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Photo by Jon Takasugi/Rafu Shimpō  
Councilman Mike Woo listens to City Council deliberations on redistricting.

## Los Angeles redistricting proposal could threaten Woo's future as councilman

by J.K. Yamamoto

LOS ANGELES—City Councilman Mike Woo, the only Asian American on the City Council, is battling a redistricting plan, tentatively approved by the council July 15, which would make his district predominantly Hispanic.

The plan, introduced by Councilman Richard Alatorre, is a response to a suit filed against the city last year by the Justice Dept., which alleged that the voting power of the city's Hispanic population has been diluted because current boundary lines distribute the Hispanic concentration among five districts.

At present, Alatorre's 14th District is the only one with a Hispanic majority (74%); Alatorre's plan would make Woo's 13th District the second such district by increasing the Hispanic population there from 31% to 65%. Woo does not think he could win reelection with those altered demographics.

"I believe very strongly that Los Angeles is long overdue for additional representation for the Hispanic community," said Woo during the council meeting. "But

it is absolutely essential that... we do it without pitting one ethnic group against another."

Although the Alatorre plan would increase the Asian population in Woo's district from 11% to 14%, Woo's response was that "burying that small increase... in a 65% Hispanic district seems to me to make very little improvement for the Asian community."

The plan would also deprive Woo of Hollywood, where he received strong support during last year's election.

Noting that the plan would not threaten the three Black councilmen, Woo added, "You cannot claim to be serving the Asian community... by approving a plan which sets out to protect the Hispanic community and the Blacks at the expense of another minority group in this city."

Local Asian American groups have sided with Woo.

"The proposal as it stands right now unnecessarily creates a conflict situation," said Pacific Southwest JACL director John Saito. "With the emerging Hispanic and Asian populations, it would be good policy to have

proper representation for both communities. But with the realignment... It is very unlikely that an Asian candidate can carry that particular councilmanic district in the future."

Stewart Kwoh of the Asian Pacific American Legal Center also said he supports more Hispanic representation but that "it is bad public policy to try to vindicate the rights of Hispanics at the expense of Asian American interests."

Other groups backing Woo include Chinese American Citizens Alliance and Nanyang Pili-pinas.

### Alternatives Offered

Woo introduced a redistricting plan of his own July 10. His plan would create a Hispanic majority in the 4th District, represented by John Ferraro.

"Unlike Councilman Alatorre's plan, my plan would not skip over another district which already has a higher percentage of Hispanics," said Woo. "The current 13th Council District is about 31% Hispanic; my plan would pinpoint the 4th Council District, which is already 42% Hispanic."

Alatorre's plan was favored by the council's Charter & Elections

Continued on page 2

## San Mateo supervisors back bills

REDWOOD CITY, Calif. — The San Mateo County Board of Supervisors voted unanimously July 8 for a resolution supporting redress bills H.R. 442 and S. 1053.

Supervisor Anna Eshoo, president of the board, opened the meeting by noting that she had received letters from Reps. Norman Mineta and Robert Matsui (both D-Calif.) strongly urging passage of the resolution.

Members of the local Japanese American community testified before the board.

San Mateo JACL president Noell Kubota thanked the supervisors for their past support of the JA community and said that support for redress "is sorely needed" and that for former internees who are still alive, "time is running out."

Doug Ota, San Mateo JACL redress chair and co-chair of Peninsula Redress Committee, spoke about the pro-redress findings of the Commission on War-time Relocation and Internment of Civilians.

"It has been three long years since the commission made its recommendations, and during that period of time many more internees have passed away. To further delay the passage of these bills would be to compound the injustices."

San Mateo JACL board member Niles Tanakatsubo related the wartime experiences of his family. "My paternal grandfather had a small business which he lost as a result of the forced relocation and internment. In spite of this, my father enlisted in the Army and served in the Pacific as an interpreter for G2 Intelligence, interrogating Japanese prisoners and deciphering their documents."

"I never had the opportunity to meet either of my grandfathers as they died while in camp, as much of shame as of the harsh conditions... I feel that it is especially appropriate during this year of Lady Liberty that we be reminded that such a tragedy never happen again."

Florence Hongo, president of Japanese American Curriculum Project, said, "The more basic question which I pose as an educator is: what damage was done to our fundamental principles of justice, as would affect generations of Americans of whatever ancestry in the years to come, unless this abrogation of constitutional rights is rectified?"

### Support from Supervisors

Supervisor Jacqueline Speier commented, "While I don't think the passage of the bills alone is

Continued on Page 3

## Mink formally announces candidacy for '86 gubernatorial race in Hawaii

HONOLULU—Promising to hold other Democratic candidates "feet to the fire" on the issues, City Councilwoman Patsy Take-moto Mink announced June 19 she will be a candidate for governor this year.

The former congresswoman joins Lt. Gov. John Waihee, Rep. Cecil Heftel, and other Democrats who want to succeed Gov. George Ariyoshi this fall.

With dozens of her supporters applauding as she made her announcement in a City Council committee room, Mink vowed to aggressively seek in-person debate and dialogue with Heftel and Waihee during the coming months.

"I shall insist on their presence [at campaign appearances] because if they don't come, they will be embarrassed," she said. "I'm going to keep everybody's feet to the fire. I am trailing. I am the underdog, and I issue the challenge."

Mink said that one reason she decided to jump into the race was that she didn't hear anyone else discussing the issues. "I felt if I faded away as a candidate, we might not have any discussion and discourse."

She said she would abide by the state's voluntary spending limit of nearly \$1 million for the gubernatorial race. "We're going to be a very low-budget, grass-roots campaign."

