



Pacific Citizen

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Young minds
at old Notre Dame
—page 5

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Friday, April 17, 1992

Good bye, good luck

Staff and JAACL reports

On leaving his position as executive director of the Office of Redress Administration (ORA), Robert K. Bratt said, "It's been very rewarding, but I'm kind of saddened because I won't have as much contact with the (Japanese American) community."

Bratt assumed new duties April 13 within the Department of Justice as the executive officer in charge of the Criminal Division. Bratt said he was surprised at the sudden promotion but saw it as recognition of the achievements of the ORA. "The Department recognizes how well things have gone in ORA. They came after me for this position; it was senior management in the Criminal Division that requested me. I wasn't ready to leave at all."

Paul Suddes, Bratt's assistant has taken over as executive director of the ORA. "Paul's worked with me now for almost two-and-a-half years. He's a very energetic, smart, compassionate person. I think the community will find that the program will continue in the exact same matter as before," Bratt.

Bratt has largely been credited with the efficient implementation of the redress program under the Civil Liberties Act of 1988. "I felt very strongly when we started this, that the Justice Department owed

ORA's Bob Bratt moves on to another position in Justice Department. Japanese community to miss man who implemented redress program.

the Japanese American community a well-run compassionate program because of all we've done in the last 50 years. We were for the evacuation during World War II, we ran the War Claims Act in 1948, we initially opposed redress. We owed the community and I feel good that we've achieved these goals," said Bratt.

Bratt noted that there was still work that needed to be done with redress including funding for the third year which is currently under discussion in Congress. "There are 3,500 people left to be verified and unique cases that have to be resolved. There's still a fair amount of activity," said Bratt.

The news of Bratt's departure was met in the Japanese American community with a mixture of sadness and respect for all that he's achieved during his tenure at the ORA. "We're really sorry to see him go, but we wish him well in his new position," said Cressley Nakagawa, JAACL national



ROBERT BRATT

A job well done

president. "Much of the success of the redress program can be attributed to Bob's

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Some say Fujimori moved on drug traffic

"If U.S.-Peruvian relations break down, so will joint efforts to control cocaine trafficking." That's the major incentive for the United States to support the Fujimori regime said *Los Angeles Times* South American correspondent William R. Long pointed out in an April 12 news analysis of Peru's staggering woes.

Long's article echoes what President Fujimori had pointed out at his first speech to the National Press Club in Washington last September.

Further, Long noted, "If the United States and other foreign countries support the new regime, however, they will lose leverage for pressuring Fujimori and the military to reverse the coup and return to democracy."

Latin American expert Kenneth Maxwell of the Council on Foreign Relations in New York feared economic sanctions might put the U.S. into the arms of the Sendero Luminoso by damaging the economy and increasing poverty which the terrorists feed on. President Bush at his White House press conference April 10 said, "We cannot sit by without registering our strong disapproval about the aborting of democracy in Peru. Outside pressure will be mobilized in the Organization of American States (OAS)."

When President Fujimori addressed the National Press Club, he reminded that "it is necessary that we come to know each other, in part because of a tragic phenomenon. Your country is the world's largest consumer of cocaine and mine is the world's largest producer of coca.... It must be argued that if we solve our end of the dark

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Paul Suddes named acting ORA director

Paul Suddes, acting administrator of Office of Redress Administration, vowed to continue the work of departing ORA Executive Director Robert Bratt.

Talking about the transition after Bratt's departure, Dennis Hayashi, JAACL national director, said, "In light of the fact that we are nearing the completion of the initial phase of the redress program, it is absolutely crucial that the Department of Justice appoint someone who is intimately familiar with the operations of the program in order to complete the full implementation

of the Civil Liberties Act of 1988." And Suddes hopes to ensure a smooth transition. "I know I have big shoes to fill," he said. "My goal is to run the ORA as well as Bob did. This is more than an administrative position. A serious injustice occurred and my staff and I want to continue the program to make sure the wrong of 50 years ago is addressed," said Suddes.



SUDDES

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Miyazawa misquoted on Americans, reporter says

The spark that continues to fuel the U.S.-Japan feud may not have been a spark at all—or shouldn't have been one.

According to *San Francisco Chronicle* staff writer Charles Burreas, Japanese Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa's remark that Americans lack a work ethic was incorrectly translated and taken out of context as well.

Burreas, in a letter appearing in the editorial pages of the March 11 edition of the *New York Times*, says that despite repeated protests by the Japanese government and media, the American press continues to repeat the misquotation.

Burreas, who reads some Japanese, took the original quote to translators who reported that Miyazawa actually said: "In this area, I have long thought that something like a work ethic may be lacking."

The quote that has appeared in many American newspapers is that "America may lack a work ethic."

Miyazawa also made the remark in reference to an "American economic shift from producing goods to money manipulation, such as leveraged buyouts and junk bonds," Burreas said.

"That's a different statement," he said in the *Times*. "In this area" refers to his immediately preceding remarks about non-productive money manipulation. He also said the same problem exists in Japan's "bubble economy." He never referred to all Americans or their work ethic in general, much less to American workers. He merely said a work ethic is lacking in the so-called "money game" sector of both countries. That's not nearly so inflammatory as saying, "Americans lack a work," which is easily taken as an insult to the American character." Burreas concluded by saying that the press should re-examine its reporting to avoid a climate of fear for Asian Americans.

'Buy America' not anti-Japan, panel says

By GWEN MURANAKA

Assistant editor

LOS ANGELES—What does it truly mean to buy American? This issue and the economic and political implications of the buy American campaigns were the subject of a special forum April 13 at the University of Southern California's Davidson Center.

Panelists at the forum, mediated by Richard Drobnick, director of the USC International Business Education and Research program (IBEAR), included: Zev Yaroslavsky, L.A. City Councilman; Richard Reschia, executive vice president of Mitsubishi Motor Sales of America; Hiroshi Sugimoto, L.A. bureau chief, *Asahi Shimbun*;

Michael Tharp, West Coast bureau chief, U.S. News and World Report; Ruth Milkman, associate professor, Dept. of Sociology, and Bill Robertson, executive secretary and treasurer, L.A. County Federation of Labor.

