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Coming under fire Asian sweatshop lawsuits filed against major U.S. clothing companies

BY TRACY UBA
Writer/Reporter

Barbed wire has once again become an all too concrete symbol of civil rights denied. And it's happening on United States soil.

Three lawsuits on behalf of current and former sweatshop workers were filed on Jan. 13, against major U.S. clothing manufacturers, designers and retailers who allegedly made billion-dollar profits off of products contracted from suppliers that exploited Asian employees into virtual indentured servitude in the U.S. territory of the Northern Mariana Islands near Guam.

Immigrant workers, more than 50,000 altogether and mainly young women, from countries such as China, Bangladesh, Thailand and the Philippines were lured to the island of Saipan in the Marianas by promises of high wages and a \$6,000-\$7,000 recruitment fee only to find themselves working behind barbed fences



PHOTO BY TRACY UBA

Medea Benjamin, co-director of human rights group Global Exchange holds up a Gap sweatshirt, just one of the major U.S. clothing brands named in the sweatshop lawsuits recently filed. Global Exchange is a plaintiff in the S.F. suit along with Asian Law Caucus and labor group UNITE.

under intolerable, "slave-like conditions," said plaintiffs' attorney William Lerach at a recent press conference.

The long hours, low wages, unpaid overtime and physical abuse are as bad as any we have discovered in Third

World sweatshops," said Jay Mazur, president of AFL-CIO labor group Union of Needletrades, Industrial and Textile Employees (UNITE), in a press statement.

As it stands, 18 popular retail and design corporations, including The Gap, J. Crew, The Limited, Tommy Hilfiker, Nordstrom, J.C. Penney, Wal-Mart, Sears, Lane Bryant, Dayton Hudson and OshKosh B'Gosh, have been targeted in the suits for violation of various U.S. labor laws, specifically the Unlawful Business Acts and Practices statute, the Anti-Peonage Act and the Racketeer Influenced and Corrupt Organiza-

tions Act (RICO).

In addition to being paid only \$3 an hour in many cases and forced to work up to 12 hours a day, garment workers reported being subject to severe verbal intimidation and physical harm at the hands of factory managers if they refused to submit to unreasonable quotas and rules in which social activities and personal freedoms like dating are restricted.

Legal documents also revealed claims that pregnant women working in the sweatshops were threatened with the prospect of abortion or deportation.

The three separate lawsuits consist of two worker class-action suits in Los Angeles and Saipan federal courts and one in San Francisco Superior Court representing UNITE and other nonprofit human rights groups based in the bay area, including Asian Law Caucus, Sweatshop Watch and

See SWEATSHOPS/page 9

CA discrimination suit hits Denny's as chain launches diversity ads

By Pacific Citizen Staff
and Associated Press

Denny's restaurant was slapped with another discrimination lawsuit the same day the restaurant chain launched a \$2 million anti-racism campaign.

The suit accuses Denny's employees at a San Jose restaurant of making a group of 17 people, all but one of whom is Hispanic, wait as other patrons were seated, refusing them service and summoning the police to have them ejected.

The suit, filed Jan. 12 in Santa Clara Superior Court, seeks unspecified punitive damages for the April incident.

In 1997 a group of largely

Asian and Asian American students in Syracuse, N.Y., also filed a discrimination lawsuit against Denny's. The students are accusing the restaurant of racial discrimination after allegedly being refused service and then being attacked by a group of white patrons in the parking lot while two of Denny's hired security guards watched. In their lawsuit, which is still pending, they are seeking an unspecified amount of damages.

Five years ago Denny's paid \$45.7 million to settle a racial discrimination lawsuit by black customers.

"What we're trying to do through all the lessons we have learned — obviously difficult lessons — is to get people to talk about race," said Jim Adamson, chief executive of Denny's parent company, Advantica Restaurant Group Inc.

The ad campaign, slated for broadcast networks and cable, features three different ads.

"There are some people who never notice another person's color. But most of us do," says a black youth in one ad. "And that's O.K. Don't feel guilty. Noticing a person's color doesn't make you racist. Acting like it matters does."

"Diversity, it's about all of us," an announcer says at the end as the Denny's logo appears.

David Margulies, a Dallas-based expert in crisis communications, said the ads seem aimed more at the company's 50,000 workers than at selling

Judge gives final approval to Mochizuki settlement

BY CAROLINE AOYAGI
Executive Editor

The bittersweet saga of the *Mochizuki vs. United States* class-action lawsuit is proving to be more bitter than it is sweet as a federal judge gave final approval to the settlement agreement at a fairness hearing on Jan. 7.

Although the settlement approved by Judge Loren A. Smith provides for a presidential letter of apology to all of the surviving former Japanese Latin American World War II internees and their immediate families, it now looks like only half will receive their \$5,000 redress payments.

"That's the problem with most things the law does. Fairness is a relative concept," said Judge Smith as he signed the settlement agreement. Still, he believes the agreement is "a step in the right direction of addressing injustices throughout history."

After paying out more than 80,000 payments of \$20,000 to former Japanese American WWII internees from the \$1.6 billion fund set up in the 1988 Civil Liberties Act, there just isn't enough money left to pay the 676 eligible JLA's. With only \$2.82 million remaining in the Civil Liberties Fund to pay the remaining eligible JA and JLA cases, it would take \$3.38 million to pay all of the 676 JLA internees. Currently, the plan is to begin paying the oldest JLA's first. The Department of Justice is estimating that between 376 and 400 JLA's will be able to receive their \$5,000 redress

payments.

The *Mochizuki* case was originally filed in 1996 on behalf of former JLA internees seeking to be included in the '88 Act. Although more than 2,200 JLA's had been kidnapped and forcibly interned in American concentration camps during WWII by the U.S. government, they had been excluded from the '88 Act because they were not U.S. citizens or legal permanent residents at the time of their internment, an eligibility

promise.

"The majority of internees have chosen to accept the *Mochizuki* settlement based on the initial assurances of sufficient redress funds and the belief that the U.S. president and Congress would secure additional funding if necessary," said Grace Shimizu, project director of the Japanese Peruvian Oral History Project and daughter of a JLA former internee. "Many internees feel it is better to compromise and get

"That's the problem with most things the law does. Fairness is a relative concept."

Judge Loren A. Smith

requirement of the Act. In all, close to 120,000 JAs on the West Coast, most of them U.S. citizens, were placed in camps during the war.

In June of last year a preliminary settlement was reached in the case to provide an apology and \$5,000 redress payment to the JLA's as long as the monies were available. At the time, government lawyers had been optimistic that enough funds were available to make the payments. President Clinton had promised to seek more funds if monies for the JLA's were to run out and currently the Justice Department has indicated that they are looking into additional funding. Still, Congress has yet to act on that

something as soon as possible rather than to get nothing. All internees expressed strong support for continued efforts which would ensure that all JLA internees receive equal treatment with JAs, including redress payment of \$20,000."

Last August the redress program came to an end and the Office of Redress Administration closed its doors forever. Still refusing to end their fight, various former JLA internees are taking it upon themselves to remedy the wrongs committed against them by the U.S. government during WWII. Many have chosen to opt out of the settlement and pursue oth-

See MOCHIZUKI/page 12.

See DENNY's/page 12

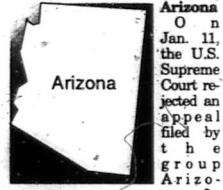
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Latest updates on English-only and bilingual education controversies

By Pacific Citizen Staff and Associated Press

The outcome of California's Proposition 227, the anti-bilingual education measure, may have already been decided in last June's primary elections, but the controversy over English-only legislation and bilingual education is heating up in many states.



Arizona
On Jan. 11, the U.S. Supreme Court rejected an appeal filed by the group Arizonaans for Official English to preserve an English-only amendment requiring all government employees to conduct business in English.

The amendment, which declared English "the language of the ballot, the public schools and all government functions and actions," argued that the government has the right to control its own speech.

The amendment, which passed in 1988, barely passed by a 50.5 percent margin.

The U.S. Supreme Court justices agreed with the Arizona supreme court which ruled last April that the measure was unconstitutional — a violation of free speech, equal protection, the right to petition the government and the right to participate in the

political process.

Arizona supporters of California's Prop. 227 have recently begun rallying to initiate a similar Arizona measure to end bilingual education.

Currently, classes for non-English speaking students are taught in Spanish for several years until they can be gradually introduced to English.

The group English for the Children Arizona, co-founded by Maria Mendoza and Hector Ayala, has proposed an initiative, almost identical to California's Prop. 227, which would place non-English speaking children into "sheltered English immersion" programs so that they may be integrated into regular classes as soon as possible.

