



# Pacific Citizen

National Publication of the Japanese American Citizens League

Hate crimes  
pamphlet out  
—page 4

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Friday, May 21, 1993

## JACL supports DOE report on Connecticut discrimination case

The Department of Education (DOE) report that the Connecticut Board of Governors for Higher Education had discriminated against Asian Americans and Native Americans has been applauded by the Japanese American Citizens League (JACL).

In a press release from Boston, JACL said that the DOE's Office of Civil Rights (OCR) investigation stemmed from charges that both groups were excluded from the board's Minority Advancement Program.

The state-sponsored program is part of the board's plan to increase the number of minority students, faculty, administrators and staff in Connecticut's post-secondary education system.

OCR found that while the program benefited African Americans and Hispanics, it improperly excluded the participation of Asian Americans and Native Americans, and was therefore in violation of Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964.

OCR criticized the board's attempt to justify the exclusion based on statewide population data from the 1980 federal census. The board had argued that on a statewide basis, only African Americans and Hispanics were under-represented in student enrollment and employment in the state's higher education system, compared to their presence in the state population.

OCR examination of the data revealed discrepancies, including the board's methodology of using

See DOE/page 6

## University to establish Michi-Walter Weglyn Chair

POMONA, Calif.—The Michi Nishiura-Walter Weglyn Endowed Chair for Multicultural Studies will be established at Cal Poly Pomona, according to university president Dr. Bob H. Suzuki.

Athor Michi Weglyn will be conferred the honorary Doctor of Humane Letters from the California State University during the commencement for the College of Arts on Saturday, June 12, 4:30 p.m.

The \$1 million campaign for the endowed chair will be launched on Sunday, June 13.

"The Weglyns present a symbol of those who have been stalwart defenders of human rights and have been eyewitnesses to the suffering that can result when we fail to recognize the strength inherent in diversity," Dr. Suzuki commented. The Nishiura family was interned during WWII at Gila River, Ariz., while her husband, a chemist, was a WWII Holocaust survivor.

Her 1976 book, "Years of Infamy: The Untold Story of America's Concentration Camps," continues to be in print, proving what another author, James Michener, said in the introduction: "This book codifies and substantiates this remarkable episode in our national history... for this is a story that deserves telling."



WALTER and MICHİ WEGLYN  
Chair named in their honor

Changing  
Jap Rd. sign is...

## A tough battle in Texas towns

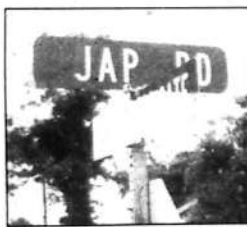
By GWEN MURANAKA  
Assistant editor

Down on Jap Road, things remain more or less the same. Jap Road in Beaumont, Texas, and Jap Lane in neighboring Vidor still stand—a testament to hatred, ignorance and fear. Sandra Tanamachi Nakata, Houston Chapter, JACL, member, and an elementary school teacher in Beaumont, recently garnered the support of James Turner, acting assistant attorney general, Civil Rights Division, U.S. Justice Department, in her quest to see the names changed.

Tanamachi Nakata has been concerned about the signs since early summer of 1992. It's been a difficult and lonely fight, but recently Turner wrote her a letter, saying, "In light of the World War II experience of Japanese Americans, the existence of streets named 'Jap Road' and 'Jap Street' (sic) is deplorable. Such names perpetuate racial stereotypes and encourage the prejudices that resulted in the internment fifty years ago."

Turner urged Mark Domingue, Jefferson County commissioner, to change the names saying, "It is crucial that they now be changed to reflect the progress our nation has made in civil rights, rather than continue to perpetuate bigotry and prejudice."

But the assistant attorney general's support isn't enough to bring the signs down. In fact, there seems to be growing resentment by some in the area who think Tanamachi Nakata and others trying to change the signs are outsiders who should mind their own business.



Jap Rd. in Beaumont, Texas, still stands despite efforts by local Nisei to change it.

Speaking to a local radio station, Domingue said, "The people pushing this project I think have done a poor job of communicating with the residents in that area about their concerns. I'm holding off to give them a chance to communicate those concerns to the residents and hopefully get some kind of consensus from the residents as to what they want to do because after all they live there." The county commissioner added that he believes the road name will eventually be changed, but he will not call a hearing on the subject with the other commissioners until Tanamachi Nakata speaks with residents on the road.

According to Mail box shows Jap Lane in Vidor, Texas. Nakata, a hearing with the commissioner's court has been set for July 12. Betty Waki, president, Houston Chapter, JACL, said she is planning to attend the hearing and is trying to get more support from the local media.

"It's hard for people in California to realize that there are parts of the country that are so isolated," said Waki. "Dealing with people like this is hard because they can hurt you—and not just emotionally."

An example of hostility toward Nakata Tanamachi and the name

"He said he uses the word Jap because that's the shortened way to say Japanese. I said that it's a racial slur. JPN is the official abbreviation for Japan that's used in the Olympics."

—Sandra Tanamachi Nakata

change was recently in the local newspaper. "Poor Sandra Nakata. The name of Jap Road offends her," writes Beaumont resident Billy Kinard in the May 15 edition of the *Beaumont Enterprise*. "I wonder how all the families touched

See ROAD/page 6

## On this radio show talk is cheap

From Rush Limbaugh to Howard Stern, radio has become increasingly provocative and controversial, with thresholds of taste and propriety challenged and crossed daily. But in the case of Al Caldwell, radio talkshow host on KLVY-AM560 in Beaumont, Texas, has the freedom of the airwaves become a pulpit for bigotry?