Despite the inevitable focus on U.S.-Japan relations, there was little direct criticism of Japan. Buy America is a red-white-and-blue herring dragged across the streets and driveways of America to divert attention from the profound problems that require fundamental changes from corporate administration like consumption, savings and investment," said Michael Tharp.

Topaz monument vandalized

The stone and bronze monument to Japanese Americans imprisoned at Topaz, Utah, was recently shot at by vandals using high-powered guns, according to the April 5 edition of the *Salt Lake Tribune*.

Alice Kasai of the Salt Lake Chapter, JAACL, reported that the shootings are the second such incident to occur at the monument built by the chapter in 1976.

Kasai told the *Tribune* that she could not be certain that the vandalism was racially motivated. "It could be, you just never," she said.

"But they shoot at everything out there—not just our marker, but road signs and mailboxes."

The chapter, she said, was reluctant to repair the monument. "We can spend our money in better ways than because fixing it just makes them do it again."

At this point, the local chapter is planning for the creation of a larger concept memorial, including a park at Topaz but is awaiting availability of a water source for the planting of trees.

City Councilman Zev Yaroslavsky, instrumental in the rescinding of the Sumitomo Green Line contract in January, said, "I'm not sure I know what buy American means. It is not a xenophobic anti-Japanese thing. It is totally wrong headed to think that it is."

Yaroslavsky, whose Proposition G on the Los Angeles City ballot would give bid preferential to California companies, defended the proposition saying, "We ought to have flexibility to give bid preference to companies that make products in Southern California. Wouldn't it have been nice six or seven years ago to say to General Motors (who are closing their Van Nuys plant), go ahead, move out of Southern California. We'll take our business to Ford or Honda for that matter."

Whit Yaroslavsky said there should be protection of local companies, the Councilman warned against racial scapegoating. "There is no question that there is a great deal of frustration about economic conditions. There has always been a tendency to look for scapegoats, but it is important to resist that sort of behavior," said Yaroslavsky.

Labor leader Bill Robertson said, "There's no reason to focus on Japan." Robertson noted that from a labor standpoint, the laissez faire policies of Reaganomics have had more to do with the departure of

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Calendar

Illinois

Chicago

Saturday, May 9—New Horizons of the Nikkei Singles of Greater Chicago's 7th annual installation Dinner at BONES, 7110 N. Lincoln Ave., Lincolnwood, IL. Information: Chiyo Taketoshi 312-465-3775.

Colorado

Denver

Aug. 3-8—JACL's 32nd Biennial National Convention, "JACL: Solid as the Rockies," Denver. Information: 303/892-6003.

Saturday, May 23—Denver Central Optimists' annual pilgrimage to the former site of the relocation center at

Reminders

• San Jose Chapter, JACL, Casino Night fundraiser, Saturday, May 16, Italian Gardens, San Jose, Calif. Part of proceeds provide scholarships. Grand prize, trip to Harrah's, Lake Tahoe. Roaring '20s attire. Information: 408/295-1250.

• Annual law day, sponsored by Japanese American Bar Association, Little Tokyo Services Center, Saturday, May 2, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m., Community Room, Little Tokyo Towers, 455 E. Third St., Los Angeles. Speakers include Ron Ohata on will and estate planning and Brett Nishimura on immigration. Information: Dick Osumi, 213/897-2831.

• Diversity, Representation, and Empowerment: Asian American Studies in the 1990s, 9th National Conference of the Association for Asian American Studies, Thursday, May 28, through Monday, May 31, Fairmont Hotel, San Jose, Calif. Early registration: \$150 for general conference and participants, \$25, students (postmarked by April 30). Registration information: 408/924-5782; conference information: 408/554-6880.

• Japanese Women Alumnae of UC, Berkeley, luncheon, Sunday, May 30, 11:30 a.m., Spenger's Restaurant, 1919 Fourth St., Berkeley, Calif. Featured will be Susan Mariko Kobayashi, recipient of 1992-93 fellowship. Information: Toyoko Toppata, 2332 California St., Berkeley, CA, 94703.

Okazaki film opens annual L.A. festival

LOS ANGELES — "Tropical Paradise," Academy Award-winning filmmaker Steven Okazaki's latest film, will be featured at the 7th annual Los Angeles Asian Pacific Film and Video Festival, Thursday, May 7, through Sunday, May 17, at the Japan America Theatre in Little Tokyo.

Okazaki's film explores the social and political problems facing Hawaiians. Hosts of the event are Visual Communications, UCLA Film and Television Archives, and L.A. Mayor Tom Bradley's Asian Pacific Heritage Week committee. Okazaki will be present at the 7:30 p.m. event.

Tickets are \$25 to support festival expenses. Visual Communications programs and the Hawaiian Cultural Center Association.

Japan America Theatre is located at 244 S. San Pedro St. Ticket information: 213/680-3700. Program information: 213/680-4462 or 310/206-8013.

Amache. Arrangements for transportation will be made at nominal cost. Information: Art Moriya, 3835 W. Radcliff Ave., Denver CO 80236, 303/798-0268 or Kent Yoritomo, 5946 W. Iowa Pl., Lakewood, CO 80232, 303/936-1292. Response requested by April 17.

Washington

Seattle

Friday-Sunday, April 24-26—The Seattle Cherry Blossom and Japanese Cultural Festival, at the Seattle Center Flag Pavilion and Center House, 10 a.m. to 9 p.m. (6 p.m. Sunday). Admission: Free. Information: 206/994-2466.

Friday, April 24—Author Linda Minayashi excerpts from her novel, "Talking to High Monks in the Snow: An Asian American Odyssey," North Seattle Community College, 9600 College Way N., Northstar Dining Rm., 7:30 p.m. Cost \$3. Information: 206/527-3705.

Saturday, May 2—St. Peters Episcopal Parish's annual sukiyaki dinner, Parish Hall, 1610 S. King St., 4:30 p.m. Tickets \$6, \$4 kids under 10. Information: 206/323-5250.

Friday-Sunday, July 24-26—Pre-war Green Lake Japanese Americans are planning "Homecoming '92" with Dr. Roland S. Kumasaka as reunion chairman. Registration: Shiz Nakawatase, 13044 27th Ave. NE, Seattle WA 98125. Rooming committee is requesting any old photos for possible inclusion in souvenir booklet.

