Vietnamese immigrant living in Dorchester, and assault and battery on his three housemates.

These attacks are a source of increasing concern for local Asian Americans, who believe that anti-Asian hostility and violence are becoming more and more frequent, exacerbated by economic competition and films with Asian villains, such as "Rambo."

"The U.S. has been perceived by Cambodians as a country of free-

## Wada to keynote conference on Nisei

LOS ANGELES—Univ. of California's first Asian American Board of Regents member, Yori Wada, will be the keynote speaker at the conference, "Coming of Age in the Thirties: The Nisei and the Japanese American Press," Sept. 14-15 at the Japanese American Cultural and Community Center.

Wada's address will be a personal recollection and evaluation of what it was like to be a Nisei in the decade preceding Pearl Harbor.

Wada was born in the rural town of Hanford, Calif. and graduated from UC Berkeley in 1940. He first rose to statewide prominence in 1962 when he was appointed to the Calif. Youth Authority parole board after 30 years of working on behalf of minorities as a YMCA executive.

During WW2, Wada served in the South Pacific as a U.S. Army intelligence specialist while his family was incarcerated in an Arkansas camp.

Wada's address, "A Nisei's Recollections of the 1930s," is scheduled for Sept. 15, 1:30 p.m. at the Japan America Theater, 244 S. San Pedro St., and will be followed by a panel discussion from 2:45-4:15 p.m.

Participants in the panel will be:

Masao Yamashiro, a Kibei of Okinawan ancestry and author of *Toi Taigan*, a personal reminiscence of the prewar and wartime

periods;

Togo Tanaka, Nisei editor of the English section of the *Rafu Shimpo* from 1936-42 and presently director of the Federal Reserve Bank of San Francisco;

Jiro Kobashigawa, a Kibei who is a past president of the Okinawa Club of North America;

Kazu Iijima, a 1939 graduate of the University of California and an activist with the Nisei Democrats of Northern California before the war;

James Omura, an editor and columnist for various Japanese immigrant newspapers, publisher of *Current Life*, a prewar monthly devoted to Nisei life, and currently a columnist for the *Hokubei Mainichi* in San Francisco;

John Fujii, a retired journalist who lived in Japan in the late 1930s and 1940s.

A public forum will follow at 4:15 p.m. To facilitate a dialogue between the panelists and audience, open microphones will be set up along the aisles of the Japan America Theater. The audience will be given an opportunity to ask questions and express their own opinions.

The two-day conference is free and open to the public. It is sponsored by UCLA's Asian American Studies Center and funded by the Toyota Foundation, the California Council for the Humanities, and the Times Mirror Company.

## News in Brief

### Appeal of class action suit dismissal to go to court

WASHINGTON—The U.S. District Court of Appeals, D.C. Circuit, will hear the case of National Council for Japanese American Redress (NCJAR) September 24 at 9:30 a.m. NCJAR's class action suit against the government on behalf of WW2 internees was filed in 1983. In May 1984, it was dismissed on grounds that the statute of limitations had expired; the decision was appealed in July 1984. NCJAR's William Hohri expects a ruling at year's end or early 1986.

### California Senate passes bill repealing WW2 law

SACRAMENTO—A bill which would repeal a law used to fire Japanese American state employees during WW2 was approved September 4 by a 22-0 vote in the State Senate. Introduced by Assemblyman Phil Isenberg (D-Sacramento), it was passed by the Assembly on May 20. Section 19573 of the government code, enacted in 1942, allowed the dismissal of civil servants with dual citizenship during wartime. Isenberg argued that the sole purpose of the law was to fire 314 Nikkei employees, regardless of their citizenship status. The measure to repeal that law now goes to Gov. George Deukmejian for his signature.

### Congressman condemns 'Year of the Dragon'

WASHINGTON—Speaking in the House of Representatives on September 9, Rep. Norman Mineta (D-Calif.) criticized the film "Year of the Dragon," which has been the object of nationwide protests by Asian American community groups. The film, he said, presents "a narrow and twisted portrayal that distorts traditional cultural values and presents Americans of Chinese ancestry in a stereotypical role that is no doubt motivated by an attempt at drama but results only in racism. The film leaves the viewer with the suggestion that brutality and violence are an inherent part of Chinese culture. It is a disturbing film. It should not have been made."

### Lane County Democrats endorse reparations

EUGENE, Ore.—The Lane County Democratic Central Committee has announced its support of redress bills HR 442 in the House and S 1053 in the Senate. In an August 20 letter to the *Register Guard*, committee secretary Virginia Conley wrote that there was "no military or security reason" for the WW2 internment and that an apology to Japanese Americans whose "civil liberties and constitutional rights... were violated" is "long overdue."

## PC to receive award from L.A. County

LOS ANGELES—Pacific Citizen will receive the Media Award from the L.A. County Commission on Human Relations at the 13th annual John Anson Ford Awards luncheon on October 2, 12 noon, in the Blue Ribbon Room of the Music Center.

The award is being presented for "timely and balanced coverage of human relations and issues of importance to the diverse people of Los Angeles County." The PC, which was started in San Francisco in 1929 and moved to Salt Lake City during WW2, has been published in Los Angeles since 1952.

dom and security," said Daniel Lam, executive director of the Massachusetts Office of Refugee Resettlement, in a New York Times interview. "But now we must face the reality of racism in America."

Guest speaker at the luncheon will be Bill Stout, KCBS-TV news commentator and longtime civil rights and human rights advocate.

Other awardees are: Olympic torchbearer Rafer Johnson for his volunteer work in fair housing, civil rights and Special Olympics efforts; Rev. George Van Alstine, minister of Altadena Baptist Church, for his efforts toward equality of education; Nancy Mintie, an attorney with Inner City Law Center, for her work on behalf of the homeless; and Boy's Markets, Inc., for its contribution to community development in South Central Los Angeles.

Awards will be presented by members of the County Board of Supervisors.

The annual luncheon was named for the late John Anson Ford, the former supervisor who was responsible for establishing the Human Relations Commission.

For more information, call (213) 974-7611.

## MIS photo exhibit dedicated in Texas

FREDERICKSBURG, Texas — The Yankee Samurai exhibit of Go For Broke, Inc. was dedicated on Sept. 2 at the Adm. Nimitz State Historical Park with 300 visitors in attendance, including over 100 WW2, CBI, 124th Cavalry, 1st Cavalry, VFW and American Legion veterans and their wives.

In his dedication message, Shig Kihara from Go For Broke stated that the extraordinary story of second generation Japanese Americans was now integrated into the extraordinary story of a third generation German American, Fleet Adm. Chester Nimitz, and that "this is what America is all about."

Included in the Nimitz Park is

the Garden of Peace, a classic Japanese Garden with a replica of Adm. Heihachiro Togo's study. Nimitz, as a midshipman, had participated in a Tokyo celebration of Adm. Togo's victory over the Russian Baltic Fleet in the Battle of Japan Sea in 1905 and became a life long disciple and admirer of Togo.

Soon after the surrender of Japan in Sept. 1945, Adm. Nimitz was dismayed by the vandalism and deterioration of Togo's flagship, Mikasa, and the Togo Shrine in Tokyo.

Nimitz made a personal contribution to start a drive in Japan to rehabilitate both. In 1976, a Japanese committee that had carried out Nimitz's plan created the Garden of Peace to express their appreciation of Nimitz's efforts.

## JA appointed to state education council

SACRAMENTO — State Supt. of Public Instruction Bill Honig announced August 14 the appointment of Dr. Don Nakanishi to a second term on the Superintendent's Council on Asian Pacific Islander Affairs.

"The goal of the council," stated

## S.F. Asians host Bradley reception

SAN FRANCISCO—Local Asian Americans sponsored a reception August 29 for Los Angeles mayor Tom Bradley, who is considering a gubernatorial run in 1986.

More than 100 people attended the event, held at Mikoshi Restaurant. Organizers included Harold Yee, Henry Der, Jeff Mori and Yori Wada. "From the gist of his [Bradley's] comments, it appears that he is planning to run for governor," said Wada.

Bradley, a Democrat, lost to Republican George Deukmejian in the 1982 gubernatorial race. In Bradley's successful bid for reelection as mayor earlier this year, Asian Americans made up 28% of donors who gave \$100 or more to his campaign, according to a Los Angeles Times poll.

## Kobayashi murder linked to Stalker?

SAN FRANCISCO—The murder of Masataka Kobayashi, chef and co-owner of the Nob Hill restaurant Masa's, is one of the unsolved Bay Area killings being checked for possible links to "Night Stalker" suspect Richard Ramirez, according to the Los Angeles Times.

Dayle Okazaki, killed in her Rosemead home March 17, was first believed to be the Stalker's first victim, but investigators have attributed at least one Los Angeles area murder which took place earlier—June 1984—to Ramirez.

Kobayashi was found beaten to death in his apartment November 11, 1984. Lt. George Kowalski of SFPD's Homicide Division told the Times that Ramirez may have been visiting San Francisco since early 1983.

Ramirez, who was arrested August 31, has been formally charged with murdering William Doi of Monterey Park on May 14.

## Journalists to discuss media careers

SAN FRANCISCO—Asian American Journalists Assn. (AAJA) holds a student open house and workshops October 12, 9:30 a.m.-12 noon, in the Creative Arts Bldg. at S.F. State University.

The purpose of the program, which is free and open to the public, is to promote community access to news organizations and encourage accurate coverage of Asian Americans.

There will be a question-and-answer session with local professionals, who will discuss media careers, followed by workshops dealing with print and broadcast media.

Among the journalists scheduled to participate are: Wendy Tokuda, KPIX-TV; Emerald Yeh, KRON-TV; Ken Kashiwahara, ABC News; Lupita Kashiwahara, KGO-TV; Curtis Kim, KNBR radio; William Wong, Oakland Tribune; Sharon Noguchi and Teresa Watanabe, San Jose Mercury News; Leslie Guevarra, San Francisco Examiner; Ed Iwata, San Francisco Chronicle; Ed Diokno, Philippine News; and Paul Sakuma, Associated Press.

For further information, call Ed Iwata, (415) 465-0514; Teresa Watanabe, (415) 964-7670; or Jon Kawamoto, (415) 935-2525.

## 'Magic' study featured in new Amerasia

LOS ANGELES — The role of "Magic"—the code name for a U.S. intelligence project which cracked Japanese diplomatic codes—in the decision to intern Japanese Americans during WW2 is the subject of a study by John Herzig in the new issue of Amerasia Journal, published by UCLA's Asian American Studies Center.

Herzig, a retired lieutenant colonel, served as a counterintelligence officer for the Dept. of the Army in Japan and Europe. He testified in June at the Gordon Hirabayashi trial in Seattle, in which the basis for the evacuation and internment was challenged.