According to state elections director Jessica Funkhouser, the group has until July 6, 2000 to obtain 101,762 signatures in order to get the measure on the November ballot.

Ayala noted that a recent poll revealed that 72 percent of Arizona's voting population favors an initiative similar to Prop. 227.

Utah

The Legislature is slated to discuss Rep. Tammy Rowan's (R-Orem) English-only initiative on Jan. 21, which, like Arizona's bill, would designate English the official language of Utah and prohibit government agencies from conducting business or printing materials in any other language.

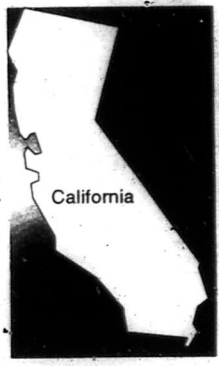
The bill makes exceptions for foreign language and English as a Second Language classes in public schools, foreign language books in libraries, court interpreters, law enforcement and emergency personnel who work with non-English-speaking communities, and tourism and economic development programs.

According to Salt Lake JACL Civil Rights Committee member Sherrie Hayashi, local JACL chapters (the Wasatch Front, Salt Lake and Mt. Olympus) and the Intermountain District Council (IDC) along with the ACLU (American Civil Liberties Union) have joined together in coalition to fight Rowan's English as the Official Language measure.

"The issue is not whether English should be the unifying language of Utah and the United States," said IDC Governor Larry Grant, "but whether government ought to be restricted from accommodating the linguistic needs of individuals in a diverse society whose history is largely built on the foundation of immigrants."

Legislators will also consider the English Plus resolution, sponsored by Sen. Pete Suazo (D-Salt Lake), which, in opposition to English-only, encourages multilingual proficiency.

Utah's eight American Indian tribes have also come out in sup-



port of English Plus.

California

Besides ending the state's 30-year bilingual education system in favor of a one-year crash course in English for foreign-speaking students, Prop. 227 includes a lesser known provision which will provide an estimated \$50 million a year statewide to classrooms with non-English speaking adults.

This funding is intended to go towards a tutoring program which requires adult students who have gone through their courses and shown sufficient skill in the English language to then help children with limited English backgrounds.

Exactly how this program will be implemented and how the

adults will be trained as tutors is uncertain at this point and has some questioning its viability.

The funding per school district is to be based on the number of limited English-speaking students enrolled in schools throughout the respective district as of late March.

This year, school districts will receive double payment. Because of the midyear passage of Prop. 227, the state will send last year's and this year's funds at the same time.



U.S. China investigation leads to kidnapping arrests

Associated Press

U.S. law enforcement officials and community leaders fear that the recent kidnapping of a Taiwanese developer's son may be the first of many such crimes targeting the children of wealthy Asians.

"Parachute kids," named because they are left in the United States while their affluent parents pursue overseas business interests, become vulnerable to the Asian criminal syndicates and gangs who work on both sides of the Pacific Rim, the officials said.

Such was the case for 17-year-old Kuan Nan "Johnny" Chen who was kidnapped at his San Marino home nearly four weeks ago. He was held in a Temple City home until an unusual joint investigation between American and Chinese authorities led to the arrest of two men in So. Calif. and two in China, authorities said.

"This is exactly the kind of problem you fear will occur with these parachute kids," said Paul Crowley, vice mayor of San Marino.

The two Chinese-born suspects, Xu Lin Wang, 27, of Temple City, and Xue Han Wang of New York, have allegedly confessed to guarding the boy in exchange for \$40,000.

Both men, arrested Jan. 4, were ordered held without bail by U.S. District Judge Arthur Nakazato until arraignment on Jan. 8.

FBI agents found the teenage boy chained and gagged. The boy is the son of Fu Shun Chen, a wealthy developer with homes and businesses here and in Taiwan.

"We have initiated communi-

ty outreach programs to get across the message that people should contact the FBI" when kidnappings and extortions occur, special agent Robert Messemer said. "All too often, especially with these kidnappings, we get a phone call when it's too late."

Two days after the boy was abducted, the kidnappers contacted Chen's father in Taiwan and demanded \$1.5 million. Chinese authorities bargained with the kidnappers to buy time until American investigators found the home where the boy was held, said Assistant U.S. Attorney Stephen Larson.

Two other Chinese immigrants, Tian Wu Wong and Xiong Zi Wang, were named as fugitive suspects in the case, according to an affidavit filed by the U.S. attorney's office. Wong was the alleged mastermind of the kidnapping plot.

The boy was reunited with his mother and is in good physical condition, authorities said.

Often, Asian parents are wary about involving the police. Instead, they pay the ransoms so that their children can continue their education in America and avoid the mandatory Taiwanese military draft, authorities added.

Chen's father had delivered \$500,000 ransom to the kidnappers' accomplices in the Chinese province of Fujian, where Chinese authorities arrested them during the money exchange.

According to the affidavit, "Fujianese organized crime members commonly engage in narcotics trafficking and kidnapping of children of wealthy Asian businessmen in order to extort money from the family,"

Martin Luther King Junior Day still controversy in some states

Associated Press

Although efforts to honor Martin Luther King Jr., with a permanent holiday have failed in the New Hampshire Legislature for the past 10 years, supporters are predicting success this year.

For now, New Hampshire retains the distinction of being the only state without a King holiday. A bill to honor the civil rights leader has been defeated in the Legislature since 1978.

Several individuals hoping to change this gathered in Portsmouth a fundraiser recently. They are raising support to get commemorative license plates issued by the state. If the effort succeeds, New Hampshire would be the only state to issue plates bearing King's image and his words, "Let Freedom Ring."

"We may be the last state to adopt the holiday, but we could be the first to do this," said the Rev. Arthur Hilson of New Hope Baptist Church.

Hilson preaches from the same pulpit King spoke from 46 years ago, when he was a guest speaker at the Peoples Baptist Church. Jane Faust, who still lives in Portsmouth, remembers hearing the young preacher. "His words were true," Faust recalled. "He really had a way of just making you feel good."

But Faust added that "subtle racism still persists in New Hampshire. 'It's hard to get people to come together,' she said. "Children get along with each other, they don't see color. If some parents would just take a hint, racism would stop. The Lord puts us here together to live here together."

Bes Godwin was a teenage mother when King spoke in Portsmouth. "I have a sense of pride that I was in the same building as he was," she said. "It's

special to know he was there and I did get to see him and hear him, and I get to instill that in my children and grandchildren."

Sen. Beverly Hollingsworth (D-Hampton) and Rep. Laura Pantelakos (D-Portsmouth) each sponsored bills this session to add King's name to their Civil Rights holiday.

Gov. Jeanne Shaheen, like other governors in the past, added King's name to this year's holiday by proclamation.

In a separate move, South Carolina Gov. Jim Hodges announced he wants the state to observe Martin Luther King Jr. Day as a permanent state holiday.

Hodges, newly sworn in as the first Democratic governor in 12 years, made his remarks at a University of South Carolina breakfast honoring the slain civil rights leader.

State law allows employees to pick a day of their choice as an optional holiday. From 1978 until 1984, employees could choose to take three of four optional holidays that included King's birthday, Confederate Gen. Robert E. Lee's birthday, Confederate Memorial Day and Confederate President Jefferson Davis Birthday.

A bill calling for King's day as a required state holiday passed the Democratic-controlled Senate last year, but failed in the Republican-controlled House.

Blacks overwhelmingly turned out in November's election to help Hodges defeat Republican Gov. David Beasley. One issue that hurt Beasley with black voters was his backside on a promise to take down the Confederate flag from atop the Statehouse. Beasley's plan was opposed by flag supporters, who ar-

gued that the flag symbolized heritage, not race.

But Hodges said he does not expect to meet those protests with the holiday. "I don't think they see the Martin Luther King holiday as in any way threatening their heritage," he said.

Meanwhile in Arizona, former Arizona Gov. Evan Mecham is still defending his decision to cancel the Martin Luther King Jr. holiday 12 years ago. The holiday was reinstated in 1992.

At the beginning of his term in 1987, Mecham rescinded an official state paid holiday honoring King proclaimed by Gov. Bruce Babbitt, now secretary of the Department of the Interior. Mecham said Babbitt's proclamation was illegal.

Since then, the holiday had been rejected by the state Legislature every year for a decade.

"I was totally opposed to downgrading Washington's and Lincoln's birthdays to a generic Presidents Day and giving it to King," Mecham told the Arizona Republic in a published interview.

However, Mecham's action instigated bad press that escalated into what he called "an avalanche" this state has never seen the likes of before or since.

As a result, he proclaimed a King and Civil Rights Day the third Sunday of every January.