Utah

Salt Lake City

Saturday, October 10—Davis High School Alumni and Friends Reception, Little America Hotel & Towers, 500 S. Main St., Salt Lake City. Cost: \$30 per person. Information: George Hirabayashi, 3042 S. 1000 W. Syracuse, UT 84075, 801/773-2285. Hotel reservations: 800/453-6450.

Arizona

Scottsdale

Friday-Saturday, May 15-17—53rd Infanteria Association's 32nd annual Information, Safari Resort, Scottsdale. Information: Joe Allman, 602/942-2832.

California

San Jose

Saturday, April 18—Annual West Valley Chapter Bridge/Bowling Night at the Chapter Clubhouse, 6 p.m. Cost: \$5 adults, \$3.50 kids under 12. Information: Brett Uchiyama 408/997-0552 or Aiko Nakamura 408/378-8877.

Sunday, April 26—Yu-Ai Kai's 13th annual Fashion Show and luncheon at the Rion Lion Inn in San Jose. Proceeds go to maintain Yu-Ai Kai's senior programs. Tickets: 408/294-2505.
Sunday, May 3—2nd annual San Jose Nihonmachi Run, start/finish line Jackson St. between 6th and 7th St. in Japan town. 9 a.m. Entry fee: \$12 before Apr. 18, \$15 on race day. Information: Mark Okumura 408/725-1649.

San Francisco Area

Saturday, April 25—Community family potluck, San Mateo JACL Community Center, 2645 Alameda de las Pulgas, 5 to 8 p.m. Information: 415/343-2793.

Saturday, May 2—3rd annual luncheon, Women's Ministry of the Northern California Japanese Evangelical Missionary Society, 9:30 a.m. to 1 p.m., San Lorenzo Japanese Christian Church, 615 Lowell Blvd., San Leandro. Theme: "Change." Speaker: Pam Goto. Luncheon, \$10. Information: Satoe Chisaki, 510/526-9359.

Sunday, May 3—Nisei Widowed Group's monthly meeting, 2-4 p.m. New members welcome. Information: Elsie Uyeda Chung 415/21-0268, Yuni Moriwaki 510/482-3280.

Labor Day Weekend, Sept. 4-6—The all Topaz 50th year reunion at the Hyatt Regency Hotel, Burlingame. Tremendous response from first mailing indicates attendance may exceed limit of 1400. If a notice has not been received or has not been sent in, please notify: Tomi Goytko, 826-68th Avenue, San Francisco, CA 94121. Cost: \$115. Information: Bill Mizono 510/223-4848.

Los Angeles area

Wednesday-Thursday, April 22-23—Consulate General of Japan presents an education seminar: "Education: Understanding the Japanese Perspective," Torrance Cultural Arts Center, 3330 Civic Center Dr., Torrance, 8:30 a.m.-3:15 p.m. Fee: \$60 two days \$30 one day. Information: Janie Gates or Gloria

Seattle festival



Photo SPECIAL TO PACIFIC CITIZEN

The Seattle Cherry Blossom and Japanese Cultural Festival, largest of its kind in the Pacific Northwest, presents a weekend of Japanese culture, food, and crafts, at the Seattle Center Flag Pavilion and Center House, April 24-26, 10 a.m.-9 p.m. Admission is free to all performances and the many demonstrations of traditional dance, music, flower arranging, tea ceremony and martial arts. Among the featured events include: Kabuki musicians from Japan, kite making for children and kendo and other martial arts on the Center House stage. Information: 206/994-2466.

Levin 213/803-8467

Saturday, April 25—Marina JACL joins 23rd annual pilgrimage to Manzanar. Information: Wayne Nagata 310/836-9029.

Sunday, April 26—Aikido Center of Los Angeles' annual memorial service for the founder and special seminar: "Fundamentals of the Sword-From Live Blade to Bokken," 1 p.m., 940 E. Second St. #7, L.A. Please bring your own bokken. Information: 213/687-3673.

Sunday, April 26—Downtown L.A. JACL and Nanka Nikkei Fun-kai sponsor the 1992 Women of the Year Luncheon at the Hotel California. Hosts: Haruko Shida, Anna M. Tamaki, and Sachiko Tengan at the New Otani Hotel 1-2:30 Cost: \$25. Information and reservations: Amy 213/722-3897 or Mitsuko (Japanese speaking) 818/764-5274 or Sandi 818/264-7042.

Tuesday, April 28—Cal Poly Pomona presents the symposium "Multiculturalism and Diversity in Ancient Japanese Architecture" at the university's College of Environmental Design Main Gallery, 2 p.m. Admission: free. Information: 714/869-3342. The discussion is part of the inauguration activities of Cal Poly Pomona President Bob Suzuki. Inauguration: Wednesday, April 29, 10:30 a.m.

Saturday, May 2—Centenary United Methodist Church, "Anglo Bazaar," 300 S. Central Ave., Little Tokyo, 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. Door prizes, games, food, entertainment, and country store. Proceeds for Sanctuary Fund. Free admission. Information: 213/617-9097.

Saturday, May 2—American Business League (ABL) presents "An evening in Las Vegas" Casino Night at the Westin Bonaventure, 404 S. Figueroa St., L.A., 7:30 p.m. Dancing and live music. Cost: \$20 ABL members, \$25 non-members, \$30 at door. Information: ABL 213/626-5837, Don Hirose 213/413-3062 and Randy Takasaku 310/470-1885.

Saturday-Sunday, May 2-3—Children's Day/Chibi K Run at the Japanese American Cultural and Community Center. Information: Diana 818/248-3048.

San Diego

Saturday-Sunday, May 2-3—Japanese Friendship Garden in Balboa Park's Children's Day festival in the garden, 11 a.m.-3 p.m., next to the Organ Pavilion. Festival includes: taiko drummers, karate and children's games. Cost: \$2 adults, \$1 kids and seniors, \$6 family. Information: Jud Takasagawa or Stacy Cole 619/232-2780.