Her decision to enter the race meant quitting her council post before filing nomination papers on the July 22 deadline. The council must pick another Democrat from Mink's Waipahu-Lee-ward district to fill out the remainder of her term, which expires Jan. 2.

Mink promised an open campaign and an open administration. The issues facing the state—such as what to do in the face of increasing federal budget cuts—are too important to be decided without public involvement, she said.

She has declared education as her top priority; for instance, she

said she supports improvements at the University of Hawaii that would allow graduates to compete in the changing Hawaii job market.

"This is the heart of my government's participation in economic development... rather than the gimmicks that will come and go," she said.

The Maui-born Mink served in the territorial House and Senate before serving in Congress from 1964 to 1976.

—from a report by Honolulu Advertiser



Photo by Dean Wong/International Examiner  
Patsy T. Mink, who has given up her City Council seat to run for governor.

## Mineta calls for halt to relocation

WASHINGTON—Rep. Norman Mineta (D-Calif.) has called for a moratorium on the relocation of Navajos and Hopis in Arizona pending a complete review of the government's program.

"The original decision to begin this relocation program was made in 1974," he said. "Since then, the relocation program has been a disaster, and we need to stop the relocation and develop an alternative that is fair and humane."

Mineta is a co-sponsor of H.R. 4872, introduced by Rep. Bill Richardson (D-N.M.), which mandates a moratorium and review.

"This is a sad episode in our history, and we need to stop the relocation program before we make the problem worse," Mineta said. "As Americans of Japanese ancestry, we know what pain and distress go along with that innocent sounding word—'relocation.'"







## No. Calif. coalition supports Woo

SAN FRANCISCO—A coalition of Northern California Asian American community groups, joined by Reps. Norman Mineta and Robert Matsui (both D-Calif.), is opposing a Los Angeles redistricting plan which would increase Hispanic representation but decrease the chances that Councilman Mike Woo can retain his seat (see story on page 1).

"All Californians will increasingly be confronted with issues related to our changing demographics," said Matsui. "History will record whether we meet

these transitions with thoughtful and forward-looking responses, or increasing divisiveness and conflict. Positive alternatives clearly exist and must be more carefully explored."

Referring to the plan submitted by Councilman Richard Alatorre and tentatively approved by the council July 15, Mineta said, "Under this plan, each of the incumbents now on the Los Angeles City Council finds their new district 'safe,' except for Mr. Woo. I am concerned that Mr. Woo has been singled out for this unique treatment, and am deeply

ly disturbed by the racial tensions that have resulted from this plan...

"Today we are seeing increased attacks on bilingualism, immigration and affirmative action. The absence of intergroup sensitivity in the Los Angeles precedent could erode the ability of Asians and Hispanics to work together on issues of mutual concern."

"There is no doubt that Alatorre's plan will pit Asians against Hispanics for representation in that district," said JACL national director Ron Wakabayashi. "This is an unnecessary and extremely disturbing circumstance."

The coalition includes:

Asian Law Caucus; Alice Bulos, president, Filipino American Democratic Club; Jerry Chung, president, Sacramento Asian Bar Assn.; Mollie Fujioka, No. Calif.-W. Nev.-Pacific District JACL governor; Jeffrey Mori, Japanese Community Youth Council; Sandy Ouye Mori, Nihonmachi Political Assn.; Cressey Nakagawa, San Francisco JACL president; Louann Nosaka, Nihonmachi Legal Outreach; Mario Panorigan, president, Filipino American Political Assn.; UC Regent Yori Wada; Darryl Woo, president, Sacramento Asian Pacific Democratic Club; Hoyt Zia, president, Asian American Bar Assn. of Greater Bay Area.

Coalition members have sent letters and made phone calls to L.A. Mayor Tom Bradley, urging him to veto the plan if it reaches his desk.

## Work of 'crossword activist' lauded

WASHINGTON—Rep. Norman Mineta (D-Calif.) praised the persistence of Amy Chihara of Highland, Ind., whose letter-writing campaign persuaded the Chicago Tribune to reconsider the use of "Jap" as an abbreviation in its crossword puzzles.

Chihara began writing to the Tribune to protest its repeated use of "Jap" in 1984. Receiving no reply, she enlisted the help of others, including JACL Midwest regional director Bill Yoshino and JACL national director Ron Wakabayashi, who also wrote to the newspaper.

Mineta sent a letter to the Tribune on June 5. "To Americans of Japanese ancestry, the word 'Jap' is the worst racial slur possible. Though my concern about a simple word game may appear petty, the casual use of racist and derogatory terms have no place anywhere in the mass media," he wrote.

"I hope you will join our efforts in eliminating the hateful term 'Jap' by helping to remove it from all sections of the Tribune, and adding the abbreviation 'Jpn.' to your stylebook."

In a July 8 letter to Chihara, Chicago Tribune Media Services vice president Michael Argirion wrote, "I have conveyed the concern over the use of the abbreviation Jap. for Japan/Japanese to our Crossword Puzzle Editor. You can be sure that we will be more sensitive in future issues."

"Ms. Chihara has provided an excellent model for all of us to

follow," said Mineta on July 18. "She has shown us how to be persistent and to fight racism in all its manifestations, no matter how small or petty it may appear to some."

"This should give us all hope in our efforts to erase all forms of discrimination and racism. I also congratulate the Tribune for listening and reconsidering its rules of style."

Mineta is co-sponsoring a House resolution to replace the abbreviation "Jap." with "Jpn."