In a tape Sandra Tanamachi Nakata made May 11, Caldwell said, "I'm sure that more than one person out there has called a Yankee a Yank, just as I'm sure that more than one person out there has called a Japanese person a Jap. Now we have some Japanese people that are living out in that vicinity who have

been there for forty years and have never complained and are still not complaining. But does the group who is voicing this com-

plaint today live out there and if not, what business is it theirs?"

The talkshow host suggested a solution to Jap Road, saying, "Why don't you collectively get together and go ahead and buy out all the people who live on Jap Road at whatever price they ask for that land... Once you have purchased Jap Road and everybody has walked away with whatever price their pride, land and status as an American citizen is worth, once they have walked away with their money in their pocket, then you can go ahead and rename the road anything you want to."

"I know your first question is, well where in the world are we going to get that kind of money—well, you can borrow it from Honda."

In addition, during commercial spots for Boondocks Restaurant, which is located on Jap Road, Caldwell emphasizes the word, shouting out, "Jap Road. In defense, he said, 'Until they change the name, that's the phraseology I must use... It's not on Japanese Road, it's on Jap Road—J.A.P.'"

Tanamachi Nakata, reacting to the radio announcer, said simply, "That's why people are afraid."

## Murder cases come to trial

Following are two highly publicized murder cases involving Asians which recently went to trial.

● In a case, which focused intense attention in Japan on violence in America, Rodney Peairs, 31, the Baton Rouge, La., meat market manager accused of manslaughter for killing 16-year old exchange student Yoshi Hattori, recently went to trial, according to an Associated Press story.

Going to a Halloween party last year, Hattori and an American friend went to the wrong house and allegedly, when Peairs yelled "Freeze!", Hattori didn't understand and was shot.

Peairs maintains that he was trying to protect his family. In Japan, the death of Hattori has led to a focus not on Peairs but on the proliferation of guns in America.

See MURDER/page 3

## National Asian American group organized

More than 300 members of Congress, the Clinton Administration, civil rights organizations, the legal community, and the Asian Pacific American community came together May 13 in the Senate Dirksen Office Building in Washington, D.C., to officially open the National Asian Pacific American Legal Consortium, the first of its kind.

The consortium is a non-profit, non-partisan organization created to advance the legal and civil rights of the nation's 7.5 million

See GROUP/page 4

## First fellowship award announced

Saswatt Paul has been named the first national legal fellow of the National Asian Pacific American Legal Consortium, according to Phil Tajitsu Nash, executive director of the organization.

Paul will pursue research on issues such as anti-Asian violence at the Washington, D.C., office of the consortium.

"We are pleased to be hiring someone with knowledge of the issue areas we are pursuing, plus an awareness of the needs of the South Asian community in this country," said Nash.

Paul has a B.A. in economics from Yale University and received awards supporting public interest law at Northeastern University School of Law.

No. 2,711

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## Calendar

### Washington, D.C.

Sunday, May 30—Annual JACL memorial service at Arlington National Cemetery, Columbian Park, Courtyard, 10:30 a.m. Speaker: Rep. Norman Mineta. Wreathlaying at Tomb of the Unknown Soldier, noon. Information: Lily Okura, 301/530-9495.

### Illinois

#### Chicago

Fri.-Sun., Sept. 3-5—Sixth National JACL Singles Convention, Chicago Marriott Hotel, 540 N. Michigan Ave., Chicago, IL 60611. Banquet and dance on Sat. night to feature Lillian Kimura, JACL national president, and emcee Adele Arakawa, anchor WBBM-TV. Cost: \$125 before July 1, \$145 after July 1. Sat. banquet and dance: \$50 before July 1; \$55 after July 1. Information: Elsie Ogawa, registrar, 708/679-4710.

### Michigan

#### Detroit

Saturday, June 19—The American Citizens for Justice's 10th annual dinner, Kingsley Inn, Bloomfield Hills. Speakers: Rep. Robert Matsui and Doris Matsui. Information: ACJ, 313/577-2772. Fri.-Sun., Aug. 20-22—Detroit Chapter, JACL, sponsors a weekend trip to Chicago to participate in the annual Ginza Holiday at the Midwest Buddhist Temple. Trip includes lodging in downtown Chicago and transportation. Cost: \$100, members; \$110 non-members. Information: Toshi Shimoura, 313/356-3089.

### Arizona

#### Phoenix

Sunday, June 6 thru Sunday, June 13—Japan comes to Phoenix, Arizona in the '93 America Japan Week. Information on all events of 602/262-4430. Highlights of the week-long festival include: • Sunday, June 6—America Japan Week Opening Ceremony and Festival, Phoenix Symphony Hall, 225 E. Adams St., 5 p.m. Dragon dance, koto music and taiko drums. Tickets required. • Monday, June 7—Himeji Night, Japanese puppet, Herberger Theater Stage West, 222 E. Monroe St., 10 a.m. Tickets required. • Tuesday, June 8—Bunraku, Japanese puppet, Herberger Theater Stage West, 222 E. Monroe St., 10 a.m. Tickets required. • Wednesday, June 9—Opening of Japanese Cultural and Artistic Exhibits, Phoenix Civic Plaza North, 225 E. Adams St., 10 a.m.-7 p.m. Kimono fashion show, origami and calligraphy. Free. • Friday, June 11—Musical Legends, Herberger Theater Center Stage, 222 E. Adams St., 7:30 p.m. Taishogoku, shamisen and sword dance. Tickets required. • Saturday, June 12—Dance! Dance! Dance! Herberger Theater Center Stage, 222 E. Monroe St., 1 p.m. Tickets required. • Sunday, June 13—America Japan Week Closing Ceremony and Finale, Veterans Memorial Coliseum, 1826 W. McDowell Rd., 1 p.m. Tickets required.

land. Demonstration by Frances Leander on shakushibori. Information: Nan Katoka, 510/522-1141.