"I thought this will take the hatred out of everyone's heart. Those who want to recognize King can do so, and others won't anyway," Mecham said.

But the Sunday holiday did not appease his critics. Demands for an official state holiday swelled to the point that in 1992 Arizona became the only state to establish the holiday by popular vote.

Sac'to JACL holds Community Service Recognition dinner

More than 300 people attended the Sacramento JACL's annual Community Service Recognition and installation dinner held recently at the Radisson Hotel.

The following four people were recognized for their extraordinary contributions to the community: Ralph Dills, Hiroko Ninomiya, Larry Nobuya Takai and Art Venegas.

State Sen. Dills, who was first elected to the California State Assembly in 1939, saw many of his close friends in Gardena confined behind barbed wire during World War II. He, along with then Assemblyman Shelley of San Francisco, were the only voices in the California state legislature that called for fair treatment of Japanese Americans during the war hysteria years.

Ninomiya was singled out for her many decades of contributions to the Matsuyama-Sacramento Sister City Corporation, the Sacramento JACL, and the Ladies Auxiliary of Nisei Post

8985 VFW.

Takai was commended for his 40 years of service to the Boy Scouts of America. He was introduced by Eagle Scout Douglas Sugimoto, who flew up from Los Angeles. During Takai's tenure as scoutmaster more than 50 youths attained the rank of Eagle Scout, a record unmatched by any other scout leader in the Golden Empire Council.

Sacramento Police Chief Venegas, who relocated from Fresno five years ago, pushed into national prominence the program of community policing. He also gave minority members of the police department more opportunity for advancement.

Following award presentations, Sacramento JACL's 1999 officers were installed by Jerry Enomoto, U.S. Marshal and former president of national JACL.

Installed were: Miyoko Sawamura, president; Toko Fujii, first vice president; Genevieve Shiro-ma, second vice president; Erin

Kimishibara and Remby Imai, secretaries; Ralph Sugimoto, treasurer; Dick Fukushima, past president.

Board of directors are: Keith Adachi, Lori Fujimoto, Tom Fujimoto, Mike Futamase, Gary Hatano, Kuni Hironaka, Mike Iwahiro, Gene Itogawa, Gary Kikumoto, Kazuo Ninomiya, Dean Okimoto, Suzanne Sasaki, Mike Sawamura and Shig Shimazu.

Rev. Bob Oshita of the Sacramento Buddhist Church delivered the invocation and Rev. Nobu Hanaoka of the Sacramento Japanese United Methodist Church gave the benediction.

Leading the pledge of allegiance was Commander George Kihara of Nisei Post 8985 VFW. The master of ceremonies was Miyoko Sawamura.

Corporate sponsors for the event were Union Bank of California and Tate, Propp, Beggs & Sugimoto, an accounting corporation. ■

JACL Fremont Board appreciation/Installation dinner



(From left) T. Shigemasa, M. Yamasaki, J. Handa, M. Kasama, E. T. Do-Endo, A. Mikuni, F. Nakasako, T. Inouye

Fremont JACL held its board appreciation and installation dinner on Dec. 10 at the Southern Alameda County Buddhist Church.

Fremont JACL president Alan Mikuni welcomed the 50-plus guests and served as master of ceremonies. The event was to show appreciation to the many who helped in fund-raising activities in the past two years and to install board members for the coming year.

Special guests were Patty Wada, Regional Director, NCWNP District Council, Tom Shigemasa, NCWNP District Council member, Mrs. Shigemasa, Mr. and Mrs. Mas Hatano, Tom and Heidi Kitayama, and Ms. M. Yasuda representing Sumitomo Bank.

After a wonderful repast of gourmet Japanese, Chinese and

American foods, guests were treated to a slide presentation by Mas Hatano titled "Japanese and Railroads in America." Hatano volunteers as a docent at the Sacramento Railroad Museum where he researched the history of early Japanese working for railroads in the United States.

Tom Shigemasa administered the oath of office to officers for 1999: Alan Mikuni, president; Ted Inouye, vice president; senior advisor, 1000 Club, official delegate, Redress; Diane Endo, vice president for activities; Eleanor Toi, treasurer, activities; Frank Nakasako, recording secretary; June Handa, historian; Mas Yamasaki, education, public relations; Gail Tomita, scholarship; Mary Kasama, correspondence secretary; June Hashimoto, ex officio; and Jim Yamaguchi, Blue Shield. ■



PHOTO BY SABURO OSHITA

Sacramento's Community Service Recognition Dinner — Honorees include (from left): Sacramento Police Chief Art Venegas, Hiroko Ninomiya, Larry Takai, and California State Senator Ralph Dills.

Lake Washington honors contributors to JA causes

BELLEVUE, Wash.—At its annual installation dinner held at the Tam O'Shanter Golf and Country Club on Dec. 5, the Lake Washington chapter gave special recognition to several Washington contributors.

Former chapter president and current PNW district representative James Arima presented a certificate of appreciation to Shin Issei artist Aki Sogabe for generously donating time, talent and effort to JACL projects in the Seattle area. She has prepared panels commemorating the early Nikkei farmers for permanent display at Seattle's Pike Place, has provided her cut-paper works for Seattle's Nikkei Manor, and donated her time and works to JACL fund-raisers.

Also honored was Jan Johnson, owner of the Panama Hotel in Seattle's "J town," for initiating

preservation of the hotel, and making the old *senjo* and unclaimed belongings left by Nikkei evacuees in 1942, available for public viewing on the 1997 walking tour of J town.

Stevenson Elementary School social studies teacher Paul Fraser was recognized for her effectiveness in working the Nikkei internment experience into curriculum on the Constitution, inviting Nisei speakers, and having her students use the internet theme in poetry, stories, drama and art work.

Also honored was Bellevue Historical Society for joining with the Lake Washington chapter to create photo panels of the prewar Nikkei in the Bellevue area and showing the panels at local events, in addition to creating a traveling exhibit, and recording Nikkei oral histories.

The 1999 chapter officers were installed by PNWDC co-governor Elaine Akagi. They are: president, Rose Nohara; vice president/membership chair, Hugh Burlesoni; secretary, Rachel Iwamoto; treasurer, Don Maekawa; PNWDC representative, James Arima; communications, Yoshiko Tokita Tsuji; fundraiser, James Nohara; historian and 1000 Club, John Matsumoto; board members, Paul Ishimitsu and Carol Ann Yamamoto.

The invocation was by Paul Hosada, Alice Ito reported on the Eastside Japanese American Oral History Project and Peter Okada reported on the National Japanese American Memorial. Featured speaker was state Rep. Sharon Tomiko Santos. Shox Tokita was master of ceremonies. Music was by Dan and Lin Broussard. ■

Stockton and Lodi JACL installation

The Stockton and Lodi chapters of JACL held a joint installation on Jan. 15 at the Elkhorn Country Club in Stockton. Speakers were past national JACL president Cressie Nakagawa and Roger Minami of the National Japanese American Memorial Foundation. Oral history books were presented to four participants from the Stockton chapter and two from the Lodi chapter.

Headling the Lodi chapter is Ron Oye, assisted by Dennis Morita, treasurer; Arleen Matsaga, recording secretary; Linda Oga, corresponding secretary; and Dennis Ikegami, immediate past president. Lodi JACL board members include Jim Kurita, Mike Naka-

gawa, Yoshi Yamazuchi, Tom Kurahara, Bill Hinkle, Kun'f Kawasaki, Steve Fujinaka, Brian Kanagawa, David Morimoto, and Mary Takeda.

John Fujii will serve his second term as president of the Stockton chapter. Assisting him are Nelson Nagai, first vice president; Bill Shima, second vice president; finance; Chinyo Sakata, third vice president of activities; Amy Matsumoto, corresponding secretary; Kelly Kubo-Hoang, recording secretary; May Sasaki, treasurer; Fujii and Aeko Fenslon, delegates; Wesley Hashimoto, George Baha and Nelson Nagai, alternate delegates; and Fenslon, immediate past president.

Stockton JACL board members are: Tadaaki Agari, George Baha, Ruby Dobana, Bernice Eadow, Aeko Fenslon, Dick Fujii, John Fujii, Wesley Hashimoto, Debra Hatanoaka, Mae Ishi-

hara, James Kochi, Amy Matsumoto, George Matsumoto, Eddie Murakami, Gladys Murakami, Nelson Nagai, Grace Nagata, Paul Nakane, Dorothy Okura, Tom Hoang, Kelly Kubo-Hoang, Barry Saki, May Saki, Chinyo Sakata, Ted Shihata, Bill Shima, Mark Tabuchi, Chisato Watanabe, Ted Yoneda and Richard Yoshikawa.