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## History room offers wealth of data

by Kathy Aoki  
Nichi Bei Times

SAN FRANCISCO—Seizo Oka, vice president and director of California First Bank's Japanese American History Room since 1977, would like the public to know about the room's new location and the opportunity to learn more about JA history.

"One of the things I want to make clear is I am not a librarian but a historian," he said. "I never had a desire to become a librarian. The other point is this is a history room and not a library."

Oka volunteered to be director of the history room, now located on the second floor of Japanese Cultural & Community Center of No. Calif. (JCCCNC). The room was previously housed at California First's head office on California St.

"The main reason this got started was because there was not very much history on the Japanese who came here," Oka said. "Many Issei are getting old and passing away. It's important to preserve our history so others can learn more about it. This history room has information on Japanese Americans... There is a lot of material here which is use-

ful to many people."

He takes his job seriously and is well organized. His desk is already in top shape. A visitor will notice bookcases with titles in English and Japanese. There are many artifacts and maps in the room; in the back room, one will see old newspapers, more books, artifacts and pictures from many years ago.

Oka said the history room has been beneficial to many students who have term papers due and others working on advanced degrees. Some visitors bring in items for him to look at and ask him for further help.

"I have always been interested in history and have been good at locating different things," he said. "I enjoy working here and helping people gather their information."

A native of San Francisco, Oka was educated in Japan. He attended Tokyo Gaigo (now called Tokyo University of Foreign Studies) as an English/law major. Upon graduation, he worked for the Tokyo head office of Yokohama Specie Bank, the predecessor of Bank of Tokyo. He resigned from the bank in 1946.

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## SUPERVISORS

Continued from Front Page

ever going to obliterate that tragedy, it is a step in at least making the kind of redress that I think is so necessary."

"We should push to make sure that this comes into fruition," said Supervisor William Schumacher. "It's long overdue."

Supervisor Tom Nolan recalled a recent press conference in which there was discussion about a state initiative that would have anyone who has AIDS—or who is suspected of having it—quarantined.

"There was a question at the end of the press conference... if this thing were actually to pass in California, and we were to intern people, how would we do it? Where would we do this? And I was reminded of the shameful history in our own country that if people want to do it there is a way to do it."

Supervisor John Ward hoped for bipartisan support of the bills. "As many local jurisdictions as possible should join in representing the various communities to get the message across."

Eshoo said she would send the resolution with a cover letter to the Bay Area congressional delegation.

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## Fiction and Fact

### ONE THING LEADS TO ANOTHER

Bob Shimabukuro



When confronted with a lot of confusing facts and figures and an endless array of contradictions, sometimes it is best to sit back and look at a situation from a totally different perspective—like fiction. The Hopi/Navajo relocation is one such example.

Some have portrayed the dispute as a Navajo/Hopi war; others, as traditional elders vs. modernized Indians represented by government-sponsored Tribal Councils; still others see the dispute as another example of "evil empire" developers bent on raping the land.

The latter two characterizations make it easy for us to choose sides. The federal government, by this characterization, has played into the hands of the coal and uranium interests and those involved in building homes for those who have to be relocated.

In the Watergate story, journalists Bernstein and Woodward tell us that in order to get to the bottom of the scandal, they were directed by "Deep Throat" to "follow the money." Chairman Mao told the Chinese people to ask "Who stands to gain?" when trying to analyze a situation.

Looking at the present situation, we should be following the money as it passes from the federal government to the Navajos to the developers and the housebuilders and banks holding the mortgages. We should look clearly at the money to be made from the coal and uranium resources, and how much of that is being paid to the Tribal Councils and how much of that sum is filtering down to the traditionals themselves, and compare that with the amount the coal companies stand to make.

Who stands to gain? For a clearer analysis, readers of this column should take a look at a trilogy written by John Nichols which has little to do directly with the situation at hand but has a lot of analytical relevance.

Nichols, in *The Milagro Beanfield Wars* (1972), *Magic Journey* (1978) and *Nirvana Blues* (1981), chronicles the growth and "development" of mythical Chamisa County, somewhere in the southwestern U.S., from a subsistence farming community of indigenous people to an expanding tourist-oriented community of free-wheeling developers, hippie communes and artist colonies.

The indigenous farmers lose their water to the newly-formed Water Conservancy District, which diverts "farming" water to "recreational" water. Without the water, the farmers face hard times. Jobs must be found; children leave for the big cities; developers move in to "buy" land at extremely low prices. The traditional way of life is soon destroyed. While some traditionals try to fight back, the law, the money, the politicians and the existing ethic are against them. Nichols has presented a comic tragedy of Americans on the move.

While the trilogy is fiction, there is more truth in these novels than is to be found in most accounts of the destruction of tradition, cultural heritage and family values caused by entrepreneurs out to get rich quick at the expense of those whose lifestyles are looked upon with contempt and derision. At some point Americans will learn that there is a price to be paid for this destruction. Hopefully, it will be soon.

□ □ □

While there is little mention of the WW2 incarceration in most history books, perhaps we can take heart in the fact that it has become a "hot topic" for school kids participating in the National History Day Contest.

Lois Scharf, executive director of National History Day, told us that in the past few years, favorite topics seem to cluster, and that in the past few years the wartime internment has been a favorite topic.

This year's competition, entitled "Conflicts and Compromises," had numerous projects about the treatment of Japanese Americans during WW2. The two California winners had projects about the internment; Karen Holcombe, a 7th grade student at Walker Junior High School in La Palma, took first place, while Kevin Kishimoto and Jeffrey Ota from Piedmont Middle School took second. Both projects went on to the national finals, but did not place in the top three of their category.