Thursday, May 27—San Francisco Chapter, JACL, and the Japanese Cultural and Community Center present, "An Evening with Yuri Kochiyama," 1640 Sutter St., San Francisco, 6 p.m. Reflections on her experiences with Malcolm X. Free. Information: Marjorie Sato, 415/777-7736, or Jeff Adachi, 415/553-9518.

Friday, June 4—San Francisco Chapter, JACL, golf tournament, 9:30 a.m. registration, 10:30 a.m. shotgun start. Sonoma Golf Club, 17700 Arnold Dr., Sonoma, Calif. Individual 18-hole competition; two flights including a ladies flight. Proceeds benefit chapter's JACL Education Fund. Information: John Hayashi, 415/553-9458, or Sheryl Ishizaki, 415/751-3141.

San Jose area

Thursday, June 17—San Jose Chapter, JACL, fishing challenge, a one-day

trip out of Monterey through Chris' Fishing Trip, 6 a.m. Cost: \$35, not including

rod, reel and tackle. Fishing license

additional. Space limited. Information:

San Jose Chapter, JACL, 408/295-1250.

Every Monday, Wednesday, and Friday—Yu-Ai Kai sponsors Byung Jun,

who will teach the game of "Go" to those

interested. Yu-Ai Kai community center,

588 N. 4th St., senior lounge, 3rd floor, 1 p.m. Information: 408/294-2505.

Los Angeles area

Sunday, May 30—Japanese American

National Museum sponsors a book party

for Dr. Masakazu Matsu's book, "Planted

in Good Soil," 369 E. First St., L.A., 1 p.m. Co-host: Shig Wakamatsu,

past JACL national president. Information:

213/625-0414.

Through July—Japanese American

National Museum presents "Country

Voices: Three Generations of Japanese

American Family," JANN Legacy Center,

369 E. First St., L.A. Information:

213/625-0414.

Arts calendar

680-3700.

Television

SAN FRANCISCO—Sunday, May

30—KQED shows "The Japanese

American War Bride Experience," 3 p.m.

Archival photographs, film footage and

interviews tell the story of war brides in

the Midwest, 3 p.m.

## Arts calendar

### Theatre

LOS ANGELES—Sat.-Sun., June 5-6—The Cactus Foundation showcases performance artist Dan Kwong in "Moonchild in Three Easy Lessons," Japan America Theater, Little Tokyo. Sat., 8 p.m.; Sun., 2 p.m. Cost: \$16, orchestra; \$14, balcony. Information: Japan America Theater box office, 213/

### Theatre pick

LOS ANGELES—Wednesday, May 26—East West Players presents the L.A. premiere of David Henry Hwang's "House of Sleeping Beauties," 4424 Santa Monica Blvd., L.A. Diane Taki (pictured) stars in this adaptation of a Yasunari Kawabata short story. Taki originated the role of Kyoko in the original production of "The Wash" and can be seen in the film "The Kiss." Information: 213/660-0366.

## Reunions

Excelsior High/Norwalk — July 16-17, prewar Norwalk residents and Excelsior High students reunion, Buena Park Hotel, 7675 Crescent Ave. (adjacent to Knott's Berry Farm), FRI - golf tournament, 9 a.m., Royal Vista (entries with George Yamasaki, 213/723-5533), SAT - luncheon 11:30-4 p.m. (call Lillian Nawa 310/921-7666; Stella Kishi 310/477-7205); for overnight rooms, call Fumi Saito (714/7158).

Minidoka Hunt High Alumni '43 & '44—July 23-25, Seattle Doubletree Suite with a Friday buffet reception, Puget Sound cruise on Sunday and the Saturday dinner dance, \$100 per person, includes photo-memory album. Individual event tickets are also available. Registration forms: Kimiye Kusano, 11329-82nd Ave S, Seattle, WA 98178, (206) 772-4876.

MIS Honolulu Reunion of Sempai Gumi—July 7-10, Pagoda Hotel and Terrace, 1525 Rycroft St., Honolulu, HI 96814, nationwide reservation by June 7: (808) 367-6060. Almost 300 registrations received as of Feb. 7. Payment for package was due

Feb. 13. Two-day (July 8: West Loch; July 9: Navy-Marine) golf tournament; Aloha banquet (\$20), tea-house party (\$28), reunion banquet (\$22), registration (\$15) and choice of tours (\$15 and \$20). Return to MIS 50th Reunion, P.O. Box 3021, Honolulu, HI 96802.

MIS Washington, DC Reunion—Oct. 21-23, Crystal Gateway Marriott, Arlington, Va.; THU - golf tournament, sightseeing, evening buffet mixer; FRI - morning ceremonies at Arlington National Cemetery, Congressional luncheon, reception at the Japanese Embassy; SAT - boat cruise with lunch, grand banquet. Information: Japanese American Veterans Association, P.O. Box 391, Vienna, VA 22183.

'Return to Topaz '93' Pilgrimage—May 29-30: SAT - Regia, exhibit, dinner, Marriott Hotel, Salt Lake City (800/345-4754, mention Topaz for rooms, \$65 per room up to 4); SUN - bus caravan to campsite, lunch & dinner at Delta, return to hotel. Information: Fumi Hayashi, 1629 Jaynes St., Berkeley, CA 94703, (510) 524-1048. Registration package: \$74 by May 1.



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The Japan Communist Party's foreign policy platform has been rigidly anti-US, anti-China and anti-USSR. Yet from 1948 to 1963, Nosaka secretly acquired millions of dollars from the Soviet Union through the KGB. His handwritten receipts were recently uncovered in the Moscow Archives. (Shukan Bunchu, 4/15/93)

The cloak and dagger phase of Nosaka's life is more weird and sordid than that of Mata-Hari or Rasputin. (Over 300 pages)

## Small kid time



## PSW forms U.S.-Japan committee

Citing the importance of U.S.-Japan relations to Japanese Americans, the Pacific Southwest District of JACL recently formed a district U.S.-Japan relations committee.