Committee chairs are: George Matsumoto and Mark Tabuchi, insurance commissioners; Ruby Dobana, membership; Gladys Murakami, historian; George Baha, 1000 Club and Legacy; Ted Shihata and Ted Agari, scholar; Debra Hatanoaka and Ruby Dobana, newsletter and publicity; Nelson Nagai, civil rights and outreach; Teddy Saki, George Baha and Eddie Murakami, veterans affairs; Dorothy Okura, social; Aeko Fenslon and Paul Nakane, oral history. ■



Blue Shield of California offers group health care coverage to current JACL members age 18 and over who reside in California. Plans may include a wide range of benefits, including vision care, worldwide emergency coverage, dental care, prescription drug benefits and more. For more information about these plans, call the JACL Health Benefits Trust today at 1-800-400-6633.



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PHOTO BY HERO SHIOZAKI
Jayce Getz stands beside the granite monument he set up at Fort Missoula to help remember 1,000 Japanese, 1,000 Italians and 22 German nationals interned during the 1941-1944 years. The bottom four lines read: "This memorial is dedicated to those men who were interned and held at Fort Missoula without trial during World War II. May this event be remembered."

Montana youth sets up WWII internment monument

MISSOULA, Mont.—Jayce R. Getz, a high school sophomore at Big Sky High and an Eagle Scout candidate of Troop 1910, set up a stone monument at Fort Missoula dedicated to the Italian-, Japanese- and German-Americans interned there during World War II. The unveiling ceremony was held on Nov. 17.

"Not a lot of Missoulians know people were interned at the fort and that the government had no reason to intern the Japanese," said Getz. "I want to make sure people know, so it doesn't happen again."

Part of the inscription on the stone reads: "This memorial is dedicated to those men who were interned and held at Fort Missoula without trial during World War II. May this event be remembered."

More than 1,000 Japanese, 1,000 Italians and 22 German nationals were interned at Fort

Missoula from 1941 to 1944.

Getz worked on the dedication stone with Western Monument and landscaped around the area with help from a local nursery. The project was part of Getz's Eagle Scout project.

There are also plans to restore a camp barrack in front of the monument.

Getz was first exposed to the history of internment during his eighth grade when his teachers at Target Range School received a U.S. West grant to establish an internet page on internment.

For the internet project, Getz had spoken with two former first Italian internees and with Dr. Homer Yasui, Portland JACLer, whose father was interned at Missoula.

Getz discovered that Italian seamen and nationals were detained because U.S. officials were afraid if they were allowed to return they would join forces fight-

ing against the Allies. Japanese Americans were never charged with espionage but, as a result of internment, lost their homes and property.

At the dedication, Pocatello-Blackfoot JACLer Hero Shiozaki recognized the four Target Range teachers — Mrs. Siegle, Mrs. Kramer, Mrs. Langlas and Mrs. McAtee — who had sought the initial grant that had sparked Getz's interest.

Shiozaki added that books and videos on the subject are available, and national JACL has published its own guide, *A Lesson in American History: The Japanese American Experience*, (1996) \$15.

Anyone interested in assisting or donating to the barrack restoration project should send correspondence to: Historical Museum at Fort Missoula, Ft. Missoula, Mont. 59801. Please mark: Barrack Renovation Project. ■

San Mateo JACL seeks 1999 scholarship applicants

The San Mateo JACL chapter and the Tomodachi Senior Women's Group of the San Mateo JACL Community Center have announced they are seeking applicants for their annual scholarship program.

Organizations will award two \$1,000 and four \$500 scholarships to deserving high school seniors from San Mateo County who are planning to attend a trade school, business school, university or institution of higher learning in the fall of 1999.

Scholarships are open to national JACL members and their families.

Applications are available from San Mateo County high schools, San Mateo Buddhist Temple, Sturges Presbyterian Church and San Mateo JACL Community Center.

After selection of the local recipients, the top three will be submitted to national JACL for further judging in the national program, which will award more than 40 scholarships totaling over \$40,000.

Applications must be post-marked no later than March 1 and should be sent to: Scholarship Chairman, San Mateo JACL, 415 S. Claremont St., San Mateo, Calif. 94401-3323. ■

Twin Cities chapter to sponsor teacher workshop

BY CHERYL HIRATA-DULAS
Twin Cities chapter

The Twin Cities chapter is sponsoring a teacher's workshop titled "The Japanese American Internment Experience and World War II," to be held on Feb. 11 from 8:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Bloomington National Armory in the Twin Cities.

The workshop will be similar in format to the one held in Minneapolis last June as part of the NISEI project, funded by the Civil Liberties Public Education Fund (CLPEF). Speakers were Greg Marutani, Teresa Maebori, Daniel Teraguchi and intern Jackie Kuwada. Internees Sally Sudo, Tom Ohno, Lucy Kirihaars and Esther Suzuki provided attendees with firsthand experiences.

The February workshop, supported by grants from the JACL Legacy Fund and American Express Financial Advisors East-West Exchange Employee Network, is targeting teachers in the Minneapolis and St. Paul school

districts.

According to Sudo, Twin Cities Education Committee chair, "the workshop is timely because the Japanese American internment is a required topic in newly implemented grade level expectations for Minneapolis public schools grades 5, 8 and 11."

Other committee members are Sylvia Farrells, Gloria Kumagai, Jerilyn Ezaki, David Hayashi and Cheryl Hirata-Dulas. Speakers include local educators Ohno, Farrells, Sandy Rubenstein and a panel of internees. There is no fee to attend the workshop, and continental breakfast and a bento lunch will be served.

Interest in the workshop was generated when Ohno and Sudo gave a one-hour presentation to Minneapolis Public Schools' grade 11 social studies teachers this past fall. Most teachers present had never covered the internment topic and requested additional information.

The Twin Cities chapter is continuing in its commitment to educate the community about the JA

internment. The chapter received funding from the JACL Legacy Fund and CLPEF to co-sponsor an eight-week run of the Smithsonian Institution's traveling exhibit, "Whispered Silences: Japanese American Detention Camps, Fifty Years Later," in fall 1997.

Accompanying programs included panels by local internees and veterans, and presentations by exhibition photographer Joan Myers, historian Dr. Gary Okihara, children's author Ken Mochizuki, novelist Stewart David Iida, and psychologist Dr. Donna Nagata.

The Twin Cities chapter recently donated three classroom sets (105 copies total) of "Journey to Topaz" by Yoshiko Uchida for use by Twin Cities area schools. A speaker's bureau is being set up to accommodate requests for presentations by internees and veterans.

For more information about the workshop or speaker's bureau, contact Sally Sudo at 612/835-7374. ■

Hosokawa signs book in Denver

Seventy-five friends and fans attended a recent talk and signing by Bill Hosokawa, author of the newly published *Out of the Frying Pan* at the Tattered Cover bookstore in Denver.

The book is autobiographic, covering Hosokawa's years from a youth to his retirement. He relates his family's struggle during the prewar years, of working in the fish canneries in Alaska as a teenager, working his way through the University of Washington and taking journalism as a major, where his instructor tried to discourage him by telling him that there would be no work for him in his chosen field. Hosokawa also relates his work in Singapore as English editor of the *Singapore Herald* and in

Shanghai just prior to the outbreak of World War II.

The author tells of his return to the United States only to be interned in Heart Mountain Relocation Center, where he established the *Heart Mountain Sentinel*, and his subsequent jobs at the Des Moines, Iowa, *Register* and the *Denver Post*.

Hosokawa's story relates his years of struggle to attain success and the diversity of his activities, which include being a war correspondent in Korea and Vietnam, being in editorial positions at the *Denver Post* and serving as honorary consul general of Japan for the Rocky Mountain area.

The last half includes excerpts from his *Pacific Citizen* column, "From the Frying Pan." ■

Toma named assistant executive director of Human Relations Commission



Robin S. Toma, attorney in the recent lawsuit filed on behalf of former Japanese Latin American internee Joe Suzuki and the National Coalition for Redress and Reparations (NCR), was recently appointed to the position of assistant executive director at the Los Angeles County Commission on Human Relations.

A senior human relations consultant, Toma has been with the Commission since May, 1995, during which time he studied human relations approaches in various parts of the world as part of a three-year fellowship with the Kellogg National Leadership Program. While at the Commission, he also published a methodological primer on *Managing Intergroup Conflict in a Multicultural Workplace*.

Prior to that, the Los Angeles native worked as a staff attorney at the ACLU Foundation of Southern California. Toma holds a B.A. in sociology and economics from UC Santa Cruz and received both his law degree and master's degree in urban planning from UCLA in 1988. ■



PHOTO BY TOM MASAHARU
Book signing of *Out of the Frying Pan* at Tattered Cover in Denver, (from left) Stephanie Boatright (granddaughter), Susan Hosokawa Boatright (daughter), the author, and son Michael Hosokawa.