In his article, Herzig rebuts the 1984 congressional testimony of former National Security Agency official David Lowman, who cited "Magic" as evidence of disloyalty among Japanese Americans. Herzig has concluded from his research that "Documents written by or about key decision-makers of the time make no mention of any intelligence information inimical to Japanese Americans when discussing 'Magic' inter-

cepts." Other articles include: Eun Sik Yang on the changing role of Korean American women; and Marion Hom on the way immigrant and American-born Chinese portray each other in their literature.

In addition, James Omura reviews Bill Hosokawa's *JACL In Quest of Justice*, Yuji Ichioka reviews two books on the WW2 internment of Japanese Peruvians in the U.S., Alan Moriyama reviews a book by Patsy Saiki on

the wartime experiences of Nikkei in Hawaii; and Gordon Hirabayashi reviews a book by Ann Sunahara on the wartime internment of Japanese Canadians.

Amerasia 11:2 is available for \$3.50 per issue (plus 50¢ postage and 6% tax for California residents) from: Asian American Studies Center, 3232 Campbell Hall, University of California, Los Angeles, CA 90024. For more information, call (213) 825-2968.

No. 2,356

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## Bannai retiring from VA position

WASHINGTON — Paul Bannai, chief memorial affairs director of the Veterans Administration, has announced he will retire September 29 and return to his home in Gardena, Calif.

Appointed in July 1981, Bannai held the post of managing the National Cemetery System the longest since it became a VA program in 1973. VA administrator Harry Walters called Bannai "a tireless and dedicated public official who has earned the deep respect of his colleagues, his employees, and the veterans community."

Frank Sato, JACL president and VA inspector general, also praised Bannai's work. "As the only Japanese American to run a major department of the federal government, he clears the way for others to follow. We wish him Godspeed."

Bannai oversaw operation of the nation's 109 national cemeteries and associated burial benefit programs. He guided expansion of the



Paul Bannai

system through development of additional sites at Quantico, Va., Fort Custer, Mich., and Indian-town Gap, Pa.

Born in Colorado, Bannai was interned with his Japan-born parents during WW2, later serving with the U.S. Army in the Pacific from 1943-46. Prior to his VA appointment, he was executive director of the Commission on Wartime Relocation and Internment of Civilians and had served as a California state assemblyman.

ANAHEIM, Calif.—The 2nd annual "Fall Festival of Bonsai Treasures" will be presented by **Kofu Bonsai Kai** at the Brookhurst Community Center, 2271 W. Crescent Ave., Oct. 5-6. The exhibit will feature over 100 bonsai masterpieces. A film series for beginning bonsai enthusiasts is also scheduled. Doors open 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Free.

BURBANK, Calif.—The **Chinese Historical Society of Southern California** presents a historical Chinese fashion show and luncheon on Sept. 21 at the Castaway Restaurant, 1250 Harvard Rd. Over 30 different outfits of historical significance will be presented, including several over 100 years old. A \$15 tax-deductible contribution will be charged. Proceeds will be used to fund Society projects. Info and reservations: Cindy Fong, (213) 254-7622.

LOS ANGELES—The 8th annual **Asian Business Association Awards Banquet** will honor Keiji Higashi, owner of Monterey Furniture and Alu-Mont Inc., as the Asian Business Owner of the Year, Oct. 4 at the Westin Bonaventure Hotel. Actor George Takei will serve as m.c. Info: Lynne Choy Uyeda & Assoc., 1871 S. Cloverdale Ave., or (213) 933-1151.

Japan's foremost *buto*-style dance-theater group, **Sankaijuku**, will present the U.S. premiere of "Sholiba" at the JACCC Plaza, 244 S. San Pedro St. Performance to begin at dusk (approximately 7:30 p.m.). Tickets, \$10. Info: (213) 628-2725.

"Los Angeles Ephemera," a photographic exhibition by **Mari Umekubo**, continues through Oct. 5 at the Los Angeles Photography Center, 412 S. Parkview St. Hours: Mon-Fri, 3-10 p.m.; weekends, 11 a.m.-4 p.m. Info: 383-7342.

MONROVIA, Calif.—**Asha Hanada-Rogers** dances her own compositions

## Community Affairs



Asha Hanada-Rogers

along with those choreographed by L. Martina Young, Raymond Johnson, Florence Lui and Helga de Kinsky at the Monrovia Arts Centre, 110 E. Colorado Blvd., Sept. 14 (8 p.m.) and Sept. 15 (2:30 p.m.). \$6 in advance, \$7 at the door. Limited seating. For reservations and info: (818) 308-9633 or 359-0504.

PENRYN, Calif.—Cultural exhibits, demonstrations, and food (including homemade manju) are among the attractions at the 21st annual **Placer Buddhist Church** autumn festival and food bazaar, Sept. 28-29, 3192 Boyington Rd., 11 a.m. (both days). Games and a teriyaki dinner are also on tap. Info: Rev. Ensei Nekoda, 652-6139.

MONTEREY PARK, Calif.—**Celebration of the Arts**, sponsored by Sage United Methodist Church at 333 S. Garfield, 10 a.m.-4 p.m., features fine arts and ceramics. Info: (818) 369-6777.

SAN FRANCISCO — Anthropologist Lane Hirabayashi, an Asian American

studies instructor at S.F. State University, discusses the social, cultural and political character of the Nikkei community in Gardena, Calif., during the late 1970s at a meeting of the Center for Japanese American Studies on Sept. 20, 8 p.m., at Pine United Methodist Church, 426 33rd Ave. Free and open to the public.

Loni Ding's film "Nisei Soldier" will be shown at McBean Theater in the Exploratorium, 3601 Lyon St., Oct. 16, 8 p.m., as part of a three-day festival of documentaries about environmental and social issues shaping international and local politics. Ding will appear with filmmaker Jon Else ("The Day After Trinity") and Philip Greene of the S.F. Art Institute after the screening. Admission: \$3. Info: Linda Dackman, (415) 563-7337.

## Joint redress forum set for October

LOS ANGELES—A community forum on redress will be held October 5, 9:30 a.m.-4 p.m., at Venice Japanese Community Center, 12448 Braddock Dr. It is jointly sponsored by JACL and National Coalition for Redress/Reparations (NCRR).

Guest speakers include Peter Irons, author of *Justice At War*, attorney Frank Chuman, Joyce Okinaka of National Council on Japanese American Redress, and LEC chair Min Yasui.

The cost, including bento lunch, is \$10 general, \$7 for students and seniors. Send checks payable to JACL Redress Committee to PSW JACL, 244 S. San Pedro St., L.A. 90012. Info: 626-4471 or 666-2134.

## Fujita charges county with sex bias

LOS ANGELES—A County Civil Service Commission hearing into sex discrimination charges leveled against the County Dept. of Health Services by a Japanese American pharmacist opened August 21 at the Hall of Administration.

Dr. Carole Fujita charges that the county violated federal and state equal opportunity laws in a promotional examination for the position of Pharmacy Services Chief III earlier this year.

Contending that women are not represented in supervisory positions in the same proportion that they are employed as pharmacists, Fujita alleges that a woman has never been promoted to Pharmacy Services Chief III and that in the next category down, Pharmacy Supervisor I, only 5% are women, even though 40% of all county pharmacists are women.

"Clearly, women comprise an under-utilized class," stated Russell Iungerich, Fujita's attorney.

It was further alleged by Iungerich that the prerequisite two years of experience at the Supervisor I level was lowered to one year "after it was discovered that the acting male Pharmacy Services Chief III did not meet the minimum requirement."

Although the Civil Service Commission ruled in 1980 that Fujita had been discriminated against because of sex as well as race in a previous case, she says that the county has done nothing to correct this problem.

Irene Hirano of Asian Pacific Legal Defense and Education Fund concurs. "It is unfortunate that it's necessary to return to the Civil Service Commission repeatedly to bring to their attention [the fact that] the discrimination they ordered to end has continued unabated for five years."

Further hearings are scheduled for October 23-25. For further information, call (213) 626-4471.

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# Keeping Your Eyes on the Ball

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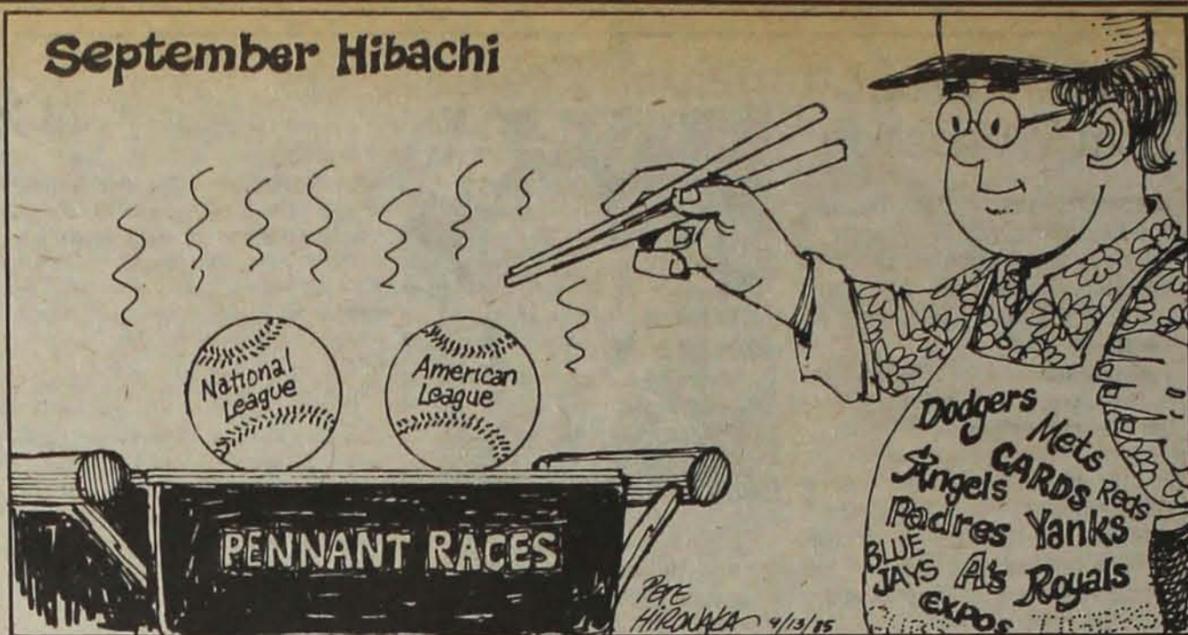
We have enough issues, right here at home, that require our attention without consorting with entities overseas. Should any more such invitations—tempting as they are—come forth, we should, and must, politely and firmly respond, "Thank you, but no thank you."