However, Ashley Galaway, from Katy, Texas, took second place in the Individual Projects Junior Division with her project, "Go For Broke: Japanese American Nisei Soldier of WWII." Galaway, who won first place in the Texas competition, was inspired by Loni Ding's documentary "Nisei Soldier" and contacted Dr. Monroe Shintani, Betty Waki, Tom Kawaguchi, and Shig Kihara for help and information.

Amanda Dawson from Plymouth, Mass., followed Galaway in third place in the division for "Japanese Internment." Dawson

### EAST WIND

Bill Marutani



AN EXCELLENT BOOK for the more serious student seeking to learn *Nihongo* is *Nihongo: A Japanese Approach to Japanese* by Makoto Sugawara (East Publications, Tokyo). I had seen excerpts from this book (or did the excerpts become the book?) and was so impressed by the format and clarity that when the book became available, I ordered three copies. It's a scholarly, well-organized book consisting of over 600 pages. Right now I'm bogged down around page 100 or so. Price is \$34 U.S. or ¥8,500 Japanese, which, under current rate of exchange, would come to \$53 or so. (Hint: buy U.S.)

I'VE PLODGED THROUGH the *keigo* section and picked up some interesting insights as well as having a number of conceptions dispelled. I also learned that the "ah, ee, oo, eh, oh" that I was exposed to in *nihon gakkō* has been updated by eliminating five phonemes which were duplicates. I could have told them that

is from Plymouth Carver Intermediate School.

Meanwhile, in the Group Projects Junior Division, Bobby Wacker, Christine Sadiq, Chris Doyle and Sarah Deer from Wilbur Junior High in Wichita, Kan., took third place by utilizing personal interviews, including one of Min Yasui, in their project entitled "Infamous Act: Internment of Japanese Americans."

In the Group Projects Senior Division, Dana Kolibaba and Amy Piper of Memorial High School in Milville, N.J., took third place with their project, "Japanese Internment: A Conflict of American Principles."

Congratulations to these winners.

## Letter-writing to President started

SEATTLE—Seattle JACL has embarked on a letter-writing campaign to President Reagan to urge his support of H.R. 442 and S. 1053 in light of the Justice Dept.'s opposition to the redress bills. Copies of the letters are being collected by Seattle Chapter Redress Committee member Tim Gojio and forwarded to LEC executive director Grayce Uyehara. The committee previously targeted the state's three congressmen who said they would not co-sponsor H.R. 442.

## Raw Oysters

years ago. I could never figure out, for example, why there were two "eh's" and the second form I never could figure out when or when it was to be used. And so I never did.

PRONUNCIATION OR HATSUON also caused me to stumble. I remember as a child learning that *kaki* was "persimmon," and then hearing the Issei mention *ka-ki*, which I thought meant the same thing. So I asked for some and some oysters (raw) were placed in front of me. Rather than admit my ignorance, I managed to take one of those slippery blobs and gulp it down, whole. It was quite a few years later before I was able to develop a taste for raw oysters.

SPEAKING OF KAKI, Sugawara san reports that there are no less than 33 words that have the homophonic sound of *kaki*. (And I had my hands full—or more accurately, my mouth full—with just two versions of the phonemes!) Only five of them are pure Japanese terms: fence, persimmon, table of market quotations, oyster, and circumscribed area; the remaining 28 are terms adopted from the Chinese. (Come to think of it, it's a good thing for me that the Issei were talking about raw oysters rather than fence posts when I overheard them.)

Another current problem of mine is unlearning all that complicated *kanji* (in *kaisho* or block style) and picking up the stripped-down, streamlined versions, such as: *kaeru* (return home), *yomu* (read), *manabu* (study), the *gaku* part of *gakkō*, and so many others.

IF YOU'VE HEARD this one, skip the remainder of this column and enjoy some other section of this newspaper. It's the apocryphal story of a Nisei who strayed into a Tokyo sushi bar and started ordering by pointing to "Ano bun, sono bun" along with some *sake* to wash it all down.

Upon being filled to the gills, he sought the check to pay up. But since he wasn't paying attention during his *nihon-gakkō* classes, he wasn't sure what to say; so he asked for the "bi-ru" (bill), whereupon the hostess promptly arrived with a large bottle of Asahi.

Embarrassed, he drank the whole thing. He then tried another pidgin—"How machi?"—as he reached for his billfold, whereupon he was served a *ha-machi* (yellowtail) sushi. As he stubbornly stuffed the unwanted sushi down, it dawned on him to ask, "Ikura?" You guessed it: another sushi, this time topped by salmon roe.

This hapless Nisei is still in that sushi bar trying to eat his way out.

Well, you can't win 'em all.

## Letters

### West Coast Welcome

As the "red, white and blue" part of me experiences some goose-pimpling excitement with all the news of the celebration of the 100th birthday of the Statue of Liberty, another part of me is very sad that no such lady was greeting my parents and grandparents when they crossed the Pacific Ocean to start a new life here.

Perhaps the Japanese government could be persuaded to give to us a statue of Kwannon outside of L.A. or the Chinese government to give us a statue of Kwan Yin for the San Francisco harbor.

Just a bit of daydreaming.

REV. LLOYD H. UYEKI  
Hartford, Conn.

### In Search Of...

I would like to ask PC readers if any of them know how I might contact Ruth Tanaka. She was a high school student at Poston during the war and wrote a poem about the Issei, entitled "Saga of a People." I ran across the poem in the National Archives and was greatly moved by its power. I would like to quote it in a book.

