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Mei Nakano: A new PC voice —page 7

Tribute

THURGOOD MARSHALL

Justice in his time

By **DENNIS HAYASHI**
JACL national director

By now, there have been numerous tributes, both spoken and written, given in honor of Supreme Court Justice Thurgood Marshall, who died on January 24. And rightly so. For Justice Marshall was more than just the conscience of the Supreme Court; he was the conscience of the country.

It strikes me as ironic that Justice Marshall's death occurred precisely at the time that a major controversy about lifting the ban on gays in the military should arise. During the past two weeks, there have been suggestions that segregated units and facilities should be established for them, in much the same manner that African Americans and Japanese Americans were placed in segregated units during World War II.

Although I don't know for sure I would strongly suspect that Justice Marshall would have been adamantly opposed to such an arrangement. For it was his work as counsel for the NAACP Legal Defense and Education Fund that knocked out the underpinnings from the legal doctrine of "separate but equal."

Indeed, if Justice Marshall stood for anything it was that "separate but equal" is an oxymoron. As a lawyer, he brought cases which attacked a whites-only electoral primary, restrictive covenants in property contracts, segregated

See MARSHALL/page 4

Issues

Gays in the military

Civil rights on trial?

By **GWEN MURANAKA**
Assistant editor

From former slaves who fought and died in the Civil War to Japanese Americans of the 100th and 442nd during World War II, minorities have long fought with distinction and valor even as they were persecuted for being different. Now with President Clinton's decision to lift the ban on gays and lesbians in the military, the nation is once again debating the right of a minority to fight and die for their country. For Japanese Americans watching the issue unfold, the matter of equal rights and opportunity for homosexuals is reminiscent of their own struggles.

"Mr. Clinton made a promise to the gay and lesbian community and he intends to keep the promise," Martin Kazu Hiraga said. A homosexual, Hiraga is on the frontline of the fight for gay and lesbian rights as director of the anti-violence and privacy projects for the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force (NGLTF). Last year, he was one of the participants in a workshop on homosexuals in the Nikkei community at the JACL national convention in Denver. He also works with the organization on its national coalition against hate crimes.

While the Clinton administration has reached a compromise with Senate Armed Services Chairman Sam Nunn (D-Ga.) and military leaders to wait six months before lifting the ban, opposition within the military still remains strong. Speaking to *Newsweek*, Gen. Gordon Sullivan, Army chief of staff, said, "Up and down the chain of command, you'll find the military leadership favors the ban."

Hiraga, countering military opposition to gays in the armed forces, said, "Lesbians and gay men are already in the military, they've been there all along. Even members of my family who served in the Korean War or World War II said they knew people who were gay and lesbian," said Hiraga. "Clinton is seeking to overturn centuries of bigotry. We are urging that he be deliberate but move with all deliberate speed."

To Trisha Murakawa, JACL vice president, planning and development, the issue of gays in the military is a non-issue. "On the issue

See GAY/page 4

'Mr. Clinton made a promise to the gay and lesbian community and he intends to keep the promise.'
—Martin Kazu Hiraga

'Gays should have the right to serve in the military, just give them regular legal status.'
—Trisha Murakawa

"One of the issues that is always brought up is that the military is a combat unit—so that they must be cut some slack—but is it at the expense of civil liberties, and all these principles that we as a nation stand for?
—Bruce Yamashita

Lesson plan: Teaching the internment experience

A one-day conference called "Teaching About the Internment of Japanese Americans" has been organized to provide educators with the knowledge and techniques to use the lessons of this experience as positive learning experiences for elementary and secondary school students.

The conference, set for March 20 in Albany, Calif., is the second of its kind sponsored by the National Coalition for Redress/Reparation, a civil rights organization. The event has received support from state agencies, statewide organizations and communities of color, according to Lucy Hamai, a librarian and former internee who is organizing the conference.

The California State Board of Education's History-Social Science Framework for California Public Schools, the state's guide to history and social science curricula for elementary and second schools, specifies teaching about the internment of Japanese Americans not only in discussing U.S. history, but also using the issues related to internment to teach students about topics such as immigration and constitutional rights, Hamai said.

Back to school

WHAT: "Teaching About the Internment of Japanese Americans"

WHEN: 3 p.m., Saturday, March 20

WHERE: Albany Middle School, 1000 Jackson St., Albany, Calif.

AUDIENCE: educators, administrators, parents, and other concerned individuals.

COST: $20 per person—includes lunch and raffle ticket. Register by March 6

INFORMATION: Lucy Hamai, 510/559-6540 (days) or 510/524-2093 (evenings)

Although these agencies and concerned individuals are urging teachers to educate students about internment, state-approved curriculum materials are oftentimes inadequate in their coverage of this topic.

IIYAMA

Conference organizers hope that the peer advice and support, the sample lessons, and introduction to resources and materials on the internment will help educators meet the goals and intent of the state's framework.

"I've always felt the internment should be taught in the classroom," said Hamai. "This workshop is valuable because there's a need for this kind of in-service for people to successfully teach this topic. This workshop allows teachers to hear first-hand about what happened and get guidance from top-notch teachers who have already successfully integrated the subject into their classroom studies."

