

The 13th annual L.A. AP Film & Video Festival When will the mainstream start taking notice?

BY CAROLINE AOYAGI
Assistant Editor

LOS ANGELES—With its popularity and attendance numbers growing each year, the Los Angeles Asian Pacific Film & Video Festival can confidently call itself a success as it enters its 13th year.

But as with many of the Asian Pacific American film festivals that take place around the country each year, mainstream executives, the ones that hold much of the purse strings in the entertainment business, seem to be taking little notice.

"Homey still don't play us," said Festival Co-Director Abe Ferrer, during the L.A. AP Film & Video Festival's opening night ceremonies at the Director's Guild of America on May 14. "When it comes to APAs and the film industry, there's still a glass ceiling."

It seems that few if any of the

entertainment business' head honchos made plans to attend the week-long festival showcasing more than 22 programs and over 70 productions, including documentaries, dramas, comedies, and experimental works.

ent, said Ferrer. But as the festival has grown, getting the attention and respect of the elusive mainstream executives has also become a goal. Their support is critical, he explained, because they're the

ones who make all the decisions, whether it's greenlighting a film or getting a work distributed.

Part of the problem is that a structure has not been developed in the film industry for APA artists to have their works presented or distributed. There simply

isn't a large enough audience for them. It's not that the mainstream wouldn't be interested, said Ferrer, it's that the head executives have failed to develop an audience for APA films.

When we do see the rare APA

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Cast members and producers of the film *hundred percent* at the Los Angeles Asian Pacific Video & Film Festival's opening night festivities at the Director's Guild of America on May 14.

The festival's well-received line up included the opening night's film *hundred percent* by Eric Koyanagi, *Disoriented* by Francisco Aliwalas and *Kelly Loves Tony* by Spencer Nakasako.

Over the years, the main goal of the L.A. Festival, to offer a venue for APA filmmakers to showcase their works, has remained consis-

Giant Robot has landed!! Magazine launches an Asian American pop culture movement

By MIKA TANNER

Special to the Pacific Citizen

Think Japanese American youth these days don't have it in them to spearhead a movement and inspire the loyalty of a generation? Well, think again, because Eric Nakamura, together with co-editor Martin Wong, have created an Asian American cultural force to be reckoned with. Their magazine-with-attitude, *Giant Robot*, is being championed as an AA pop culture phenomenon and a defining voice for young AAs throughout the country.

Featuring irreverently written articles about unexplored and little-known topics in Asian and AA history and culture, *Giant Robot* is quickly earning a cult following. First printed in 1994 as a staple-and-fold zine with a modest print run of 240, *Giant Robot* is now a glossy, full-sized publication with over 20,000 issues being sold at mainstream stores such as Tower Records and Barnes & Noble.

Nakamura, 28, and a native of Los Angeles, sees the magazine as an outlet for people who may not identify completely with the mainstream AA experience represented in community newspa-

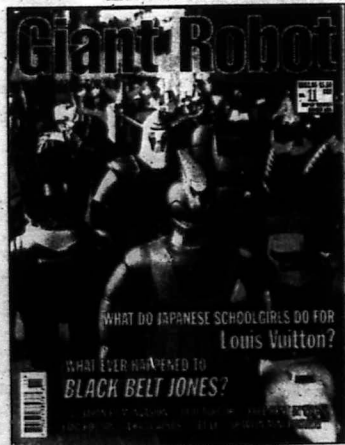
pers and publications.

"There were other magazines that said, 'Hey we're the voice of Asian America!'" comments Nakamura. "And I was like, 'Not my voice, not a lot of other people's voices.' There was a totally different side to what I was reading out there, the side that was undocumented and different. So,

that's how we decided there was this need, and to go and push forward with this thing."

Their rapid success has demonstrated the need of many young AAs to find a sense of validation within the traditional

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days

JLAs need funds to continue redress efforts

Campaign for Justice-Redress Now for Japanese Latin Americans (CFJ) is seeking donations from supporters of redress efforts for hundreds of Japanese Latin Americans.

After nearly two years of legal battle, legislative efforts, educational outreach, and media campaigns, JLAs are currently engaged in negotiations with the United States government. In August 1996 JLAs filed a class-action lawsuit against the government for inclusion in the Civil Liberties Act of 1988 (CLA), which granted reparations to Japanese Americans deprived of their civil rights during World War II.

Recent statements by the Office of Redress Administration spokespersons indicate that any

settlement with the JLAs will result in their getting shortchanged on redress because of lack of funds remaining in the CLA.

"Redress for Japanese Latin Americans is now at a critical point," said Julie Small, codirector of CFJ. "We are very thankful for the tremendous amount of support we have received since 1996 and we ask that the community continue to support the efforts to gain justice for Japanese Latin Americans."

During WWII, 2,264 men, women and children of Japanese descent living in Latin America were removed from their home countries and shipped to the U.S. where they were dumped in concentration camps. Many of these

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COMMENTARY

JLAs likely to get short end of stick

BY JULIE SMALL

Co-Director, Campaign for Justice

Recently, the Office of Redress Administration, responsible for administering redress under the Civil Liberties Act of 1988 (CLA) made public statements regarding the money left in the Act's reparation fund that can easily be misconstrued. ORA stated it is confident that there are enough monies for all Japanese Latin Americans to be compensated, should they, by virtue of a settlement of a pending lawsuit (*Mochizuki vs. the U.S.*), win inclusion in redress. What the ORA failed to say is that there is not enough money for JLAs to get the

same redress given to Japanese Americans under the Act. While not overtly misleading, the ORA has failed to be explicit about the situation for JLAs and this does the community a disservice.

JLAs, interned in the United States during World War II, were forced to file suit against the U.S. government in 1996 to win rightful inclusion in the CLA. Japanese Latin American former internees were uprooted from their homes by the U.S. and imprisoned here, for use in prisoner exchanges with Japan. Having lost businesses, countries, and in

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Domestic violence in the APA community

Groundbreaking of AP Women's Center's long-term transitional housing highlights need for education and understanding

BY CAROLINE AOYAGI

Assistant Editor

LOS ANGELES—In marriage you can't expect three things. Im Jung Kwoun's mother use to tell her as a child: that your husband will beat you, that he will drink, and that he will cheat on you; if you are spared one of these

things, consider yourself lucky.

For more than 40 years, Kwoun's mother has been a victim of physical and emotional abuse at the hands of her alcoholic husband. And Kwoun, now 40 and the eldest of four daughters, has seen and experienced the abuse along with her, at times herself the victim of her father's rage.

For years, Kwoun, a second-generation Korean American, was unable to deal with the domestic abuse that was taking place in her home. By the age of

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Groundbreaking — Audrey Noda, APWC president of the board (right) and APWC's president-elect Patricia Kinaga take part in the groundbreaking ceremony.

Community NEWS

HIF and A3M Sponsor Marrow Drive for Hapa Woman

Hapa Issues Forum (HIF) and Asians for Miracle Marrow Matches (A3M) are sponsoring a bone marrow drive for a 23-year-old Hapa woman, (Sachi Pace), to take place at the Japanese American National Museum (JANM) on Saturday, June 20.

Pace, a Hapa of mixed Japanese and Caucasian ancestry, was diagnosed with acute myeloid leukemia (AML) in November of 1997. Unlike other forms of leukemia, AML advances rapidly making the search for a marrow donor all the more urgent.

Hapa Issues Forum, a non-profit organization serving the mixed-race Asian American community, decided to sponsor a bone marrow drive in response to the need for mixed-race Asian American donors. Studies have found that mixed-race AAs who are of the same ethnic-racial mixture have a better chance of matching bone marrow type with each other than with anyone else, except their own siblings. A person who is racially "half" white and ethnically "half" Japanese like Sachi, for example, would almost certainly need another

white-Japanese person as a bone marrow donor.

Because finding a marrow match from a particular ethnic group can be a difficult process, each group needs to have a large registry of donors as a potential pool for marrow matchups. Currently, Hapas have virtually no pool of donors to rely upon. The need to build a registry of Hapa bone marrow donors is crucial, not only for Sachi Pace, but for anyone who's children, siblings, or friends, might be the next Hapa to need a bone marrow transplant to live.

The bone marrow drive will take place at JANM, 369 East First Street, in Los Angeles' Little Tokyo, from 12 p.m. to 4 p.m. Those registering will be admitted free to the Museum's exhibits and programs for that day. Donors need to be in good general health, and between the ages of 18 and 60. All donors, not only Hapas, are welcome and needed. For further information on the event or on the registration process please call Yuko Yamauchi at A3M: 213/473-1660; or call Mika Tanner with HIF, at: 213/725-0083. ■



Sachi Pace

58th Annual Nisei Week

The 58th Annual Nisei Week Japanese Festival is pleased to announce Bruce Kaji as its grand marshal, Huell Howser as parade marshal and Leiton S. Hashimoto as general chairman.

Kaji, a native Angeleno, has been associated with Little Tokyo as a visitor, businessman, redevelopment chairman, the Japanese American National Museum founding president, and as a participant in pre-World War II Drum and Bugle Troop 197 from Boyle Heights who marched in the Nisei Week parade.

In November of last year, Kaji received the prestigious Kunsho Award from His Majesty the Emperor of Japan. Kaji says that the Japanese define "homecoming" as coming back to your roots. Through the honor of being the grand marshal of the 58th Annual Nisei Week Japanese Festival, Kaji says he is part of the homecoming process.

Howser, producer and host of the popular TV series, "California Gold," is a journalist whose philosophy of life is reflected in the stories he reports. This program is seen regularly on all 13 PBS affiliates throughout the state. "Visiting ... With Huell Howser" airs weekly on KCET (PBS) and takes Howser to the neighborhoods of Los Angeles to

meet and talk with the interesting and diverse peoples who make up its vast community.

Howser says, "I'm very moved to be asked to serve as this year's grand marshal for the 58th annual Nisei Week parade. Over the years, I've done a lot of stories on Little Tokyo and consider it a real honor to participate in a celebration that is as much a part of the texture and fabric of Los Angeles as Nisei Week."

Hashimoto currently works at Pacific Enterprises law department on litigation cases and also has a private franchise brokerage business. He has been on the board of directors of the Japanese American Optimist Club of Los Angeles, an organization which serves the youth of Los Angeles, since 1987. He has been involved with the Nisei Week Japanese Festival since 1987. He took on the position of general chairman because he feels it is an integral part of the passing on of the Japanese culture and traditions to the younger generations of Japanese Americans, who, without this exposure, would lose their Japanese heritage.