If anyone can help me to locate her, please write me at the address below.

THOMAS JAMES  
Associate Director  
Educational Studies Program  
Wesleyan University  
Middletown, CT 06457

□ □ □

I am interested in locating two college friends. We met during WW2 in Iowa.

One of my friends, Yoko Tada, is a graduate of Cornell College in Mt. Vernon, Iowa; she was in my class of 1946. The other one is May Ideta, who was at Duke University in Des Moines, class of 1946.

I remember them fondly, for they were friends who were patient with me and educated me about the injustices of the concentration camps and the need to go on to change the world. We were unable to keep track of each other as we started careers and families. Now I'd like to locate them both for old times' sake and possible reunions.

Any information I can receive will be gratefully appreciated.

MARYANN MAHAFFEY  
City Council Member  
Detroit



# An Interplanetary Feat

FROM THE  
FRYING PAN:

Bill  
Hosokawa



I might have read it somewhere, or maybe it was something Hank Sakai told me—that for each American who rockets off to explore space, there are several hundred earth-bound, top-level scientists whose brains and skills have made the flight possible.

Considering the complexity of space exploration, that ratio may

be modest. Also, considering the substantial numbers of Japanese Americans in astrophysics, electronics, computer sciences and the various phases of engineering, it does not seem improbable that for one Ellison Onizuka there are several hundred other Japanese Americans in white laboratory smocks laboring quietly on behalf of the space program.

Until his retirement a few years ago, one of these relatively anonymous scientists was Dr. Walter Higa of the Jet Propulsion Laboratory (JPL) in Pasadena, Calif. I mentioned him briefly in a column some weeks ago. The magnitude of his work makes it important to provide greater detail.

For nearly a decade, from 1960 to 1970, Hawaii-born Walter Higa was the leader of a JPL team developing a communication system to be used in planetary missions. The system they perfected made possible the stunningly beautiful pictures of Mars, Jupiter, Saturn and Uranus sent back to Earth by unmanned space probes.

I do not pretend to understand how the system works. What I do know is that masers, which are something like the more familiar lasers, were utilized. The spacecraft used in planetary exploration carry a small thermonuclear generator to provide electrical power because solar panels are ineffective at vast distances from the sun. The information which ultimately is converted into photographs the human eye can understand, is sent back to earth by a microwave transmitter which uses only 20 watts of electrical power

or roughly the same amount used by an automobile tail light.

These infinitely weak signals are received by the giant NASA antennas in California, Spain and Australia. The maser equipment that Higa's team developed ferrets out the important information from the mess of signals from space and amplifies it without adding unwanted noise so that it can be converted into useful data. (Another Nisei, Dr. Chihiro Kikuchi, had discovered earlier at Michigan that rubies were ideal for making masers work.)

The very expensive microwave amplifiers Higa developed have been used almost exclusively in NASA's planetary studies program. By contrast the manned space flights, such as those Onizuka and other astronauts have been on, are conducted re-

latively near Earth and do not require special communication techniques.

One of the problems Higa's team encountered was creating a refrigeration system to keep the temperature of the Maser devices to within a few degrees of absolute zero. This wasn't difficult in a laboratory, but the chilling had to take place continually and reliably for months on end atop NASA's giant antennas.

Higa retired in 1980 but he's looking with great anticipation to 1989. That's when the Voyager on its lonely voyage through space is scheduled to fly past Neptune and send back the first photographs of that planet, via Higa's device. Higa is a graduate of the University of Hawaii and received his master's and doctorate in physics from the University of Cincinnati.

## The Last Nicholas Story

by Sachi Seko

This is the last story about Nicholas, a German shepherd frequently mentioned in these PC pages. He died on Apr. 15, two weeks before his eighth birthday. His death was quick and efficient, by euthanasia, as I held him in my arms.

Since the first of the year, Nicholas was plagued with physical problems. In early March, he suffered a persistent nosebleed, uncommon to dogs. After surgery, his nose remained ulcerated and unresponsive to massive doses of Prednisone. This confirmed that he was suffering from genetic immune deficiency. The only remaining alternative to prolonging Nicholas' life was the use of investigative drugs. The veterinarian did not recommend such therapy and we concurred.

counted for his erratic behavior that day.

Nicholas was supposed to have an intelligence equivalent to that of a seven-year-old child. In many ways, he was a child. He was curious and innocent and trusting. There was also a boyish, mischievous streak. It was easy to forget he was a dog. I often claimed he was a little boy disguised in a dog costume.

To support this theory, I offered his keen sense of language. Conversations intrigued him. He listened for hours, cocking his ears at word recognition. Or he would release an exaggerated sigh and drop off to sleep when the talk became too boring. He learned our language better than we did his.

During the last two weeks of his life, symptoms of physical de-

terioration appeared. There also seemed to be some mental confusion, obvious in his slow response to commands. Then we noticed his gradual detachment from us. Formerly, he was a dog who required our physical closeness. Now, he stayed a few feet away, observing us but maintaining a distance. At night, he used to sleep by my bed. He removed himself to the adjoining study. During the day, he preferred being alone and outside more. Through the study window, I saw his head lowered in the grass with the most melancholy look in his eyes. That was the painful part, realizing he could no longer be consoled or coaxed from his distress. I sensed he knew he was dying.

The last day of his life he did a curious thing. Roused from his lethargy, he began digging a hole outside the living room door with a crazed vigor. Dark, wet earth was scattered on the lawn. Immediately, I recalled my grandparents talking about animals trying to dig their own graves. That morning too, fresh bloodstains appeared on the carpet. A new hemorrhage was imminent.