"Relations between U.S. and Japan impact Japanese over here, whether they're citizens or not," said George Ogawa, committee member, and South Bay Chapter, JACL member.

"In the worst case, what could happen is what happened in World War II. That's what was in the minds of most of us who support the field of U.S.-Japan relations." He said although specific programs have not been decided upon, one of the goals will be to prevent U.S.-Japan relations from having an adverse effect on the civil rights of Japanese Americans.

Other committee members include: Ed Mitoma, chairman, Yoshiaki Tamura, and Alah Dash, South Bay Chapter; George

Kodama, Venice Culver Chapter; Miki Himeno and John Saito, East Los Angeles; Chris Ishida, Greater L.A. Singles; Triasha Murakawa, APAN; Luis Yamakawa, Latin American; Susan Oso Smith, High Desert; Marian Tadano Shue and Fumi Okabayashi, Arizona Chapter.

Ogawa said he hoped other chapters will become involved. "We want to get more participation from other chapters in order to establish a dialogue, and come up with programs," said Ogawa.

The next meeting is scheduled for June 19, at 10 a.m. in the Japanese American Cultural and Community Center in Little Tokyo. There will be a discussion of a preliminary mission statement and goals as well as election of officers and determination of future programs.

Information: Ed Mitoma, 310/377-8581 or PSW JACL district office, 213/626-4471.

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## MDC sponsors speech contest

An oratorical competition, sponsored by the Midwest District Council, will be held at the tri-district conference Aug. 19-22 in Cleveland, Ohio.

In following the format of the national JACL oratorical competition, the MDC has designated two categories of participants. The first is high-school students 16 years and older; the second is full-time college undergraduates.

Speech topic choices are:  
• Discuss your experience and feelings about growing up in an Asian American family.  
• Do you feel that being an Asian American has affected you posi-

tively or negatively?

• What is the value of civil rights and organizations like the JACL in the United States? What should JACL's role and priorities be and what can organizations such as the JACL do to cultivate and inspire young people like yourself to become active in our organization?

The Midwest District Council will award \$200 in savings bonds for both categories of competition.

Information: Bill Yoshino, 5415 North Clark St., Chicago, IL 60640; 312/728-7170.

## Books

### A unique Nisei war story

Fujita, Frank. *FOO - A Japanese American Prisoner of the Rising Sun: The Secret Prison Diary of Frank 'Foo' Fujita*. Foreword & Notes by Stanley L. Falk, former chief historian, U.S. Air Force. University of North Texas Press, P.O. Box 19856, Denton, TX 76203. (1993). 6.5x9.5", 384pp, 31 b&w photos, 6 maps, \$24.50 hard.

The Texas 36th Division, in which the 442nd played a heroic role in rescuing its "lost battalion" in the Vosges Mountains, had another "lost battalion" — the 131st Field Artillery, which was captured intact by the Japanese in early days of WWII in Java. And one Nisei from Texas was a member of that outfit.

Frank Fujita, an enlistee from Abilene, shipped out with the 131st for the Philippines in Nov. 1941. On Dec. 14, the troop ship was nearing the Fujis and the convoy was shunted, because of Pearl Harbor, to Brisbane — "the river (to the dock) was white as snow... caused by thousands of jelly fish." The GI established the U.S. base at Ascot Race Track... Their first Aussie Christmas feast featured mutton and hot tea and a near riot broke out; Texans didn't

eat mutton or "cotton" to tea.

That's a nice start of the sampling to his autobiography of the WWII years. The Nisei GI who soldiered during WWII in Texas, MIS, or the 442nd will relish his experiences.

Of the 6,000 Nisei GI's fighting in the Pacific theater, "Foo" was one of two Nisei to be captured by the Japanese. (The other was Richard Sakakida, the Hawaiian-born super spy.) Fujita and his outfit were captured intact in Java after the fall of Corregidor, March, 1942. Discovered to be a Nisei by his captors, his story chronicles the subsequent treatment and efforts at survival in the Philippines and Nagasaki POW camps, and at one point, being forced to be a part of the Tokyo Rose programs. Nisei stragglers can relate to his "Bunker Hill (Bunka Gakuin at Kanda)" days.

Frank Tsuneyi Fujita came to the U.S. in 1914 to study English. While at the Rock Island (Ill.) roundhouse, he met and married in 1919 Arkansas-born Ida Pearl Elliott, a waitress at a hotel diner. He finally became a citizen in 1954.

—HKH

## MURDER

(Continued from page 1)

In December, Hattori's mother presented the U.S. ambassador with 800,000 signatures requesting stronger U.S. gun control laws.

• In a Maricopa County, Ariz., court, jury selection began Aug. 17 in the trial of Jonathan Doodly, accused in the Aug. 1991, murders of nine people at a Thai Buddhist temple.

According to a report in the *Phoenix Gazette*, Doodly, 19, is charged with nine counts of murder, nine counts of armed robbery and one count each of burglary

and conspiracy in the murders at the Wat Promkunaram Buddhist Temple. If convicted, he faces the possibility of the death penalty.

The jury selection is expected to take a few days, with Judge Gregory Martin of Maricopa County Superior Court presiding over the trial. Doodly's friend Alessandro (Alex) Garcia, 17, in an earlier plea bargain, will testify against Doodly as the star prosecution witness. Garcia has confessed to his role in the murders, but will testify that it was Doodly who fired the fatal shots.