Among the speakers will be Chizu Iiyama, Contra Costa Chapter, JACL, member, educator and longtime community activist who was sent to the Topaz internment camp during World War II. She was a senior at U.C., Berkeley, in 1942 when the order came for the incarceration of Japanese Americans. With the help of her professors, she graduated before she was forced into camp.

At elementary and secondary workshops, conference participants will learn more about the Japanese American internment experience and how to integrate it into class lessons. Carole Chin, a fourth grade teacher at Malcolm X School in Berkeley, and Chiyomi Masuda, a sixth grade teacher at Albany Middle School and a member of

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Calendar

Massachusetts

Cambridge

Thurs.-Sat., Feb. 25-27—Dance Umbrella presents dance/theatre artists Yukie Shiroma and June Watanabe in Company, Emerson Majestic Theatre. Tickets: $18, $14, and $10, Ticketpro, 617/ 492-7578.

Michigan

Detroit

Sunday, Feb. 21—Detroit Chapter, JACL kicks off its membership campaign with a social hour and bento box dinner, Cherry Blossom Restaurant, 43588 W. Oaks Dr., Novi, 4 p.m. Reservations highly recommended. Cost: Adults, $16.50; children, $7.50. Information: Ernie Otani, 313/ 947-0108.

Saturday, March 20—Detroit Chapter, JACL annual installation dinner, Hotel Baronnette, Novi. Japanese banquet, speakers and cost to be announced. Information: Mary Kamidoi, 313/ 522-7917.

Illinois

Chicago

Saturday, Feb. 6—Chicago Chapter, JACL, JASC and Heiwa Terrace sponsor a seminar on long-term care, Heiwa Terrace, 929 W. Lawrence, Chicago, 1 p.m. Free. Information: 312/ 728-7171.

Saturday, Feb. 13—Asian American Coalition of Chicago's 10th anniversary Lunar New Year Celebration, Hyatt Regency O'Hare, Grand Ball Room, 9300 W. Bryn Mawr Ave., Rosemont, Illinois, 6 p.m. Cost: $35. Keynote speaker: Rep. Jay Kim. Honorees include: Kiyo Yoshimura and Bill Yoshino. Information: Soo Young Suh, 708/ 420-8774, 708/ 979-7746.

Arizona

Phoenix

Saturday, Feb. 6—Arizona Chapter, JACL hosts the PSW district meeting, Radisson Phoenix Hotel, 3333 E. University, Phoenix, 1 p.m. Dinner and show following meeting, Rocking R Ranch, $18. Registration: $5. Reservations: 602/ 437-8400. Information: Carol Saito, 213/ 626-4471.

Sat.-Sun., Feb. 20-21—Arizona Chapter, JACL, Japan-America Society of Phoenix and others host, Matsuri, a Festival of Japan, Heritage Square, 7th St. and Monroe, 10 a.m. Free. Food, entertainment, arts and crafts.

Oregon

Portland

Sunday, Feb. 28—Epworth United Methodist Church's 100th anniversary banquet, Red Lion Lloyd Center, 5:30 p.m. Public invited. Information: Rev. Gary Oba, 503/ 232-5253.

California

Sacramento

Wednesday, Feb. 17—Sacramento Chapter, JACL, celebrates "Day of Remembrance 1993," Sacramento Japanese United Methodist Church, 6929 Franklin Blvd., 7:30 p.m. Honorees include: State Sen. Patrick Johnston, Veterans of Foreign Wars, and NAACP.

Sunday, Feb. 21—Asian Pacific Islander Legislative Conference, Sacramento Convention Center, 1400 J St., 8 a.m. Cost: $25. Information: Jeanne Kuwabara, 916/ 448-3215.

Saturday, March 6—Sacramento Chapter, JACL, Japanese Cultural and Community Center of Northern California, 1840 Sutter St., 2 p.m. Keynote speaker: Pedro Noguera, member, Berkeley school board. Information: NCRR, 415/ 922-1534.

Saturday, March 27—Sequoia Chapter JACL's annual crab and spaghetti fundraiser, Palo Alto Buddhist Temple, Louis Rd., 5 p.m. Information: Don Miyamoto, 408/ 738-4334 or Tats Hori, 415/ 948-6575. JACL officers to be installed.

Los Angeles

Friday, Feb. 12—Greater L.A. Singles JACL monthly meeting, Founders Savings & Loan, Gramercy and Redondo Beach Blvd., Gardena, 7 p.m. Dance lessons. Information: Joyce Kuruma 310/ 691-9686.

Saturday, Feb. 13—Nisei Veterans Committee, Nisei Veterans Memorial Center, 1212 Bruning St., 6:30 p.m. Cocktails, 7:30 p.m. dinner. Cost: $25. Information: JACL office, 916/ 447-0231; or Toko Fujii 916/ 441-7900, 916/ 421-2112, eves.

Thursday, Feb. 28—Florin Buddhist Church Dharma School's 10th annual crab feed, Florin Y.B.A. Hall, 7235 Pritchard Rd., 5 p.m. Cost: $22. Dinner and dance. Information: 916/ 383-1831.