For more information, contact Nisei Week Japanese Festival at 213/687-7193. ■

Hall of Fame inductee



Air Force General James Hill, board chairman, U.S. Space Foundation (left), congratulates Chuck Kubokawa of Palo Alto upon his installation to the Space Foundation Space Technology Hall of Fame at Colorado Springs last April 18, for his invention, "temper foam," material first developed for NASA in the 1970s to improve seat cushioning and crash protection for airplane pilots and passengers. A longtime Sequoia JACLer, he was honored in 1972 by National JACL as Nisei of the Bicentennial for his five-week study as a NASA astronaut. Alan Ludwig (right) is a NASA official for policy. Kubokawa is the first Japanese American to be inducted to the Space Foundation Hall of Fame. Co-inventor Charles Yost of North Carolina manufactures the foam for industry.

Around the NATION

JAs denounce Senator Haynes opposition to Redress for JLA internees of WWII

RIVERSIDE, Calif.—Japanese Americans are protesting a "Dear Colleague" letter distributed by Republican State Senator Ray Haynes in mid-May objecting to a joint resolution in support of an apology and reparations to Japanese Latin Americans interned in the United States during World War II.

The letter contains racist slurs and bigoted statements, community groups assert, and distorts established facts regarding the U.S.'s apprehension and imprisonment of JAs, who were forced from their homes in Latin America and imprisoned in this country for use in hostage exchanges with Japan.

As documented by a Congressional fact-finding committee, the U.S. government apprehended and then transported thousands of JLA citizens and legal residents to the U.S., where they imprisoned them in Department of Justice camps while they negotiated

a hostage exchange for Americans held by Japan.

Over 800 JLA internees were forcibly deported to Japan, the remainder were held prisoner until the end of the war. Not allowed to return to their home countries in Latin America, 900 were then deported to Japan. Roughly 300 fought the deportation in hopes of returning to Latin America. Once refused reentry, they fought for years for the legal right to remain in the U.S. Eventually, due to a change in U.S. immigration laws, a small number became permanent residents and eventually U.S. citizens.

Despite the unanimous passage of Joint Resolution AJR66, which supports efforts at the federal level for apology and compensation for the former internees, Haynes denounced the resolution in a letter to Republicans asserting that the U.S. should never apologize to the JAL internees for being "inconvenient" by WWII.

"Instead of apologizing," he wrote, "perhaps we should ask for a thank you."

"I was saddened and disappointed to read Senator Haynes' comments," said Clyde Wilson, JACL Riverside Chapter President, who is leading an effort to get an apology from the senator and a retraction of the comments in his letter. "We are a great nation governed by the rule of law, and the abduction and imprisonment of civilians of a friendly nation is a violation of international law and the Geneva Convention. One questions whether Senator Haynes appreciates the moral responsibilities he holds and whether or not he has the good judgment needed for the job." ■

3 Japanese killed in Chicago helicopter crash

CHICAGO—Three Japanese and the pilot, aboard a private helicopter hired to take aerial photos for the Futaba-Kai Japanese School in Arlington Heights, were killed May 18 when it crashed into a home after hovering about 30 minutes before it dropped out of the sky. Killed were:

Shinobu Sada, 49, of Arlington Heights, vice principal of the Japanese school; Kazuya Yamaguchi, 39, an art teacher at the school; Yasuo Sato, 62, of Wilmette; the photographer who owned a Chicago photo studio; and the pilot, Scott Maras, 40, of Lake Geneva, Wis.

Originally from Osaka, Sada moved to Chicago in September, 1995 to be vice principal. Yamaguchi, from Hyogo, came in April 1997. Both were sent to the U.S. by the Japan Ministry of Education. Sato came to the U.S. in 1970 and was active with the Stradivarius Society in Chicago.

The mission was to take aerial photos of the new Futaba-Kai school and of the Arlington Heights village. Witnesses told the Chicago Tribune that the helicopter tried to land at a nearby park or on the grounds of one of the three schools in the area, but the pilot must have seen kids playing and had turned away when it crashed.—Hiro Miyagawa ■

FBI Sharpshooter Horiuchi cleared of manslaughter charges

Lon Horiuchi, the FBI Sharpshooter who accidentally shot and killed the wife of white separatist Randy Weaver during the 1992 Ruby Ridge siege, was cleared of manslaughter charges by a federal judge on May 14.

U.S. District Judge Edward J. Lodge dismissed the criminal charges brought against Horiuchi by the state of Idaho, saying the federal agent was properly performing his job. The Judge cited constitutional protections for federal agents acting reasonably within the scope of their duties.

"The actions of Mr. Horiuchi had tragic results," said the court. "However, Mr. Horiuchi did no more than what was necessary and proper for him to do to carry out his duties under the totality of circumstances."

Vicki Weaver had been holding her infant daughter inside the Weaver cabin when she was accidentally shot by Horiuchi. Horiuchi has long maintained that he

did not see Vicki Weaver but instead was aiming at Kevin Harris, who was running towards the cabin with a rifle in hand. Fearing that Harris constituted a threat to FBI agents if he was allowed back inside the cabin, Horiuchi fired his weapon.

During the siege, Deputy U.S. Marshal William F. Degnan and the Weaver's 14-year-old son Samuel were also killed.

Although a Justice Department investigation had concluded that Horiuchi had not committed a prosecutable crime, the county prosecutor in Boundary County, Idaho, chose to go ahead and file state involuntary manslaughter charges against him. The prosecutors in Boundary argued that although the federal agent fired his weapon "without malice" he was reckless in shooting at Harris when he did not know if anybody was standing behind the cabin door. ■

CLPEF grant recipients' conference program announced

Cultural presentations, four plenary sessions, eighteen panels, a film festival, and a special dinner are all part of a full schedule for the Civil Liberties Public Education Fund grant recipients conference titled "Personal Justice Denied: The Legacy Continues."

The primary purposes of the conference are: 1. to allow the grant recipients to present their projects to their colleagues; 2. to disseminate findings from the projects to potential publishers, media, education institutions and the public; 3. to connect projects to present-day concerns for civil liberties and; 4. to identify opportunities to continue the mission of the CLPEF through other venues.

The conference, sponsored by the Asian American Studies Program at UC Berkeley and the CLPEF, will be held June 28 to July 1 at the Radisson Miyako Hotel in San Francisco.

San Francisco State University and City College of San Francisco are co-sponsors. The National Japanese American Historical Society (NJAHS) and the JACL are members of the Conference Steering Committee.

We are looking forward to this

important and historic event," said conference co-chair Jere Takahashi of UC Berkeley. "Never has there been an opportunity to discuss so many different topics on the incarceration experience and how to teach the lessons from that experience to others."

All 135 CLPEF grant recipients have been invited to participate in the conference, and it is open to the public. For non-grant recipients, the registration fee to attend is \$150 for those signing up prior to June 1 and \$200 for those registering after June 1. For those who wish to participate in the cultural performance or panels only, the fee is \$25 per day. The cost to attend the dinner only is \$60.

"We hope that the public will participate in this wonderful event," said CLPEF board member Peggy Nagae of Eugene, Ore.

"This is a golden opportunity to learn what schools, universities, community organizations and artists are doing throughout the country to teach the lessons learned from the incarceration."

For more information on the conference, contact the West Coast office of CLPEF at 415/356-5020 or e-mail at clpef@aol.com. ■

AB 1915 (Honda) passes California State Assembly

AB 1915, legislation which would create a California Civil Liberties Public Education Board, was adopted by the California State Assembly on a 51-10 vote. There were 19 members listed as "not voting" on the measure.

"The vote in the Assembly is gratifying, because it shows that there is an interest in teaching the lessons learned from the incarceration of Japanese Americans during World War II," said Susan Hayase, vice chair of the Civil Liberties Public Education Fund.

"We deeply appreciate the efforts made by Assemblymember Mike Honda in shepherding this important legislation," stated Dale Minami, Board Chair.

If adopted by the California State Legislature and signed into law by Governor Pete Wilson, AB 1915 would provide up to \$5 million annually to support a K-12 and community college education grant program to teach the lessons of the incarceration.

The bill now moves to the California State Senate. ■

Profiles: Candidates for National JACL office

President Helen Kawagoe



JACL Background: Gardena Valley member; National President, 1996-1998; Vice President for Public Affairs, 1974-1976; Credentials Committee Chair, 1976-1984; PSW Governor, 1971-1973; Chapter President, 1970, 1971, 1975.

Personal background: City Clerk, Carson, Calif.; Member of National League of Cities, Municipal Clerks Education Foundation, League of California Cities, Asian Pacific American Women's Leadership Institute, LEAP, Friends of Japanese Retirement Home.

Candidate's Statement: "For me, the two years of this biennium have been a journey of commitment, of service and love for the JACL and I enjoyed it all. JACL was at a crossroads at which we would either do or die. I am proud to say that your elected officers, governors, appointed officials, chapter presidents, staff and most important, you, the membership, all pulled in the same direction to put us on the high road to recovery. I want to thank this organization for this dramatic turnaround. I believe that we have gained the respect and support of our members and our communities. Morale is high and the enthusiasm generated by our members was the catalyst to ignite the flame.

"But our work is not over. Issues that need to be addressed are health care, immigration, affirmative action, discrimination and hate crimes, voter registration, social security, senior citizen concerns, leadership development, multicultural issues and values, building coalitions with other constituent group, planned giving, membership development and youth outreach.

"I want to increase membership by another 10 percent to provide dollars toward vital programs and internal operations. I want to aggressively develop the planned giving program to provide JACL with a steady revenue. I want to seek grants to fund programs for leadership development to assist members to seek public office and our youth to assume leadership positions at the chapter, district and national levels. They are our future.

"I want to continue the work that has been done so far. I believe in the words of Leo Tolstoy who said 'Life is a place of service. Joy can be real only if people look upon their life as a service and have a definite object in life outside themselves and their personal happiness.' I am honored to be a candidate for the office of president."

V.P. Public Affairs Lori Fujimoto



JACL Background: Sacramento Chapter; Vice President for Public Affairs, 1996-1998; Washington, D.C. Leadership participant, 1996; Chapter Vice President, 1995-present; Chapter Secretary, 1991-1994.