I said I would give Nicholas tranquilizers, as the doctor had instructed. My son asked me to wait until he reached the house. Against my better judgement, I agreed.

A peculiar thing happened when my son entered the house. Nicholas greeted him with his former enthusiasm, all leaps and licks. When we took him outside, he gave every impression of a healthy dog, running and investigating his surroundings. It was such a pretty spring day, so fresh and green and alive. Nicholas looked magnificent. His sable and black fur glistened and his enormous eyes captured glints of light. It was difficult to believe his body and mind were being ravaged within until he began stumbling. Recovering his balance, the dog pressed his body alternately against my son and me, inviting our affection.

"Let's not do it today," my son said.

"Do you think it'll be any easier tomorrow or the day after?" I asked, disliking the idea of selecting a specific time, like an execution.

My son refused to answer, petting the dog, who had gone to him. "All right," I said, "if you don't think he should die by euthanasia, I'll buy him a gun. He can shoot himself." My son smiled at this absurdity. If the

dog had been capable of using a weapon, he would have missed or botched it. He was that kind of dog.

"I have another idea," I said angrily. "I'll open this gate." A few years ago, we had fenced the upper-level yard for Nicholas. The dog had given me a look of utter incredulity when the project was completed. He didn't believe we did it for his own protection. I shared his hatred of fences.

"I'll open this gate now," I repeated to my son. "Then he can run out and get hit by a car. Or he can escape to the canyon to die by himself. Is that what you want?"

Three hours later, in one of the longest afternoons of my life, the tranquilizers were administered. Previously, the veterinarian had said, "This dog has a strong constitution and is resistant to medication." In the car, my son said, "Those tranquilizers haven't done a thing. Nicholas is as hyper as ever." I knew he hoped I would suggest turning back. In my heart of hearts, I wanted to say that, but I knew I couldn't.

My son reached for another tissue to dab his eyes. It was the first time I had observed him crying since he was a child. Then it occurred to me that this was his first real loss. I realized anew the historical and generational divide which allowed the lateness

Continued on page 7

## 'His death was quick... as I held him in my arms.'

Nicholas had lived a relatively long (for his breed and size) and very happy life, the doctor said. He reminded us the dog had always had physical and emotional problems. And he expressed amazement that we had been able to maintain him so long. Most other people, he said, would have abandoned the dog years ago. The thought had never crossed our minds, no more than any normal parent would consider forfeiting a child with physical, intellectual or emotional problems.

It was the day before Easter when the doctor suggested the dog be destroyed. However, that was also the day of the accident. In the parking lot of the clinic, Nicholas turned abruptly toward an adjoining ditch, dragging my husband by the leash. Observing the incident, the doctor thought the dog was also becoming a family liability.

It was precisely because of my husband's severe injuries that I could not consent to euthanasia that day. There had to be sufficient separation in time between the two events, the accident and the dog's death. It was important my son not link the two together. He was never to think the dog had been penalized for the accident. The veterinarian agreed we could delay our decision, expressing concern about the next hemorrhage. He said to continue the medication and assured us of his availability even after office hours. In retrospect, I've wondered if the dog's intuition of a negative prognosis had ac-

terioration appeared. There also seemed to be some mental confusion, obvious in his slow response to commands. Then we noticed his gradual detachment from us. Formerly, he was a dog

I called my son at his office. From the time Nicholas came to live with us, that had been the agreement. If the dog had to be destroyed, our son would drive him to the clinic. Over the phone,

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# Chapter Pulse

## Houston

HOUSTON—JACL and Organization of Chinese Americans (OCA) hold a joint Summer Dance Aug. 9, 8 p.m.-1 a.m., at Four Seasons Hotel in Houston Center.

The event features a band (Landslide), DJ. (33 1/3 RPM Sound System), complimentary buffet and Coors beer, door prizes and free valet parking. Tickets: \$7 per person, \$12 per couple. Ticket sales are limited to 500; checks, payable to JACL-Houston or OCA-Houston, must be received by Aug. 5.

Send donation to OCA, c/o Mrs. Lei Shen Kline, 11307 Windmark Dr., Houston, TX 77099; or JACL, c/o Betty Waki, 8667 Hinman, Houston, TX 77061. Info: (713) 862-3032, 561-0354, or 643-1338.

## Fresno A.L.L.

FRESNO, Calif.—Fresno ALL-JACL sponsors a fall run Sept. 21 at Woodward Park. Events include a two-mile run beginning

at 7:30 a.m. and a two-mile walk and 10K run starting at 8. Proceeds will benefit the Shinzen Japanese Garden in the park. All entrants receive a custom-designed T-shirt; first place winners receive happi coats. The run will be held in conjunction with a food festival and arts and crafts exhibit taking place later in the day. Info: Nadine Nishio, 19440 Panorama Ave., Madera, CA 93610; 1-661-2074.

## Cleveland

CLEVELAND, Ohio—Graduates honored at the 1986 scholarship dinner, held June 22 at Shujiro's Japanese Restaurant, were: high school—Todd Ichita, Alissa Ishikawa, Timothy Ito, David Nakamoto, Cheryl Petrus, Pamela Robinson, Kari Teraguchi; college—Bruce Asamoto, Jeffrey Ebihara, Rick Ebihara, Tatsuji Ebihara, Howard Ishiyama, Carolyn Maki, Susan Maki, Donna Sakamoto.