San Jose

Sunday, April 18—Yu Ai-Kai's 14th annual benefit luncheon and fashion show, Red Lion Inn, San Jose. Tickets: $35. Tickets available now at the Yu Ai-Kai office, 565 N. 5th St. Information: 408/ 294-2505.

San Francisco

Sat.-Sun., Feb. 13-14—Asian Improv aRts' (AIR) "Concerts of Remembrance," 2 p.m. Feb. 13th-Lake Park United Methodist Church, 281 Santa Clara Ave., Oakland; Feb. 14th-Pine United Methodist Church, 426 33rd Ave., San Francisco. Tickets: $10 at door/ $8 advance, 415/ 221-2606.

Sat.-Sun., Feb. 13-14—The National Japanese American Historical Society sponsors a Kanojo spring fashion show, Miyako Hotel, San Francisco, 1 p.m., both days. Free. Information: NJAHS, 415/ 431-5007.

Saturday, Feb. 20—NCRR sponsors Day of Remembrance celebration, Japanese Cultural and Community Center of Northern California, 1840 Sutter St., 2 p.m. Keynote speaker: Pedro Noguera, member, Berkeley school board. Information: NCRR, 415/ 922-1534.

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1000 Club: Hiroshi Shinmoto
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Sunshine: Katy Komure
Redress: Hideo Morinaka
Newsletter: Katy Komure

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1000 Club: Roy Hatamiya
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Recognition chair: George Inouye
Scholarship: Kashiwa Hatamiya
Legacy Endowment Fund: Frank Nakamura
Education chair: Tosh Sano
Redress/Civil Rights: Mariam Hatamiya
Newsletter: Yuki Kyono
TV/Video Equipment: George Inouye
Health commissioner: George Nakao
Official delegates: Fred Okimoto, Miriam Hatamiya

Photo: Jem Lew

LINEUP—MIS officers for 1993 are, from left, Ken Akune, historian; Frank Hayashi, social chair; George Kanegai, reunion chair, and his wife Toy; Sho Nomura, vice president; Joe Nakamura, chaplain; Mits Usui, newsletter; Jim Mita, president; Victor Abe, treasurer; and Cathy Tanaka, secretary.

Hakujin MIS vet addresses buddies

By **Harry Honda**

SANTA MONICA—Dempster Dirks, Ph.D., the Angeleno "hakujin" MISLS graduate in 1943, was tempted to speak in Nihongo at the Military Intelligence Service Club of Southern California Shinnen-enkai (New Year's party) here at the Bay View Holiday Inn last Sunday (Jan. 31) but prudently differed as the topic was certainly not "military" in nature. It was on the personal revolution engaging the senior citizen today.

He reviewed the foibles facing the elderly, suggested how they can keep going and to keep up with the world. "We're our own architects. We have to depend on ourselves," he counseled. Most of the 150 present were seniors.

Referring to the list of WWII veterans who served overseas which appeared in the 1992 *Pacific Citizen* Holiday Issue, Col. Young Oak Kim (ret.) of the 100th/442nd/MIS Memorial Foundation noted the inquiries and corrections continue to "flood" the Names Selection Committee. "At least 50 percent of the MIS veterans whose first names were but initials in the first list have been identified," Kim remarked and he hoped the rest will be identified this coming year.

Special presentations were made by MIS Club president Jim

See MIS/page 5

Library leaders

Officers and board members of the Friends of Little Tokyo Branch Library, Los Angeles, were recently installed. Front row, from left, are Lynn Nishikawa, 3rd vice president; Art Tomura, treasurer; Irene Murashige, corresponding secretary; Janet Minami, president; Ron Hirano, 1st vice president; and Miye Yoshida, 2nd vice president. In back row, from left, are Michiko McNight, hospitality, Tomiye Yonemoto, publicity, Marian Kadomatsu, building expansion. Sue Fujii, historian; Harry Baba, membership; Yoshiko Solomon, board member; Susan Thompson, board member; Sue Embrey, news; Jean Miyamoto, board member, and Carolyn Kobayashi, volunteers. Not pictured are Joy Yamauchi, recording secretary; and Marie Doizaki and Kazuko Mitsuoka, board members.

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GAY

(Continued from page 1)

itself, gays should have the right to serve in the military, just give them regular legal status," said Murakawa, who is chairwoman of Pacific Southwest District's Civil Rights Caucus. At the same time, Murakawa questioned Clinton's decision to take on the issue right now. "Choosing that as the first issue to take on, when there are more more important issues—and then making a compromise—I think that his decisions was influenced politically. He should just do it," said Murakawa.

Dennis Hayashi, JACL national director, said that at this time JACL is not making an opinion on the inclusion of gays in the military. The national director said that JACL is waiting until the upcoming Senate hearings before drafting an opinion.

However, JACL has been aboard on the broader issue of gay and lesbian rights. At the 1988 JACL national convention in Seattle, the preamble to the constitution was changed to assert the rights of all people regardless of sexual orientation, age, sex, race, religion and disability.

Murakawa, who drafted the amendment as a member of the Nikkei Leadership Association, said that there was some opposition to the amendment. "Some didn't want to support it because of sexual orientation. It wasn't the only issue that was changed, but that was the one people didn't support."

Bruce Yamashita, who is suing the Marine Corps for reinstatement, has first hand knowledge of discrimination in the military.