Personal Background: Management analysis, California Employment Development Department; Sacramento Asian Sports Foundation, Asian Peace Officers Association, Asian Pacific State Employees Association, Nisei War Memorial Community Center, Sacramento Council of Asian Pacific Americans Together for Active Leadership.

V.P. Planning and Development Gary Mayeda



JACL Background: APAN Chapter; Vice President for Planning and Development, 1996-1998; APAN Chapter President, 1997; *Pacific Citizen* Editorial Board, 1995-1996; PSW Youth Chair, 1992-1994; JACL NY/SC 1992-1994, Washington, D.C. Leadership participant, 1994.

Personal Background: Project Engineer Manager, Asian Pacific Students Alliance; Asian American Business Association; LEAP; Asian Pacific American Heritage Month, 1993.

Candidate's Statement: "Advocating for human and civil rights has been a banner theme that has held JACL true for 68 years. Even to the last months of the Redress campaign we have fought successfully for the railroad and mining workers' and their families to receive redress. Working with the Campaign for Justice for Japanese Latin Americans continues to be an ongoing struggle for redress. Their stories inspire people to stand up for justice and should never be forgotten.

"Our community is ever changing and we need leaders that can adapt to those changes with the vision to guide and inspire others both young and old to stand up and take action for the development of leadership in both depth and breadth to raise a voice for our communities. To take action against the disproportionate and alarming rise in hate crimes against Asians and the systematic breakdown of civil rights in carefully orchestrated legislation.

"My goal for the past two years as the Vice President for Planning and Development was to continue the excellent programs that JACL has to offer but also to inspire and develop new young leaders in the organization. By attending all the JACL Tri-District and Bi-District conferences I was able to inform young members how JACL can be of benefit to them, giving the organization a personal relevance to these individuals... My goal for the next two years would remain unchanged by giving JACL respect, inspiring members to take action and giving our young leaders opportunities to develop leadership skills."

**V.P. 1000 Club and Membership Services
Karen-Liane Shiba**

JACL Background: SELANOCO member; Vice President for 1000 Club and Membership Services, 1996-1998; PSW Execu-



present; Twin Cities President, 1992-1993; Twin Cities Board, 1987-present.

Personal Background: Senior Business Analyst; member of Asian American Renaissance, Theater Mu, University of Minnesota President's Advisory Council.

Candidate's Statement: "In this past biennium, we have all worked hard to restore faith in the JACL and to move the JACL forward. We have come a long way in a remarkably short time and I am proud to have played some small part in this turnaround! But there still remains a lot more that can be done to further improve the JACL and that is why I am running for a second term.

"With the help of too many other people to mention, I have been able to further the evaluation of membership benefits and have even increased and/or improved several benefits for JACL members. However, there still remain several benefits programs that need to be evaluated and others that need to be investigated to see if there is a need for them by JACL members. I have also worked towards creating a regular schedule for membership drives. Among some of the accomplishments achieved this past biennium are: improved rates for the Summitone Affinity Card, the establishment of a merchant account so JACL memberships may now be paid by Visa and Master Card, JACL members are eligible for Sam's Club and Price/Costco memberships, a new and more accurate membership database, consistency in the renewal process, increased number of Chapters on the automated system, and most important of all an increase in membership from 1996 to 1998.

"A few of my goals for the 1998-2000 biennium include:

- The official establishment of the "Member-Get-A-Member" Membership Program.

- To establish a regular schedule of membership drives.

- To complete the review of membership benefits.

- The publication and distribution of the "Chapter Membership Chair's Handbook."

- To attend the Tri-District and Bi-District conferences of the biennium to get out to and be more accessible to the districts and chapters.

- To be as accessible as possible to the membership and membership chairs to answer questions, to listen to what they have to say, to do what I can to resolve any problems and to do what I can to assist their programs.

- To review, update and re-energize the 1000 Club.

- To review the Life membership programs.

- To continue the move towards putting the "service" back into the position of "Vice President of 1000 Club and Membership Services" and in the Membership Department.

Secretary/Treasurer David Hayashi

JACL Background: Twin Cities member; JACL Secretary/Treasurer, 1996-1998; MDC Governor, 1993-1995; Governor's Caucus Chair, 1993-1995; Investment Committee, 1995-present; Finance Committee, 1995-

present; Twin Cities President, 1992-1993; Twin Cities Board, 1987-present.

Personal Background: Senior Business Analyst; member of Asian American Renaissance, Theater Mu, University of Minnesota President's Advisory Council.

Candidate's Statement: "It is my vision to ensure the long-term financial stability of the organization through:

- Strong adherence to accounting principles and audit controls.
- Clear lines of accountability.
- Accurate and timely financial reporting.



- A documented understandable process for decision making to be followed and enforced.

Goals/Objectives:

- Provide leadership and oversight in all fiscal related matters.

- Facilitate proper management and record keeping of our endowments and invested funds.

- Fully explore all options for maximizing our flow of revenues while maintaining prudent expenditures.

- Ensure an informed decision making process for the National Board and National Council on any matter with fiscal impact.

- Continue to facilitate implementation of fund accounting and functional budgeting systems.

- Work with both staff and board towards maximum effectiveness and efficiency for all aspects of the organization."

National Youth/Student Council Chairperson Hiromi Ueha



JACL Background: SELANOCO member; NY/SC Chair, 1996-1998; Personnel Committee, 1997-present; Credentials Committee, 1996; PSW Executive Board, 1994-1996; PSW Youth/Student Representative, 1994-1995; SELANOCO Chapter Board, 1995.

Personal Background: Graduated from University of California, Irvine; Tomo No Kai, UC Irvine; Asian Pacific Student Association; UC Irvine; Asian Heritage Week, UC Irvine.

National Youth/Student Council Representative Nicole Dnoyue

JACL Background: SELANOCO member; National Youth/Student Council Representative, 1996-1998; Budget Committee, 1998; NY/SC Conference Coordinator, 1997; SELANOCO Chapter Board, 1996-present.

Personal Background: Graduated from University of California, Irvine; Asian Pacific Student Association, UC Irvine; Asian Pa-

cific Heritage Month, UC Irvine; Tomo No Kai, UC Irvine.

Candidate's Statement for Hiromi Ueha and Nicole Dnoyue: "Once again, we have decided to run on a joint platform because we still have the common goal of bringing the JACL to youth and students, in not only the Japanese American community, but the larger Asian Pacific Islander communities as well... We would like to continue the momentum of bringing youth and students into the JACL that started during the 1996-1998 biennium.

"... One thing we have learned is that no matter how much energy and enthusiasm we have as NY/SC Chairperson and Representative, we lack the resources and the experience to be effective and efficient to recruit youth and students and mobilize them at any level within this organization. We have built into the 1999-2000 budget the capacity to hire a staff person as the JACL National Youth Director. In our platform, we plan to focus and accomplish the following things, especially with the addition of a National Youth Director.

"Membership Development: Actively recruiting members is key to any grassroots organization. Although we would like to increase youth and student membership in huge volumes, we have realized JACL is not in any capacity to



achieve this at this time. Currently, because of the resources the NY/SC is accessible to, the council focuses on college students. With the National Youth Director, we are looking long term and would like to explore and diversify our efforts with youth and students in other age groups. We need to focus at the chapter and district levels to build our foundation to support huge increases in youth and student members. It is important to introduce JACL early on and show our children how important the JACL is to us... We also want to be conscious of a chapter or district's demographics. When we visited the various districts at the Bi/Tri District conferences, we were amazed at the different demographics and needs of the chapters. Some of these chapters and districts do not live in an area that is conducive to recruiting college students. We would like to be able to provide models for various age groups.

"Advocacy: JACL is a human and civil rights organization. There are issues that youth and students need addressing as well... We are hoping with this new staff person, we will be more effective on advocating for youth and student issues... We would like to be able to write letters, build coalitions and ultimately be proactive in identifying and addressing the issues.

"Leadership Development: We believe that one of JACL's strengths lies in its leadership development programs. There are so many opportunities to develop leadership skills like the National Youth/Student Conference, the Washington, D.C. Leadership Conference and the Mike Masaka Fellowship. We need to publicize these events and think about making these already outstanding programs even better..."

National convention update: NCWNP supports Soko Bukai lawsuit

Sheraton Society Hill Hotel full, rooms available at nearby Holiday Inn

The early registration phase of the 35th Biennial National Convention has concluded, but late registrants will continue to be accepted in the remaining weeks prior to the convention.

Also, all the rooms at the Sheraton Society Hill Hotel have been sold, thus people registering now will have to call the Holiday Inn, Independence Mall (three blocks away) for room reservations. The telephone number there is 800/843-8660. The room rates are the same as those at the Sheraton. The deadline for this is June 7th. After that, those who wish to find rooms must do so on their own.

Several people who registered for the convention package, which includes the Sayonara Ball and the reception at the Balch Institute, did not understand that the registration for the Sayonara Ball and the Balch Reception were not automatic. They were requested to check these two items on the registration form. The committee requests that people coming to the convention review the confirmation form which

was sent to each registrant, to make sure that they are registered for the event they wish to attend. These matters can be corrected or clarified by calling Miiko Horikawa, 610/525 6820.

One of the new features of the convention is the homecoming event, in which a number of people who lived in the Philadelphia region are returning to renew acquaintances. At this point over 70 have registered for this event; the projection is for more than 100 by convention time.

A late addition to the convention program is the early morning aerobic exercise sessions. The sessions will be held at 6:00 a.m. for 45 minutes. This is mentioned now so that those coming can bring their exercise gear. The person leading the sessions is a certified personal trainer, who will tailor the sessions to the needs and capabilities of those attending. Those in the habit of exercising can include this during the convention, and those wanting to try this form of exercise can sample to see if they want to include it in their regimen. ■

LODI, Calif.— On May 3 the Northern California-Western Nevada-Pacific (NCWNP) District of JACL voted unanimously to donate \$2,000 to support the Soko Bukai in its lawsuit against the San Francisco YWCA. The vote came at the District's quarterly meeting hosted by the Lodi Chapter.

Following the decision, District Governor Alan Nishi stated, "The Northern California District of the JACL has a history of supporting court cases involving discrimination or prejudice against Japanese Americans. We feel it is important to extend our resources to this lawsuit, which strikes a chord with Japanese Americans across the country."