Sacramento

Saturday, April 18—VFW Nisei Post 8985 45th anniversary, Rod Lion Hotel, 1401 Arden Way, Sacramento, 6 p.m., cocktails, 7 p.m. dinner. Tickets: \$25. Information: Dick Uno, 916/991-5099.
Saturday, April 25—In connection with the 1992 Japanese American Historical Exhibit, Sacramento History Museum presents Prof. Ronald Takaki of UCB speaking on, Japanese Americans and Trade Tensions, KVIE Auditorium, W. El Camino at Interstate 5, 7 p.m.

Short takes

Ex-soccer coach seeks reinstatement

WASHINGTON—The bid of the Asian American soccer coach at American University, Pete Mehlert, 43, to regain his coaching job that he held for 20 years was rejected, the *Washington Post* reported April 1. He remains a tenured professor in the health and fitness department.

Mehlert alleged he was fired as coach because he helped two fellow employees file discrimination complaints against the school in the past year. In the meantime, the university review panel has been convened to act on the complaint. Mehlert's career record in soccer at A.U. is 194-122-38.

Anti-Japan-bashing resolution drafted

LOS ANGELES—The Los Angeles City Human Relations Commission recently drafted a resolution that speaks against Japan-bashing, anti-Japanese hate crimes, and "Buy American" campaigns.

The resolution says that the L.A. City Council's recent charter amendment on an upcoming ballot that calls for unspecified local preference in city contracting can be "perceived in a manner to fuel racially biased animosity directed at local resident Japanese Americans."

The measure calls for elected officials, business and community leaders to be "thorough and thoughtful in characterizing the public policy objectives of the local preference and local content ballot measures."

Aug. 2 will be Kristi's day in L.A.

LOS ANGELES—L.A. Supervisor Kenneth Hahn was scheduled to introduce a motion at the April 7 board meeting to recognize the recent performances of figure skater Kristi Yamaguchi at the Olympics and the world championships. The supervisor asked the board to declare Aug. 2 as "Kristi Yamaguchi Day" in Los Angeles County.

"Kristi's tremendous talent, great athletic ability and unwavering poise distinguish her not only as a great athlete but as an incomparable ambassador of love between people of all colors, needs and backgrounds," Hahn said. "She is a great American who has brought high honor to all of us."

Yamaguchi will serve as grand marshal of the Nisei Week Pa-

rade Aug. 2 in Los Angeles.

Congress may help Heart Mountain project special to the Pacific Citizen

POWELL, Wyo.—A long-term goal of West Coast envioners to preserve landmarks of Heart Mountain and include a museum may get a boost from Congress in wake of Manzanar being recognized as a National Historic Site, according to Sen. Alan Simpson's office. The Wyoming Republican plans to seek about \$500,000 to preserve the campsite.

Former internee Bacon Sakatani of West Covina, Calif., and local backers of the project, including Chester and Mary Blackburn, who began the momentum when the first memorials were dedicated, and *Powell Tribune* editor Scott Hagel, who remarked with the camp's 50th anniversary coming this summer "recognition of Heart Mountain's historical importance" couldn't have come at a more appropriate time, were heartened this past week by the news.

The appropriation will have to be matched by private funding, the senator's office added. But passage of the Manzanar bill would make it "easier for project backers to solicit private funds," it was acknowledged.

U.S.: Japan, 42 others guilty of unfair trade

A recent Bush administration report says that Japan leads a list of countries which erect unfair trade barriers against American products.

According to a recent *Associated Press* story, 43 countries and two trading blocs were named in the report: Argentina, Australia, Brazil, Canada, Chile, China, Colombia, Czechoslovakia, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, the European Community, Germany, Finland, France, Greece, Guatemala, the Gulf Cooperation Council, Hungary, India, Indonesia, Israel, Italy, Korea, Malaysia, Mexico, New Zealand, Nigeria, Norway, Pakistan, Paraguay, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Singapore, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Taiwan, Thailand, Turkey, United Kingdom, Venezuela and Yugoslavia.

The administration will prioritize nations to begin intensive negotiations, the *AP* reported.

L.A. to honor Nikkei Palos Verdes farm

The Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors have requested a

tor of ORA under Bratt. Before his work at the Justice Department, he was an administrator for Fairfax County, Va.

"I appreciate the community support. The Japanese American community played a significant role in redress. It's been a team effort. I hope we can continue the same level of team work and the same spirit of cooperation until every redress recipient gets paid," said Suddes.

Suddes was deputy administra-

panion Japanese farm designated as a State Point of Historical Interest.

The farm, located on the Palos Verdes Peninsula, southwest of Los Angeles, was begun by Kumeichi Ishihashi and is now run by Masahashi, his 80-year-old son.

Said Supervisor Mike Antonovich: "We should recognize the importance of the early involvement of Japanese Americans in California's agricultural industries."

The board voted unanimously to make the recommendation to the state office of historical preservation.

Japanese not getting fair trials, lawyer says

A Los Angeles trial lawyer believes that Japanese national firms may not be getting fair treatment in U.S. courts.

In a press release, Russell Lungerich, former California deputy attorney general, said that some American attorneys are exploiting the traditional Japanese reluctance to go to court, which the Japanese deem "a loss of face." Lungerich claims that these attorneys increase damage claims and push for trials in venues where anti-Japanese fervor is highest in hopes of "bluffing Japanese firms into settling seemingly meritless cases for outrageous sums."

The Japanese, Lungerich says, "are by and large a non-litigious society, with fewer lawyers in the entire country than in California alone."

They must seek their rights more aggressively, he says.

Asians, Hispanics give more, study says

A University of San Francisco study says that Asians and Hispanics give far more to charity than previously believed.

"Asians and Hispanics may not send a check to United Way or the American Cancer Society," said Bradford Smith, director of research at USF's Institute for Non-profit Organization Management. "But they will share what they have with extended family and ethnic members of their community, as well as needy relatives and friends in their home countries."

The study surveyed 200 members of the Chinese, Japanese, Filipino, Mexican, and Guatemalan communities in the San Francisco Bay Area from January to September of 1991.

Information: 415/666-6867.