The trial is expected to last an estimated two months. ☐



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# Hate crimes guide now out in other languages

- What is a hate crime?
- Should I report a hate crime to the police?
- How can I stop someone from continuing to harm me or my property?
- What happens to the person who harmed me?

California consumers have a new resource to answer these questions with the State Bar's newly translated pamphlet, "What Should I Know About Hate Crimes?"

One of the difficulties in monitoring hate crimes for public agencies is the problem of language. That has been solved in California with the creation of this publication.

In response to the growing need for information in minority communities, the new brochure is now available in English, Spanish, Chinese, Korean and Vietnamese. It answers general questions about hate crimes and outlines a victim's options, including reporting a crime to the police or a government agency, the possibility of a lawsuit and compensation.

Harvey Safenstein, president of the State Bar of California, remarked, "Hate crime" is not a phrase that can be found in the dictionary; yet we read it, hear it,

and see it every day in the news media. There is a vital need in California's non-English speaking communities for information about this growing problem.

"The newly translated pamphlet will be an excellent resource."

"With the passage of SB 98, sponsored by Sen. Bill Lockyer (D-Hayward), both civil and criminal penalties for hate crimes have been increased. We are seeing issues surrounding hate violence escalate not only in our government, but also in our citizen's day-to-day consciousness. The new pamphlet responds to the growing need for information in this area," said Regina Sneed, chair of the State Bar Human Rights Committee.

The State Bar's Office of Legal Services, the Human Rights Committee, the Fair Employment and Housing Commission and a host of volunteer attorneys developed the pamphlet in response to the growing number of hate crimes in California last year.

The pamphlet is free for the public and can be ordered by sending a stamped, self-addressed envelope to:

Lyle Wing, State Bar Legal Services Office, State Bar of California, 555 Franklin St., San Francisco, CA 94102-4498.

# GROUP

(Continued from page 1)

Asian Pacific Americans through a collaborative structure that pursues litigation, advocacy, public education, and public policy development, according to Philip Tajitsu Nash, executive director.

It is founded by and made up of three regional organizations: the Asian American Legal Defense and Education Fund in New York, the Asian Law Caucus in San Francisco, and the Asian Pacific American Legal Center of Southern California in Los Angeles.

The consortium's focus will be on voting rights and anti-Asian violence, but future legal or legislative advocacy is being explored in immigration, language rights, census reform, and other areas. One of these other issues will be the Federal Emergency Management Agency's attempt to cut off assistance to Asian American riot victims, according to Stewart Kwoh, president of the Asian Pacific American Legal Center of

Southern California and a founding member of the consortium.

"We are expressly a legal group," said Nash, who is also a member of the Washington, D.C., Chapter, JACL. "We have a 50-year track record of advocacy, expertise and continuity. Part of my personal agenda is to help everyone empower themselves. We want to help them get their own empowerment. We'll be doing a lot of advocacy."

Speakers at the event were Washington, D.C., Mayor Sharon Pratt Kelly, Sen. Daniel Akaka (D-Hawaii), Reps. Robert Matsui (D-Calif.), Jay Kim (R-Calif.), White House representative Melinda Yee, and William Hou, president of the National Asian Pacific American Bar Association.

"We are extremely grateful to everyone who attended," said Nash. "We hope to continue working with a coalition of Asian Pacific Americans and non-Asian Pacific Americans as diverse as the crowd we saw at the reception." □



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## Opinions



## From the frying pan

BILL HOSOKAWA

## Real reasons for renouncing

Last week this column was devoted to a Department of Justice press release dated May 20, 1959, which was about a ceremony observing completion of action on the applications of 5,409 Nisei for restoration of U.S. citizenship they renounced during the war.

According to the press release the ceremony honored the efforts of Assistant Attorney General George Cochran Doub who directed the restoration hearings between 1956, a decade after war's end, and 1959. Until Doub took over, restoration of citizenship involved lengthy, tedious and often costly court action. Doub recognized the unfair duress the renunciants had faced. He took the position that most of the renunciants were not free and voluntary acts and, accordingly if belatedly, he adopted more liberal and understanding standards for approving the applications.

In my opinion the remarks of two other speakers at the ceremony laid much of the philosophical groundwork for what was to become the successful Redress movement some three decades later.

Dean Eugene V. Rostow of the Yale Law School was present in recognition of his painstaking Yale Law Journal article in 1945 questioning the legality of the Evacu-

ation. "We are met to celebrate the correction of an injustice," Dean Rostow said. "Today we confront the fact that as a nation we are capable of wrong, but capable also of confessing our wrongs, and seeking to expiate them..."

"Despite the weakness, and, as I should say, the error of the Supreme Court's disposition of the problem, the people were not satisfied. They realized that acts can be wrong even though they are constitutionally permissible..."

"I hope that those who have suffered from the actions we took against them during the war have the charity to forgive their government, and the generosity, indeed the grace to find that what has been done to right these wrongs deepens their faith in our common citizenship, and in our common democracy."

The second speaker was Edward J. Ennis who headed the Alien Enemy Control Unit of the Justice Department during the Evacuation. Said Ennis:

"The citizenship renunciations were directly caused by the shock of the special evacuation treatment to which the Japanese Americans were subjected and of course by the incredible condition of confu-

sion and terror prevailing at Tule Lake. But I cannot help but believe that a contributing factor was the basic failure of the United States to integrate the Japanese American minority into the American community by withholding naturalization from the Issei."

Although the point may have come up in the ceremony, the press release says nothing about an extremely important part of the renunciation story. A large percentage of the renunciants—I have seen no age breakdown—were not embittered and despairing Nisei disillusioned with the United States. They were minor children. Despite their citizenship, they had no choice but to remain with non-citizen parents who, engulfed in the chaos of Tule Lake, sought repatriation. Certainly the number of renunciants would have been impressively smaller if minors were recognized in the statistics. All this, of course, has become ancient history. But it is instructive to review the past now and then. □

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

## ROAD

(Continued from page 1)

by the deaths of loved ones in the destruction of Pearl Harbor by her countrymen feel."