The Soko Bukai, which represents the three JA Christian churches in San Francisco, filed its lawsuit against the YWCA in September of last year. The lawsuit seeks to reclaim title to the former Japantown YWCA building located at 1830 Sutter Street in the heart of Nihonmachi.

In the early 1920s, funds for

the building were raised by Issei women who dreamed of a center that would provide religious and social services to young women and girls in the community. However, because racist and discriminatory laws of the time prevented persons of Japanese ancestry from owning land, the SF YWCA was asked to serve as trustee and hold title to the building for the permanent use of the JA community. This fact is verified in the minutes of the YWCA Board meeting held on February 4, 1921. The minutes further state that should the property be sold, any income from the sale that is not used for the Japanese YWCA shall be applied toward Christian work for Japanese women and girls in San Francisco.

Despite these historical documents, the YWCA refuses to acknowledge the trust and to discuss it with the JA community. The YWCA states the building, which now houses its administrative offices, is theirs and that the JA community has no rights or claim to the building.

Neal Taniguchi, a member of the Berkeley JACL who placed the resolution before the District, stated, "When our Issei mothers and grandmothers could not own

property due to the discriminatory Alien Land Law, the JA community placed its trust in the San Francisco YWCA. We feel this trust has been betrayed. It was wrong of the San Francisco YWCA to try and sell this building, without communication or the consent of our community. The JACL in principle and in its actions supports the efforts of the Soko Bukai."

Karen Kai, one of the attorneys for the Soko Bukai, said, "This vote by representatives of the NCWNP District serves to illustrate what a broad-based community issue the YWCA effort represents. We appreciate the support of the JACL. It is very important to us."

Rev. Gary Barbaree of the Soko Bukai remarked, "Symbolically, of course, this support by the [NCWNP] District of the JACL is very significant, the way it highlights the historic nature of our struggle. But also, we can really use such a large donation as we make the commitment for a lengthy legal battle."

A community steering committee continues to meet on a regular basis to monitor the situation and to organize community support efforts. ■

By the Board

By Marie Matsunami, MDC Governor

Redress

GROWING up in Hawaii was great. The war was an inconvenience. My father was taken to jail after his transmitter that he had built was smashed to bits. Yes, I was afraid at the time, but he came home to us. My uncle was taken away, forcing my aunt to work at the hospital laundry as she suddenly became the sole wage earner for her family.

We had blackouts and had our windows covered with tar paper so we could have some lights on after dark. I remember having my mother cook our dinner of canned tamales over a hot plate in the closet because they closed the shop late.

It was a time of closeness that we shared. I'm sure my parents didn't feel the same way I did. For me as a young child this period was equivalent to going over a speed bump and continuing on the road.

My involvement with JACL

came about 15 years ago. Someone invited me to a board meeting to fill a board position. I had no idea what JACL was all about. Internment, Redress, civil rights ... I heard about it but didn't pay much attention to it. Yes, my uncle was interned, but I knew nothing about it. No one ever spoke of it except my father, who criticized his brother for not using his time efficiently such as in learning a trade or skill.

As I sat on the board and listened to everything going on about me, I learned so much. How very little I knew about all the experiences so many had endured during their internment. Now I can understand a little why my uncle was depressed when he returned from the experience.

While I was still learning, Redress became a reality. Again, I had so little knowledge of the work that went into this process. Little did I know that the committee

working for Redress was working "Against All Odds." What tenacity, hope and driving power it took for the committee to pursue their goal. They were not satisfied with an apology, they wanted monetary compensation. All bets were against the committee. They refused to take "No!" for an answer. As one road was blocked, they tried another route and another, until they reached their goal.

Nearly ten years have gone by and Redress will come to a close soon. Many of you have received your monetary compensation. It probably will never begin to cover your losses but this money was "Against All Odds." Time is running out, but JACL continues to fight for all who deserve redress to receive it.

The search for eligible recipients continues today and until we can no longer send in the applications. I have a strong respect for JACL and the many leaders who have led this organization through so much and have made this a successful organization. It is time for the youth to take up a cause and lead this organization on. Hats off to the pioneers of JACL. ■



At the NCWNP District council meeting on May 3 in Lodi, Governor Alan Nishi (far left) and membership chair Edwin Endow (far right) announced the chapter winners of the 1996 NCWNP membership contest. Sacramento JACL had the largest membership increase (259 new members), and Watsonville JACL had the largest percentage increase (46.5 percent). Mas Hashimoto of the Watsonville chapter and Suzanne Sasaki of the Sacramento chapter each accepted the certificate and \$250.

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CANCELLATION POLICY Written cancellation requests received by May 21, 1998 will be refunded 100%. Cancellations received after that date will be denied and any residual amount will become a charitable contribution to JACL. There will be no partial refunds if a registrant does not attend all functions.		SUMMARY OF FEES Convention Package \$ _____ Individual Events \$ _____ Special Events \$ _____ CONVENTION TOTAL \$ _____		RENTAL CARS At the same time you make your airline reservations with United Airlines, reserve a car with either Alamo or Avis rental cars and receive a 10% discount.	
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FILM FESTIVAL

Where's the mainstream?

(Continued from page 1)

they're usually portrayed as the kung-fu fighting gangster, the corner store owner, or the Oriental seductress. The mainstream could benefit from the accurate portrayals of APAs in the films presented at the festival, said Ferrer. "The audience needs to see how APAs see themselves as APAs. Not as white people see APAs."

When filmmaker Eric Koyanagi initially tried to get his work *hundred percent* financed, he encountered a lot of resistance and refers to the experience as "the dark days." "They didn't understand it," he said, of his film that takes a humorous look at three days in the life of three Asian American males in Venice, Calif. Eventually he managed to find an investor who understood what he was writing about and the film was made. Currently he's still looking for a distributor.

For Koyanagi, making independent films is what's important to him, not having them make it in the mainstream. "They tell you to write what's closest to your heart, and I want to write about Asian American characters," he said. Besides, "big budgets often mean big headaches." But, he admits, if someone came along and gave him the opportunity to make a big-budget studio film, he'd be stupid not to take it.

Chris Tashima is one of the few APA filmmakers who has had his work recognized by the mainstream. A year ago, he was one of the dozens of artists screening their films at the L.A. AP Film & Video Festival. This year he returned as the Academy Award winner for his short documentary, *Visas and Virtue*, the same film he showcased at the festival in 1997.

Tashima knows the importance of having a venue like the festival for APA artists to show their works. "Getting a film made is one thing. Getting it seen is another thing. That's why it's great to have a festival geared to our

films and our market."

But he also knows how invaluable it is for filmmakers to receive mainstream support of their product, and would like to see more industry executives attending festivals like the L.A. AP Film & Video Festival. "I don't think the mainstream media is coming as much as I would like. But you gain steps one at a time. You can't expect to make studio films right away," he said. "You have to pay your dues, and the festival helps that."

Tashima admits that getting an Oscar will help his career. And although he hasn't seen much of a response yet from the mainstream, he believes it's coming. "I'm going to push it and exploit it as much as I can because these kinds of chances don't come often." But he's not sitting around waiting. Tashima's already working on his next film about a young Japanese American baseball team and their World War II internment experience.

Tamlyn Tomita — who stars in *hundred percent* along with Dustin Nguyen, Garrett Wang, Darien Basco, Lindsay Price, Keiko Akena, and Stan Egi — said, "The festival is important because it's a showcase for AA actors and filmmakers and it needs to be perpetuated."

The way she sees it, the mainstream will only be benefited by supporting works and talent from minority communities, including APAs. "It's another market out there. Another pool of talent," she said. "But there's still a long way to go. Not as far as five or ten years ago, but still a ways."

Ultimately, the festival is a building block to get to the point where APA talent and films will be looked at as a viable product in the mainstream, said Ferrer. We've got to remember, APA works have been around for only about 30 years while cinema itself has been around for over a century. "It's going to be an ongoing process. Some parts will be glacially slow, but that gap will eventually start to lessen." ■

The 13th annual L.A. AP Film & Video Festival hundred percent. not a 100% good

BY MIKA TANNER

Special to the Pacific Citizen

I wanted to like it. I really REALLY wanted to like it. I'm talking about Eric Kyo Koyanagi's first feature film, *hundred percent*, which premiered on the opening night of the Los Angeles Asian Pacific Film and Video Festival, May 14.

As it was, it wasn't bad, exactly; certainly it was great to see Asian American actors in all the lead roles and to see AA characters on-screen that defied all traditional Hollywood stereotypes. The fact that the film was made at all is a testament to Koyanagi's determination and resourcefulness. However, despite my AA community member bias and the fact that I think it is an important film, I wasn't as enamored of *hundred percent* as I had originally hoped.

The film focuses on the lives of three AA males — friends whose dreams of success and happiness send them on their respective roller coaster rides through the where-anything-can-happen city of Venice Beach, Calif.

Slim Jim (Darien Basco) is an out-of-work AA rasta who worships marijuana and reggae legend Bob Marley. In a high-stakes poker game with the local gangster, Crankshaft (Adam Collis), Slim wins Crankshaft's most prized possession: a "bad-a-__" tricked-out lowrider. This dream-come-true quickly turns into a nightmare, however, when the lowrider is stolen and Slim and his best friend Casey (Keiko Akena) scramble to escape Crankshaft's heartbroken fury.

Troy Tashima (Garrett Wang) is a struggling actor whose dreams of stardom are frequently at odds with his sense of dignity as an AA male. Troy thinks his days of faking Chinese accents in info-commercials are over when he is hired to star in the latest film of a famous French director. Hitting the big-time doesn't necessarily earn Troy the respect or happiness he craves, however; not only do events on the film set jeopardize his relationship with his girlfriend, he also discovers that he's Hollywood's ethnic flavor-

of-the-moment: "It's the 90s, Baby; Asian men are in."

Happy-go-lucky Isaac (Dustin Nguyen), dreams of finding the love of his life when mysterious and beautiful Thaise (Tamlyn Tomita) walks into his coffee shop. Smitten, Isaac befriends the stranger only to find that she is being followed from New York by her ex-fiancee, Mingus (Stan Egi). The menacing, mafia-esque Mingus wants

the romance of Thaise and Isaac, which could have been developed into something believable, was shortchanged by the unnecessary addition of Mingus and his hunt for the *nunchaku*, not to mention some pretty corny dialogue. By focusing on circumstance to motivate his characters, Koyanagi often leaves them lacking in substance.