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AJA WWII Memorial Alliance collects \$290,116 to date

Without much fanfare and publicity, the Americans of Japanese Ancestry World War II Memorial Alliance announced at their first meeting of the new year that they have raised nearly \$300,000 to date on their campaign to raise \$800,000 to build a memorial wall to honor all the more than 800 Japanese Americans who were killed or were listed as missing in action in World War II.

The wall will be situated in the Veterans Memorial Court facing South San Pedro Street at the Japanese American Cultural and Community Center in Little Tokyo, Los Angeles. Similar memorial walls, to the KIAs and MIAs of the Korean and Vietnam conflicts, are already established in the court.

Often confused with the memorial to all veterans of World War II conceived for N. Central Ave. near the Japanese American National Museum, the AJA WWII Memorial Alliance memorial will be dedicated solely to the names of Japanese Americans killed in action during World War II.

The project has strong endorsement by Nisei Veterans of Foreign Wars posts of California, the Nisei Veterans Coordinating Council of Southern California, the Mayor's Little Tokyo Community Development Advisory Committee,

Japanese American Korean War Veterans, the Japanese American Vietnam Veterans, and numerous community organizations. Prominent local and national figures have accepted honorary co-chair

positions with the Alliance. Octogenarian Fred Hoshiyama, noted fund-raiser for the YMCA who will be featured in a half-time spot during half time at the coming Super Bowl, has spent

many hours with the AJA WWII Memorial Alliance volunteers, helping them organize the fund drive. Joking, cajoling, encouraging and demanding, Hoshiyama has built a solid base for Drs. Roy

ful dreams of their future? What moved them to decide to fight for the country that stripped them of their birthright and literally cast them into the American-made concentration camps?"

The Reverend Aki stated emphatically that "These thoughts were very real then and just as real today."

"These young men ... vowed that nothing, even death, would deter them from being the finest American and being an anonymous stepping stone towards a world of justice and peace."

"In a world where the goal in life is fame, fortune, personal gain and recognition, it is good to meet people who can forget themselves and unflinchingly pour all honor and glory to those who died to give us life and a dream of a nobler future," he concludes, in referring to his comrades in the Alliance who are working on the memorial wall.

Anyone interested in giving a helping hand to the aging veterans of the 100th Infantry Battalion, the 442nd Regimental Combat Team and the little-heralded translators in the Military Intelligence Service who form the core of the AJA WWII Memorial Alliance is asked to call Secretary Kats Kunitzugu at 313/628-2725.



ARTIST'S DONATES—Issei Anami, 80 (right), ceramist residing in La Canada, Calif., hands a check for \$1,700 to Kats Kunitzugu, secretary of the Americans of Japanese Ancestry World War II Memorial Alliance, as Fred Yasukochi, retired farm executive from Oxnard and a WWII comrade of Anami in the 522nd Field Artillery, looks on.

Anami held a special sale of his ceramics to raise funds for the AJA WWII MA, which hopes to erect a memorial to JAs killed in action during WWII. The memorial is set for the Veterans Memorial Court at the Japanese American Cultural and Community Center in Little Tokyo, Los Angeles.

Machida and Harold Harada, co-chairs of the Alliance, to raise funds to bring the memorial into reality by November 11, 1999, the date targeted for the official dedication.

A touching letter from the Rev. George Aki, former chaplain with the 442nd Regimental Combat Team, was read at the January 9 meeting of the Alliance, bringing tears to the eyes of hardened veterans. Aki told of the time near the end of WWII in Europe when he was assigned to locate isolated graves of men in the 442nd who were hastily buried during the heat of combat.

"As my assistant and I searched for those solitary graves, these were some of my innermost thoughts: 'Why did they have to die so young? What were their youth-

San Fernando Valley forms 100th/442nd/MIS Monument Foundation Committee

A committee comprised of members of the San Fernando Valley JACL chapter has been formed in support of the 100th/442nd/MIS Memorial Foundation. In the six months of its existence, over \$66,750 has been raised for the monument, which will be erected next to the Japanese American National Museum in Little Tokyo and is scheduled to be dedicated in June of this year.

Dr. Mary Oda, committee chair, extends her gratitude to all contributors and announces that the fundraising drive continues. All donations and pledges can be sent to her at 17102 Labrador St., Northridge, Calif. 91325.



San Fernando Valley 100th/442nd/MIS WWII Monument Foundation Committee (from left back): Ben Tagami, Don Yamaoka, Nancy and Yus Gohata, Mitzi Kushida, Harriet Nishizaka, Marion and Phil Shigetani, Terry and Sam Ueyehara; (front): James Oda, Col. Young Kim, Dr. Mary Oda, John Nishizaka.

'Go For Broke' monument to be unveiled June 5

The unveiling of the 'Go For Broke' monument remembering the Japanese American men and women who served their country during World War II will take place on June 5 at 10 a.m. The public is invited to attend.

This is the first monument in the United States to commemorate the heroic role of the 100th Infantry Battalion, the 442nd Regimental Combat Team and the Military Intelligence Service. The names of women who served as Army nurses in the Woman's Army Corps will also be on the

monument.

Luncheon follows the unveiling ceremony at 1 p.m. at the Inter-Continental Hotel. The cost of the luncheon is \$40, and 600 spaces are available.

A hard-bound limited edition commemorative booklet will be given to each person attending the luncheon. It will also be sold at the unveiling ceremony. Advertising space in the booklet is available. A full page ad is \$1,000; half page, \$500; and quarter page, \$250. Copy and check must be submitted by Feb.

1, 1999.

Beginning on June 6, until June 10, 1999, there will be a Post-Unveiling Celebration/Reunion at the California Hotel in Las Vegas.

For further luncheon reservation information and details of the booklet and reunion, contact Christine Sato at 100/442/MIS WWII Memorial Foundation, P.O. Box 2590, Gardena, Calif. 90247; telephone number 310/327-4193, Fax number 310/715-3140.

NCWNP district program on the draft resisters

SAN FRANCISCO—The Northern California-Western Nevada-Pacific (NCWNP) District Council of the JACL will hold an educational program on the World War II Nisei draft resisters at its Feb. 7 district council meeting. The meeting, hosted by the French Camp JACL, will be held at the Radisson Hotel, 2823 Grand Canal Blvd., in Stockton.

The afternoon program will be part of the NCWNP district council's first quarterly meeting and will be held after the morning business session. Featured will be a slide show on the draft

resisters and a panel presentation with professor Wayne Mayeda of California State University at Sacramento, draft resister Mits Koshiyama of San Jose and Marvin Uratsu, president of the Military Intelligence Service Association of Northern California.

"We felt it was important that we sponsor this informational program on the draft resisters," stated NCWNP governor John Hayashi. "Their story is part of our history and we need to learn about these men, their principles and the stand they took."

The program, which is scheduled to begin around 1 p.m., will be organized by Andy Neguchi of the Florin JACL, Mike Kaku of the Sequoia JACL, Elisa Kamimoto of the Golden Gate JACL, and NCWNP regional director Patty Wada.

The NCWNP district is the largest in the JACL, with 32 chapters and over 9,000 members. The meeting and program are open to all JACL members and the public. For more information, call the NCWNP regional office at 415/921-5225, extension 26.

Day of Remembrance program at Chicago's Field Museum

As part of their Project Millennium, the Chicago Japanese American Historical Society has joined 185 partner organizations to celebrate the coming of the year 2001. Three years of programs are planned starting with a thousand exhibits, performances, lectures, special events, and children's activities in 1999, with six major themes: origins, environment, discovery and technology, shaping community, new directions, and transitions.

This year the Day of Remembrance program, sponsored by the Chicago Japanese American Historical Society, JACL, and the Japanese American Service Committee, will be part of the Project Millennium celebration on origins. Activities have been planned for Feb. 20 at the Field Museum.

From 1 to 2 p.m., the historical society members and Lincoln Park Academy students will teach children how to make colorful doll bookmarks in native costumes from Africa,

Japan, and South America in Stanley Hall.

The Day of Remembrance program titled "Day of Remembrance — Is This a Tradition Worth Keeping?" will begin at 2 p.m. The moderator will be Sam Ozaki, retired Taft High School principal. The two speakers in favor of this tradition are Barbara Finn, graphic designer, and the Rev. Michael Yasutake, executive director, Interfaith Prisoners of Conscience Project. Speakers against this tradition are Larry Schectman, president of the JACL Chicago chapter, and Jim Riddiford, chair of the Social Studies department at Lincoln Park Academy. This will be followed by testimonial videos from the Commission on Wartime Relocation and Internment of Civilians hearings. Light refreshments will be served.