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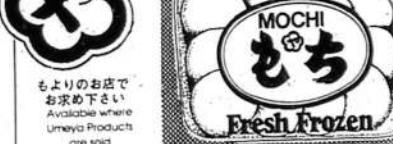
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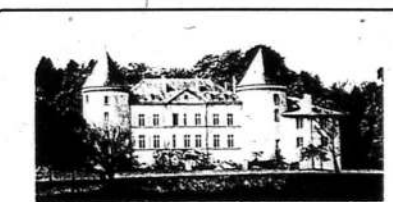
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Small kid time



Gwen Muranaka



Opinions



From the frying pan

BILL HOSOKAWA

Image of people in Japan becoming taller

A recent issue of the *Japan Times* weekly carried a front-page feature story about a 24-year-old Japanese volleyball star named Motoko Ohbayashi. She plays for the Hitachi Team in the Japan League and is also the star of the Japan national team that will play in the Barcelona Olympics.

What makes Ohbayashi notable in addition to her volleyball skills is her height. The *Japan Times* story says she is six-foot-one. The photo of her shows no gawky stork, but a comely, long-legged lass. She is said to be able to lift 103.4 pounds in the bench press and 220 pounds in the half-squat, whatever that is.

In a recent trip to Japan I saw no women as tall as Ohbayashi, but on the streets of Tokyo and Osaka there were many women nearly as tall. And the men were even taller.

One day, waiting for a traffic light to change at a corner in the Akasaka area of Tokyo, I stood behind six young Japanese in business suits. They looked to be in their late twenties or very early thirties. They

were lined up shoulder to shoulder, doing a fine job of blocking the view ahead. The shortest, I guessed, was about 6-1, and the taller I estimated at 6-4. These guys weren't storks, either. The slimmest I estimated at 190 pounds, the heaviest at 220.

Japanese men that size aren't exception any more. The image of the little yellow people is changing. Rapidly.

Physical size in Japanese seems to be a generational matter. There are still little old men and little old women, probably of the prewar generation, people who suffered from malnourishment resulting from a dozen years of wartime rations on top of a sparse regular diet.

U.S. military rations stockpiled for the expected invasion were diverted to Japanese civilians after the surrender and they were all that averted widespread hunger if not starvation. I remember visiting a country school in Japan some years after the war and watching youngsters in a hot lunch program munching down rolls baked from donated American wheat.

The genes from these kids have been passed on to today's crop of tall and sturdy young men and women who, thanks to changing customs and a robust economy, are eating far better than parents and grandparents. Matter of fact, judging from the number of restaurants in Japanese cities, all fronted with highly realistic plastic replicas of the food served within, eating seems to be the national pastime. What's more, despite staggering prices people seem to be able to afford to eat often and well.

(Yet, oddly, obesity is far from a national problem. One sees pudgy kids once in a while, but few adults aside from the sumo wrestlers seem to be burdened by excess weight.)

Not many if any Japanese men have the size to contend for a spot on an American professional football or basketball squad yet, but they're getting there. And at least one woman, the towering Motoko Ohbayashi, already is a world class athlete in a sport where height, agility and strength are necessary assets. It seems safe to say you can look for more to come. ☐

BRATT

(Continued from page 1)

personal commitment and tireless efforts. Under his leadership the ORA has not only been diligent in ensuring that every eligible person receives redress payments, but that it be done in an expedient manner. Furthermore Bob has been instrumental in ensuring fairness in the administrative processing of redress appeals.

"The Japanese American community owes Bob Bratt a real debt of gratitude for his work in turning the promise of redress into a reality," said Rep. Norman Mineta. "His leadership in the redress program has helped to restore the faith of Japanese Americans in the U.S. Constitution, and our nation's commitment to personal justice."

Rep. Robert Matsui similarly praised Bratt's performance. "Bob Bratt's departure from ORA is a great loss for the program, and a tremendous loss for Americans of Japanese ancestry who were served well by him," Matsui said. "Bob came to ORA and faithfully carried out the directives of Congress and took personal pride in seeing justice served to those who had been previously denied their rights as Americans. I am greatly saddened that Bob will no longer be running the program at ORA, but I wish him all the best as he takes on new challenges within the Department."

John Dunne, assistant attorney general, of the Civil Rights Division, said, "Bob has done an outstanding job with the redress program. He was instrumental in creating ORA, and developing it into a fully operational and efficient federal program. Although Bob will no longer head ORA, I assure you that our efforts in the redress endeavor will not diminish."

Despite leaving the ORA, Bratt said he would like to retain his close ties to the Japanese American community. "The most important thing is the friends I have made. I hope and anticipate that we will remain friends for many years. I don't want to lose contact with these folks."

AMERICA

(Continued from page 1)

American manufacturing jobs to Third World countries. "We've witnessed in the last twelve years, a real exodus of manufacturing and industry in the United States because manufacturing went out to exploit cheap foreign labor."

Criticizing the Bush administration, Robertson said, "We've had an administration that's bragged about jobs in the U.S., but failed to say we've lost high paying jobs."

Auto executive Richard Recchia noted that American-made is almost impossible to define given the fact that Dodge Colts are made in Japan, and the Honda Accord is built in America. "Buy American is not an easily understood term that can be translated to the U.S. public," said Recchia, a former Detroit auto executive.

Noting that General Motors is the largest auto importer in America, while Honda is the largest auto exporter, Recchia said, "American brands don't necessarily mean American made. Buying American doesn't reflect the origin of product. It is a disguised campaign not to buy Japanese products."

FUJIMORI

(Continued from page 1)

problems, we will be helping you solve yours."

In Los Angeles, Ambassador Raul Pinto, the newly appointed Peruvian consul general, told the *Pacific Citizen* last Monday (April 13), "The image of Peru (under President Alberto Fujimori) is continuing to be a change for the good — not the bad," and assured Peru has not been chasing anyone, "that there's no need to hide," in reference to news reports that former President Alan Garcia was in hiding since the presidential action of April 5, when the Congress was dissolved and certain supreme court judges were dismissed.

Within six weeks, a plebiscite to approve or disapprove the emergency government is expected, Pinto continued. He expected a new constitution will be offered within a half year for approval by the voters.