"I was not surprised at all by Gen. Colin Powell's opposition to (gays in the military)," said Yamashita. "They are slow when it comes to these sort of matters. Relating back to my case, I was told by marine officers that racial remarks were acceptable, that they always occurred and were used to toughen us up."

Yamashita was disenrolled from the Marines Corps officers training school in 1989. Later, the marines acknowledged that Yamashita was subject to racial slurs and told, "You know during World War II, we whipped your Japanese ass."

"One of the issues that is always brought up is that the military is a combat unit—so that they must be cut some slack—but is it at the expense of civil liberties, and all these principles that we as a nation stand for? The question is, where do you draw the line," said Yamashita, who supports the move to end the ban on gays.

Yamashita recalled an incident from his own training in which a white male officer candidate who seemed "slightly effeminate" was subject to comments by the sergeants.

"One of the sergeants came up to him in barracks and made some remark that he was effeminate. In retrospect, I wonder why they didn't make a big deal about it," said Yamashita. "Maybe for the sergeants homosexuality was too much to handle. Bashing an Asian, that they can handle. They didn't tear into him as much as they could have.

"Compared to what I experienced, they sort of left him alone. They were so uncomfortable with the issue (of homosexuality) that they opted to leave him alone," said Yamashita, speculating that the marine sergeants were unable to cope with homosexuality because it is so counter to the macho image of the marines.

Yamashita sees issues like gays in the military and his own case of racial discrimination as a way of hopefully opening up a closed system.

"There's going to be a whole lot of changes, the slashing of the budget, the Tailhook scandal, the end of the ban on gays, the military is going to have to change just to survive," said Yamashita.

"The military is going to have to show the public that they deserve the bucks and convince the American people that they're fair and uphold principles that we hold dear."

Now as both sides of the issue gear up for what is sure to be continued heated debate over the next six months, Hiraga said that Japanese Americans in particular should have an understanding of what gays are fighting for. "Japanese Americans particularly understand because we have been denied those rights over and over again. We have been denied the right to work, live where we want to."

Hiraga praised Reps. Norman Mineta and Robert Matsui for writing a letter opposing measure 9 in Oregon and amendment 2 in Colorado, which sought to limit the civil liberties of gays and lesbians (see *Pacific Citizen* Oct. 23, 1992). "What they did is significant. It sent a message that it's not okay to defame any group of people. It was a clarion call to a community that has never said anything," Hiraga said

The director said that the people on the far right who opposed redress and civil rights are the ones who continue to oppose equal rights for gays and lesbians. "The same people who put my parents and many (PC) readers' parents in the internment camps are already out there in many communities organizing, telling people of color that lesbians and gays should not be considered true minorities," said Hiraga.

"I can only remind PC readers that Pat Buchanan openly declared war on lesbians and gay men (at the Republican National Convention)," said Hiraga. "It is reminiscent of another war time."

MARSHALL

(Continued from page 1)

busses, and most importantly, segregation in public schools in the renowned case, *Brown v. Board of Education*. It was during presentation of the argument before the Supreme Court in *Brown* that he stated in response to a question on what "equality" meant, "Equal means getting the same thing at the same time, and in the same place."

As a justice of the Supreme Court, Marshall often dissented in cases where the court's majority would try to scale back affirmative action and other legal remedies designed to eliminate racial discrimination. In *U.C. Davis v. Baake*, where the court held that a medical school's affirmative action program was unconstitutional, Justice Marshall declared that there was no more important interest for the state than to integrate blacks into the mainstream. In *City of Richmond v. Croson*, Justice Marshall criticized the court for adopting the naive view that racial discrimination was a thing of the past. "In constitutionalizing its wishful thinking, the majority today does a grave disservice not only to those victims of past and present racial discrimination . . . but also to this court's long tradition of approaching issues of race with the utmost sensitivity," he wrote.

But what I think was most important about Justice Marshall was that despite the prestige he held as a member of the Supreme Court and as a national public figure, he was always cognizant that the law was not simply a collection of abstract rules and principles, but a political instrument which carried very real consequences. This lead to his penchant for eliciting support for his legal positions by telling stories of common folks who were impacted by the law, often in a negative way. Whether describing his own arrest on a trumped-up drunken driving charge in the South or explaining how a young black had once told him that if reincarnation existed, he didn't care what he came back as, "just let it be white." Justice Marshall's stories were more than entertainment. Justice William Brennan described them this way, "The stories made us—his colleagues—confront walks of life we had never known."

As a public interest attorney, I and others were guided by Justice

'Equal means getting the same thing at the same time, and in the same place.'