OF COURSE, THOSE seeking the continuation of the program can come up a number of reasons, or excuses, why such liaison should be promoted. Even I can quickly think of a few: to promote understanding of AJA's among the Japanese; to promote appreciation of Japanese culture among those visiting Japan; and such other nonsense. How one expects to "promote understanding" among some 100 million Japanese, or even an appreciable segment thereof, by sending a hodge-podge of well-meaning but unprepared AJA's for two weeks or so is beyond me. If you want to truly promote understanding of the *imin-no-ko*, even I can think of a number of far better ways than this. And as for absorbing culture, it is amazing how some have been converted into instant experts

WITHIN THE PAST twelve months, a number of AJA's visited Japan for a couple of weeks or so, and that's good, Japan invariably being a delightful place to tour. With all expenses paid, which makes a delightful tour even better. Courtesy of the Liberal Democratic Party, a political party in Japan—and that's where the "rub" comes in insofar as any participation, formally or informally, by JACL may be involved.

I state it flat out at the outset: I do not believe that JACL should become involved, formally as an organization or informally through any of its leadership, with any political party, not even for otherwise worthy projects.

# September Hibachi



with just a few weeks in Japan.

But even if neither of these two contentions have merit, one factor remains: maintaining liaison with a political party, and a foreign one at that. And that continues to be the "rub." A big rub.

MAYBE IT'S MY *inaka* upbringing, but when someone offers me something for nothing—I want to take a hard look, a second look. It may be entirely legitimate, you understand, but it deserves a close analysis. It may

well be that the LDP (Liberal Democratic Party) is indeed well-motivated by the highest ideals in sponsoring and putting up the money for these annual group sojourns from America. But candor compels me to say that you'll have to show me first, before I'll accept that.

And if you can't provide sufficient support for such noble purposes, then I've got to look for a reason. People just don't do these things—without a reason.

WE UNDERSTAND THAT the JACL National Board will be considering, or perhaps has already considered, establishing some "guidelines" for the implementation of any future invitations. As for this card-carrying JACL member, I convey this plea to the leadership: You must (politely) reject the entire proposal. That is the only guideline by which you should operate.

And then let us turn our attention to the issues here. At home.

# The Making of 'Yuki Shimoda'

by J.K. Yamamoto

The film "Yuki Shimoda: Asian American Actor" was four years in the making. In Hollywood, that would be time enough to make a blockbuster and follow it up with a sequel; for the non-profit, L.A.-based Visual Communications, it took that long to do a modestly budgeted retrospective of one man's career.

Originally conceived as a written life history by anthropologists Akemi Kikumura and Karen Ishizuka, the Shimoda story evolved into a documentary film project. Susanna Baird, a friend of Shimoda's from his performing days in New York, provided the initial funding that allowed VC to film an interview with Shimoda shortly before his death from cancer in May 1981 at the age of 59.

The interview became the core of a film that included photos of Shimoda's early career, interviews with friends and colleagues, and scenes from his TV and film performances. The main obstacles to completion of the documentary, say filmmakers John

Esaki and Amy Kato, were funding and film clips.

"The way things worked out," says Esaki, "there didn't end up to be any federal funding left over to do that film, so we pretty much had to raise all the money through community outreach."

Kato believes the Shimoda film "is the only film at VC that has been solely community-funded."

Getting people to donate wasn't hard. "Everybody knew Yuki from his work—he had made a lot of friends all over," says Esaki. Many of the donations came from JACL—the Henry and Chiyo Kuwahara Memorial Fund, Pacific Southwest District Council Trust Fund, and various local chapters.

But because funding came in bits and pieces, not in one lump sum, production had to follow the same pattern. "We were working on and off," recalls Esaki. "We'd raise some money, then go to Sacramento [where Shimoda grew up] and interview his friends, then we'd come back and work regular jobs at VC."

The \$10,000 donation that al-

lowed the film to be completed came from the Screen Actors Guild (SAG). After VC made its initial pitch to SAG's Ethnic Employment Opportunities Committee, the ensuing process—approval by the various SAG chapters, a decision by the national SAG board, and so on—lasted nearly two years.

The total budget of the film—about \$30,000—is really cheap for a documentary," according to Esaki, who says such films generally run from \$90,000-120,000.

Obtaining scenes from movies and TV shows in which Shimoda appeared proved no easy task. "Whenever you obtain a clip from a studio, you pay a certain amount of money for the rights to use it in another medium," explains Kato. "Because we can't pay the regular rate of \$3,000-4,000 for each clip, we had to write to them, explain what the film is about, [ask them to] waive their costs."

Scenes from the 1976 TV-movie "Farewell to Manzanar," in which Shimoda thought he did his best work, were an absolute must. After permission was obtained from Universal Television to use excerpts from the movie—a process which took several months—clearance was needed from the Screen Actors Guild, the Writers Guild, the Directors Guild and the American Federation of Musicians.

Referring to a scene in which Shimoda, portraying an Issei, emerges from a bus to be reunited with his family at Manzanar after being detained by the FBI, Kato says that SAG gave its permission on the condition that VC "locate every single actor that's in that scene and get an okay from them." Because some of the child actors had since gone into non-acting careers, locating them was another time-consuming task.

"Then the musician's union wanted payment to every musician who played on the soundtrack

of the clip," adds Esaki. "The bus scene was just a single flute, but the scene at the end was this huge orchestral score." After repeated requests and a visit to the union's New York office, permission was finally granted, culminating a two-year quest.

Shimoda is shown in the film as a houseboy in "Auntie Mame," a Japanese soldier in "The Last Flight of Noah's Ark," an elderly Korean in an episode of "MASH," an Issei befriended by a young Caucasian boy in the TV drama "Little Friend," and a railroad worker in one of VC's own productions, "Hito Hata."

But the list of clips that for one reason or another could not be obtained is extensive. These include scenes from the TV adaptation of the play "And the Soul Shall Dance," the TV series "Kung Fu," the theatrical film "MacArthur," and the Broadway musical "Pacific Overtures."

Kato considers the experience "a real education" about the intricacies of regulations in the entertainment industry. Now, whenever she sees a film biography of an entertainer, she thinks, "Wow! Where'd they get those clips?"

Esaki says he and Kato are "pretty happy we were able to take what we had to work with [and] give a pretty good idea of his career, the problems he faced."

"People don't realize the struggles that a minority actor goes through," adds Kato. "His struggle kind of typifies the struggles of Asian Americans."

The film premiered at VC's 15th anniversary celebration on August 24 at the Japan America Theater. Esaki and Kato plan to show the film at a variety of community fundraisers, but they may not be ready for a television broadcast.

"If we were to, say, get an offer to show it on PBS," says Esaki, "we would have to go back again to every single party involved and clear a broadcast."

# Letters

## We Can Win with Min

It has come to my attention from the chapter delegate to the recent NCWNP District meeting held in Reno, Nevada, August 9-11, that Yosh Nakashima mentioned a proposal to merge the [JACL] Redress [Committee] and the LEC, which I believe he stated was in the thinking stage among the national leadership.

I am greatly concerned that if such a merger should take place, there would be much confusion as to who the leader is going to be. There are a number of questions that must be answered. With this proposed merger, will Min Yasui continue as LEC chair or will he be relieved of his position and eased out? If this should happen, who is capable enough to take over?

In my opinion, the leaders of the National and NCWNP District offices seem to be in some sort of confusion and do not know what direction to take. There is a clear-cut mandate from the last convention held in Hawaii that the top priority for JACL is to pursue redress vigorously.

LEC is just beginning to move forward with Min Yasui putting all his time and energy to the program of lobbying. He can do this because he is retired. I hear that some leaders are saying that he is old and senile. He may be old just as I am, but senile no. He is the right person to do the job and hold the position he has now, that of LEC chairman.

He is a vigorous and active man, so we need him to carry on the difficult task of redress and especially lobbying. Please give Min Yasui your wholehearted support by writing to him, and tell Yosh Nakashima to forget about the merger.

HENRY TANDA  
Salinas, Calif.

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Frank Sato, Nat'l JACL Pres. OFFICERS Dr. Clifford I. Uyeda, PC Board Chair

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## A World of Interesting People

FROM THE  
FRYING PAN:

Bill  
Hosokawa



Jun and Kiyoko Uchida, post-war immigrants from Kagoshima who run a couple of very successful floral greenhouses in Salinas, California, arranged for me to meet Shunji Nishimura of Pompeia, a town about 350 miles from Sao Paulo, during my recent trip to Brazil.

Nishimura, too, was an immigrant. He had an opportunity to go to Manchuria in 1932, but chose Brazil instead. It was a lucky decision even though he spent the first three years in the back-breaking role of farm laborer. He picked me up at the Sao Paulo airport in his company plane and flew me to the city of Marilia. A chauffeur-driven car took us the rest of the way to Pompeia, a town of maybe 16,000 in a rich agricultural area.

Nishimura wanted me to see two of his proudest creations. The

first was his Jacto plant where 1,100 employees, using the most modern equipment, manufacture all kinds of agricultural spraying equipment that supplies perhaps 70 percent of Brazil's market. In addition, Jacto invented and manufactures the world's first coffee harvesting machine, a monstrous wheeled device approximately the size of a one-car garage.

As proud as he is of what he has done with his company, he was prouder still of Fundacao Shunji Nishimura de Tecnologia, which, as you can guess, is the Shunji Nishimura Technological Foundation which he founded and funded. Its main project is a two-year agricultural school turning out a hundred youngsters a year fully trained to take over scientific farm management.

Nishimura is convinced agriculture is Brazil's future. It has, he says, plenty of fertile land, a benign climate, lots of water, and all it needs is agricultural know-how to produce enough food to feed most of the world. Boys in junior high school take competitive examinations to attend the school, which is able to accept perhaps one in three applicants. In a two-year course they study everything from English to plant biology, soil chemistry to animal husbandry, heavy equipment main-

tenance to accounting. On graduation, they're qualified to take over as assistant farm manager, and after a couple of years of experience they can become bosses. Brazil has been good to Shunji Nishimura and the school is his contribution to its future.

I'd like to tell you more about Nishimura but I must save space for another fascinating character I met on my trip. He is Maj. Gen. (retired) Armando Yoshida of the Bolivian Air Force, a stocky man with the hawk-like face of a warrior, who was representing his country's Nisei at the Pan American Nikkei conference. General Yoshida's father was an immigrant from Japan, his mother a native Bolivian.

The general speaks only a very little Japanese, and just a bit more English, while I speak no Spanish at all. To enhance our conversation he summoned his son, who could handle the language of his Japanese grandfather fairly adequately. Where, I asked, did you learn Japanese? In Tokyo, he replied, where he lived for three years while his father served as Bolivia's ambassador.

Our interview was conducted while a samba band was whooping things up, so it was less than satisfactory. I came away hoping to meet the general again under less hectic conditions. We live in a small world full of interesting people.