For more information, contact Alice Murata at 773/463-4631 or by email at A-Murata@neiu.edu.

Nikkei International Association presents \$1,000 check to NJAMF



PHOTO BY JEM LEW

GARDENA, Calif.—The Nikkei International Association presents a \$1,000 check to the National Japanese American Memorial Foundation. (From left) Nikkei International Association's current President Joe Shitara, incoming President Ron Shiozaki, Helen Kawagoe and Paul Bannai of the Memorial Foundation.



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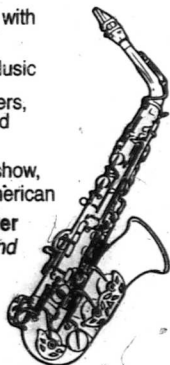
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Mixed Messages



Viva Las Vegas!

This past winter break, my fellow Asian American Studies cohorts and I participated in a productive and thought provoking two-day retreat in order to ponder and discuss relevant Asian American issues concerning community, cultural preservation and changing fortunes in today's society.

Our intellectual ambitions led us to — where else? — Las Vegas, a true site of Japanese American pioneer spirit and "Go for Broke" philosophy.

The first time I had been to Vegas since I was of legal gambling age, I was at first somewhat skeptical about the kind of cultural experience Vegas could offer me. Throw my money away? Sit in front of a stupid machine for hours on end? It didn't sound like much fun at all.

I have to say that ever since I was a little kid and lost continuously at the Japanese game, pachinko, vowing never to play again, I have not been much of a gambler. No matter how small the amount, I have always hated to think about what I could have bought with the money I lost.

"Five bucks?"
"That's lunch!"
"Eight?"
"I could have seen a movie, dammit!"

Basically, I hate to lose. So I figured I'd go with my friends to Vegas, take in the sights, drink the free drinks and eat at the cheap buffets. Maybe I'd put a few dollars into the slot machines, but no more than that because I am a student trying to live within "my means."

Anyway, when we got there I realized how much things had changed since I last visited. Seeing the architectural spectacle of the Bellagio and the light of the new Luxor Hotel shooting its beam of light from the top of its pyramid (the big deal about that is, it can supposedly be seen from outer space — maybe to entertain alien life forms?) I was struck by how much Vegas happens to think it is the center of the universe.

I suppose that, in a way, it is because if money makes the world go round, things in Vegas are pretty much spinning out of control. After taking in the high voltage splendor of the Strip, my group and I headed downtown to begin our research, going straight to the mecca of Japanese American culture in Las Vegas, the infamous California Hotel.

Anybody who has ever been to the California knows that it caters largely to Japanese Americans from Hawaii, and that it is filled with gray haired *ji-chans* and *ba-chans* clutching their bucket of quarters or stoically laying down stacks of chips at the roulette table.

You can hear people talk-

ing pidgin and eating oxtail soup after midnight, and feel like you are at some huge community center, except that you are surrounded by the noisy chaos of slot machines and rattling change.

Lulled into a sense of familiarity and comfort, my friend and I sat down at the roulette table next to a weathered-looking Nisei who had collected an impressive stack of chips in front of him. I had no idea what I was doing and placed my chips down on a random combination of numbers, but my friend wisely tried to tap into the JA gambler's psyche by shadowing the moves of the Nisei man. The strategy worked, and actually both of us came out ahead, which then prompted us to feel indestructible and blow most of our winnings throughout the rest of the night.

The amazing thing to me was that I could have played till the break of dawn if my colleagues had allowed it, the Vegas bug had bit me pretty hard. Easy money — there's nothing quite like it.

Although I would now consider Vegas to be one of my hobbies, I still wonder why it is such a Japanese American cultural phenomenon. For a relatively small ethnic group to practically command its own hotel, the number of JA gamblers must be pretty impressive.

So, what is it about JAs that make them so partial to gambling? Is it the pioneer spirit inherited by the Issei, themselves gambling safety and comfort for life in a new country? Is it a form of recreation passed down from life on the plantations in Hawaii and the agricultural camps in California? Or is it that JAs, tired of being the model minority and enduring a culture of *gaman* and *kodomo no tame ni*, sometimes feel the need to let it all loose, get crazy and bet their whole stack of chips on red?

It was incredible to see the Nisei, the embodiment of frugality and practicality, cheerfully let large sums of money slip through their fingers. I've heard that some hard-core JA gamblers save every penny they earn just so they can go to Vegas once a year and bet it all. I guess the motto, "Go for Broke," is more than just an expression of heroism on the battlefield — it's a way of life.

Another interesting development that came out of our Vegas trip was the discovery of a "Chinatown" and an "Asian American Cultural Center." Seeing signs for such a center as we drove along the Strip, the group decided to see what it was all about.

An Asian American community center in Vegas? Had Asian Americans really made such an impact that they had already carved out

their social and cultural networks and institutions?

After drying around for a good 15 minutes, we finally figured out that "Chinatown" was a strip mall much like you'd find in the heart of Monterey Park or the San Gabriel Valley in Southern California. There was a Sam Woo's Barbecue restaurant, a really excellent Vietnamese Pho restaurant, a Ranch 99 market, a sushi place, and, just to let you know that you were in Vegas, a wedding temple.

I guess it is appropriate that in Las Vegas, a cultural center would have to do with consumerism. We suspect it was built to cater to the increasing number of Asian gamblers and casino employees — at any rate, it was packed.

For anybody who's going to Vegas arid is tired of eating \$3.99 prime rib, check it out; it's located about a mile and a half off the Strip on Mountain Spring Road.

So now I am already planning my next trip to Las Vegas, eager to continue my research and try my luck again at the tables.

Maybe, in the spirit of Vegas and good old Japanese American *gambatte* spirit, I'll even let my hair down enough to raise the stakes and make things more exciting.

As a precaution, however, I have instructed my friends to lock me in my room when I start talking about playing with the money I've set aside for school.

You never know — things could get pretty ugly. ■

By Mika Tanner



From the Frying Pan

By Bill Hosokawa

Condoning Clinton's act recalls specters of 1942

William Jefferson Clinton, elected by Americans as their chief executive and chief law enforcement officer, has been accused of lying under oath when questioned about his relations with a White House intern. Failing to tell the truth while under oath is perjury, a felony. A felony is a serious crime, even for the president of the United States.

The American people should be deeply concerned that their president is a suspected felon. But many are not. Many consider his private sexual activity none of the public's business, would tolerate what went on in the privacy of the Oval Office and — this is the critical part — would grant him the right to lie about it.

What his supporters do not accept is that the issue is not what President Clinton did with Monica Lewinsky and other women. The issue is whether he responded truthfully when, under oath, he was questioned about those activities.

Strangely, many Americans don't see it that way. They see a nation prospering under the Clinton administration. They see a large measure of domestic tranquility, and a president who still commands respect abroad. They see unfair political partisanship. So they ask what does it matter if the president lied about his personal life? Maybe he ought to be censured, they say, scolded, but let's not get carried away about this.

But others see this as sacrificing principle for expediency. And this is intensely troubling. Return with me to early 1942. The public's preoccupa-

tion was not overcoming the Depression; or sexual misconduct in the White House but a desperate war.

President Franklin D. Roosevelt's advisers figured treating Japanese Americans on the West Coast as a security hazard would provide a convenient scapegoat for rallying the war effort. Never mind that they posed no danger to national security.

The politicians counseled the drastic step of imprisoning America's ethnic Japanese en masse as a war necessity regardless of their Constitutional rights as U.S. citizens. And the American public said, in effect, never mind principle, ignore the Constitution, just do what's expedient.

So laws guaranteeing the rights of Americans were violated, a shameful injustice was committed against an ethnic minority and it took a half century for the United States to admit a wrong and apologize.

Fast forward to the present. There is no doubt the president has been indiscreet but more to the point, he broke the law in an effort to avoid responsibility for his actions.

Many Americans have indicated they would tolerate Bill Clinton's sexual indiscretions — doesn't everybody do it? — and now for whatever reasons they would accept violation of the oath to tell the truth.

This is wrong. Expediency has no place in our deliberations. A matter of principle is at stake, just as in 1942. ■

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Asian sweatshops make case against U.S. clothing companies

(Continued from page 1)

Global Exchange.

Although this is not the first reported incidence of alleged worker abuse in Saipan sweatshops, it is the first time formal legal action is being taken against U.S. apparel corporations that do business with unlawful foreign contractors.