—Thurgood Marshall

Marshall's humanitarian approach to the law. His struggles were about something more than racial justice; they were about establishing standards of dignity that would allow people to fight for themselves. By setting such standards, Justice Marshall left those of us engaged in civil rights advocacy a legacy and a challenge to close the persistent gap of inequality. As he so appropriately described it, "People are people—strike them, and they cry; cut them, and they will bleed; starve them, and they will whither away and die. But treat them with respect and decency, give them equal access to the levers of power, attend to their aspirations and grievances, and they will flourish and grow and, if you will excuse an ungrammatical phrase, join together to form ' a more perfect union.' " PC

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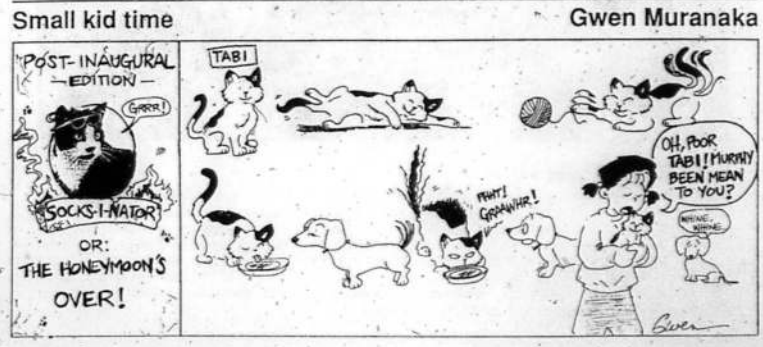
Small kid time — Gwen Muranaka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Owners decide to suspend Marge Schott for one year

Marge Schott, Cincinnati Reds owner, faces a one-year suspension from major league baseball, according to a report Feb. 1 in the *Los Angeles Times*. An official announcement was expected Feb. 3 in Chicago.

Quoting an unnamed team owner, the *Times* said baseball's ruling executive council decided to suspend Schott and could also fine the owner up to $250,000, for alleged and acknowledged racial remarks made by the Reds owner. According to an unnamed American League team owner, the penalty is final.

Robert Bennett, Schott's attorney, said that she is expected to fight the suspension and questioned the authority of the executive council to levy such penalties.

Heart Mountain homecoming

Branded as draft dodgers, ignored in the history books, the Heart Mountain Resisters invite the Japanese American community to hear their stories of their resistance to the wartime internment camps.

A ceremonial homecoming is scheduled to take place Sunday, Feb. 21, at 2 p.m. at the Centenary United Methodist Church, 300 Central Ave., Los Angeles.

The program recreates the plight of Japanese American men who resisted the draft and were subsequently convicted for draft evasion in 1944 and sentenced to average terms of two and a half years each.

Admission to the event is free.

Information: Paul Tsuneishi at 818/ 353-4359. PC

MIS

(continued from page 3)

Mita to Cathy Tanaka, who has assumed her father Soichi Fukui's role as MIS club secretary when he passed away in 1981, and to George Kanegai. Henry Kuwabara (Lt. Col., ret.) entertained with a reprise of his one-man skit presented at the 50th anniversary MIS reunion in Monterey. MISer Bruce Kaji gave an update on the Japanese American National Museum's Phase II project, its next major exhibit on the "Nisei Story," and on the public relations campaign underway in Little Tokyo, which has been hurting since the April riots.

Frank Hayashi, in charge of the door prizes, made certain everyone had won a gift with prize of the night, an elegant Hakata doll in a glass case, going at the final call of the evening. Mits Usui, MIS Newsletter editor, was emcee. PC

TEACHING

(Continued from page 1)

the state's Curriculum Commission, will discuss ways to teach about the Japanese American experience at the elementary level.

Paul DeWitt, a high school teacher and head of the Social Studies Department at Newark Memorial High School, will discuss how to integrate the subject of internment at the secondary level.

Offering perspectives on *Korematsu v. U.S.* will be Libia Yamamoto, a Japanese Peruvian who was forcibly taken from Peru and placed in a U.S. concentration camp during the war, and Rudy Tokiwa, a U.S. veteran who served in the 442nd Regimental Combat Team.

Representatives of the National Japanese American Historical Society will be on hand to offer for sale its numerous publications on the wartime internment and related topics, as well as representatives from Shen's Book, which specializes in books dealing with Asian American topics and history. PC

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Opinions

From the frying pan

BILL HOSOKAWA

Restaurant reputations

Not infrequently, at the suggestion of the lady of our household who is responsible for preparing meals, we jump into the car at suppertime and drive to a small neighborhood Japanese restaurant called Namiko's. It is a clean and pleasant place. The proprietors, who wait tables and even sub for the cook on occasion, are two Japan-born ladies. By working long and hard hours and smiling a lot they have survived some rather rough early days to develop a business that, judging from the number of guests, is now doing fairly well.

Most of the guests are not ethnic Japanese. There are not enough of us hereabouts to maintain the solvency of all the Japanese restaurants around town if we were the only patrons. Namiko's has developed a multi-ethnic clientele with a fondness for its menu which is far from fancy but at the same time close enough to the authentic stuff to attract both Japanese Americans and the many Japanese Japanese who lately have become part of the community.

But I digress. I had wanted to write about another matter.

Just after one turns off the main highway to enter the shopping center that houses Namiko's, there is another restaurant which specializes in ribs and stuff like that. I do not know how well it is doing although there usually are a large number of cars parked around it. That's one indication that it's doing okay if not "not bad."

Although it is a pleasant-looking place, I have never been in this restaurant and chances are that I never will go there.

The reason is a friend who sometimes goes with us to Namiko's. Each time we leave the highway and drive by this other restaurant this friend points to it and says something like, "I'll never go to that place again. The food is lousy."