## Coram Nobis and Redress



FROM THE  
NATION'S  
CAPITAL:

G. Tim Gojio

The *coram nobis* hearings of Gordon Hirabayashi held recently in Seattle, and indeed, all of the *coram nobis* cases, are part of a complementary action to the legislative redress bills currently before Congress. Each requires branches of the government to re-examine their respective roles in the original evacuation and internment, and to remedy, to as great an extent as possible, the damage to our constitutional ideals done thereby.

The legislative redress bills currently before Congress, H.R. 442 and S. 1053, address the role of Congress in the internment. Primarily, this was their enactment of legislation providing criminal sanctions for failure to obey the discriminatory orders of the military. Indeed, the congressional delegations from California, Oregon, and Washington played a major role in pushing for the intervention of the military in West Coast domestic politics.

The *coram nobis* cases address the disappointing failure of the judiciary to enforce the constitutional rights of Japanese Americans. Such a failure to enforce constitutional rights, in essence, created a privilege on the part of the government to engage in discriminatory actions in wartime, solely on a racial basis.

It must be remembered that all three branches of the federal government were involved in the evacuation and internment of Japanese Americans during WW2. This includes not only the war-

making branches of government (the executive and legislative branches), which would tend, excessively in this case, to follow the swings in public attitudes (and, indeed, is constitutionally structured to respond in such a manner), but the judicial branch as well.

According to Jacobus ten Broek, the "greatest failure of all" in the evacuation and internment program "was the failure of the courts, specifically the U.S. Supreme Court, to enforce the enumerated constitutional rights of individuals against the abuses imposed upon them by this nation." It is the role of the judiciary, and not the executive or legislative branches, to determine the propriety of any governmental action by striking a balance between the power of this nation and the rights of the people under the Constitution. ten Broek states that the failure of the Court to even examine, much less strike down as unconstitutional, the Japanese American evacuation and internment was one of the Court's great failures in history, "comparable with its surrender to slavery in... Dred Scott v. Sandford." ten Broek concludes, "in this way did the United States Supreme Court strike a blow at the liberties of us all."

Thus, it is important that there be a successful conclusion to the *coram nobis* cases, and that there be passage of the redress bills before Congress. It is a way for this nation to recover from the blows to our hard-earned liberty, and to restore a measure of justice which morality requires. Should only one branch of government recognize the injustice and attempt to correct it, it would constitute only a partial and incomplete rectification of the problem. All three branches were involved in the original problem; all three must be involved in the solution.

## Learning to Lead

by Mary Nishimoto

A handout on the week-long JACL Washington D.C. Program described its purpose as to "identify, train and develop young Japanese Americans for future roles in our communities across the United States." The program covers "the American political system and the role that the JACL and Japanese Americans must play within that system."

I applied to the program seeking to develop a national perspective. I looked forward to spending time with and among the nation's leaders in the capital. I thought the program would focus on leadership development, the federal government process, and the role of key participants in that process.

The program actually dealt with some of JACL National President Frank Sato's concerns relative to leadership, namely communication skills, interpersonal skills, networking, and strategy.

In terms of strategy around the priority issues (i.e., redress and U.S.-Japan relations), the delegation was informed.

Min Yasui updated the group on the redress effort, particularly the status of HR 442 and S 1053. Nikkei senators and congressmen were optimistic as to how far the redress bills would move this year; for example, the House Judiciary Subcommittee on Administrative Law and Governmental Relations expects to hold hearings on HR 442. JACL Washington D.C. Representative Tim Gojio explained the interrelationships between the legislative bills, the *coram nobis* effort, and the class action suit.

Glen Fukushima, Director of Japan, Office of the U.S. Trade

Representative, summarized the areas under discussion in the U.S.-Japan trade talks: citrus and forestry products, electronics and telecommunications equipment. When asked about Japanese American involvement in U.S.-Japan relations, the Nikkei congressmen felt that we should be concerned, in the sense of learning all we can about the relationship (e.g., cultural and economic dimensions).

The delegation did spend lengthy sessions with Senators Daniel Inouye, Paul Laxalt, and Spark Matsunaga. The informal meetings with Congressmen Norman Mineta and Robert Matsui were also enjoyable. Most of the elected officials spent much of their time fielding questions from the delegation.

Some, like Senator Matsunaga and Congressman Mineta, made comments relative to their committee assignments (Senate Subcommittee on International Trade and Senate Finance Committee, and House Subcommittee on Aviation and House Committee on Science and Technology, respectively). Congressman Matsui spent time commenting on issues not particular to Americans of Japanese ancestry (e.g., the budget and the deficit). I also found observing the different leadership styles of the elected officials to be helpful in assessing my own.

Kaz Oshiki, Gail Mukaihata and Hideki Hamamoto provided valuable perspectives as to influencing the legislative process. Mr. Hamamoto's personal touch to his presentation (i.e., sharing his goals and objectives, and how he is moving toward achieving them)

was also appreciated by the group. Paul Bannai contrasted his experience as an elected official with being an appointed one.

The sessions in which the organization was discussed from an inside and outside point of view were most lively. EDC Governor Mike Suzuki and Washington D.C. Chapter President Kris Ikejiri discussed Nisei-Sansei relations in JACL. Cherry Tsutsumida touched upon women and their role in JACL. Joseph Rauh of the Leadership Conference on Civil Rights and David Brody of the Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith shared their perceptions of how other civil rights groups perceive JACL. It was particularly heartening to hear their support for redress, including their suggested legislative strategies.

Ron Ikejiri provided some good handouts on organizing around an issue.

The program did provide opportunities to network. As a result of the intense nature of the program, we met many speakers and had ample time to ask them questions. In addition, long-lasting friendships were established among the delegates. The EDC/D.C. chapter-sponsored barbecue did create an informal atmosphere for networking among the JACL members.

I do feel that programs such as the Washington D.C. Leadership Program strengthen bonds (via networking) within JACL, while being informative. This year, four districts — Central California, Eastern, Northern California-Western Nevada-Pacific, and Pacific Southwest—sent eight individuals to the program. Better geographical representation is needed to strengthen the sense of a national leadership program conducted by a national organization.



Sen. Daniel Inouye met with participants in the National JACL Leadership Program in his Senate office July 18. From left: Ron Wakabayashi, JACL executive director; Arthur Nishioka, San Diego; Gene Takamine, Fountain Valley; Cyril Nishimoto, New York; Katherine Sasaki, Fresno; Sam Okimoto, San Jose; Alan Nishi, Stockton; Mary Nishimoto, Los Angeles; Tim Gojio, Washington, D.C. representative; Catherine Higashioka, Pasadena; David Nakayama, JACL Youth Director; and Senator Inouye.

In closing, I feel that I have gained a better perspective of JACL as a national organization. I am more aware of how JACL—and non-JACL—leaders perceive this organization. I am more sensitized regarding JACL's national priorities—from both an inside

and outside point of view—because I gained knowledge in the context where decisions affecting these issues take place.

Having completed the program, I am challenged to increase my commitment and level of involvement in JACL.

# Chapter Pulse

## Philadelphia

CHERRY HILL, N.J.—Sept. 21 is the date for the chapter's senior citizens party at the Murakami residence, 30 Laurel Hill Dr., from 2-7 p.m. A contemporary Japanese movie, a sing-along, plus a very special surprise are planned for this potluck event. Donations of \$1 will be asked from children and JACL members, \$2 from non-members. Info: the Murakamis, (609) 795-8370; Rodger Nogaki, (609) 767-1110; Sim/Betty Endo, (215) 844-7317.

## Marina

LOS ANGELES—Dance to the music of Carry On at the Marina chapter's "Crazy in the Night" at the LAX Hyatt, 6225 W. Century Blvd., 8:30 p.m. - 1:30 a.m. \$9.50 in advance, \$11 at the door. Ticket info: Janis, (213) 532-7640; Carol, (818) 284-5734; Other info: Larry, (213) 479-8479.

## New York

NEW YORK—The New York chapters of JACL and the Organization of Chinese Americans (OCA) are sponsoring a seminar on the advantages of networking on Sept. 20, 7-10 p.m. in the Gold Room of the AT&T Building, 550 Madison Ave. Esther Kee of the U.S. Asia Institute, which is involved in U.S./Asia trade relations, and Frank Sogi, senior partner of Kelley Drye and Warren, which is actively involved in international trade law, will be featured speakers.

The cost is \$3 to JACL and OCA members. Non-members enrolling in advance will be assessed the same fee. Non-members registering at the door will be charged \$5. Info: Days—Laura Okamura, (212) 850-3132; evenings—Fae Minabe, (212) 227-1489.

## Details given on IDC/PNW confab

JACKPOT, Nevada—Hid Hasegawa announced the "package" costs (including lodging, taxes, registration, bus to Minidoka, luncheon at Twin Falls, workshops, meetings, continental breakfast, refreshments, fun packets) for the upcoming Oct. 11-13 "Return to Minidoka" IDC/PNW convention:

New Horseshu Hotel: 3-night package (Oct. 11-13)—\$100/person, single occupancy; \$55/person, double occupancy. Two-night (Oct. 11-12)—\$70/person, single; \$40/person, double. One-night (Oct. 11 or 12)—\$45/person. Granite Range Hotel: 3-night package—\$130/person, single; \$70/person, double. Two-night—

\$90/person, single; \$50/person, double. One night—\$55.

In addition, the prime rib dinner banquet on Oct. 12 will cost \$15, while an additional \$10 will be charged for the Sunday farewell brunch.

Bus service to Jackpot for those flying into Salt Lake City will be available for \$15. Transportation will be provided at no extra cost for those flying into Twin Falls, Idaho.

Payments should be sent to Elizabeth Beer, c/o Crossroad Travel, P.O. Box 1353, Idaho Falls, 83403 before Sept. 27. There will be a \$10 penalty for those registering after Sept. 27.

## U.S.-Japan ties topic of conference

MIDDLETOWN, Ohio—Participants in the "U.S. and Japan: Economic Headlines—Business Realities" conference will hear Japanese ambassador to the U.S. Nobuo Matsunaga speak on the critical economic issues between the two countries, Oct. 4 at noon at the Manchester Inn.

The conference, being held in conjunction with Middletown's Middfest '85 International Celebration, will include speeches by Clyde Prestowitz from the U.S. Dept. of Commerce; William Anderson from NCR Corporation; and Vernon Alden, chairman of the Associate Japan-American Societies of the U.S.

Conference director Deborah Schultz stated, "The goal of this conference is to delineate issues and provide the business people attending the ability to assess current U.S.-Japan relations in light of their own business needs.

"Citizens in the U.S. are inundated with information about Japan, but the information changes faster than our abilities to absorb it. This conference provides an in-depth chance to sift through conflicting reports about U.S.-Japan relations."