"They still can't tell the difference between Japanese from Japan and Japanese Americans," said Tanamachi Nakata. "I'm still holding hope that the road will be changed, but sometimes what's going on really does frustrate me."

Expressing similar frustration, Waki said, "I've been thinking about what I'll say on the 12th. It's not going to be anything historical or based in civil rights. I'm going to say, we're Texans, we've been here for generations. You're not hurting the Japanese, it doesn't affect them at all. It just hurts us."

Tanamachi Nakata related a conversation with Jap Road, it's a historical name and that's why people want it left like that," paraphrased Tanamachi Nakata.

"He said he uses the word Jap because that's the shortened way to say Japanese. I said that it's a racial slur. JPN is the official abbreviation for Japan that's used in the Olympics," said Tanamachi Nakata.

Waki called Tanamachi Nakata's struggle an act of courage.

"When you think of her standing alone, and she is standing alone, but she decided that she must take a stand on this. She's really come out from a personal standpoint and a community standpoint," said Waki.

Tanamachi Nakata said that a few months ago her mailbox was shot up with a high-powered BB gun. While the motives are unclear, she said, "The police came out and said it was important we let them know, in case anything worse happens."

Waki said she has done as much as she can, but the distance (about 75 miles) between Beaumont and Waki's home in Houston prevents her from doing more.

"She's really borne the brunt of so much. It's so far away. We can't support her as much as we'd like to and those who can support her, who live on the road won't do anything," said Waki.

Tanamachi Nakata said that she knows many Japanese Americans who live on Jap Road. They've come to her house and eaten dinner, they knew her father; and yet, now they won't answer her phone calls or speak with her.

"I'm really disappointed in the other Japanese Americans who live around here. They're being used by those who oppose the change," said Tanamachi Nakata, who noted that one argument against changing the signs was the fact that the Japanese Americans living on the roads have not complained.

"I know in their hearts that they know the (name of the) road's wrong, but they're afraid. But by not helping, they're making it worse." □

## DOE

(Continued from page 1)

only general population figures. The agency held that the board should have used relevant student and labor market data instead and should have also looked at underrepresentation at each of the institutions. In 20 of the 23 schools, there were no Native Americans employed and in nine of the schools, there were no Asian Americans. There were also schools where the two groups were under-represented in the student population.

The OCR said the board was unable to produce evidence that it had even considered the inclusion of other groups.

While the OCR commended the important and legitimacy of the program to promote racial and ethnic diversity in the state's higher education system, it said, "It is equally clear, however, that the purpose or goal of increased diversity does not itself legally justify actions that have the purpose or effect of excluding persons on the basis of race alone."

After the investigation, the Connecticut Board of Governors signed a voluntary action plan to resolve the issues raised by the OCR. Included in the plan are "incentives to increase all minority group students and employees that are under-represented at local campuses" and to employ improved methods and comprehensive data in its determination of the target groups. □

## Voices

PAUL IGASAKI

## Standing up for gay rights

I am writing in response to Bill Marutani's "East Wind" column in the April 30 Pacific Citizen titled, "Fools Rush In."

From the outset, let me say that I have the deepest respect for Bill and his work, especially as an attorney and jurist. I also respect his acknowledging his own prejudices at the start of his article. All of us that have been raised in a society full of prejudice, whether that is racism, sexism or homophobia, have to acknowledge that stereotypes and biases are part of our socialization. It takes strength, education, exposure, courage and thoughtfulness to overcome these biases.

At the same time, I must take issue with some of Bill's assumptions. I was proud as a JACler, for example, that the organization was willing to make a symbolic gesture in favor of gay and lesbian rights by supporting an end to the military's ban on gays and lesbians. But, I feel, this is merely a start. As for many things, I believe that our organization lags behind on a critical civil rights matter.

One of the largest gatherings for civil

rights that ever came to pass recently was in Washington, D.C. I know that the figures are in dispute, but I believe that somewhere around a million folks came to town to call for equal rights for gay and lesbian Americans.

It is a civil rights matter. Rev. Ben Chavis of the NAACP thought so and joined in. President Bill Clinton didn't show up, but indicated his recognition of gay rights as an important civil rights issue as well. People have lost jobs, housing and, sadly, their lives because of their sexual preference. How is that different from any other civil rights issue?

There is considerable reason to believe that sexual preference is determined at birth or by genetics. Again, how is this different than race or gender or ethnicity? I do not agree with Bill's contention that "teaching homosexuality" is the same as promoting it. Gays and lesbians exist in great numbers at all levels of our society. That is a fact. And unless we talk about it, we are not honestly educating our children. By letting children know about the actual diversity that exists in our society, we are

preparing them to participate in that society without prejudice. Furthermore, if they happen to be gay themselves, if they are not provided accurate information, it could hurt their self-esteem. This is no different than arguing in favor of telling our story as Japanese Americans. For years, the educational system failed to tell our story. Providing that information helped win the redress battle.

The redress campaign gave us a chance to fight to correct the lack of understanding that many had about our history and our community's experience with racism. The greatest result of that campaign, in my opinion, was not simply the symbolic payment, but the fact that many of our fellow Americans learned about the relocation and internment for the first time and were able to empathize with our experience. In the end, prejudice is about each of us not understanding, or not trying hard enough to understand, what others have experienced. I hope that the JACL will join in the movement for a federal civil rights law

See VOICES/page 7





## VOICES

(Continued from page 5)

protecting the civil rights of gays and lesbians.