I felt that Troy Tashima's story, on the other hand, was a more realistic look at what young AAs face in the world today. The conflicts he faces between love, fame, integrity and identity were conveyed with skill throughout the film. I was, however, disappointed that the relationship between Troy and his girlfriend was not more developed; to tell you the truth, I couldn't tell what bound the two characters together, besides the fact they were both good-looking people and that the girl-



Tamlyn Tomita (Thaise) with Dustin Nguyen (Isaac) in a scene from Eric Koyanagi's *hundred percent*.

friend, Price), was financially supporting Troy's acting career.

Basically, I felt that *hundred percent* could have benefited from a better script with more believable characters. Too often, I was totally aware that I was watching actors in a film, rather than feeling as though I was part of the story. To be fair, it is Koyanagi's first feature film, and hopefully his writing and directing will only get stronger with experience. I recommend that people check this film out, not only to support this kind of filmmaking, but to see how young people like Koyanagi view their world and the AAs living in it.

Note: Hopefully, readers will be able to catch *hundred percent* while it is on its tour of film festivals throughout the country. For information, please call I Can Make It Myself Productions, Inc.: 310/581-4825 or e-mail: ICMIM PROD@aol.com. ■

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P.C. internship deadline June 15

LOS ANGELES—The Pacific Citizen, the official publication of the Japanese American Citizens League, is currently looking for a part-time summer intern for its Monterey Park, Calif. office.

The intern will work approximately three days a week, including some weekends. The various duties include reporting, research, rewriting of press releases, and production duties. Knowledge of the Asian American community and the JAACL is a plus.

High school or college students currently majoring in English or Journalism preferred, but not a requirement. Applicants should also have a California driver's license.

Please send a resume and a sample of writing to the Pacific Citizen, 7 Cupania Circle, Monterey Park, CA 91755, fax: 213/725-0064, e-mail: PacCit@aol.com, attention: Caroline Aoyagi. The deadline is June 15, 1998. ■

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Post-Memorial celebration in Las Vegas due in October

LOS ANGELES—The 100th / 442nd / MIS / 1399th Engineers "post-memorial celebration," will be held in Las Vegas at the California Hotel, Oct. 18-22 — when room rates are the most appealing, Ben Tagami, So. Calif. Nisei veteran leader, pointed out — following the dedication of the Go For Broke Monument scheduled for Saturday, Oct. 17, in Little Tokyo. Space should be reserved by June 30 with Tagami (310/327-4193). ■

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From the desk of author James Oda

Meiji Tenno no Mago ga Kataru, Yami no Sekai to Yudaya, Sekai Heiwa no Michi wa Nihon to Yudaya Kyochu, just published, 2/25/98, is illuminating a new light on the ancient history of the Jews and Japanese.

The name of the author is Kaoru Nakamaru. She is an up-and-coming writer: Some of her books are best sellers in Japan. She is a sponsor of Japan's One World Movement and is regarded as a roving grassroots ambassador-at-large.

She is uniquely qualified in that she is a grand-daughter of Emperor Meiji. Hence her writing is based on inside information concerning the imperial family. She couldn't have written the book without their tacit approval.

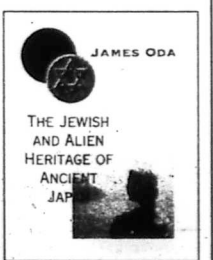
Jewish history as presented by her is clear-cut and without distortion. In my own book, *The Jewish and Alien Heritage of Ancient Japan*, it was stated that the Meiji government was supported by influential Jews, the Tokugawa shogunate forces were supported by the Ainu-related clans.

Madam Nakamaru spared a considerable portion of her book explaining that Jewish-related Dutch missionaries and gun runners collected huge amounts of old European rifles in China and supplied them to the imperial forces.

The most striking episode in the book is her statement that all imperial family male members go through the ceremony of circumcision. Her book certainly opened the door for the study of a new aspect in the Jewish and Japanese connection.

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Very Truly Yours

By Harry K. Honda

A recipe for talking about the impact of Japanese American internment

IRVINE, Calif.—Nationally-known Superior Court Judge Lance Ito, first Japanese American federal magistrate Anthony Nakazato of Santa Ana, Selanoco JACler Dorothy Ito Shundo, and CSU Fullerton history professor Art Hansen elucidated with their perspectives on the Japanese American Internment during the seminar convened May 9 at UC Irvine's Social Science Lecture Hall.

Each was asked by moderator Kirk Nakamura of the Orange County Japanese American Lawyers Association to cover a particular aspect of what happened on the U.S. mainland to persons of Japanese ancestry after the 1941 attack on Pearl Harbor.

Judge Ito addressed the political aspect, "Could it [Evacuation and internment camps] happen again?" In order to answer that, he declared, "We must first ask, 'How did it happen?'"

That "it" was a rapid history course in Asian immigration and anti-Asian discrimination, dating from the Gold Rush days.

The Chinese being more productive by working as teams rather than individualistic miners resulted in anti-Chinese feelings and the passage of Foreign Miner's Tax (at the punitive rate of \$20 a month) that forced many foreigners to quit the mines, only to doom Mother Lode towns and businesses.

Anti-Chinese racism was also reflected by the fact that "the Chinese couldn't testify in court." Eventually, the U.S. Supreme Court ruled an Oriental was ineligible to citizenship because he was "not a free white person." In 1882, Congress passed the Chinese Exclusion Act, which remained on the books until 1943, when China was an Allied Power during World War II.

Before the turn of the 20th century, anti-Oriental pressures were turned upon the Japanese.

Judge Ito cited the San Francisco board of education segregating 93 Nikkei (six over age 18 out of 93 students, 25 being U.S.-born) to the Oriental School in Chinatown, passage of the California alien land law that restricted ownership or leasing of farm land to aliens "ineligible to citizenship," and "the Japanese Exclusion Law in 1924.

"What has changed since -1941," Judge Ito continued, was the WWII military record of the Nisei soldiers, repeal of the Chinese Exclusion Law in 1943 and the Japanese Exclusion Law in 1952, granting of citizenship to the Issei, the election of Gov. Ariyoshi in Hawaii and Gov. Locke in Washington State, of Senators Inouye and Matsunaga, of Congressmen Mineta, Matsui and Mink, and reparations.

Addressing the legal aspects, Magistrate Nakazato said that leadership in all three branches of government had failed. "They caved in to racial hysteria."

The executive branch issued Executive Order 9066; the legislative branch ratified EO 9066 by enacting Public Law 503 on March 21, 1942 — the law that made disobeying EO 9066 a criminal act, a misdemeanor with fines not to exceed \$5,000 or one year in prison or both; and the judicial branch found three young men who challenged the law — Min Yasui, Gordon Hirabayashi and Fred Korematsu — guilty by the U.S. Supreme Court.

He cited the dissent by Justice Frank Murphy, who said in effect, "Racial discrimination has no place in our democratic way of life; they must be guaranteed rights of citizenship." Justice Robert Jackson, also in dissent in the Korematsu case, believed the exclusion order "lies about like a loaded weapon."

A camp secretary at Heart Mountain, Dorothy Ito Shundo related her experiences, before,

during and after the war.

Throughout her presentation, she held up photographs, a piece of barbed wire from Heart Mountain, faded front pages headlining the end of war, a wool jacket she bought in camp by mail from the Montgomery Ward catalog and a small U.S. flag that her father flew in front of his store — which was all packed into the small suitcase crammed with her personal effects when leaving for the assembly camp. Her's was a story she often told at schools in Orange County, as a volunteer speaker for the Selanoco JACL.

Setting the stage as the first panelist, Dr. Hansen presented his historical perspective with insights of the Heart Mountain draft controversy in the context of the Japanese American evacuation experience.

There were many more points of Japanese American leadership when EO 9066 was promulgated; details of the Heart Mountain Fair Play Committee members, the controversial role of Denver Rocky Shimpō English editor James Omura; and of the unflattering times for JACL when it was challenged for its policy to cooperate with the WRA.

Sponsored by Orange County Japanese American Bar Association, Selanoco JACL and UCL's Tomo-no-Kai, the seminar ended with several questions from the audience of about 150, sushi snacks and refreshments.

"Gosh, we should take this show on the road," one of the co-sponsoring members beamed. A college professor called it "a well-balanced presentation" of this dark period of American history. "It was unfortunate that more people who need to know were not present," a Poston internee remarked. "This was for them." And Judge Ito's perspective was "a perfect wrap-up," a longtime JACLer added. ■

MIXED MESSAGES

By Mikka Tanner

If it's Asian American, can it be BAD?

THIS past week at work, I was assigned the very unpleasant task of writing a review of an "Asian American" feature film. The writer, director, and all the actors represented a veritable who's who of Asian American film talent. It was an ambitious production, an important statement from the community. Needless to say, I was praying that I would love it, or at the very least greatly enjoy it. Well, I didn't.

This, of course, put me in a very difficult position. How could I give a negative review to an artistic effort that came from the community? Something that I wanted to support in every way possible? Plus, the community is so small — how could I be honest without angering people whom I would undoubtedly run into again? It was a very troubling predicament, and for a while I contemplated writing a piece that focused only on the good points of the film so as not to irreparably hurt anybody's feelings.

However, that didn't seem to be right either — journalistic integrity and all that. But, when considering my dilemma, I couldn't recall ever reading a negative review of an AA film, play, book, or whatever, in a Japanese American publication. The point I'm trying to make is that, for the most part, community artists, writers, and performers get handled with kid gloves by other community members. Nothing is ever outright BAD. There are always enough positive spins to put on even the most awful theater performance to make any review sound like a good one. Anything negative is discreetly avoided, and even if folks tell each other over lunch how they didn't like the play they saw the night before at all, nothing of the kind — even politely — is ever put in print. AAs, it seems, can do no wrong.

What's strange is that we find it so easy, on the other hand, to unapologetically blast mainstream artistic endeavors whenever we get the chance. This actress sucked, that film was a joke, etc. etc. No enryo there at all. Does this mean that we measure the work of AAs by different standards, or is it just that AAs are naturally more talented and accomplished? I'm inclined to say that it's the former. And, if so, is that right?