### Donations to Pacific Citizen

#### For Typesetting Fund

As of Sept. 9, 1985: \$30,395.58 (757)  
This week's total: \$ 266.28 ( 8)  
Last week's total: \$30,129.30 (749)  
\$ 5 from: Yuki Noda.  
\$25 from: Santa Barbara JACL, Wataru/Mary Tsugawa, and a 442nd vet from Hawaii.  
\$30 from: George Matsumoto.  
\$36.28 from: Ted Nagata.  
\$50 from: M/M Henry Kazato.  
\$70 from: National and Blue Shield staff at JACL National HQ.

Thank you!

## 1000 Club Roll

(Year of Membership Shown)  
\* Century; \*\* Corporate; L Life; M Memorial; C/L Century Life

Summary (Since 12-1-1984)  
Active (previous total) ..... 1,739  
Total this report: #32 ..... 16  
Current total ..... 1,755

### AUG 18-23, 1985 (16)

Chicago: 32-Lester G Katsura, 16-Hiromu Nishi.  
Cleveland: 2-Craig R Shimizu.  
Diablo Valley: 23-Yukio Wada.  
Fresno: 2-Henry H Kubow.  
Gardena Valley: 18-Helen Kawagoe\*.  
Long Beach Pacific: 21-Dr Fred Fuji-kawa.  
Orange County: 33-Henry Kanegae.  
Placer County: 31-Thomas M Yego, Jr.  
Salt Lake City: 14-Jimi Mitsunaga.  
San Francisco: 5-Takeshi Koga, 14-Otagiri Mercantile Co Inc\*\*.  
San Jose: 1-Dr Jerrold A Hiura, 23-Tad Sekigahama, 4-Richard K Tanaka.  
Seattle: 4-Aki Kurose.  
CENTURY CLUB\*  
11-Helen Kawagoe (Gar).  
CORPORATE CLUB\*\*  
14s-Otagiri Mercantile Co Inc (SF).

Summary (Since 12-1-1984)  
Active (previous total) ..... 1,755  
Total this report: #33 ..... 20  
Current total ..... 1,775

### AUG 26-30, 1985 (20)

Chicago: 16-Dick Nishimoto.  
Cincinnati: 15-Dr Shiro Tanaka.  
Downtown Los Angeles: 8-John Dennis Hokoyama.  
East Los Angeles: 32-Robert T Obi, MD.  
Fresno: 4-May Oji.  
Marina: 3-Leslie Furukawa.  
New York: 29-William K Sakayama.

## The Mike M. Masaoka Fellows

Membership in the Masaoka Fellows is achieved by individual or corporate contributions to the Mike M. Masaoka Fund, a perpetual fund from which proceeds would annually support the general operations of the JACL, to which Mike has devoted over 40 years.

Contributions to the fund, c/o JACL HQ, are graded as follows: Fellow—\$1,000-\$2,500; Emeritus—\$2,500 minimum; Sustaining—\$200 for 5 yrs; Amicus—Less than \$1,000.

### August 1985

Aiko N Okada (in memoriam of Hito Okada) \$1000 (fellow); Junji Kumamoto, John Tani, \$200 (sust).  
Previous Total ..... \$18,580  
Fund Total ..... \$19,980

Pacifica Long Beach: 23-Dr Masashi Itano\*.  
Pan Asian: 2-Karen Kishi.  
Puyallup Valley: 6-Thomas T Shigio, 27-Dr Keith H Yoshino.  
Reedley: 12-Stanley Ishii.  
Sacramento: 27-Shig Sakamoto.  
San Francisco: 18-Frank H Minami.  
Seattle: 29-Mabel K Ida, 15-Lovett Moriguchi, 18-Tomio Moriguchi, 6-Harold J Nakahara.  
Snake River: 25-Tom Uriu.  
Stockton: 26-William U Nakashima.  
CENTURY CLUB\*  
5-Dr Masashi Itano (Lon).

Summary (Since 12-1-1984)  
Active (previous total) ..... 1,775  
Total this report: #34 ..... 16  
Current total ..... 1,791

### SEPT 3-6, 1985 (16)

Berkeley: 32-Albert S Kosakura.  
Chicago: 36-Noboru Honda.  
Fresno: 4-Deborah Shikami.  
Marysville: 24-Tao Nakano.  
Monterey Peninsula: 30-George Kodama.  
New York: 2-Midori Lederer.  
Reedley: 35-Toru Ikeda, 33-Michi Ikeda.  
Sacramento: 13-Stimson S Suzuki, 12-Edwin M Kado.  
San Diego: 5-Richard Takashima, 31-Dr Shigeru Hara.  
San Jose: 35-Dave M Tatsuno, 24-Henry T Yamate.  
Stockton: 30-Frank Inamasu.  
West Valley: 29-Jane Miyake Habara.  
CENTURY CLUB\*  
4-Dave M Tatsuno (SJo).

## Redress Pledges

Actual amounts acknowledged by JACL Headquarters for the period of:  
#19: August, 1985

1985 Total: \$ 63,289.65  
Prev. Gr. Total: \$190,275.04  
This Report: (10) ..... \$19,005.00  
Grand Total: \$209,580.04

Eden Township JACL \$1,615; Fremont JACL \$300; San Francisco JACL \$5,000; Sacramento JACL \$4,615; West Valley JACL \$1,555; Pacific Southwest District Council, \$3,500; Gilroy JACL \$700; Sanger JACL \$940; Tri-Valley JACL \$285; and Oakland JACL \$495.

### 1985 DIST. BREAKDOWN (Actual: Jan.—Dec. 1985)

NC-WN-Pac ..... \$ 34,886.52  
Pac Southwest ..... 13,696.88  
Central Cal ..... 4,440.00  
Pac Northwest ..... 2,926.25  
Midwest ..... 2,765.00  
Intermountain ..... 2,500.00  
Eastern ..... 2,060.00  
Mt Plains ..... 115.00  
Total: \$ 40,454.65

## INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE

### COMING OF AGE IN THE '30s:

### The Nisei and the Japanese Immigrant Press

Sat.-Sun., Sept. 14 - 15

JACCC / Japan America Theatre — 244 S. San Pedro St., Los Angeles, Calif.

Admission: Free and Open to the Public. Reception Fee: \$5. For details: (213) 825-8420

### SCHEDULE OF SESSIONS

Sat. Sept. 14, JACCC, 9:00-9:30. Plenary Session: Introduction and Welcome. 9:45-11:00. Presentation of Papers—1. Harry Kitano, "The Pre-War Japanese American Press: Remembrances and Evaluation," Discussants: Howard Imazeki and James Hirabayashi. 2. Harry Honda, "The Nisei Beat: The Day-to-Day Grind," Discussants: James Omura and Vince Tajiri. 3. Karl Yoneda, "The Radical Nikkei Press During the '20s and '30s," Discussants: Norio Tamura and Masamori Kojima. 11:15-12:30. Presentation of Papers—1. Yasuo Sakata, "Sei Fujii and Kashu Mainichi Editorials, 1936-1942: Protests or Ingiburei?" Discussants: Togo Tanaka and Eiji Hazumi. 2. Richard Kenmotsu, "Tamotsu Murayama: Example of Kibei Dualism," Discussants: John Fujii and Bill Hosokawa. 3. Vince Tajiri, "Larry Tajiri: The Vagaries of a Spectator," Discussants: Harry Honda and Arthur Hansen. 12:30-1:30. Lunch on your own. 1:30-2:45. Presentation of Papers—1. Togo Tanaka, "The Rafu Shimpo and the Nisei, 1936-1942: Coping with Racism and the Threat of War," Discussants: Joe Oyama and Jerrold Takahashi. 2. Yuji Ichioka, "A Study of Dualism: James Yoshinori Sakamoto and the Japanese American Courier, 1928-1942," Discussants: Frank S. Miyamoto and Dyke Miyagawa. 3. Norio Tamura, "The Activities of the Japanese American Left with Respect to Japan," Discussants: Karl Yoneda and Seizo Oka. 3:00-4:00 Panel: Nisei Writers and the Immigrant Press. Yasuo Sasaki, chair; Mary Korenaga Sutow, James Omura, Hisaye Yamamoto, Mollie Oyama Mittwer, panelists. 4:00-5:00. Dramatic Reading by Pacific Asian American Women Writers-West, Emma Gee, producer-director; Momoko Iko, Joyce Nako, Velina Houston, Wakako Yamauchi, Rose Matsui Ochi, Sue K. Embrey, Sharon Maeda, and Emma Gee, participants. 5:30-7:00 Reception, JACCC Plaza.

Sunday, Sept. 15, JACCC, 11:00-12:15. Presentation of Papers—1. Shigehiko Shiramizu, "The Japanese American Press in Hawaii," Discussant: Gary Okihiro. 2. Arai, "People's Rights Advocates in the '30s," SPECIAL LECTURE IN JAPANESE. 12:15-1:30. Lunch on your own. Japan America Theatre 1:30-2:30 Keynote Address, Yori Wada, Regent, University of California. 2:45-4:15. Panel: The Nisei and the '30s," Yuji Ichioka, chairperson; James Omura, Kazu Iijima, Jiro Kobashigawa, Togo Tanaka, John Fujii, panelists. 4:15-5:15. Public Forum. 5:15-5:30. Summation and Closing Remarks.

### CONFERENCE DIRECTOR: YUJI ICHIOKA, (213) 825-8420

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## JACL and U.S.-Japan Relations

Some discussions have been taking place recently on what role JACL should play in U.S.-Japan relations. Personally, my opinion is—in as many roles as we can participate, while not forgetting our primary goals, or our basic principles of being an American organization.

The spectrum of bilateral relations is quite vast—it runs from the top-level government and political activities to the lesser publicized social and cultural relations, be it ikebana, judo, Bon Odori, sister cities, aikido or Rotary.

In the upper echelon, the political and government levels, the principals are the legislators and public officials, including the diplomatic staff. At the civilian levels, there are the two broad categories—economic and cultural, also represented by numerous organizations and activities.

In the social and cultural fields, covering education, sports, arts and related forms, the Japanese Americans have attained fair degrees of participation, such as in judo, kendo, ikebana, bonsai, Ja-

### NISEI IN JAPAN:

Barry Saiki



panese studies at various universities, sister cities and arts. In the economic area, there are no highly visible businessmen of international stature. In the various prominent U.S.-Japan cultural and social groups, the participation by Japanese Americans is at best spotty.

As stated by Dr. William Ouchi and supported by Bill Hosokawa in his column (August 2 Pacific Citizen), there is a need for increased knowledge and participation by Japanese Americans in the whole range of activities, if some impact or influence is to be exerted on U.S.-Japan relations.

Who and where are the Nikkei Japanologists who will sit at the policy-making levels of promi-

nent U.S.-Japan organizations or agencies? The Nikkei are well represented in Congress and Governor Ariyoshi of Hawaii has been quite active in furthering U.S.-Japan relations, especially during the 100th Anniversary of Japanese emigration to Hawaii. Glen Fukushima's involvement in USTC is a step in the right direction. In Japan, Masaru Ogawa, former editor of Japan Times and ex-Nisei, is executive director of the America-Japan Society in Japan and Mrs. Caroline Matano Yang of Hawaii is executive director of the Japan-U.S. Educational Commission (Fulbright).