At this time, many cannot see the rights of gays and lesbians as being a civil right. There was a time, however, that the same attitude existed towards Japanese and Asian Americans. There was also a time when Martin Luther King, Jr. was considered a dangerous radical. Someday, I hope that all America can appreciate the vision of a civil rights advocate like the late Harvey Milk and honor his memory.

I believe that the game of deciding who is the greatest victim is, ultimately, a self-defeating one. Prejudice is wrong and hurts us all. We must dedicate ourselves to overcoming these biases for our society to make the most of all of its participants.

I hope that I have responded to Bill Marutani's call for a "reasoned" discussion on this important issue. ☐

*Igasaki is executive director of the Asian Law Caucus, an Asian American civil rights organization based in San Francisco.*

## PERSONALLY

(Continued from page 5)

and life in East Harlem, in the deep South and the San Francisco Tenderloin. And "being a minority helps," he says of his 25 years in the civil rights movement. "If I were white, the degree of rejection would be greater."

What triggered his ethnic consciousness was "getting off" this cattle truck in the summer of 1966, when a Georgia state-trooper shouted, "Hey, look, there goes a

half-breed." I looked around at the whites and the blacks and I knew he was talking to me," he recalled. . . . Mammy has received a \$400,000 grant from Lilly Endowment to research with Lincoln on "Islam in the African American Experience."

For the first time ever, an Asian American, Alan Cheung is president of the Montgomery County (Md.) board of education for the 1993 term. The special assistant in the U.S. Veterans Administration was elected to the board in 1990. He has a doctorate in pharmacy from UC San Francisco and a master's in public health from UCLA.

## Government

In Seattle, Mayumi Tatsukawa, 42, has resigned as head of the King County cultural resources division and the executive of the county arts commission and landmarks commission since 1990. She was a reporter and editor at the *Seattle Times* and an

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instructor at University of Washington and Seattle Central Community College, and was honored by the Before Columbus Foundation with its book award for *The Forbidden Strait* (Cahoy Books, 1988). She plans to return to writing and working with artists of color and community groups.

The two Asian American councilwomen Cheryl Chow and Martha Choe are co-chairing the city's Asian-at-Risk Youth Committee, aimed at the growing problem of Asian gangs in Seattle. Because the term "Asian" is intermingling, the Filipino Youth Activities executive director John Ragudo has called for an ethnic breakdown of the gangs.



## 1—Announcements

SEEKING names and experiences of the 546 plus relocatees who passed through the Cincinnati, OH, Windsor St. Hostel run by the American Friends Service Committee from 1943 to 1946. A 50th Anniversary of the Hostel is being planned for end of summer. Photos will be appreciated (if returned). Please contact Gordon Yoshikawa, 7761 Gwyneth Drive, Cincinnati, OH 45236-3003.

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## Sports

**William M. Kajikawa**, Arizona State professor emeritus of physical education, of Tempe continues to reap honors for his long-time and distinguished role in athletics at his alma mater (ASU '37) where he had starred in football, enlisted during WWII with the all-Nisei 522nd Field Artillery in Europe, then after the war (ASU, MA '48) coaching varsity basketball ('48-'57), baseball and freshman football until retirement.

The Arizona Historical League honored the Oxnard, Calif.-born Nisei who grew up in Little Tokyo and attended Maryknoll School until 1929, as a 1993 History-

Maker on Feb. 19 at a Phoenix gala.

Billed as a "must see" in Hawaii last Dec. 4 on KHET-11 was an hour-long profile on **Wally Yonamine** in a TV special, "The New Rice & Roses: Plantation Hero—Wally Yonamine," narrated by **James Shigeta**. Growing up on a Maui plantation, Wally played pro-football with the San Francisco 49ers briefly in the late '40s and made an impact on Japan's professional baseball during a 27-year career as player, coach and manager. He is credited for the aggressive style of play in the game, stealing bases, according to producer/director Charlotte Simmons.

## PC Classified Ads

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## Obituaries

**Asa, Toehi, 81**, Chicago, March 15; Japan-born, survived by son Takeru.  
**Fujikawa, Tsui, 90**, Chicago, March 1; Kumamoto-born, survived by son Louis K. daughters Miyo Shimashita, Yoshiko Uno, 6 gc, 2 great-gc.  
**Fujita, Frank, Denver**, March 17 (rites), survived by wife Lily, daughter Carol Mitsuyoshi (Buena Park, Calif.), 1 gc, 1 great-gc.  
**Fujita, Fred, Chicago**, Feb. 25 (rites), survived by wife Yo, sons Wayne, Barry, daughter Andrea Peters, 3 gc.  
**Hanaoka, Roy T.**, Chicago, March 11 (funeral), survived by wife Ruby, son Richard, daughter Karen Taylor, brother Carl.

**Hattori, Sakae, 91**, San Francisco, March 30; Aichi-born, survived by sons William, Masao, daughters Yukiko, Mitsuko Toyama, Masako, 5 gc.  
**Higashi, Minoru, 85**, San Jose, March 21; O'Brien, Wash.-born, survived by Frances, son Norman 4 daughters Nancy Gyozko, Norma Uenaka, Nadine Tanaka, Narene Domingue, 13 gc.  
**Ito, Kiyono, 91**, Sunnyvale, Feb. 23; Niigata-born, survived by sons Bob, Sam, daughter Norrine Okamoto, 5 gc.  
**Kaneko, Kioe, 91**, San Leandro, April 1; Nagano-born, survived by husband Norikazu, daughter June Nishikawa, son Tenuo, 9 gc, and 1 great-gc.  
**Katal, Richard T.**, 80, San Jose, March 18; Watsonville-born, survived by wife Mary, sons Michio, Seiji, daughter Gayleen Satterlund, 3 gc.  
**Kawako, Masayuki, Chicago**, March 29 (funeral), survived by wife Jeanne, sons Daniel, Ronald.