And a new congress will be elected, not the 180 deputies and 60 senators, but with half the number down to 120 on a staggered system, it was revealed. Pinto also felt President Fujimori will enjoy a greater majority than was present at the time of his inaugural in 1990.

Pinto also pointed out the OAS meeting

See FUJIMORI/page 6

Moshi Moshi

JIN KONOMI

The Japanese revival of 'rubi'

The command of a foreign language may be likened to a portfolio of investments that pays endless dividends on demand. If the language is Japanese the dividends potentially are very rich. In spite of its current downturn, Japan's economy still is one of the most vital in the world. Japan's contemporary culture also is one of the most vigorous, diverse, prolific and stimulating in the world.

In spite of its new importance and prestige, however, Japanese is not the most popular foreign language. Too many students are being scared away by its reputation as one of the most difficult languages in the world. The National Institute of Oriental Languages in Paris annually admits 1,000 or so students to its beginners' Japanese classes. All but 200 or so drop out by the end of the first year. I suppose a similar situation obtains in many countries. There are more Sansel and Yonsei who do not know or study Japanese than those who do.

The difficulty of Japanese is real enough. The irony is that grammatically Japanese is one of the simplest languages in the world. The difficulty as you know is kanji. The Chinese character for life stands for

several different things and is read 14 different ways. The *senryu* (comical, satirical epigrammatic 17 syllable poem) "U no ji oba ame, same, dare to gurete yoi" says that the character for rain can be read 5 ways: Harusame, Murasame, Samidare, Shigure. Then, to some people kanji may hold droll fascination because of their graphic intricacy, like Rube Goldberg inventions, making such big ad do about such small things: the two characters that read *noren* take 31 strokes.

Yet kanji must be mastered, for 90% of Japanese vocabulary is kanji, and the mastery of a language is 90% a matter of vocabulary. With European languages all you need are reading material, grammar, and good dictionaries for vocabulary building. Self-instruction in European languages is not too difficult. Ohsugi Sakae, the noted anarchist who was murdered during the great Kanto earthquake of 1923, was a great linguist: he mastered one language each time he was imprisoned. With Japanese self-instruction isn't impossible, but extremely hard. I still wonder how Arthur Waley did it—so that he could translate "The Tale of Genji." I consider myself a fairly well educated person but I haven't

been able to read this classic through yet.

The Japanese use two dictionaries, the *Kan-wo*, or Classic Chinese Japanese, using kanji as entry terms, and the *Kana-entri* dictionary. In order to use the latter type, which is simple, you must first know how the kanji or compound is read. If you do not know, you either ask someone who knows, or go to the *Kan-wo*. To do so, you break down the character into its component radical and body, count the strokes, look over characters with the same radical and number of strokes until you find the character and learn how it is pronounced, then go to the *kana-entri* dictionary. It really takes the patience of a molecular geneticist trying to find the gene of some rare disease to go through the process.

In this seemingly hopeless situation, there is one encouraging development. The publishers are reviving the *rubi*. The *rubi* are the small *hiragana* (Usually 5 point, called "rubi" in trade) notations placed along the right hand side of kanji so as to enable the not too well educated to read the kanji. In my childhood even newspapers were *rubi-tsuki*, rubied. Then, they were

See MOSHI MOSHI/page 6

THE HUNT IS ON!



See FUJIMORI/page 6



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HARRY K. HONDA

Lecturing at Notre Dame

A half-year ago, the University of Notre Dame's College of Arts & Letters invited me to address its students on "Japanese Americans: Who Are They?" as part of an all-day Asian studies conference on "The Darkling Plains: Postwar U.S.-Japanese Relations." And having accepted, it was to be my first academic encounter with college students and a happy one for I always wanted to visit this famous campus.

It took place at the Hesburgh Library Auditorium on Saturday, March 21—and South Bend was having its heaviest snowfall of the season (8-inches) this first day in spring. For the visiting Angeleno, the scenes were like White Christmas for real.

Rev. George Minamiki, S.J., professor of Japanese for 20 years at Notre Dame who moderated this panel, introduced as discussant (someone to fill in or expand the discussion) Dr. Francis Kobayashi, assistant vice president and director of research at Notre Dame's Graduate School, who related his personal WWII evacuation experiences of being moved by the Army from his hometown of Seattle to internment at Camp Harmony in Puyallup, Washington, and Minidoka, Idaho. And being of Japanese ancestry, he was unable to continue his education during WWII at Notre Dame until the late Father L. Thebar of Maryknoll-in-Seattle had intervened. (Military programs on campus and security were involved, Kobayashi believed.)

In closing, Kobayashi posed the big question to the 150 students present (as well as to the rest of the country): "The stereotype of Asian Americans being perceived

as a model minority, in actuality, has blinded many to the fact they do indeed face prejudice, discrimination, and sometimes, even fatal violence. How do we overcome this problem?"

'40-40-40'
Supported by some 40 years at the P.C. desk and some 40 pages of notes (which were only highlighted to keep me on track), my talk lasted about 40 minutes. Following the moderator's counsel to keep it simple, I began by explaining the generational terms: Issei, Nisei, Sansei, Nikkei and Kibei; when the Japanese first came to America (1610), how many Japanese live in the U.S. (873,000) and where; how extremely difficult it is to distinguish the native-born from the foreign-born, how other Asian Americans are being mistaken for Japanese; and what the Nikkei and Asian populations face today.

The newspaperman in me allowed for short stories to follow: of Manjiro (the first Japanese to experience the U.S., having lived in America for 10 years: 1841-1851) and Joseph Heco (the first real Japanese American by virtue of being naturalized in 1858), of the first immigrants to Hawaii (1868) and to the Mainland (1869), of racial discrimination, brief mention of the contributions of Issei and Nisei to America, and the Nisei war record.

The Other Lecturers

Dr. Bruce Cummings of the University of Chicago, a Korean War and Asian specialist, delivered the keynote: "The Second Coming of U.S.-Japan Conflict." While sketching the political history and economic aspects of this issue, the conflict turned out to be a dilemma along security lines: How can U.S.

taxpayers support a superpower (now that its Soviet nemesis is no more) when, domestically, the nation is in shambles? Can Japan become what the U.S. wanted it to be in the 1980s and insure peace or carry out the U.S. security mission in East Asia in the '90s? Thus, the "conflict" is whether or not an enlightened Japan can help Uncle Sam. (China's prime minister has warned Japan against it. Other Southeast Asian countries are similarly worried.)