Medea Benjamin, co-director of Global Exchange, made a plea on behalf of her organization and the general public to "put an end to the exploitation of workers and to the deceit of consumers."

An estimated total of \$1 billion is being sought to compensate workers for unpaid back wages.

Several of these companies denied doing business with unlawful Saipan subcontractors, while others vowed to conduct their own inspections of factory conditions before deciding to terminate their patronage.

Pamela Rucker, spokesperson for the National Retail Federation (NRF), argued in defense of the American retailers, saying that buying companies have no way to control the manufacturers' practices, especially foreign manufacturers, and that it is up to the Federal Trade Commission to regulate them.

By last October, the 32 Saipan companies had shipped an estimated \$1 billion in wholesale clothing (called "hot goods") to the U.S. mainland, reported plaintiffs' attorney Alan Mansfield. Saipan's status as a U.S. territory allowed the supplying factories to skirt duties and tariff laws that are normally imposed on foreign-made garments.

As a result of this exemption, the San Francisco suit charges, the manufacturers were able to sell their gar-

ments at a higher profit margin, in effect saving them more than \$200 million, explained Mansfield.

"This situation is even more outrageous because the garments sewn under such terrible conditions enter the United States duty-free carrying the Made in the USA label," added Mazur in his press statement.

Asian Law Caucus attorney Lora Jo Foo told *Pacific Citizen* that for the past 20 years her organization has been tracking cases of garment worker exploitation. They began suing contractors in the 1980s and, to date, have represented over 1,000 immigrant Asians who were taken advantage of.

In this case, however, "practices [were] condemned but nothing [was] done ... because the U.S. government [couldn't] do anything about it," said plaintiffs' attorney Lerach.

Last year, the U.S. Labor Department began to suspect abuse in the Saipan sweatshops, but reform efforts were thwarted by the rich (mainly Chinese) businessmen who control the factories and make the bulk of the profit.

In 1986, the Northern Mariana, formerly a World War II trust territory of the United Nations, became a commonwealth of the United States and negotiated a covenant which left immigration, labor and minimum wage laws up to local officials.

"Certain industries are so powerful that they control [the] people who are supposed to be [the] regulators," said Lerach. "That's the perverse thing. And that's why you have to have private litigation."

Pending this litigation, none of the Saipan factories in question have been shut down, though at this point, Lerach muses, "Justice that comes late is better than no justice at all."



Letters to the Editor

Get your special Sports Illustrated copy

Congratulations to the Nisei generation for being in the Nov. 16 issue of *Sports Illustrated*. The article was written by David Davis, and he tells it like it was. For example, he refers to internment camps as prison camps and refers to the Nisei and Sansei as the prisoners. Three pages were devoted to Nisei baseball and centered around the accomplishments of Kenichi Zenimura.

There's a catch to this story, however. It did not appear in all issues. If you are a subscriber or bought the magazine from the newsstands and did not see this in your issue, you should call 800/274-6800 and ask for Volume 89, Number 20 and specify that you would like the issue with the select story. The story was entitled, "A Field in the Desert That Felt Like Home," and was featured in the section called "Scorecard."

Ray Arifuku
Fresno, Calif.

Going all out for the JLAS

Aware that the redress program observed its 10-year sunset in August of last year but is still in operation until February 1999, I have been following your articles on the continuing plight of the Japanese Látin Americans.

It is certainly a complicated issue. What with the *Mochizuki* settlement, opt-out cases, shortages of funds and the issue of the interest-bearing account recently brought to light by NCRP vs. *The United States Government*, the lawsuit, which affects not only the remaining redress recipients but should be of interest to all education fund grantees such as the JACL that did not receive the full amount requested in their grant proposals.

Your Oct. 16 article, "JLAS Seek Full Redress in Latest Lawsuit," quotes a press release that states JACL is committed to full implementation of the *Mochizuki* settlement, with an explanation that "we in good faith supported the *Mochizuki* settlement with the United States government. So in good faith we have to continue to support this settlement. It would be disingenuous of us to support or pursue this [NCRP v. U.S.] lawsuit."

As someone whose involvement with redress came in the latter years after many individuals in different categories were denied redress but continued their quest through various means, I don't quite understand the reasoning for this position. Just as in the initial struggle to

obtain redress in the early 1980s, there are currently several approaches either being considered or being taken on behalf of the JLAS. And just as in the early years, each action taken by whatever means will help in the overall struggle to achieve a fair measure of justice for the JLAS.

Certainly there is nothing negative or problematic with an individual or organization supporting more than one, if not all, of the remedies being pursued because when you really stop to think about it, legally and morally, *Mochizuki* is not enough.

Full implementation of the *Mochizuki* settlement means an apology and \$5,000. Your Nov. 20 article titled, "Judge delays fairness hearing in *Mochizuki* vs separate JLA lawsuit can first be heard," states lawyers for the government have confirmed that the money is not there, which raises the question as to whether and how the U.S. government will live up to the \$5,000 compromise settlement for each eligible individual. Why should JACL continue to support this settlement when the government admits it will likely not be able to meet the settlement?

It is sad that rather than working cooperatively to find a solution, the government has forced those who should have long ago received an apology and redress payment to agree to a "take-it-or-leave-it" apology and partial payment. Shamefully, it is taking another lawsuit to get the government to live up to the full terms of the compromise settlement forced upon the JLAS.

For the federal government to have overlooked the requirement for an interest-bearing account for all these years while following such a strict interpretation of the Civil Liberties Act in the granting and denying of redress from Day One is a disgrace. With that in mind, why not go the distance for the JLAS and support any and all efforts to obtain the justice that is so long overdue!

Sharon Tanikawa
Garden Grove, Calif.

Wasurezu-Na!

Recently re-reading our evacuation-internment experience (this time the John Hersey-Ansel Adams' *Manzanar*.) I was struck again how important it is for all Nikkei to re-read books like this and keep the experience in our memories. Looking up the word memory, I found: *hiyoki* (memories); *hinon* (commemorate as in history); and *omoi desu* (think about or call to mind). These words with their subtle differences were not the meanings I

was looking for so I looked up "remember" or *wasurezu-na* (the *zu* is negative), which gives the impact and importance: do not forget!

I stuck Post-it notes on almost every page. They emphasized how important it is for us Nikkei to remember and to teach our children and their children about it. If ever the words "those who do not remember (the lesson learned) will repeat (the mistakes) of this experience" holds true. If we forget or sweep it under the carpet, we surely will repeat it.

John Hersey's words with Ansel Adams' photographs should be part of every American history course. Especially for Japanese Americans, *wasurezu-na* are words we must remember. Particularly, as Americans, the evacuation-internment experience showed so harshly how racism misdirects, distorts, warps this, the most precious tenet of our American value of personal or individual justice and our rights, both human and civil.

No other immediate event illustrates as clearly the impact of racism backed by greed (or greed backed by racism) and how easily our rights can be taken away. When the right to be charged, investigated, have proof of guilt clearly shown, is denied, there can be no justice. When this right is abrogated, our whole justice system is attacked.

So, *wasurezu-na* is much more than just keeping an injustice remembered so that it may fester and build resentment and bitterness. It is much more than that: it is to protect and foster this precious ideal held by all who identify ourselves as Americans. ■

Ivy Mahabe Dromas
Bend, Ore.

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• "Voices" reflect the active, public discussion within JACL of a wide range of issues and issues, requiring clear presentation though they may not reflect the viewpoint of the editorial board of the *Pacific Citizen*.

• "Short expressions" on public issues, usually one or two paragraphs, do not include signatures, addresses 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.

Coram nobis team to be honored

In commemoration of the Day of Remembrance, the National Japanese American Historical Society (NJAHS) will honor the Coram Nobis Legal Team at 6 p.m. on Feb. 20, at the Radisson Miyako Hotel, 1625 Post St., San Francisco.

The Coram Nobis Legal Team, consisting of Sansei attorneys, successfully challenged the U.S. Supreme Court decisions which had validated the exclusion and incarceration of 120,000 Japanese Americans during World War II. Coram Nobis (from the Latin, meaning "error before us") refers to a seldom used legal procedure invoked only after a defendant has been convicted and only to

raise errors of fact that were knowingly withheld by the prosecution from the judge and the defense.

Court actions were initiated by the three teams of Sansei attorneys, representing Fred Korematsu in San Francisco in 1983, with Dale Minami as lead counsel; Min Yasui in Portland in 1985, headed by Peggy Nagae; and Gordon Hirabayashi in Seattle in 1986, under Rod Kawakami. In their petitions for a writ of error coram nobis, the legal teams argued that the War Department and the Justice Department had knowingly altered, suppressed and destroyed evidence that upheld the loyalty of

JAs.