In some cases, I would say yes. For instance, for an AA film to be

made, many more hurdles need to be cleared, many more obstacles need to be overcome. AA feature film production is still very much in its infancy stage, compared to the mainstream film industry. Talent is still being fine tuned and developed. Furthermore, the impressive AA talent that does exist has largely been ignored by mainstream Hollywood. Because of these factors, any AA work is bound to be an important one, a new voice, a new way for the community to express and represent itself. As a community, we naturally want to be encouraging and supportive. So, to some degree, the standards are, and need, to be different.

And yet, does this mean that everything needs to be publicly hailed as an artistic success? Here is where I would say I disagree with the unwritten community policy of praising indiscriminately. Doesn't the bad need to be reviewed as well as the good? Is it a betrayal to honestly critique an AA film by expressing how, for example, you felt the writing was weak, or that the main character's acting was flat and uninspired?

Standards are a strange thing, obviously subjective and often arbitrarily imposed. It could be argued that AA standards are different, that mainstream ideas of merit and success have no place in the AA community. And that would be fine, except that those "over lunch" reviews lead me to believe otherwise. Everyone has an opinion, but only the good ones ever show up in print. This, I feel, actually does a disservice to the artists in our community. Excellence is usually a process that comes with experience, hard work, and self-awareness. If we continue to withhold all criticism, how will anybody ever improve?

I never really stopped to think about the question of standards until confronted with this particular situation. And for a while I wished that the review had not been assigned to me and I could avoid putting my critical opinion in the pages of a newspaper. But, after thinking about it, I decided that I had to write the review as honestly as I could, the good and the not-so-good. Hopefully, I won't be known forever as that "mean Hapa girl." I'm crossing my fingers. ■

Mikka Tanner is a member of Hapa Issues Forum.



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- **The Yaeyama Archipelago**
A tour of Japan's last frontier—the islands at the southern tip of Okinawa.
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A Bridge Across the Pacific

By Emily Murase



Does race matter?

DO we live in a society where race is neither a positive or a negative in educational opportunities or employment?

Is it just coincidence that a majority of a particular race enjoys first-class public education, while another suffers from impoverished classrooms?

Despite the many people who would have us believe that race no longer matters, I believe that a person's race still lends advantages to some and disadvantages to others, in systemic ways.

That is why I am extremely concerned about the impact of Proposition 209, the ballot initiative passed in November 1996 that banned affirmative action programs at public institutions in the state of California.

It can hardly be deemed a coincidence that in the months following this ban, none of the 14 African Americans admitted to the first-year law class at UC Berkeley decided to enroll there.

The fact that there are no African Americans in the class graduating from Boalt Law School at UC Berkeley in the year 2000 may not seem so important at first glance. But this outcome ultimately means fewer African American attorneys, fewer African American judges, and fewer African American candidates to serve in the Supreme Court.

While this example focuses on African Americans, the effects of Proposition 209 impacts everyone — Hispanics, native Americans, Asian Americans, and, ultimately, society in general. Does not our society as a whole suffer when fewer minorities have access to public education, whether it be at the grade K-12, community college, or university levels?

In addition to whether race matters, we must also ask ourselves whether economic background, gender, and national origin matter. Do we live in a society where these qualities do not, in systemic ways, afford advantages to some and disadvantages to others? Are the poor afforded the same opportunities for public education as the rich? Are women treated the same way as men in faculty hiring decisions at our public universities? Are foreign-born individuals treated the same as U.S.-born individuals in the public classroom?

If the answer to these questions is "no" and we care about equality in public education, it is incumbent upon us to develop and support policies that will promote equal opportunity.

portunity.

In response to the negative outcomes of Prop. 209, Professor Ronald Takaki of UC Berkeley and a group of UC Berkeley law students, headed by Andrea Guerrero, have authored an initiative entitled the "Equal Educational Opportunity Initiative."

The one sentence initiative to amend the California Constitution states: "In order to provide equal opportunity, promote diversity, and combat discrimination, the state may consider the economic background, race, sex, ethnicity, and national origin of qualified individuals."

In other words, California voters will be asked to restore the ability of public educational institutions to consider economic background, race, sex, ethnicity, and national origin in admissions and staffing decisions.

To qualify as an initiative for the next general election, currently scheduled for November 2000, Takaki and Guerrero must collect 700,000 signatures from registered California voters by June 20, 1998. Since last fall, student groups from across the state have joined forces to gather over 300,000 signatures, but more are needed before the deadline.

There are several ways to help. First, sign the petition. You can download a copy from the Internet at www.eei.org, request a petition as an attached file to an e-mail by sending a message to eei.aol.org, or receive a copy in the mail by calling Students for Educational Opportunity at 510/601-8405.

Second, get others to sign the petition. Bring copies to the next chapter meeting, other community organization or professional association meetings, and family get-togethers. Remember, signatures must come from registered California voters only.

Third, send much-needed donations to Students for Educational Opportunity (Committee ID #972198) at P.O. Box 5247, Berkeley, CA 94705. The organization is raising money for a final signature gathering drive in June.

The Equal Educational Opportunity Initiative deserves the support from all who believe that race still matters. ■

Emily Murase serves on the boards of the San Francisco Chapter and the Northern California-Western Nevada-Pacific District Council. She encourages all chapter members to exercise the "C" (for Citizens) part of the JACL.
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From the Frying Pan

By Bill Hosokawa

Tidbits

IF your home is like ours, chances are that every day except Sunday the mailman shoves a heavy bundle of stuff in your mailbox. Catalogues seem to make up the largest part of the tonnage, and it is a shameful waste of trees and wood pulp because most of it is thrown away after cursory examination.

Aside from the letters that come with a 32-cent first class stamp affixed, there is one item that I look forward to getting. That is a little, four-page monthly newsletter from the Japan Airlines office in New York. Like most corporate newsletters it contains a lot of information about company activities which, at best, is dull. What interests me more is the odd bits and pieces of little known information that the editor manages to sneak in between the boring stuff.

The latest issue, for example, reported that Japan has only one practicing attorney for every 8,000 people while the U.S. has one for every 300. Not that young Japanese men and women are shunning the profession. In 1997, there were 27,112 graduates of law schools who took the bar exam. But, according to the newsletter, only 746 passed. These survivors then be-

came entitled to begin a two-year training course to become lawyers, prosecutors or judges and, presumably, begin earning real money.

What I like best about the newsletter is a section titled *Iro-Iro - Useless facts from our favorite country*. The most recent issue provided these useless facts:

- During this past New Year holiday eight Japanese choked to death while eating the traditional sticky rice cake called "mochi." Last year the death toll was only two. About 87 million Japanese visited shrines or temples over the holidays but Tokyo Disneyland drew only 210,000.

- In 1997 the lost-and-found center of the Tokyo police department handled 1.37 million articles, 300,000 of which were umbrellas. One briefcase turned in contained the equivalent of \$98,000. (*Iro-Iro* doesn't tell us what happened to the money.) More than 43,000 portable telephones were reported lost and 63 percent were returned to their owners.

- In 1995 the average hospital stay in Japan was 45.5 days; in the U.S. 8 days. Twice as many Japanese die of pneumonia as Americans, but more than twice as many Americans die of heart disease.

- In 1979, 20 percent of Japanese thought uncontested divorce was OK. Currently 54.2 percent approve.

- No one can figure out why, but the number of little Japanese kids who wear their shoes on the wrong feet is rising. In one Tokyo kindergarten almost half got it wrong. (Does anybody have statistics on this phenomenon for Americans?)

- At the Nagano Olympics, 412 toilets were placed at Minami Sports Park stadium for the opening ceremonies.

- Of the approximately 125 million Japanese, 2.2 million have the last name Sato, 2 million are named Suzuki, and 1.5 million are Takahashi.

Etcetera.

The newsletter is published by the Japan Airlines public relations department. The editor is listed as Irene Jackson Schon, not identified further. Thank you, Irene-san, for providing us with interesting and curious if useless facts. We look with anticipation to the next hodgepodge of information. ■

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

COMMENTARY

JLAs seek fair deal

(Continued from page 11)

ugly fact that, not only does it look bad for JLAs, it could get worse. 570 payments remain and the claims against those payments are in the thousands: not only are there 1200 Japanese Latin American claimants, but hundreds of Japanese American claims are still pending and 1600 Japanese Americans have yet to be located. If not another check were to be cut for other redress claims, only half of the potentially eligible JLAs would receive the \$20,000 or, alternatively, all of them would receive less than \$10,000. When you factor in the remaining 200-plus Japanese American redress claims and a percentage of the 1600 unknown (26-30 new inquiries coming to the ORA every week since January '98) the picture gets even worse. JLAs could end up with 370 or fewer payments of

\$20,000 or, alternatively, 370 payments divided by 1200 applicants, roughly \$5000 each. The worst case scenario, one completely glossed over by the ORA, is the small chance that JLAs will end up with nothing.

Unless monies are immediately added to the CLA reparations fund, JLAs will not get the full \$20,000 reparation, or some will get the redress while many others will not. People so maligned should not have to fight this long only to end up with nothing or close to nothing. Nor should the community that was wronged by the actions of the U.S. government be put in the position of vy-

ing for the remaining reparations funds. If money is the problem, then money should be added to the CLA reparation fund.

The CLA sunsets on August 10, 1998, and time is running out. Rather than trying to downplay the danger of running out of money, the ORA should level with the community about the funding situation and urge President Clinton to augment the CLA reparations funds to ensure that all legitimate claims receive the full reparation. After what JAs and Japanese Latin American internees endured, anything less will be a slap in the face. ■

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Voices

Nat'l JA Memorial Project is a symbol

BY REP. KIP TOKUDA

Symbols are compelling reminders. Some symbols are cause to celebrate. Other symbols can bring pain. Still others serve as reminders of times past, upon which we can learn and build.

World War II has had a profound influence on me and my family. My father lost his business when he was ordered to evacuate



to Minidoka. Each of my parents' families was uprooted and evacuated. The effect of being treated as a disloyal and mistrusted "quasi-citizen" has shaped the Nikkei psyche in ways I am only beginning to understand.

When I ponder the WWII experience of Japanese Americans, images conjure up many emotions for me: Pride for how JAs responded both in the military and at home. Pain for those who suffered the shame of being accused of war crimes for no other reason than racial discrimination under the guise of military threat. Anger for the injustices imposed in a country proud of its democratic heritage.