Yukiko Koshiro's remarks turned out to be a preview of her doctoral dissertation on Japan's racial identity during the Occupation. A history professor at Notre Dame, she noted the Japanese had an in-born attitude that the whites were superior (the "whiteness" theme was developed in Japanese literature since the turn of the 20th century).

Dr. Yusaku Furuhashi, dean of the Asian American faculty at Notre Dame and professor in business administration, surveyed the 1970-90 economic trade relations between U.S. and Japan in a slide presentation.

Dr. Van Gessel of Brigham Young University closed the wide-ranging conference with "The Unbearable Whiteness of Being: Westerner in Postwar Japanese Fiction," that spotlighted Japanese writers since the 1900s who idolized "whiteness." Koyama, Natsume, Tanizaki, Kojima, Nosaka and Endo.

Dr. Dian Murray, associate dean, explained the program was a part of the Paul & Barbara Henkels Visiting Scholars Series. We were invited to return on campus in the fall and enjoy a game at the stadium. We said "Amen" to that.

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Personally speaking

• Little Tokyo Service Center's housing project (the refurbished San Pedro Firm Bldg., 114 N. San Pedro St.) for the elderly and those on low income won a superb print media debut in the March 15 *Los Angeles Times* Real Estate Section front page—in color—with LTSC director **Bill Watanabe** and housing program coordinator, **Judy Nishimoto-Aguilera**, standing across the street in front the three-story structure. "The apartments are all full now, but we have a waiting list," Watanabe said. The *Times* piece, by Karen Klein, features community builders, "the unlikely developers" of the 1990s who are basically social providers who stepped into the red-tape filled development field. LTSC purchased Firm Bldg. from the city in 1989 to preserve the building, now an anchor in the Little Tokyo Northside redevelopment area. It has been renovated from ground-up, inside-out, made earthquake-safe and all 11 first-floor units are handicap accessible.

Writer Hasu-Houston honored

SANTA MONICA, Calif.—Playwright and screenwriter Velina Hasu Houston was selected April 2 by Sidney Poitier and the American Film Institute as the recipient of the first annual Remy Martin New Vision Award.



VELINA HASU HOUSTON
Receives Film Institute honor

The Remy Martin New Vision Award was established to recognize new talent whose work contributes to the "culture of our society and our world." Houston is the author of the play, "Tea," the third in her trilogy on her Japanese African-American-Native American family. Other plays that she has written include: "Asa Ga Kimashita" and "Necessities." Her work has been showcased at the Old Globe Theatre, Manhattan Theatre Club, Negro Ensemble Company and the L.A. Theatre Works.

Other honors for the playwright include: the 1991 California Arts Council Performing Arts Fellow, a Japanese American Woman of Merit by the National Japanese American Historical Society, a Rockefeller Foundation Playwriting Fellow, and one of *Transpacific* magazine's top 100 Asian Americans of 1991.

AGRICULTURE

• **Harry Kubo**, president of the Fresno-based Nisei Farmers League, is a steering member of the newly formed "California Agricultural Alliance (CAA)," which is developing a program to blunt criticism from city residents that California farmers are wasting water and poisoning the environment. "This is an urgent matter," Kubo said. "Agriculture's image has to be improved." But farm cooperatives covering interests of the 250 agricultural commodities produced in the state said it would be ineffective. Calif. Table Grape Commission president Bruce Obbink countered.

which last year named him as instructor when handball was added to its sports curriculum.

SOCIAL ORGANIZATIONS

• The San Francisco Social Services Commission elected **George Yamasaki Jr.** as its president. A Honolulu-born Saisei attorney and onetime national JAFL legal counsel was first appointed by Mayor Joseph Aliotti in 1975 and subsequently reappointed to four additional four-year terms. He also served the commission as president in 1977, 1980, and 1985-87. Yamasaki is active with the American Cancer Society and currently chairs its statewide Public Issues Committee. He also serves on the Japanese Chamber of Commerce of Northern California, Japan Society of Northern California, San Francisco History Museum and the U.S. District Court Historical Society. . . . **Deborah F. Ching** of the Chinatown Service Center is president of the Los

Angeles Asian Pacific Planning Council, which was established in 1976 and now comprised of some 60 human services organizations and agencies in Los Angeles County. She succeeds **Bong Hwan Kim** of Korean Youth Center.

HONORS

• The Washington, D.C.-based Advocates for Highway Safety, an alliance of consumer safety and insurance groups, honored **Rep. Norman Mineta** for his outstanding leadership during the deliberations on the 1991 highway bill. Signed by President Bush, the six-year, \$150-billion legislation, with numerous highway and auto safety measures, includes encouragement of state safety belt and motorcycle helmet use laws, use of air bags and anti-lock brakes in all cars, vans and light trucks, better child booster seats and a stronger anti-drunk driving programs.

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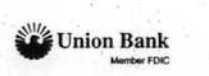
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FUJIMORI

(Continued from page 4)

of April 13 would be made significant by the presence of Secretary of State James Baker III, his first, it was recalled. Baker told the OAS foreign ministers that his can be "no business as usual with a Peru that isolates itself from the international community." Earlier, Peruvian foreign minister, Augusto Blacker M. made an impassioned plea for understanding of the situation that induced President Fujimori to suspend the constitution to deal with drug-trafficking, terrorism and poverty, "but not the democratic process."

After reading the text of President Fujimori's April 5 manifesto in the *L.A. Peruvian Times*, Luis

Yamakawa admitted his earlier statement about Fujimori's actions were premature (see P.C. April 10). And a congressional law, as mentioned in the manifesto, was promulgated to give the Congress control over the normative acts of the President (Law No. 25398), which Fujimori called an irresponsible attitude.

Spanish-language TV news-casts from the streets of Lima also showed "Fujimori had the support of the people on the street," Yamakawa continued. Public opinion polls confirmed more than 70% of those polled supported Fujimori's latest efforts, he added.