**Kawano, Frank T.**, 78, Fowler, April 5; Los Angeles-born, survived by wife Emma, sons Marvin, David, daughters Darlene, Inez, 3 gc, sisters Ayame Terada, Mineko Masada, Teri Ni.  
**Kimura, Yoshiko, 96**, Chicago, March 9; Shimane-born, survived by daughter Kazuko Ito, son Paul, 12 gc, daughters in-law Sumi and Chioko.  
**Kitagawa, Sada, 62**, Chicago, March 20; survived by daughters Lillian Kyle, Miss Kodama, Sadae Kasamoto, Frances Yamaoka, 11 gc, 10 great-gc.  
**Kobayashi, Harry, 69**, Walluku, Maui, March 15; Maui supervisor (56-62, '70-82); 442nd & MIS veteran who got into politics through his late brother-in-law Spark Matsunaga, survived by wife Mabel, son Paul, Carl, Kenneth, mother Michiko (Paia), brothers Clifford, Victor, Buddy, Lawrence, sister Constance Yamamoto (Aiea).  
**Komatsu, Frank, 68**, Yuba City, April 8; Sacramento-born, survived by wife Lorraine, son Kurt, daughters Denise Manning, Kelly Olson, mother Fumiko, 4 sisters Alice Nakamura, Shirley Fujiki, Mabel Yoshikawa, Bessie Matsumoto.

**Kumagai, Satoko, 83**, San Jose, March 24; Watsonville-born, survived by husband Motoharu, daughter Lillian Uyeda, 2 gc, 1 great-gc.  
**Kushihashi, Albert S.**, 77, Denver, Jan. 30; Omaha-born MIS veteran, Civil Air Patrol captain, senior citizen volunteer worker, KBTU Ch. 9 "Nine Who Care" awardee, member JACL Denver Nikkei Singles, won first Henry Ohye Trophy Air Race '50; his aging mother predeceased him by 132 days.

**Matsunobu, Hieshi, Chicago**, March 11 (rites), survived by brothers Kiyoshi, Torao, Mosses and Morris.  
**Mitazone, Kenneth, 69**; Brighton, Colo., Feb. 4 (rites), survived by wife Sumiko, son Larry, daughters Vicki, Wendy Sapp, Shelly, half brothers & sisters: Harold Tani (New Orleans), Beverly Yomoto (Midland, Mich.), Celine Ishimoto (Upland, Calif.).  
**Morioka, Kimiko, 76**, Chicago, March 6; survived by son Kenneth, wife, daughter Yuriko Otake, Sayoko Morioka-Bennell, sister Sada Nozaki, Aya Yano, Chiyo Yoshizuka, Yonei Imai, brothers Seichi Tsuda, Shizuo and Minoru (all Calif.), 4 gc, 3 great-gc.

**Muramoto, Hiroshi, 70**, Tucson, March 14 of heart attack; Hiro-born Univ. of New Mexico graduate (BS); Univ. of Arizona plant scientist who bred a new strain of cotton to prevent brown-ling disease in textile mill workers, UA faculty for 30 years.  
**Nagai, Ichio, Denver**, March 3 (rites), survived by sons Roy, George, 6 gc, 5 great-gc, predeceased by husband Tatsuma.  
**Nakamura, Sanao, 71**, Chicago, Feb. 23; Hawaii-born, survived by son Steve, Kenry, daughters Michiko Teshima, Tina.  
**Oyama, Toshiko, 84**, Chicago, March 29; honored as Japanese Mother of the Year (79), predeceased by husband Rev. Yoshimatsu Andrew (founder of Deven Church of Jesus Christ); survived by 7 daughters Myako Usui, Akiko Tawares, Mikiko Shimokuro, Lois Lepek, Josephine Miller, Akiko Yamada, Linda Bryan, 2 sons Dr. Joseph, Peter.

**Sasamoto, Yoshiko, Chicago**, Feb. 20 (rites), survived by son Tad, George, Sam, 8 gc, 5 great-gc.  
**Sentachi, Hiroshi, 71**, San Francisco, March 21; La Puente-born, survived by wife Tem, son Randy, daughter Arlene, Louis Sentachi, 4 gc, sister Michie Yokoyama (Jpn).  
**Shinamoto, Haruy, Pueblo, Colo.**, March 17 (rites); survived by wife Amy, son Ken (Aurora), Frank (Thornton), Gary (Lakewood), brothers Tadao, Jim (both Sedgwick), Sam (Billings, Mont.), sisters, Yuri Shimoda, Yo Shinamoto (Aurora).

**Sugi, Mitsuyo, 81**, Denver, Feb. 3 (rites); Hawaii-born, survived by husband Noboru, son Clifford, daughters Dora Shibata, Nancee Nishimi (Westminster, Calif.), brothers Harushi Tsuchimoto (San Jose), Yoshito.  
**Sugimoto, Tetsuhiro, 93**, Santa Clara, April 3; Mie-born, survived by sons Hiro, Taka and Sam, gc & great-gc.  
**Tonooka, Harley M.**, 60, Fresno, April 5; Fresno-born, survived by wife Jean, son Keith, daughter Kathy, sister Kazuo Yoshimune, brother Ben.  
**Yamamoto, Tsuneichi, 92**, Honolulu, March 22; former president & general manager, Hawaii Hocht. Okayama-born journalist since 1919 for Japanese vernaculars, among 2,000 Issei from Hawaii interned in a WWII mainland camp, edited Honolulu JCC's 70th Anniversary commemorative book.

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