## Fowler

FOWLER, Calif.—Yumi Sera, salutatorian, was the only Japanese American graduated from Fowler High School. She gave a speech, "My Generations," at the recent commencement exercise at Nielsen Field. She plans to attend Cal Poly San Luis Obispo, where her father Kimihiro graduated. She won a total of \$1,900 in scholarships from:

Fowler JACL (presented by Gerald Nakayama, chapter president), Shunsuke Uchiyama Memorial (presented by Judge Mikio Uchiyama), Fowler Lions Club, Central Calif. District Council JACL, Miss Ruth Smead Memorial, Anthony Garofoli Memorial, Doizaki Memorial, Fowler Improvement Assn., Bank of America (Liberal Arts). She served as student body president and yearbook editor.

David Gong was the only other Asian American graduated at Fowler High School.

—Thomas Toyama

## South Bay

TORRANCE, Calif.—South Bay JACL held a reception for Debora Nakamura, its candidate for Nisei Week Queen, at Sumitomo Bank on June 29.

The daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Richard Nakamura of Torrance, she attended North High School and El Camino College and is currently studying at CSU Long Beach and working as a dental assistant.

Mayor Katy Geissert brought greetings and best wishes, as did newly elected Councilwoman Dee Hardison. The tiara was presented by last year's candidate and Nisei Week winner, Tish

Okabe. The event was arranged by Jeanne Mitoma, chair of youth activities.

□ □ □

A ceremony was held June 26 at Torrance City Hall to honor Fumiko Hachiya Wasserman, who was recently appointed to a municipal court judgeship by Gov. George Deukmejian. She and her husband Ron are members of South Bay JACL.

Mayor Katy Geissert, introduced Wasserman and Superior Court Judge Morio Fukuto introduced the many distinguished guests. Representing the governor was Clayton Fong, Office of Community Affairs; Dzintra Janavs represented the U.S. Dept. of Justice.

U.S. District Judge Terry Hatter, for whom Wasserman once served as a law clerk, delivered the main address, speaking about the excellence of Wasserman's judicial work and relating the internment of her family during WW2. The formal swearing-in ceremony was conducted by Judge Armand Arabian of the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals.

## Placer County

PENRYN, Calif.—Graduates Corine Buckley of Del Oro H.S. in Loomis and Lynn Marie Nishimura of Oakmont H.S. in Roseville were named this year's recipients of Placer County JACL scholarships, announced Noboru Hamasaki, vice president for community services.

Buckley is winner of the \$500 JACL-Thomas M. Yego Sr. Award. She is a member of National Honor Society and Calif. Scholarship Federation and a cum laude honoree for four years. She

served as student body vice president and secretary-treasurer, as well as being a member of science club, a participant in girls' varsity soccer and a varsity cheerleader. She has served as a Loomis Methodist Church youth group counselor and devoted much time during the summer to the Sierra Service.

She plans to enroll either at UC Davis or Pepperdine College as a business administration major with a career goal of becoming a business executive.

Nishimura, an honor roll student, was presented with the \$300 JACL-Sgt. Masa Sakamoto Award. She was a member of the volleyball team and of Loomis Corralers Riding Club.

The two awardees and their parents were introduced at the annual scholarship fund dinner held May 17 at Placer Buddhist Church.

Tim Longo and Dao Strom were the recipients of the Okei Memorial Achievement Awards presented annually by the chapter to outstanding boy and girl graduates of Gold Trail Elementary School in Gold Hill, El Dorado County. They were awarded trophies and their names were engraved on a permanent plaque at the school.

Serving on the scholarship committee with Hamasaki were Fusaye Miyamoto, Jim Makimoto, Al Nitta, Bill Tsuji and Tad Yamashiro.

—Roy Yoshida

## San Jose wins for 4th time at JACL Junior Olympics

HAYWARD, Calif.—San Jose won its fourth straight team championship while Ellen Sasaki of Tri-City and Kurt Akabori of Berkeley were named outstanding athletes at the No. Calif.-W. Nev.-Pacific District JACL-sponsored 34th Annual Junior Olympics held June 8 at Chabot College.

San Jose racked up 328 points, followed by Tri-City with 276, and Berkeley with 262. Selected as outstanding athletes of the meet in the men's divisions were: Bruce Furukawa, San Mateo (A); Craig Kanazawa, San Jose (B); Darin Chin, San Jose (C); Anthony Lim, San Jose (D); and Garrett Sato, Sequoia (E).

Outstanding athletes in the women's divisions were: Kathy Yoshihara, San Mateo (A); Janell Uyehara, Tri-City (B); Jennifer Okubo, Berkeley (C); Cheryl Uyehara, Tri-City (E).

After San Jose won its third consecutive championship last year, the perpetual trophy was retired. This year, a new trophy was donated by Transamerica Life Companies. Steve Okamoto, Transamerica branch manager for the Bay Area, presented the trophy to San Jose coach Tom Oshidari.

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of loss in his life.

The veterinarian came to the parking lot to administer an additional sedative. My son and I walked Nicholas, waiting for the medication to take effect. A few minutes later, at the door to the clinic, my son handed the leash to me, saying he had "no stomach" to witness the death. We were informed it was optional, but I wanted to be with Nicholas until the end. He had been my closest companion for almost eight years.

The dog and I entered an examining room. I stroked his head and talked to him as he fell into a deeper sleep. The doctor respected my wishes that Nicholas be spared the indignity of a muzzle. I held him as the lethal injection was administered. When it was over, I smoothed his noble head and stroked his body one

## Onizuka to be honored by pageant

BEVERLY HILLS, Calif.—The late Ellison Onizuka will posthumously be given the Outstanding American Award by the Miss Nikkei California Pageant during ceremonies at the Beverly Hilton on July 26.