JAs responded to the harsh prejudicial conditions of WWII in a unique and inspiring way. Many served meritoriously in the United States military. The all-Japanese 442nd/100th Regiment became the most highly decorated unit in U.S. military history, with 18,143 individual decorations.

In tribute to these men, President Truman said, "You've fought not only the enemy, but you've

fought prejudice and you've won. Keep up that fight and we'll continue to win." Others served as linguists with the Military Intelligence Service (MIS). Their activity is credited with shortening the duration of WWII by two years.

More than 130,000 others dutifully entered "internment camps" to endure financial, emotional, and psychological hardships. Others conscientiously challenged government orders which they believed were wrong.

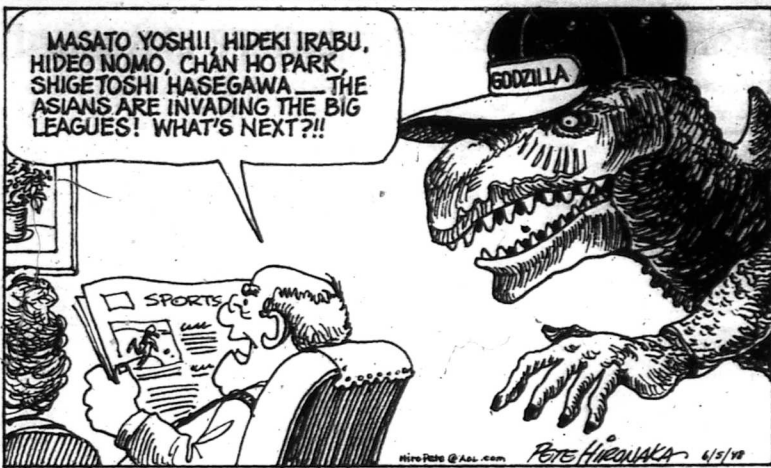
These JAs gave us a profound legacy: a knowledge that hard work, commitment, perseverance, and a sense of social justice can prevail. The eventual outcome of the Redress movement and court cases such as *Hirabayashi*, *Korematsu*, and *Yasui vs. the United States* offer hope to all Americans.

My resolve has not been as a "victim" but more as a community activist working to assure that people are educated about the JA experience and that such injustices do not occur again. For me, such travesties of justice have no place in a country proud of its democratic underpinnings, and I am committed to that principle. It is for these reasons that I fully support the National Japanese American Memorial Project.

The National Japanese American Memorial Project is about creating a symbol. It is a symbol about the strength of a people enduring extreme hardships during a unique time in this country's history. It is a symbol of social injustice and this country's response to that injustice.

I am grateful to those Issei, Nisei, Sansei, and Yonsei who have dedicated so many hours and personal resources to this effort. I congratulate them for their strong and determined effort to create a reminder to all that we must be forever vigilant and never take freedom for granted. ■

Tokuda (D-Seattle) represents the 37th District of Central and South Seattle.



Letters to the Editor

Is Mr. Odoi for real? asks 'Big Apple' writer

The letter to the P.C. (May 1-14, '98) from Mas Odoi is unbelievable. Is he one of us? He seems to be an apologist for the oppressors of our people and a misguided pompous idealist preaching to the victims the very sermon which led us to the ten gates of America's concentration camps. Is he suffering a slightly delayed *shikatanagai* or the Stockholm syndromes?

Mr. Odoi begins his letter about forgiving "those who trespass against us, especially when they atone for their mistakes." Yes, there were some who did atone, but did it come from those high government officials responsible for the injustices such as President Franklin D. Roosevelt (EO 9066), John J. McCloy, former Asst. Sec. of War ("Retribution") and "In time of war the Constitution is just a piece of paper", Lt. Gen. John L. DeWitt, CG, Sixth Army ("A Jap is a Jap"), and Col. Karl R. Bendetsen, JAG Corps, U.S. Army ("The Chief Architect"). They were all unrepentant unto death. Will God forgive them?

The only atonement in writing came from the San Francisco Examiner, a paper known for its years of anti-Japanese writings. It was 50 years after the Japanese American exclusion and incarceration that an editorial appeared apologizing for their yellow journalism. This came about through the sincere efforts of a Korean American, K. Connie Kang, who was on the editorial board and wrote the editorial.

Mr. Odoi also indicates that it was loyalty that the JAs left camp. This is true for the young Nisei who either volunteered or were drafted into the U.S. Army. For the rest, loyalty was reduced to completing a cumbersome questionnaire with its notorious catch-22 questions No. 27 and 28. In reality the internees were more interested in going outside to seek what future, if any, existed instead of rotting in the desert wastes.

There is one thing I agree with Mr. Odoi when he wrote that evacuation was a sin, but vehemently disagree when he called it an "understandable mistake." It was not necessary for the CWRIC to tell us but the commission's finding was that it was "Racism, failure of government officials and wartime hysteria." These are big mistakes, unjustifiable but not understandable.

I also agree when he states "American people made amends" but to say "in millions of ways" is an over-exaggeration to put it mildly. Even now there are still people who say, "But didn't you people bomb us at Pearl Harbor?" This is all cow flop.

Mr. Odoi began his letter about forgiveness and ends by accusing

us "of being obsessed by the negatives of half a century ago." It is possible to forgive, but never to forget the "negatives" for if we do it may happen again to others in this country.

Mr. Odoi, I don't know who you are. Only that which you wrote. Be real. It is better to face the truth than to be an apologist and try to make excuses for that which is indefensible.

Stanley N. Kanagaki
New York

Life, liberty, and Fred Korematsu

The slave was a citizen, and so was the Nisei and the aborted embryo. In the court of last resort his name is Dred Scott, or liberty denied; his name is Fred Korematsu, or the pursuit of happiness denied; its name is JJJ Wade, or life denied.

A slave owner who murdered his slave could stand above the Constitution because Dred Scott was the slave. A president who imprisoned a population based on its ancestry could stand above the Constitution because Fred Korematsu was the enemy. A woman who aborted her embryo could stand above the Constitution because JJJ Wade was the embryo.

An individual who is allowed to have power over another individual by a majority decision makes life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness an alienable right. Did not George Washington, the revolutionary, tread the path followed by the Dreds, the Freds, and the dead JJJs? Indeed, in truth.

In short, there is life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness if all men are created equal, indeed and in truth.

S. Tanaka
Richmond, CA

Denny's responds

I am responding to an article that appeared earlier this year in the *Pacific Citizen*. "Denny's again accused of discrimination." You stated that we "just can't seem to get our act together." Let me caution you not to believe every media report you read or hear. While some media continue to portray us as a company involved in discriminatory business practices, others know the truth. *USA Today*, *Fortune Magazine*, *Business Week*, *CNN* and others have noted our dramatic cultural transformation. I wanted to share some highlights with you.

The old regime has been replaced for some time now by a new senior management team, at both Denny's and the parent company. Further, a highly diverse board of directors oversees this senior team. African Americans hold over one-third of these board seats. Women and people of color comprise 25 percent of the senior management team. Collectively, these new leaders have managed to achieve some astounding results in a very short period of time. Judge for yourself.

• Over 27 percent of all Denny's

franchised restaurants are now minority owned. In 1993, we had only one African American-owned Denny's franchise. Today there are 46. By the close of this month, we will have over 100 African American owned units! Clearly over one-third of our franchise system will be minority-owned.

• In 1992, we did not have a single contract with a minority supplier. The following year, we were able to achieve \$10 million in minority contracts. We jumped to \$25 million the next year and \$58 million in 1995. We closed 1996 at \$80 million and 1997 at \$125 million. Over three-quarters of these contracts are with African Americans.

• Over 27 percent of Denny's management is now minorities. Few companies can boast of such a large percentage of minorities in their leadership. We could not have made this claim four years ago.

Results like these just do not happen by themselves. It takes a deliberate, intentional intervention from committed leadership that is not shy about tying diversity performance to its recognition and reward systems. It also takes a commitment to education and training. We have trained over 50,000 Denny's employees. We invest over \$10 million annually in our economic development and diversity programs.

We continue to receive recognition and awards for our progress in this area from major civil rights organizations, including the NAACP, NAACP National Defense Fund, Urban League, Rainbow-PUSH Coalition, SCLC and others.

Change comes from within. If this were mere window-dressing and not a true cultural and structural transformation, I personally would not be here. If you would like to explore what has been going on here in more detail, please do not hesitate to call me. I would like to personally treat you and your guests to an evening at Denny's. Just say the word.

Ray Hood-Phillip

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* "Short expressions" on public issues, usually one or two paragraphs, should include signature, address and daytime phone number. Because of space limitations, letters are subject to abridgement. Although we are unable to print all the letters we receive, we appreciate the interest and views of those who take the time to send us their comments.

Giant Robot and the pop culture movement

(Continued from page 1)

community. *Giant Robot*, with its entertaining treatment of subjects such as sumo, Asian foods, Hong Kong films, Chinese foot-binding, and Japanese toys, seems to have provided a vehicle which allows young people to assert their "Asian American-ness" in a way that is meaningful to them.

Nakamura agrees, "There is a mainstream AA culture and



we're just not the mainstream. There's actually a lot of people who have sort of a resentment for that mainstream, and when we came out they were like, 'Damn, what the heck is this — this is totally what I'm into, and no one has ever given credit to these things.'

He adds, "When I was growing up, I had all these AA friends, but I was the weird one that didn't get invited to their events and parties on the weekend — total West L.A. JA stuff. I was like, 'What's up with that?'"

Growing up on the fringe of the JA community turned out to be an asset, however, as Nakamura began to develop his own voice and vision. "It wasn't exactly resentment, but over time, experiences like that build up into a different kind of mentality — you're forced to do other things, to think more creatively and on your own."

Expanding into a colorful analogy, he continues, "Instead of following the pack and being the *kingyo no fun*, I became the *kingyo* — you know what I'm talking about?" *Kingyo no fun* is

an expression in Japanese similar in meaning to "following the pack"; its literal translation is goldfish (ahem) poop, referring to the long string of waste that trails after a goldfish as it goes to the bathroom. "So, *Giant Robot*, we're the fish, we're not the fun. Not that I'm saying our readers are *fun* or anything — I like to think of all our readers as fish, because I know the way we approach our articles and the magazine is from a creative standpoint and not from a follower of a movement standpoint. Our readers respond to that."