Of the national emergency, Fujimori said tougher laws were needed and an effective court sys-

tem established to combat the terrorists. The National Palace of Justice is like a "market where you could buy a supreme court justice for \$20,000 - \$50,000," Fujimori remarked in his April 8 speech, the first since the Sunday night manifesto.

"For the people, what has happened—instead of a break in democratic order—is a break in the chain of corruption," he declared. "Our final objective is democracy. Peru will not stop belonging to the democratic family of the continent. Have no doubts, democracy is the best of systems, when it works authentically as such—not when it is only a formality used precisely to consecrate anti-democratic privileges."

—By Harry K. Honda

MOSHI MOSHI

(Continued from page 4)

eliminated by degrees as the level of national education rose. By the time I came to America very few books and magazines were rubied. Then came the TV and comics. More and more young have been lured away from the print media, and more and more of them have become kanji-illiterate. Resuscitating the *rubi* from 70 years of suspended animation was a desperate business move, but it turned out to have been a stroke of genius. More and more books and periodicals are using *rubi*. Next year, even elementary textbooks will be rubied.

revival came from the Japanese translation of "Finnegan's Wake," the second foreign language translation of the classic in the world after the French. It is all-rubied, and a best seller.

Does rubbing texts eliminate the kanji troubles for Japanese studies? Not quite. While you now know at a glance how words and phrases are read, you still may need to look up their meanings. The definitions in kana-entry dictionaries are still in unrubied kanji-kana.

Still the revival of *rubi* is a great boon to the students of Japanese, especially those who are trying to teach themselves. I know there are quite a few Samsel and Yonsei out there who already have the basics of the language and would like to expand their knowledge and be able to read Japanese more freely.

Strangely the Japanese response to the growing importance and prestige of their own language has been complacent and unimaginative. There still is considerable room for improvement of teaching methods and materials. I wonder if they are thinking of hand script entry computer dictionary, or compiling a more comprehensive Romaji-entry, Romaji-definition Japanese-English dictionaries and Romaji definition English-Japanese dictionaries. (There is one: Morio Takahashi's "Romanized Japanese-English Dictionary," 1938. It enjoyed some popularity after the war.) I am hoping some Samsel or Yonsei will take up these ideas.

Whether they will or not, I wish to extend to them my most sincere felicitations for their ambition and effort. ☺

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Obituaries

Arima, Thomas Noboru, 68, El Cerrito, March 30; Long Beach-born member of Contra Costa JACL, Berkeley Buddhist Church, National JACL 1000 Club Life Trust Committee; survived by sons Steven, Allen (both Chicago), Craig (Gardena), 4 grandchildren, brother Jim (Gardena), sister Rose Ieri (Sacramento).
Anahar, David Seiji, 55, Sacramento, Jan. 15; Menlo Park-born, survived by mother Masako, son Edwin, Mark (Annapolis, Md.), brothers Francis N., Paul K., sister Carol Matsuka wa (Salt Lake City), Joan Kawamura, Lois Yuki.
Furusakura, Mae M., Thousand Oaks, Feb. 26; San Pedro-born; San Fernando Valley retired landscaper/gardener, survived by wife Emiko, son Don, daughter Susan, brothers Nob, Tom, sisters Janet/Sakamoto, Lilly Shibuya.
Hattori, Arthur I., 73, Monterey Park, Feb. 26; Salinas-born, survived by wife Akiko, son Ronald, daughter Joan Tomita, 3 grandchildren, brother George, sisters Tsuyako Hanada, Mary Usui, brothers-in-law Takeo and Kazuo Shibata.

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Ikata, Sueo Buddy, 76, Portland, Feb. 7; owner of Abee Supply Co., survived by wife Sumiko, son Ronald, daughters Patricia (Booth) (Seattle), Janice, 5 grandchildren, 2 great-grandchildren, brother Hirosaki (Gresham), sisters Sumiko Ando (Gresham), Ayako Fujimura (Tokyo).

In memoriam
Nelson Yamamoto
Los Angeles Sheriff's Deputy
Nelson Yamamoto, 26, was buried April 7 at Green Hills Mortuary with more than 4,000 law enforcement officers, family and friends in attendance.
The young officer died March 31 of gunshot wounds suffered while he was investigating a disturbance call in Walnut Park.
Yamamoto, a Torrance resident, was engaged to high school sweetheart Michele Tornei, 25. He is survived by his parents, Henry and Jane Yamamoto, both JACL members; a sister, Grace Ann (Du Vall) and a brother, Louis.

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Selki, Kameyo, 90, Gardena, March 7 (funeral); Yamaguchi-born, survived by daughter Aneko K. Selki, Florence Nomura, 8 grandchildren, 8 great-grandchildren.
Takaki, Yuzo Bob, 74, Gardena, Feb. 26; Montebello-born, survived by wife Yoshiko, daughter Junko Naguchi, Mari Inai, 4 grandchildren, sister Toshiyuki (San Jose).
Tsujioka, Kazuo, 65, Dos Monas, Wash., Feb. 20; Auburn-born post-WWII veteran, survived by wife Harumi, son Cole, daughter Tammi (Seattle), Gail (Auburn), brother Stan, 7 sisters, Koko Sutton, Eiko Yoshida, Toshiko Sato, Usako Funai (all Seattle), Takao Yasumura (Fremont, Calif.), Masako Tanaka (Auburn, Wash.) and Yume Yamashita (Berkeley).
Umemoto, Kaz, 66, Los Angeles, Feb. 29; Los Angeles-born architect, Democratic National Committee member 1968-1991, 442nd veteran, survived by wife Teruko, sons Steve, Keith, daughter Yukiko Ann, 2 grand-children, brother Masayuki, sister Kimiko Kiuchi, Kiyoko Takayama.

Yamaguchi, Dorothy A., 74, Seattle, Feb. 9; Seattle-born, last-born of 7th Was Minidoka, based on her 1965 slide-show she produced of WWII camp life, survived by 4 sons Ken H. (Bellevue), Dennis, Fred (Renton), Gordon (Olympia), daughter Sue Yamaguchi Wong, 6 grandchildren, brother George, sister Jeanne Ayako Akaye (Torrance, Canada), husband Jack processed her in 1965.

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