But on the whole, there seems to be very little visibility of other Japanese Americans taking roles in the upper level of U.S.-Japan relations.

In terms of Nisei visibility, Judge William Marutani's participation on the Commission on Wartime Relocation and Internment of Civilians can be considered a landmark. Univ. of Utah's "Relocation and Redress" conference, organized by Prof. Sandra C. Taylor and held two years ago,

brought about 10 Nikkei educators and 10 JACLers as panelists. Notable Nikkei participating were Dr. Harry Kitano of UCLA, Dennis Ogawa of Univ. of Hawaii, Dr. Gordon Hirabayashi of Univ. of Alberta, Judge Marutani of Philadelphia, Hosokawa of the Denver Post, and Judge Ray Uno, Alice Kasai and Grace Oshita of Salt Lake City.

But they were outnumbered by the 25 non-Nikkei academics, who were experts in various phases of relocation.

The low profile visibility may be due to the Nisei background, which bred a large group of "wall flowers." We acquired both the good and bad parts of the "enryo syndrome"—the bad being the passivity which inhibits the open declarations of our feelings on issues. While listening to the pros and cons of a question, our tendencies were to keep our own opinions to ourselves rather than to voice our arguments. Activism and "showboating" were rare among the Nisei. The current environment has changed the thinking of the Sansei and Yonsei. They

are better psychologically prepared to debate questionable issues. The current problem is whether they are sufficiently interested in U.S.-Japan relations to participate actively.

Participation means to study the groundwork and to take active roles in various phases of bilateral relations. Participation is also a part of the learning process. It means the allocation of time, energy and a little money, whether it's sister city or intra-Asian culture. Participation on a sustained basis will also foster dedication and eventual expertise.

The alternate choice is to let the others take the lead and maintain the "wall flower" philosophy. By default then, one's opinions merely become "backbiting," wherein we relieve our frustrations in our living room surroundings at the expense and the toleration of our families.

The optimistic note is that many Sansei are now finding that they cannot ignore their heritage. From curiosity to active interest is a natural sequence. Therein lies the future of JACL.

## 'Perceptions' a Political Potboiler

by J.K. Yamamoto

It took a struggle to create "Perceptions," an Asian American program seen quarterly on Sacramento's KCRA-TV (Ch. 3), and a battle is still being waged to keep it on the air.

"It wasn't as if the station came up with this bright idea," says producer Sandra Gin Yep. "It was after some arm-twisting and community meetings that 'Perceptions' was born."

The community advisory group that met with KCRA in 1978 wanted a show that would articulate issues important to Asian Pacifics; portray Asian Pacifics in an accurate manner; and educate and inform Asian Pacific communities as well as the general viewing public.

Since its debut in December 1978, "Perceptions" has covered such topics as elderly Pilipino immigrants who live along the Delta; Nisei actor Pat Morita; and the case of Dexter Del Mar, a Pilipino American who was thrown out of a sports club and called a "Jap."

The show has garnered four consecutive Emmy Awards for segments on: redress for Japanese Americans interned during WW2 (1982); Hiroshima survivors living in Northern California (1983); Chol Soo Lee, a Korean immigrant jailed for a murder he did not commit (1984); and the killing of Vincent Chin in Detroit (1985).

Has this string of successes guaranteed the show a secure position at KCRA? "As a matter of fact, quite the opposite," replies Yep. "The station would just as soon get rid of its obligations and responsibilities and dump our show, in spite of the accolades and the awards and the praise that the show has gotten."

As for allocation of resources for the show, she says, KCRA's attitude has been, "You're not going to get any more budget, promotion or support than you have in the

past."

That is particularly bad news because "Perceptions," the Black-oriented "To Be Somebody" and the Hispanic-oriented "De Colores" must gather camera people, equipment and other resources from KCRA's news department—"all draining the same pot," as Yep puts it.

"All the minority producers are pulled from the news department," she adds. "We don't have a separate staff of just public affairs producers—we all function in two ways."

Yep herself is no exception. Starting at KCRA as a videotape editor, she has also served as producer, newswriter and reporter. "I have always produced 'Perceptions' while going through the ranks in the news department."

She fears that the station wants the minority shows to compete with each other not only for resources but also for a favorable time slot.

The monthly Black and Hispanic shows are currently on Sunday at 7 p.m., up against "60 Minutes" on CBS. "If you want to kill a show, that's the way to do it," Yep says. "Perceptions," on the other hand, has been given a more advantageous time, Saturday at 8 p.m. "That was a divisive move on the part of the station, to simply say, 'Fight among yourselves for the crumbs.'"

Characterizing efforts on behalf of the show as "a constant fight," Yep recalls that the community advisory group stormed out of a meeting in 1980 when station management would no longer permit the group direct input into the content of the show. An agreement was later worked out.

Although enthusiasm and support for the show is hard to come by at KCRA, says Yep, "what has helped me pull through each and every time, Emmy or no Emmy, was the community-based sup-



Photo by J.K. Yamamoto

Sandra Gin Yep

port. It was always there. It was never a question. And I think as long as that's always there... KCRA and stations like it will have to think twice about removing or canceling the show."

Another threat to the show is the Federal Communication Commission's recent decision to deregulate TV stations. "Local stations are no longer accountable for having so many numbers of minority programming or locally produced programs," explains Yep. "So that really gets commercial TV off the hook."

Since court challenges from public interest groups will probably delay implementation of the FCC decision for some time, shows like "Perceptions" are not in immediate danger of extinction.

While admitting that media access for Asian Americans is easier than it was 10 or 20 years ago, Yep feels there is "an inherent form of racism in the media" that still makes it necessary to force commercial TV to deal with Asian issues.

She thinks minority programming will make headway in the mainstream media when management changes its attitude—"not just comply with an old FCC regulation... but just simply say, 'We're behind this, we're responsible for quality programming that happens to be geared for an Asian Pacific audience.'"

In the meantime, Yep says, "I still find myself in a political potboiler."

## 'Kenji': An Interracial Friendship

by Beverly Creamer  
Honolulu Advertiser

With volunteer actors, borrowed costumes, donated settings and a minuscule budget, a group of earnest women and a finicky but legendary Hawaii moviemaker are trying to create magic.

"Kenji," a 30-minute film of a turn-of-the-century friendship between two boys of different races, is in the last weeks of shooting and should be ready by November as the last major project of the centennial of Japanese immigration.

The story follows the adventures of Kenji, a 14-year-old Japanese plantation boy played by Wesley Ogata, and his best friend Sam, a 12-year-old Caucasian Hawaiian boy played by Max Symonds.

The film was spawned by the Japanese Women's Society as a centennial project and landed in the lap of 64-year-old moviemaker George Tahara, who made his first movie in 1936 at 15 after his uncle gave him a camera. "I was never interested in filming family members," he says. "I was interested in filming Debussy recordings."

Tahara is donating his time, two-man film crew and film studio, Cine-Pic, to the project.

Along the way the project acquired short story writer Marie Hara as script-writer. She and Wesley's mother, Agnes Ogata, are the fundraisers. Read that arm-twister.

"And we're the producers," laughs Hara. "A lot of what we do is run and get food and drink."

The director and creative genius behind the film is Tahara, who has hundreds of Hawaii films to his credit, about 30 of them still widely used in Hawaii schools and in schools across the Mainland. "The Boyhood of Kamehameha" is one of his best known.

A battered lauhala hat shading his eyes, cameras strung 'round his neck, a rumpled aloha shirt,

and the man is ready to work. As traffic buzzed past on busy Nuuanu Avenue the other day, Tahara shot one of the final scenes on a grassy sundappled section of Una Walker's Nuuanu estate.

With Hara and Ogata hovering in the background to fetch water or prompt lines, Dr. George Mills, who plays Sam as an elderly man, sat in a wheelchair looking wistfully through a scrapbook.

With a flick of his wrist, Tahara signaled for quiet, a quizzical smile lighting his face.

Cine-Pic cameraman Tiki George, in a beret, squinted through the 16-mm lens. Sound engineer Teri-tai hovered nearby, picking up dialogue with a large wind-muffled microphone.

Tiki and Teri make up Tahara's entire crew, and have been with him since they were children appearing in his earlier series of films on Polynesian legends. In the 1940s Tahara collected hundreds of old legends from Mary Kaihou, a court dancer for King Kalakaua who'd been instructed by the king to memorize the legends.

So far Tahara is completely delighted with "Kenji." In fact, he says he knew it would be good the moment he saw his main actors.

"I spend all my time searching for a talent," he explains. "I can be going 40 mph in my automobile and spot them on the street." When that happens, he'll come to a screeching halt, jump out, and ask the person if he's interested in being in a movie.

"The chance of finding one is one in 5,000," he continues. "And the miracle of this picture is they're all one in 5,000!"

Despite that, the film has not been without conflict.

Hara cheerfully admits there's been a tug-of-war between herself and Tahara.

"I wanted to hit all the univer-

Continued on Back Page

## Shinju a Human Act, Not a Cultural One

by William Weatherall

The author, a member of Japan chapter JACL, is a permanent resident of Japan, where he works as a free-lance journalist and researcher specializing in social problems.

J.K. Yamamoto's "Not Quite a Bridge" (May 31 PC) cautioned against assuming that ancestry qualifies anyone as a "bridge" between the U.S. and Japan. While fully agreeing with this, I take exception to the notion that "Very recent immigrants from Japan know a great deal about their native country."

A good example of a recent immigrant who knows less than she thinks she does—about suicide, at least—is Katie Kaori Hayashi, who has been reporting about the Fumiko Kimura case in the PC and other papers.

**'Japanese parents who kill their children in the course of committing suicide do so for essentially the same variety of reasons as parents in other countries.'**

It is my contention that Kimura did what she is alleged to have done—kill her children in the course of trying to kill herself—mainly because she was a distressed human being, rather than because she is Japanese. Moreover, I believe that she can be defended, if defense is what she needs, by recourse to the enormous amount that is known about murder and suicide as universal human behaviors.

Resorting to dubious concepts of "ethnopsychiatry" in an effort to get Kimura a "fair trial" in her adopted country (her nationality is irrelevant) sets back the progress that has been made in discovering the universalities of murder-suicide. As someone who has devoted half his adult life to the study of this subject, I also find the admission of "ethnicity" into the argument an unfortunate regression to anti-humanism.

### Not a 'Custom'

Kimura's act could not have been caused by "Japanese custom" because, anthropologically and every other way I know of, there is no such "custom" in Japan. Japanese parents who kill their children in the course of committing suicide do so for essentially the same variety of reasons as parents in other countries.