Nakamura notes that although AA community organizations are all concerned with things like "youth issues," or creating youth-oriented attractions, the problem is they don't know how to effectively tap into the energy and creativity young people have to offer.

"Put it this way," Nakamura states, "I don't think anybody in a big museum could make something for younger people — I think young people have got to make it for themselves. I know that there are different organizations trying to reach out to us, but they're trying to create the young people vibe, and they just can't do that."

Giant Robot certainly creates their own vibe, and it is one that other publications and even college campuses have been attempting to duplicate. For the most part, Nakamura doesn't mind this type of emulation, regarding it as an inevitable sign of their success. He does, however, harbor some resentment towards the academic world for imitating and even studying *Giant Robot*, and yet not recognizing its creators as legitimate authorities and contributors to the AA pop culture movement. "It's strange," Nakamura says, "because the universities have these pop culture events and they get these so-called experts to talk at them. We're generally not even invited to these things. I think if we were academics, we'd get invited to more of them — it's really weird."

"To tell you the truth, we get

slighted that way all the time. Academics want to claim things, say they started it, say they created it. It bums me out."

On the whole, though, *Giant Robot* is quite happy to be divorced from the realm of academics, believing it is precisely their non-academic treatment of traditionally serious subjects that inspires the devotion of their readers. In their tenth issue, for example, the magazine featured a 21-page article about the AA "Yellow Power" movement of the 1960s. The piece highlighted interviews with community activists such as Yuri Kochiyama, Nobuko Miyamoto, and Art Ishii of the AA activist group, Yellow Brotherhood. "*Giant Robot* makes things like 'Yellow Power' accessible — universities have books filled with stuff about it, but you don't even want to read them because they're so boring! So we want to bring these things to people's attention by making them interesting."

The widespread success of *Giant Robot* would seem to indicate that the magazine is destined to become a mainstream publication, but Nakamura believes that a broader appeal will not alter its original punk-inspired vision.

"We'll always do what we want, which means we have to go the underground route. Our style comes from having an inquisitive mind. We're like curious little monkeys, we just need to know. We get curious and have to taste things, look at things, and smell things. We ask questions that other people might not think to ask."

Giant Robot continues to articulate their vision of Asian America in an era where concentration camps, redress, and hard-core civil rights activism are no longer what bond the community together. And, as its growth indicates, the magazine represents an AA reality that is understood by a large number of young people. To Nakamura, it's very simple: "Basically, we just write about stuff we think is interesting. That's how we started it, that's how we still do it." ■

Domestic violence awareness in the APA community

(Continued from page 1)

17 she had her first suicide attempt. Although she survived, her issues with her abusive father remained unresolved and she went on to mimic her parents' abusive relationship in her own relationships with men. By the age of 24 she had her second suicide attempt.

"At first I thought I had to put up with [the abuse]," said Kwoun, who recalled one particular night when a Korean American boyfriend punched a hole in her apartment wall after she dared to disagree with him, telling her the next time it would be her instead of the wall. "When I looked at that hole in the wall, I thought to myself, 'this is my mom's life, I don't need this. I felt like I was a failure.'"

Today, Kwoun is a survivor of domestic violence. Entering counseling shortly after her second suicide attempt, over the years she's been able to resolve the issues of her abusive past. She's happily married to a third-generation Polish American and for the past ten years she's worked as a social worker, having earned a master of arts degree. Currently she works with batterers at the Didi Hirsch Community Mental Health Center in Los Angeles.

Kwoun, along with dozens of fellow community leaders, recently attended the groundbreaking ceremony for a new long-term shelter for domestic violence survivors, held at the California Club on May 18. The project is being sponsored by the Asian Pacific Women's Center, a non profit organization based in Los Angeles.

The seven-unit shelter will provide up to two years of transitional housing for survivors of domestic violence previously housed at short-term facilities. Along with a 24-hour on-site staff person, the shelter will offer multilingual counseling and job training, child care, survival skills, and legal and medical referrals, in conjunction with the Little Tokyo Services Center. The

facility will be located in the Los Angeles area and is scheduled to open in October.

Domestic violence is defined as mental or physical abuse between people who know each other. That includes husbands and wives, boyfriends and girlfriends, adult relatives, parents and their children, and gay and lesbian partners.

In the United States today, there are more than three million incidents of domestic violence each year. Every nine seconds someone is being beaten by their domestic partner. Of these figures, over 95 percent of the victims are women. And Asian Pacific American women share equally in these numbers.

"Domestic violence is pervasive and it's a public issue," said Patricia Kinaga, an attorney and president-elect of APWC. But unfortunately, in the Asian Pacific American communities it's an issue that is not often talked about. Many of the APA women are also reluctant to prosecute their abusers because of the numerous cultural and financial barriers they face. Unfortunately, many of the women have no choice but to return to their abusers.

"There's a great deal of heavy denial," said Kinaga, who, as a former L.A. county prosecutor, has seen her share of domestic violence cases. There were times when, even though she held photos of the abused woman — bruises, cuts and all — in her hand, the victim, standing in front of her, would deny that she had been abused. There were also incidences where the woman's minister would come to the courts, stand in between Kinaga and the victim, and try to coax the woman not to prosecute the husband. It would break up the family, the minister would say. "But because the severity and the incidences are unreported," said Kinaga, "domestic violence in the APA community can't be counted in sheer numbers." The numbers that do exist are

See VIOLENCE/page 16

■ JOB OPENING

Regional Director

The Japanese American Citizens League (JACL) is seeking a Regional Director for the Pacific Southwest District who is energetic, organized, and highly motivated to "make a difference."

Under the general direction of the National Director, the Regional Director carries out JACL's Program for Action and other policies; conducts advocacy, community relations, and fund-raising activities; serves as a JACL spokesperson at the regional level; works with JACL members to develop programs and events; and monitors local, state, and national affairs affecting Asian Americans.

The Regional Director manages the Pacific Southwest District office in Los Angeles, supervising one staff person and periodic student interns. This semi-autonomous position is responsive to the Pacific Southwest District Council and board to ensure that JACL members in the district are adequately served. Lifting, travel, and work after regular hours and on weekends will be required.

A four-year college degree, excellent writing and public speaking abilities, and transportation are required.

Hiring range: \$31,433-\$37,335, depending on experience. Excellent fringe benefit package includes health and retirement benefits. Send cover letter, resume, and writing samples to: Herbert Yamamoto, JACL, 1765 Sutter Street, San Francisco, CA 94115; fax, 415/931-4671; e-mail, jacl@jacl.org.

EXECUTIVE EDITOR

The JACL seeks a person to be Executive Editor of the *Pacific Citizen*, a newspaper located in Monterey Park, Calif. The executive editor will be in charge of overseeing and supervising the semi-monthly publication with a readership of 25,000 and a staff of from four to eight people, depending on the season. The successful candidate will want to build the semi-monthly tabloid to a weekly publication.

Position requires a minimum of two years experience (five years preferred) in copy design, editing, writing, working with correspondents and managing publications. Must have experience in copy editing, proofreading, layout, and production. Periodic travel in the Los Angeles and San Francisco areas. Excellent fringe benefits. Starting salary range: \$35,500-\$49,100. Send resume and writing samples to: Herbert Yamamoto, JACL, 1765 Sutter Street, San Francisco, CA 94115; fax, 415/931-4671; e-mail, jacl@jacl.org.

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The North American Amateur Sumo Wrestling Championship will take place at 2 p.m. June 27-28 in the Hollywood Park Casino. Competitors from the United States, Canada, Puerto Rico, Jamaica, Haiti, Kazakhstan and more will participate in the team competition Saturday, with individual weight class competition Sunday. Wrestlers are competing for the opportunity to qualify for the World Amateur Championships to be held in Japan later this year. Tickets for the team tournament and for the individual tournament are \$15 each day. Tickets may be purchased by calling 800/888-4972 or at the Hollywood Park Casino cashier's window. ■

**Domestic violence
Creating awareness among APAs**

(Continued from page 14)

usually for homicides. "People are used to this idea that domestic violence effects only the people living within the four walls of a house," said Kinaga. "But it doesn't. It affects everybody." Not only does domestic violence affect the workplace, it also affects relationships with friends and acquaintances and the well-being of the children. Often, the abusive behavior is passed onto the children, who in turn abuse their children, thus continuing the cycle of domestic violence.

"Men get away with it," that's why domestic violence continues to occur in communities across the country, said Ricardo Monroy, one of the handful of men on the APWC board and the Director of Party Services for the California State Democratic Party. "Not until recently is that changing. [Domestic violence] persists because the abusers don't even realize they are abusing."

When Kwon counsels abusers and batterers, some of the common excuses given by the men to explain their behavior are: "it's not that big of a deal," "it's not that bad," "the law is on her side," and "you're ruining me."

Though it's not always easy, she tries to teach batterers "to become better leaders." That they can still be leaders of their families but the leadership needs to take place without abusing their spouses and children. She also teaches them that anger does not have to be a bad thing as long as their feelings are channelled appropriately. This can include leaving the house for a couple of hours to cool off. But becoming a reformed abuser isn't easy, and it takes a minimum of five abusive-free years to be considered recovered.

Today, Kwon's mother, now 64, remains married to her 68-year-old husband. Over the years Kwon has tried a number of times to help her, but to no avail. At first her mother would say she stayed with him because of the kids, said Kwon, but now that they've all moved out of the house, "she realizes that it's her choice to stay with him."

In a way, the tables of abuse have changed somewhat. Kwon's father's health isn't so good these days and he's finding that he's become quite dependent on his wife. The weird thing is, it's made her mother's life easier, said Kwon, but now she in turn is using the situation to her ad-

vantage and emotionally abusing her father.

Today, Kwon has learned to have a relationship with her father. She sets rules whenever she visits him, such as no drinking and no violence whenever she visits. In general he's been able to live with his daughter's rules, although there have been more than a couple of times where she's had to leave Thanksgiving dinner early. "Today I have the best relationship with my father out of the family," she said. "I respect him for the effort to be appropriate with me."

Her family doesn't approve of her talking so freely about her abusive past, but it's an important part of her recovery, said Kwon. For years she felt worthless because her father hit her mom, but eventually through counselling she learned that it wasn't her fault. "Recovery is about resolving feelings of helplessness and helplessness and doing something life-enhancing," she said. "People do recover from domestic violence."

For more information on the Asian Pacific Women's Center, call 213/833-3588. ■



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