This friend enjoys good food and I respect her judgment about restaurants. One day recently I became curious about her dislike of this particular place and asked how long ago it had been when the restaurant disappointed her.

Well, it turned out that her visit had been some years ago. Considering the rate at which restaurants change hands these days, there seemed to have been a good possibility that there may have been several different ownerships, or managements, since her unfortunate encounter. Yet my friend had not forgotten her experience and the current proprietor, if indeed he were blameless, was still and unknowingly burdened by my friend's resentment.

People have long memories about slights and hurts and disappointments. My friend is not the vindictive type and not malicious either. But every time we drive by, an unpleasant memory is revived.

Moral: It doesn't pay to get people mad at you. PC

Hosokawa is the former editorial page editor of the Denver Post. His column appears weekly in the Pacific Citizen.

East Wind

BILL MARUTANI

Goin' like sixty

AS A YOUNGSTER back in the Pacific Northwest farm area, superspeed was articulated as "Goin' like sixty." Back in those days, 60 sure seemed mighty fast. It was, and still is. Most Nisei, at least in the rural areas picked up driving the old-fashioned way; they learned it on their own. No driving schools and all that sort of expense, nor did our high school provide auto driving classes as many do today. I don't recall the time when I received my driver's license, but I do recall how I first learned to guide a motorized vehicle: a Caterpillar tractor on a farm; the kind that had tracks such as on military tanks. It had, as I recall, just two levers which were pulled back, depending on whether one wished to go left or right. (Sure could use one of those to fight some of that traffic I run into nowadays.)

All of which brings me up to the current times.

TODAY, I'M AMAZED by the speed of at which automobiles and trucks, including 20-wheeled tractor-trailer rigs, barrel down the expressways, freeways, turnpikes and its may be as high as 55 mph, in order to remain with the traffic flow and avoid becoming a traffic hazard, I find that the speedometer has to be reading 70 mph or so. Even then others shoot past, including Ford Festivas, Hyundais, VW's—and every so often those 20-wheeler rigs blowing by, leaving a turbulence of air that momentarily causes your vehicle to shudder. These tractor-trailer operators drive right up to the rear of your vehicle, at times with their headlights on in broad daylight, sending a not-so-subtle message "either step on it or get out of the way." And already I'm going well over the posted speed limit.

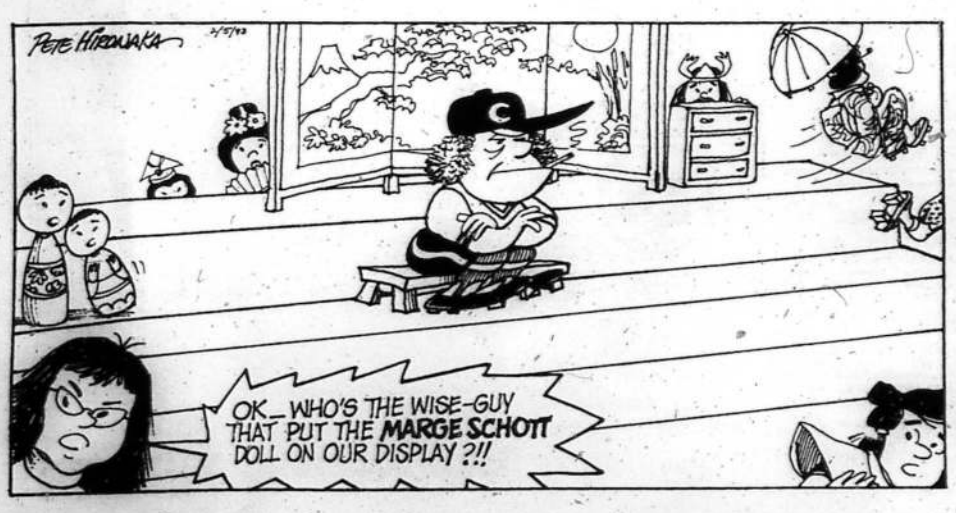
Perhaps the same thing has happened to a few of you out there.

MAYBE IT'S BECAUSE, along with other Nisei, I've reached that age where I'm in no big hurry to get from point "A" to point "B." Although, here again, I find that those jackrabbit drivers—the ones that "lay rubber" as soon as the traffic light turns green—do not get to point "B" very much faster than I do. For when I reach the next traffic light, there's jackrabbit, again waitready to lay rubber, and down the road again braking for the yellow-about-to-turned light. Burning up rubber then wearing down his brake drums (or discs), and wasting a lot of gasoline in the course of all this.

IT'S NO LONGER limited to "him" or "his" anymore; I am now finding more and more "she's" doing the same thing. The first time I was exposed to such a "she" was when I observed this long-tressed driver weaving and passing vehicles left and right along the highway. At first I thought it was just another of those long-haired male jockeys until we reached the next traffic stop and I glanced to my right: it was a woman driver. Call me "sexist" if you must, but that's the way it was.

I'VE GOTTA SAY that the Nikkei lady drivers, at least the ones whose vehicles in which I've been a passenger, have all been excellent drivers. I don't tighten up. And that, by the way, includes my roommate, the frau. PC

Marutani is a retired judge of the Court of Common Pleas in Philadelphia. His col-



JACL views

Agents for change

By **KAREN NARASAKI**
JACL Washington, D.C., representative

The last two weeks in January in the nation's capital were full of excitement, anticipation, frustration, sadness and reflection. January 20 brought the inauguration of a new president and January 24 brought the death of a civil rights giant, Justice Thurgood Marshall. Both events represent a shift in respectability for national leadership to a new generation.