There may be psychocultural overlays in the psychological and social factors that precipitate the act, in the physical forms of the act, and in the popular and academic explanations of the act. But the underlying causes tend to be human and therefore universal.

The fact that there is a word like *shinju* in Japanese but not in English has encouraged the idea that *shinju* is unique to Japan. But nothing could be further from the truth. Nor is it clear that *shinju* acts are more common in Japan.

Hunger is hunger wherever it is found, without regard to how many people may be hungry, or whether lack of food happens to be a greater problem in one place than another. Moreover, hunger is hunger irrespective of what kind of food one prefers, or how one

would eat food if any were available.

The fact that English distinguishes "cold" from "flu" while Japanese *kaze* covers both does not mean that speakers of Japanese do not experience cold and flu symptoms. Nor does it mean that they catch *kaze* more frequently than speakers of English come down with a cold or the flu.

To be sure, there are cases where a word is present or absent in a language because its referent exists or doesn't in the experiences of the people who speak the language. But lexical differences are usually simply a matter of grouping and labeling common experiences differently. Speakers of different languages may simply attach different social and cultural meanings to similar objects, phenomena, and behavior.

Translation is a problem that is seldom impossible but sometimes difficult to solve. The word *shinju* cannot be translated (even into other Japanese words) without knowing the context in which it is used.

In reference to the Kimura case, Hayashi has consistently mistranslated *shinju* as "parent-child suicide" or "family suicide." But neither translation is an accurate description of the act that Kimura attempted.

When referring to death, *shinju* means something like "dying together" without regard to whether some of the dead are forced to commit suicide or are killed with or without their consent. Context will tell how the dead die.

Hayashi errs because she fails to consider these contextual elements. She incorrectly states that "*Shinju* is broken down into two categories. One occurs between parent and child, and the other between lovers."

In fact, there are numerous categories of *shinju*. Any number of adjectives can be used to qualify the types of *shinju* one is talking about.

While most *shinju* types do designate the relationships of the people involved, all types are further divided into two very important subcategories that Hayashi totally ignores: *muri* (coerced) and *goi* (by consent).

Hayashi is hardly the first to mistranslate such Japanese expressions into English. But given the nature of her campaign, I would think she would be more motivated than other reporters to get the key words right.

Considering that journalists and scholars in Japan and abroad are also in the habit of mistranslating *shinju* (I used to myself, and not so long ago either), Hayashi's inappropriate wording should be viewed with compassion. She should be forgiven, not because her carelessness is a Japanese custom, but because she is human.

### Police & Press Usage

If Hayashi were to read what Japanese papers write about the

Kimura case, and what they write about similar cases in Japan, she would find that the term *muri* is usually used. If she were to examine earlier police statistics, she would find that cases of so-called *shudan jisatsu* (group suicide)—an obvious misnomer that is no longer used—are subdivided into cases of *muri shinju* that are enumerated beside the total number of *shinju* cases.

Some recent statistics show only the category *shinju* with no indication of how many cases were considered murder-suicide as opposed to multiple suicide. But police continue to keep track of whether a *shinju* case involves homicide.

Though Japanese newspaper headlines may reduce a fuller description to something like *boshi* (mother-child) *shinju* or even *shinju* rather than write *boshi muri* (mother-child coerced) *shinju*, the article itself will usually make it plain as to whether the case involves forced suicide or homicide. Most *shinju* cases are *muri shinju*, and most *muri shinju* cases involve homicide.

### If in Japan

If Kimura had done what she did in Japan, and survived, she would have been arrested. And she would have been charged with homicide, probably under Article 199 of the Penal Code, which carries a punishment of "death or penal servitude for life or not less than three years."

Depending on the circumstances of her case, and with great variation from paper to paper, the press might also treat her as a homicide suspect. The honorific suffix that would ordinarily be attached to her family name might be dropped, and her photograph might be square (suspect) in contrast with the round photographs of her children (victims).

What would happen after her arrest cannot be romanticized. Japanese police do not simply shrug their shoulders and write off such cases as a "Japanese custom" that deserves to be only "ceremonially prosecuted."

The case would not be regarded as an act of "involuntary manslaughter" until it had been thoroughly investigated. If autopsy evidence or interrogations of the suspect, co-habitants or neighbors suggested a history of child battering, then the prosecution would be stricter.

Even if there were no evidence that the murder-suicide had been maliciously directed at the children, the surviving parent would have to show remorse, and the court (which means panel of judges, for Japan does not have a jury system) would have to be convinced that the repentance was sincere.

Accepting the assumption of guilt, not trying to rationalize one's behavior, being genuinely sorry for doing what one did, and making the best possible effort to atone for one's acts, are Japan's equivalent of plea bargaining. Such manifestations of "coming clean" and "soul searching" usually result in a substantial reduction of sentence with a nominal period of probation.

This approach to the administration of justice holds for many other crimes too. Japanese courts are generally willing to give breaks to defendants who are willing to be broken down and rebuilt.

So a suspect's punishment really begins at the moment of arrest. The greater the social and psychological "suffering" a suspect endures while being prosecuted, the greater the "credit" given toward the possible sentence. Any attempt on the part of a suspect to self-excuse an acknowledged act (confession rates are extremely high in Japan) will be debited from the suspect's account of judicial sympathy.

Ironically, in being advised to plead not guilty, Kimura has acted in a somewhat "un-Japanese" way. In Japan, an attempt to defend her acts (except perhaps on grounds of insanity) would be the surest way of getting the book thrown at her.

### News Value

Hayashi claims that the *shinju* committed by a friend and her (the friend's) mother "did not appear in the media because the Japanese media didn't consider it news." Yet I (and other suicide researchers in Japan) clip dozens of articles a year from Japanese papers which find murder-suicide worth all the space that the lack of more important news on a certain day leaves available.

Hayashi does not seem to have considered how newspapers gather news, and how editors decide what is going to be published in a given edition on a given day. Many of the articles I have collected on parent-child murder-suicides in America, most of them clipped from San Francisco papers, were not on the first page, but buried somewhere between advertisements and fillers.

Kimura's murder-suicide attempt was given some prominence in Southern California papers for several reasons: it was a "local" incident; it was an un-

**'Does a Japanese mother never kill her children because she hates them, because she blames them for her problems, because she wants to avenge their father for his role in her misery?'**

common setting and form of a not so uncommon act (mother-child murder-suicides occur in North America, but usually not off municipal beaches in broad daylight); Kimura and her children were dramatically rescued; Kimura and her daughter were still alive when the first reports broke; Kimura herself survived; Kimura was charged with alleged crimes; *ad infinitum*.

One could also mention that Kimura is Japanese, and that there are lots of Japanese and Americans of Japanese ancestry in Southern California.

But the nationality and ethnicity factors probably had little to do with the attention given the initial reports of the incident. It simply had all the makings of a classic human-interest piece. Only later did the alleged "Japanese connection" emerge as perhaps the stronger element of interest.

### A Cry for Help

Hayashi contends that "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." If so, then why have some Christian (even Catholic) countries had consistently higher suicide rates than Japan?

And why do Euro-American suicidologists generally agree that suicide is almost by definition a wish to escape from the hells of life, and a cry for help when the only alternative seems to be death?

The role of religious or other beliefs in suicide is disputed by mental health specialists. It is far from certain how, if at all, the formally expressed cultural values of a society affect the informal behaviors of its depressed, despondent, and otherwise acutely or chronically disturbed members.

There is certainly no evidence that cherry blossoms have anything to do with the "25,202 Japanese" who committed suicide in 1983 (a meaningless number, since Hayashi does not tell us the suicide rate, or explain what significance a comparison of suicide rates has in a discussion of Kimura's case). Hayashi's "cherry blossom analogy" only reinforces the stereotypes on both sides of the Pacific about suicide in Japan.

There are a lot of people in the world who have committed suicide rather than "floundering miserably". And there are plenty of Japanese who seem to love "floundering miserably" in lieu of death.

### Humanism at Stake

I find the effort to "educate Americans about her [Kimura's] cultural act" a sad commentary on the failure to understand parent-child murder-suicides as human rather than ethnic acts. To petition for leniency by appealing to ethnocentric notions of cultural relativism begs the question of what one would do if an American mother of non-Japanese (especially non-Asian) ancestry were to survive an attempt to kill herself in the course of killing her children.

Are we to believe that, simply because the non-Asian American mother has no "Japanese blood" in her veins, she must have hated her children and thus "murdered" them "for malevolence, cruelty or financial gain"? Does a Japanese mother never kill her children because she hates them, because she blames them for her problems, because she wants to avenge their father for his role in her misery?

Has it ever occurred to Kimura's "ethnic" supporters that a "human act" rather than a "Japanese act" approach to her defense might be more effective in moving the prosecutor, jury, and judge to show compassion? Or is the chip on the ethnic shoulder so heavy that recent immigrants or the descendants of older ones do not trust the ability of some Americans to be compassionate towards immigrants perceived as human beings rather than as ethnic entities?

There is obviously much more at stake in Kimura's trial than

## SE Asian mental health book available

ROCKVILLE, Md.—During the past decade, one of the newer problems to emerge in the mental health field concerns the needs of the new immigrants from Southeast Asia. While the majority of this population have overcome the traumatic experiences caused by their separation from a familiar culture and lifestyle and their being thrust into a radically different way of life in a new home, many have developed serious adjustment problems.

In response to a demand from various mental health practitioners, including state and local governments, the National Institute of Mental Health has prepared

a source book for mental health professionals, students and those in related health care disciplines.

The book, *Southeast Asian Mental Health*, edited by Tom Choken Owon, contains a series of papers developed by practitioners and researchers, grouped according to the following topics: treatment, prevention, services, training, and research.

The sourcebook is available at no charge (as long as supplies last) from the National Institute of Mental Health; Tom Owon, ACSW; Center for Prevention Research, Rm. 11C-06; 5600 Fishers Lane; Rockville, Md. 20857.

## They Came, Saw, and Were Conquered

by Stephen Hasegawa

Hasegawa, Nebraska vice governor and Omaha Chapter president, attended the Tri-District Convention, held in Milwaukee Aug. 1-4, as a Mountain Plains District Council delegate, as did Randy Shibata, New Mexico vice governor; Bob Sakaguchi, Mile Hi Chapter; and Betty Waki, Texas vice governor and Houston Chapter president. Following are his thoughts on the event.

They came... thirteen hundred miles from Albuquerque, yet early enough to play in the Thursday afternoon outing at Dretzka Golf Course; from Denver, having just closed on a new home and without his wife, who graciously stayed behind to begin the chore of packing; directly from work in Omaha via a roundabout route with stops in Minneapolis and Madison, Wisconsin; from Houston late Thursday night without luggage, which apparently was routed to points unknown.