Onizuka's wife Lorna and two

last time, saying, "Goodbye, little boy," knowing he could not hear me.

*Seko writes from Salt Lake City.*

### Donations to Pacific Citizen For Typesetting Fund

As of July 19, 1986: \$35,132.02 (830)

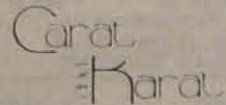
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The Commonwealth of Massachusetts seeks a qualified developer to participate with the Department of Environmental Management in the creation of a year-round recreation resort and conference center in the Berkshire Mountains of Western Massachusetts. The Commonwealth will purchase the designed 1000+ acre site, known as Greylock Glen, and has committed an additional \$8.5 million towards site development. Interested parties may receive the Request for Proposals (RFP), which contains further information on the project and instructions for submission of development and management proposals, by contacting the following address:

James Gutensohn, Commissioner  
Massachusetts Department of Environmental Management  
100 Cambridge Street  
Boston, Massachusetts 02202

Or call: Richard Lockhart, (617) 727-3160

Proposals in response to the RFP will be submitted in 2 phases. Phase I submissions of qualifications must be received by the Department of Environmental Management by 4 p.m. August 15, 1986.

A briefing on the Greylock Glen project will be held for all interested parties at DEM's Division of Planning and Development, 225 Friend Street, Boston, MA., on July 22, at 2 p.m.

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daughters will be among the dignitaries attending the program. The astronaut, who died in the Jan. 28 Challenger disaster, will be saluted for being an inspiration to younger Nikkei.

Also honored will be this year's winner of the American Japanese National Literary Award, established by novelist James Clavell to encourage Japanese American writers.

The 15 finalists for the title of Miss Nikkei California will perform in a Japanese dance production directed by Helen Funai. Reigning queen Renee Tagawa of Monterey Park and 25 former contestants will be featured in a jazz dance and fashion revue.

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EOE



## OKA

Continued from Page 3

Before returning to the U.S. in 1948, Oka worked for the U.S. Army counterintelligence corps. He worked for the Japanese Evacuation Claims Office, the civil division of the U.S. Dept. of Justice in San Francisco, and the adult education division of San Francisco Unified School District before joining the Bank of Tokyo of California, which later became California First.

He recently retired from California First after 29 years of service. He will spend his days continuing to organize the history room.

"I think the Japanese American History Room is beneficial to the community," he said. "Now people have another source of information than going to Berkeley or UCLA. This benefits our own people and others who want to learn about our history. Everyone should come by for a visit."

The JCCNC is located at 1840 Sutter St. The room is open Mon.-Fri., 10 a.m.-3 p.m. Oka asks that people call first before visiting. He will make appointments with those who cannot come during office hours. His number is (415) 921-1485.

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See Aloha Week/Golf with Sami 8 days Sept 24  
Special departure for Ladies Golf enthusiasts: 2 nights Turtle Bay Resort w/1-day golf; 5 nights Ala Moana Hotel w/2 days golf; 2 dnrs, 2 lunches, 1-day sight-seeing of Oahu. \$860 p/prsn/twin includes RT air from LAX and all transfers in Hawaii.

Fall Foliage—Historic American Heritage 15 days Sep 24  
Group departs from LAX: Visit Niagara Falls, Vermont, Boston, New York, Philadelphia, Washington, DC, & colonial Williamsburg. 14 meals / \$1,549 p/person/twin plus airfare from hometown cities. Limited to 20 members.

Paul Bannai Will Conduct 15 days ★ Oct 4  
Asian Charms tour with 8 days of golfing (2 each in Manila, Singapore, Bangkok and Hong Kong). Visiting same cities. Price from LAX for land & air: \$2,595 p/prsn/twin for golfers. Non-golfers deduct \$500 from above price.

Golden Tour of Japan 11 days ★ Sep 19, Oct 17

Group departs from West Coast: Tokyo, Nikko, Kamakura, Hakone, Ise Shima, Kyoto, Nara. 18 meals / from \$2,514 p/person/twin.

Niagara Falls & Ontario, Canada 7 days until Oct 3  
Departs from N.Y.: Adirondack Mountains, Ottawa Parliament, 1000 Island cruise, Ontario Place, Corning Glass Museum, return to N.Y. 14 meals / \$655 p/person/twin plus airfare from hometown cities.

Fall Foliage—New England, Canada 7 days until Oct 6  
Sat & Wed departures from N.Y.: Tour scenic New England, Quebec, Montreal, historic towns of Vermont, Massachusetts with visits to Shelbourne, Bennington & Williamstown. 14 meals / \$699 p/person/twin plus airfare from hometown cities.

Canadian Rockies 7 days Sept to mid-Oct  
Depart on odd dates from Calgary: Visit Yoho, Banff, Jasper Nat'l Park, Moraine Lake, Kicking Horse Pass, Lake Louise, Athabasca Glacier, Sulphur Mtn gondola ride. 16 meals / \$789 p/person/twin plus airfare from hometown cities.

Japan & Hong Kong 15 days ★ Nov 1  
Group departs from West Coast: Tokyo, Kamakura, Hakone, Nara, Kyoto, & Hong Kong. 23 meals / from \$2,676 p/person/twin.

Classic South American Tour 19 days ★ Nov 5  
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Group departs from West Coast: Tokyo, Kamakura, Hakone, Nara, Kyoto, Bangkok, Singapore & Hong Kong. 24 meals / from \$2,949 p/person/twin.

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