I stood in the cold, crisp air with thousands of other people waiting to see the swearing in ceremonies for President Clinton and Vice President Gore. Even though we had to stand for hours and were so far away that the people on the podium were barely visible, we all wanted to share this historic moment. The elation of the mostly Democratic crowd was palpable. The Republicans in the group cracked jokes, but could not hide their excitement. The smooth transition of power was an awesome testament to our country's political system. As I listened to President Clinton's speech, I wondered about what role the Asian Pacific American community would have in shaping the changes President Clinton has envisioned for the American people.

The Asian Pacific American community had come together earlier during the inaugural festivities to celebrate its participation in the election and to plan for the future. More than 1,000 Asian Pacific Americans attended the official inaugural reception hosted by Congressmen Norman Mineta and Robert Matsui. The celebration was marred only by the fact that neither the president nor the vice-president attended, although the reception had been on their schedule. Neither made it to the Hispanic gala later that evening, despite hopeful pronouncements by the host committee. The lack of attendance is symbolic of the fact that both the Asian Pacific American community and the Hispanic community remain largely only on the threshold of real political influence.

This lack of clout is one of the reasons why Reps. Patsy Mink, Mineta and Matsui joined more than 500 Asian Pacific American political activists at a breakfast billed as a kickoff for a national non-partisan Asian American Political Action Committee. While it remains to be seen whether Asian Pacific Americans will be able to overcome ethnic, regional and partisan divisions and form a successful PAC, the attempt is an important step in strengthening the political influence of the community.

The following week, along with more than 4,000 other individuals, I attended funeral services for the late Supreme Court Associate Justice Thurgood Marshall. As I sat under the soaring arches of the Washington National Cathedral, I listened to the people around me talk about what Justice Marshall had meant to them. Many had worked with him; many had admired his work from afar. I marveled at the diversity of the crowd. People from all ages, occupations and backgrounds had come to pay their respects to the man who helped to bring the issue of civil rights and civil liberties to the forefront of the American consciousness.

In his eulogy, former Urban League president, Vernon E. Jordan Jr., stated that Marshall was "a role model whose career made us dream large dreams and work to secure them. An agent of change who transformed the way an entire generation thought of itself, its place in our society, and of the law itself." As I listened to the eulogies, I wondered whether anyone would be able to fill the shoes of such an extraordinary human being.

There are many connections between Justice Marshall and the new administration. As one of the eulogists noted, the school desegregation case for which Justice Marshall is best known involved a school district in Little Rock, Ark. Thurgood Marshall originally was slated to swear in Vice President Al Gore, but had become too

See AGENTS/page 7

Voices

Bright morning

By MEI NAKANO

An air of freedom, of liberation, cultivates the ground for poetry and fiction. And these works, more than any other, I think, become part of the American psyche.

Maya Angelou, storyteller, actress, poet, sparked the recent inaugural events with a reading of her newly-minted poem. Even on the screen, you felt the largeness of her spirit, her extraordinary presence. When I met her once in passing some time ago, I thought she carried those qualities by birthright, like royalty.

Not so, it seems. Barefoot poor, she had been shunted from pillar to post in her youth. At age eight, she was raped. Afterwards, she didn't speak for five years.

It strikes me that Angelou's life is an apt metaphor for what has happened to fiction writers of color. Oppressed (abused) by racism, they were rendered mute, as it were, until the liberating movements of the '60s and '70s.

Take, for instance, the case of African American writers. Not until recently have they gained the respect and attention they deserve. I never read Langston Hughes, Richard Wright or Zora Neale Hurston in high school, nor did I ever spot their works on library shelves. Fact is, I never even heard of them until the '70s. After that, of course, black writers unleashed a barrage of dazzling works, writers like Alice Walker and Toni Morrison leading the pack.

In the wake of the liberation, a few imaginative works of Japanese Americans appeared: Monica Sone's seminal novel *Nisei Daughter*, the finely-honed poetry of Janice Mirikitani and Mitsuye Yamada, and John Okada's moving *No-No Boy*, among others. These works moved largely in the limited Asian marketplace.

By way of contrast, contemporary Sansei writers like Cynthia Kadohata, Karen Tei Yamashita, R.A. Sasaki and Gail Tsukiyama have penetrated the mainstream market. Fine poets Garrett Hongo and Lawson Inada are slowly making their mark (poetry, you understand, being one of those grossly undervalued labors). Playwright Philip Gotanda's *The Wash* became a film of some repute and a host of other writers, like Greg Uba, work at poetry and short story writing. Before their generation is done, I believe they will, at the very least, produce a couple of major works—that is, works that influence the American mind.

But generations had less to do with creative output than the atmosphere, the ambience, that prevailed in the creator's yard. It took four generations plus for African American imaginative writers to hit their stride, three for Japanese Americans. And now, we see *second* generation Chinese Americans like Amy Tan and Maxine Hong Kingston hitting mainstream, big time. It's clear that an emergent air of freedom, of respect and appreciation for diversity are what kindled the artists' fire.