They saw... the well organized machine which provided smooth sailing through a variety of activities; an unforgettable 1000 Club Whing Ding complete with lacerated shirts and ties; thought-provoking workshops on relevant topics affecting the contemporary Nikkei community; the incredible ex-

tended family atmosphere based on long-standing friendship between the Midwest and Eastern districts; the participation of a plethora of national JAFL heavyweights; Congressman Matsui deliver an inspirational speech; a hint of Chicago '86 through the droll "interaction" humor of the convention chairman.

They were conquered... by the warm hospitality of the Milwaukee Chapter and the convention delegates which was generously extended to the strangers from the Mountain Plains District; by the gregarious spirit of the 1000 Club Nisei and the overall enthusiasm for JAFL.

They returned... no longer strangers and warmed by the experience. Bob left early Sunday morning for Denver and the chore of moving a household; Steve headed toward Omaha via a scheduled layover in Minneapolis for a one-hour family reunion and a lunch of *dim sum*; Randy headed west on the long flight back to New Mexico; Betty began the trek back to Houston via a stop in the Windy City, home of the Chicago Bears.

Given the nature of the experience, don't be surprised to see the announcements about the next MPDC-MD-ED convention in 1987.

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## Baptist church funds counseling program

PORTLAND—The American Baptist Churches, at their annual convention held here recently, voted to grant \$28,900 to fund an Asian American counseling program in the Los Angeles area.

The project, sponsored by the Los Angeles Baptist City Mission Society, Evergreen Baptist, Gardena Valley Baptist, and Cerritos Baptist churches, will use the funds to help set up a professional family counseling service to minister to the mental health needs addressed in the community by the local churches. The grant represents a major thrust by the American Baptist denomination to reach out to Asian Pacific communities.

Dr. Thomas Okimoto, a psychiatrist and member of Evergreen Baptist, said, "We are very excited to receive this generous grant. We hope to establish a full-fledged counseling center with professional Asian staff to help those in the community who are encountering some life difficulty. There are many people, both inside and outside the church, who are having difficulty coping with life's stresses. We hope to be a resource for them."

According to Okimoto, the counseling service has been operating for the past two years on a limited basis. Persons interested in receiving counseling services should call (213) 269-8918. Fees are based on a sliding scale depending on income.

## United Methodist grants awarded

SAN FRANCISCO—Asian American Endowment Fund, a project of the National Federation of Asian American United Methodists, has awarded its 1985 grants to four applicants.

Two grants of \$800 each for continuing education went to the Rev. Alex Vergara of Hawaii and Colleen Tani of Los Angeles; a \$400 grant for Christian education went to the Office of Asian American Ministries at Garrett Evangelical Theological School in Evanston, Ill.; and a \$100 grant for Chinese ministry went to the Day Camp at

Oakland (Calif.) Chinese United Methodist Church.

The fund was created in 1980 for the purpose of developing and strengthening Asian American United Methodist churches. Application forms for requesting specific grants are obtained from the office of Asian American Endowment Fund, 330 Ellis St., Rm. 508, San Francisco, CA 94102.

The 1986 grant forms will be available from October 15 and will be due March 15, 1986. Final decisions will be made April 23; recipients will be announced July 1.

## deaths

**TAKAHASHI, Harry Hideo** beloved husband of Eva Sato; father of Roberta and Gerald Jerry; brother of Terry Yoshio (Ret. Col.) of Takoma Park, Md. Funeral was held Wednesday, Sept. 11 at St. Mary's Episcopal Church, 961 S. Manposa Ave., Los Angeles under the direction of Fukui Mortuary.

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## People

### ● Awards



Kaye Aoki of Salt Lake City was named the winner of the National Legal Secretary competition at the 34th annual meeting of the National Assn. of Legal Secretaries in Nashville on July 31. The award is given on the basis of

secretarial ability, service to the national, state and local legal secretaries associations, and service to the community. A legal secretary for over 22 years, she now works at the law firm of Giauque & Williams.

M. Jack Fujimoto, president of West Los Angeles College, was given the UCLA Graduate School of Education Doctoral Alumni Assn.'s Distinguished Leadership Award on June 17. Doctoral alumni nationwide voted for him because of his long record of community and professional service.

### ● Law Enforcement

Paul Kusuda, deputy director of the Bureau of Juvenile Services, Wisconsin Division of Corrections, has been given the first annual SEARCH award for meritorious service. SEARCH is a non-

profit agency made up of criminal justice practitioners across the U.S.

### ● Education

Francis Nakano, principal of Jefferson High School, was one of six "Outstanding Principal of the Year" awardees honored by the Los Angeles Chamber of Commerce on June 5. Selected from 51 candidates from kindergarten through high school, he was given a plaque and \$1,500 for campus renovation.

### ● Sports

Vanne Akagi of Wahiawa, a junior at Texas A & M, defeated Betsy Somerville of Honolulu 6-2, 7-6 in the annual Hawaii Sectional Tennis Championships' women's final June 1 at Diamond Head Tennis Center. She won the sectionals once before in 1979 at age 14.

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**Christine Kajikawa Wilkinson** has been named assistant v.p. for student affairs at Arizona State University. Formerly ASU's director of undergraduate admissions, she is now responsible for high school-college relations, new student programs, external relations, fund development, and coordination of publications. She is a graduate of UC Berkeley and ASU.

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# KIMURA

Continued from Page 8

merely the sentence she receives. It may be possible to influence the outcome of her trial with two-bit theories of ethnic determinism. These days almost anything "ethnic" gets more attention than it deserves, perhaps because so many people are trained, as it were, to be defensive in the face of real, imagined, or anticipated discriminations—as well we all should be, if discrimination is the issue.

But some people seem to be hypersensitive simply because they were taught to think that suicide and other behaviors are somehow

ethnically programmed. For them, it is impossible to believe that all people bathe and clean themselves for essentially the same human reasons, however much the cultural and social ramifications and rationalizations may seem to differ.

I say this notwithstanding the proverbial "distinctions" that are commonly made between Japanese who bathe "for skinship and a multitude of other extra-physical reasons" and the rest of the human race that bathes "merely to get clean."

### Stress Universalities

This, at least, is my impression of how too many people, Ameri-

cans and Japanese alike, tend to view suicide in both countries. Many people, not only Hayashi et al. and Kimura's jurors, need to be educated in the universalities of suicide behavior.

Such a humanistic approach would benefit other people too, and bring everyone much closer together than a "we-they" bridge could.

It is at least heartening to read in the May 20 edition of *Kashu Mainichi* that Kimura's attorney will probably rely on an insanity defense, reportedly because he thinks it is "absurd" to argue that Kimura drowned her children in

accordance with an allegedly common Japanese tradition.

Fortunately for Kimura, parent-child murder-suicide turns out to be not a Japanese custom, but an act of human despair shared by distressed parents—especially mothers—throughout the world.

In this broader humanistic sense, I too pledge my support, and urge those who will be sitting in judgment of Kimura to show her the mercy she deserves. What she needs is a chance to restore her faith in life, and in other people and herself—not a prison. And I can't think of a single reason to

doubt that most Americans, of whatever ancestry, are capable of understanding the commonality of this human need.

So the finest contribution that Kimura's "ethnic" supporters and others could make, to her eventual release and return to a world that would accommodate her better than the one she tried to flee, is to give humanism a chance. The precedent is certainly worth trying to set.

□

Katie Hayashi's reply will be printed next week. —Ed.

# 'KENJI'

Continued from Page 7

sals—racism, the history of Hawaii, that kind of thing," she says.

Tahara had other ideas. "He constantly reminds me there must be one mood, one point." She lets out a little sigh.

"And the one mood and one point for almost everyone in Hawaii is a friendship that crosses racial lines. It's that point he's struggling for.

"He keeps saying we're going to hit people in the heart."

Back at his modest and compact air-conditioned studio on lower Pacific Heights Road, Tahara explains.

"The relationship of races on the plantation—that's what I'm looking for because they're not living in a vacuum. If we did just the Japanese alone, we'd miss that completely. There's more emphasis put on strife on the plantation rather than harmony, and what we're showing is the harmony."

So instead of a treatise on racism, on the Japanese plantation struggles, on the bleak WW2 years of "relocation" camp internment, the film celebrates the universality of friendship between races and how it can make a difference.

The difficult landmarks of the 100 years of Japanese history in Hawaii are there, but in passing. For instance, the camp years are handled by a fleeting image of a touching photograph of Kenji's family in camp.

The message comes through. In addition to such old photos,

the movie will include a spattering of rare movie footage shot in the Islands in 1898 by a film crew sent by Thomas Edison.

Tahara acquired a copy of it a few years ago from the National Archives before it was withdrawn from the market, and thinks he has one of the few prints.

Edison's was the first moving picture footage ever shot in Hawaii and includes shots of Waikiki, pa'u riders, volcanoes, a crowd going to a luau, a sheep ranch on the Big Island, train and trolley rides, the Mahukona landing on the Big Island, Laupahoehoe and Honolulu Harbor.

The old scenes will be spliced into "Kenji" where applicable.

While Tahara is completely absorbed in the film's images, Hara and Ogata have had to worry about everything else.

"So much is serendipity," says Hara. "People are kind when they hear about the project.

"We had the help of 'Cranky' Watanabe, the public relations man at Oahu Sugar who helped us find lonely lanes in the canefields, the ones that did not look modern."



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"And there was a woman with her horse and buggy in Waimanalo," adds Agnes. "And Waialua Sugar allowed us to go in and do some filming in the mill."

"And the kitemaker, Kite Fantasy, loaned an antique kite and flew it for us," adds Hara. "And Agnes' husband [a physician] banded Kenji's father, who is supposed to be in a mill accident."

"And the Railway Society was very helpful and offered us a train," said Agnes. "And Tiki, the cameraman, made the shark from car mats he picked up at an auto junkyard. And he brought his whole family to help. They all pulled it with lines when we shot that scene."

"Barbara Kawakami is an expert in Meiji era clothing and she helped us a great deal with patterns and fitting the costumes on the characters," says Hara.

The women even came up with

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a 3-month-old baby who is "born" in the film.

"We'll fake it for the birth scene," says Hara. "Tahara is a master of illusion. But we did get a real baby for other scenes—Dee and Keith Nishimura's son, Kurt. He's supposed to be a girl and he did really well as a girl."

Besides the two boys, the film stars Annette Young-Ogata (no relation to Wesley) as Kenji's mother, Douglas Kaya as Kenji's father and Roger Dell as Sam's father, who is a plantation doctor. In real life, Young-Ogata is a school principal, Kaya is an acting teacher and Dell a doctor.

Hara has taken time off from a

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regular job to oversee the film, but didn't know how she was going to swing it financially until a friend suggested: "Ask you husband for a scholarship!" Hara laughed, but did it, and says her architect husband John thought it was a fine idea.

A number of organizations are donating the \$25,000 needed. Tahara is donating the other \$75,000 the film would cost in time, equipment and materials.

"Nobody's getting paid, that's the miracle," says Hara.

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