So, we can take heart in this time and place. Things have changed a whole lot for people of color, if not to the point of satisfaction, at least to one that frees us to stretch our imaginations and speak. We hear Maya Angelou's injunction:

Lift up your faces, you have a piercing need
For this bright morning dawning for you.
History, despite its wrenching pain,
Cannot be unlived, and if faced
With courage, need not be lived again.

(From *On the Pulse of the Morning*, read at the presidential inauguration.)

Nakano, Nisei author of "Japanese American Women: Three Generations," is presently working on a book about her father. Her column will appear monthly in the Pacific Citizen.

AGENTS

(Continued from page 6)

ill to attend the ceremony. One of Justice Marshall's sons, Thurgood Marshall Jr., known as "Goody" to his friends, was recently appointed Legislative Affairs Coordinator for Vice President Gore. Half African American and half Filipino American, Thurgood Marshall Jr. has a heavy legacy to follow.

The inaugural fireworks, bell ringing, galas and other hoopla have built up a high degree of optimism and expectation. President Clinton has promised to focus on rebuilding America's economic infrastructure and has preached racial tolerance. Elected as an agent of change, his mandate is to reverse the decline of our economy, cities and schools, and to create a more just and effective health care system. However, as Justice Marshall has said, the law can do much to tear down barriers, but it is all of us who must work together to build the bridges that are necessary to achieving true social and economic justice. I hope we are all up to the task.

Narasaki's column appears regularly in the Pacific Citizen.

PC deadline reminder

Pacific Citizen's editorial and advertising deadlines are on Fridays at 4 p.m.

Mondays and Tuesdays are productions days when the issue is laid out, proofed and corrected.

PC Classified Advertising

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8—Personal

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Obituaries

Abe, Reo, 81, Alhambra, Dec. 10; Del Rey-born, survived by wife Marie, son Richard, daughters Joyce Holway, Caroline Taft, Linda Abe, brothers George (Selma), Herschel (Texas), sisters Mary Hattori (Jpn), Elaine Matsuyama, Helen Okazaki.

Akaba, Tadashi, 78, Stockton, Dec. 19; Stockton-born, survived by wife Hoshiko, brothers Fujio, Yutaka, Kenji, sister Ruth Akaba.

Arakawa, Betty Y, 58, Los Angeles, Dec. 11; Lihue-born Sansei, survived by husband Hideo, son Randall, daughter Natsue (San Bernardino), 1 gc, brother & sister in Hawaii.

Doi, Tome, 94, San Jose, Dec. 25; Hiroshima-born, survived by sons Masaaki, Jim, Minoru, daughters Sadako Wiese, Miyuki Ishizuka, 13 gc., 9 great-gc.

Fujii, Carrie K, 77, Berkeley, Dec. 16; Oakland-born, survived by husband Shokichi, sons Gary, Roland.

Fujino, George I, 70, Emeryville, Dec. 20; California-born, survived by daughter Florence Kamigaki (Stockton), 2 great-gc., sisters May Watanabe, Yuki Ishida, Shige Hayashi.

Gosho, Henry H, 71, Belmont, Ca., Dec. 26 of cancer; Seattle-born WWII MIS veteran in Burma campaign where he acquired the moniker "Horizontal Hank", retired State Dept. specialist, survived by wife Jeanne, son Merrill (Seattle), daughter Carol (Mill Valley), 4 gc., brother Hideo (Osaka), sister Marion (Seattle).

Hieda, Maki, 79, San Francisco, Dec. 17; Tokyo-born, survived by son Minekazu Jack, daughter Mineko Hieda, 2 gc., brother Shinzo Maruyama, sisters Nobuko Wakabayashi and Teruko Sato (both Jpn).

Kishimoto, Masashi, 82, Santa clara, Oct. 28; Santa Clara-born, survived by wife Matsuyo, son Richard, 3 gc., 6 great-gc.

Kishishita, Ted, 73, Lakewood, Dec. 19; Terminal Island-born Korean Conflict vet, survived by wife Sachiko, sons Ken (Washington, DC), Stephen, daughter June, 2 gc., brother Akira, sisters Yuriko Hamasaki, Aiko Kishishita, Mitsuyo Kakiba.

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ALVINA LUNA LEW

Funeral service for the late Mrs. Alvina Luna Lew, a 67 year-old San Francisco born native, resident of Long Beach who passed away on Friday, January 29, at Charter Suburban Hospital, will be held on Saturday, February 6, from 10:30 a.m. at Union Church of Los Angeles, 401 E. 3rd St., L.A., under the direction of Fukui Mortuary. The family requests that flowers please be omitted and donations be made to The Walter U. Lum Scholarship Fund Chinese American CitizenAlliance.
She is survived by her husband Jem Yin Lew, sons Melvin T., Rod and Scott P. Lew, daughters Laurie A. and Karen L. Lew of Kern Co., mother Mabel F. Lew; step-father George Lew Sr., brothers Walter J. (Maribel) Ng and George E. (Jeanne) Lew Jr., sister Joycelyne Lew, mother-in-law Mue Howe Lew.

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