Attorneys and community leaders from California, Oregon and Washington will participate in the evening program. The keynote speaker will be Warren Furutani, prominent Los Angeles community activist and educator. Wendy Tokuda, local television news anchor, will be mistress of ceremonies. Co-chairs for the event are William Hirose, J.D., and Gary Kono, DDS.

NJAHS was founded in 1980 and is dedicated to the preservation, promotion and dissemination of materials related to the history and culture of JAs. For further information, please call 415/921-5007. ■

30th Annual Manzanar Pilgrimage set for April

The 30th Annual Manzanar Pilgrimage has been set for April 24. The theme of this year's pilgrimage will be: "All Camp Reunion: Raise the Banner."

The Manzanar Committee has come a long way from the first pilgrimage, a cold and windy day in December when a group of about 150 people, mostly young Japanese Americans, drove by car and bus to a place between Lone Pine and Independence, California.

Over the years, the Manzanar Pilgrimage has been attended by hundreds of people, including teachers and students from

throughout the country. Last year the pilgrimage drew over 360 people, many who came on charter buses sponsored by the United Teachers of Los Angeles, the San Fernando Japanese American Community Center, and the Manzanar Committee.

This year, the annual pilgrimage proposes to be the biggest event yet, seeking participation from everyone affiliated with the World War II concentration camps.

The Manzanar Committee has proposed the display of large banners representing each camp and other organizations at the pil-

grimage. These banners will symbolize the hardship suffered and the perseverance demonstrated by JAs during the internment years and the subsequent fight for justice through Redress and reparations.

The Manzanar Committee is inviting groups to join in this portion of the pilgrimage by creating their own banner, representing their organization. The Manzanar Committee will be providing banner size specifications at a later date.

For information, contact Manzanar Committee Chair Sue Embrey at 323/662-5102. ■

Teacher Jennifer Yazawa earns National Board Certification

Jennifer Yazawa, current member and past vice president and board member of the New Mexico JAACL, is among the 924 candidates from around the country who recently earned cer-

tification from the National Board for Professional Teaching Standards (NBPTS), a nonprofit, nongovernmental

agency which seeks to assess and certify K-12 teachers who demonstrate a certain commitment and excellence in teaching.

The National Board Certification process takes one full school year to complete, in which time teachers are tested not only on their personal knowledge but on their classroom teaching ability.

They undergo a rigorous series of performance-based assessments, submitting written exercises, teacher portfolios, student work samples, videotapes, evaluations of student learning and analyses of their own developing skills.

National Board Certification is open to anyone who has a baccalaureate degree from an accredited institution, has completed three years of successful teaching and who, if required to do so by their state, held a valid state teaching license for those three years of teaching.

Recipient Yazawa currently teaches eighth grade humanities at John Adams Middle School in Albuquerque, New Mexico, and has also been selected for *Who's Who Among America's Teachers* both in 1992 and, more recently, in 1998.

For more information, visit the National Board's website at www.nbpts.org. ■

Terauchi announces bid for Gardena, Calif., city council

Terry Terauchi became the first person to file his nomination papers for council member for the city of Gardena, Calif., in the March 1999 election.

Terauchi is president of the Gardena JAACL and past president of the Evening Optimist Club of Gardena. He is active in many community affairs, including the Chamber of Commerce, YMCA fundraising, Sister City Association, Japanese Cultural Institute, Gardena Medal of Valor Committee, and the Elks.

"Gardena is confronting a critical time in its history due to the

city's fiscal problems, and the current city council is sitting on its hands in attempting to work out solutions," said Terauchi. "We need fresh faces with fresh ideas on the city council."

Terauchi favors prioritizing police and fire services in the budget process, fair distribution of city resources throughout the city, and improvement of public education.

After a long history of Japanese American representation on the Gardena city council, Gardena has not had a JA on the city council since the retirement of Paul Tsukahara and Mas Fukui two years ago. ■

Margaret Yonekura wins women's rights advocacy award

Out of 52 worthy nominees in the fields of women's rights advocacy, 12 outstanding individuals, including Dr. Margaret Lynn Yonekura, are to be honored with Women of the Year Awards by the Los Angeles County Commission for Women.

For the past 20 years, Yonekura, the medical director of Perinatal Services for the California Hospital Medical Center, has worked for the health care of pregnant women, especially low-income, minority, chemically dependent or high-risk pregnancy women who've been denied access to quality prenatal services.

The commission will hold its 14th annual "Women of the Year Awards Luncheon" at the Los Angeles Music Center on March 8. For sponsorship information, ticket reservations or further details, contact the commission office at 213/897-1455. ■

Dr. Hitoshi and Marion Tamaki Scholarship fund

The University of Puget Sound at Tacoma, Wash., recently announced the availability of the Dr. Hitoshi T. and Marion Tamaki Scholarship. Dr. Tamaki graduated from the university in 1940 and wants to encourage students of Japanese American descent to attend Puget Sound.

Awards will be made to one or two first-year students (maximum annual award per student is \$2,500) enrolled at the University of Puget Sound who are of Americans of Japanese descent. The award can be renewed as long as the student's cumulative GPA is 2.8 or better at the end of his or her freshman year and 3.0 or higher in subsequent years.

If you know of any students who are interested in attending the University of Puget Sound and who may be eligible for this scholarship, please contact Daniel F. Evans, associate director of Admissions, University of Puget Sound, at 206/756-3211 or 800/896-7191. ■

Applications available for 1999 APAICS summer internship program

WASHINGTON—The Asian Pacific American Institute for Congressional Studies (APAICS) announced that applications are now available for the 1999 APAICS summer internship program.

The internship program, which will be held from June 14 to Aug. 6, 1999, is open to currently enrolled college and graduate students with an interest in public policy issues and Asian Pacific American community affairs. Interns will be placed in congressional offices, federal agencies and nonprofit public policy organizations in Washington, D.C.

In addition to working on assignments in their respective offices, interns will have an opportunity to attend briefings at the Democratic and Republican National Committees, workshops on significant policy issues affecting APAs, discussions with APA community leaders, and numerous social events and special tours.

At least 10 internships will be available, and each intern will re-

ceive a stipend of \$2,500 for travel, housing and personal expenses. Candidates must be U.S. citizens or legal permanent residents, at least 18 years of age, and have a grade-point average of at least 3.0 on a scale of 4.0. Applications are due Feb. 5, 1999.

Since its inception in 1995, the APAICS internship program has provided a unique Washington, D.C., experience for 39 Asian Pacific American students. Yale junior Catherine Kim, a 1998 summer intern, said of her experience, "The APAICS internship was an absolutely wonderful, enlightening experience that I will always remember. It creates such a unique environment that really helps APA students not only learn more about Washington, but more about themselves and the role of the APA community in the larger picture."

For an application or more information about the summer internship program, contact the APAICS office at 202/547-9100 or apaics@apaics.org. ■

California State Assembly accepting applications for fellowship program

California State Assemblyman George Nakano (53rd District) announced that the California State Assembly is accepting applications for the 1999-2000 Jesse M. Unruh Fellowship Program. The program gives four year college graduates a unique opportunity to become full-time assembly staff members while earning a stipend and 12 units of graduate course credit from California State University, Sacramento.

Fellows are assigned to work on a committee staff or in an assembly member's capital office. Participants also engage in weekly academic seminars with legislative members, senior staffers, journalists, lobbyists and other state government officials. Fellows receive a monthly stipend of \$1,792 as well as full health, den-

tal and vision benefits.

"The Assembly Fellowship Program is a rare opportunity for anyone with a college degree to participate in the legislative process," said Nakano. "The hands-on experience it provides could serve as the perfect foundation for a recent graduate or an important springboard for someone looking to change careers."

All applicants must have graduated by June 1999. No specific major is required and individuals with advanced degrees, as well as those in mid-careers, are encouraged to apply. Applications may be obtained by contacting Jeff Maloney at Assemblymember Nakano's District Office, 1217 E. Prado Ave., Turrence, Calif. 90501, 310/782-1553.

Deadline is Feb. 7. Final selections will be made in May. ■

1999 Anheuser-Busch/Frank Horton fellowship program

WASHINGTON—The Asian Pacific American Institute for Congressional Studies (APAICS) announced that applications are now available for its Anheuser-Busch/Frank Horton fellowship program. The program is named in honor of former Congressman Frank Horton (R-New York), who was instrumental in the passage of legislation designating the month of May as "Asian Pacific American Heritage Month."

The fellowship program is designed to encourage a college graduate who has a commitment to the Asian Pacific American community to pursue a public policy career. The fellowship lasts from June 1999 to March 2000 and provides a stipend of \$15,000 to cover travel arrangements, housing and personal expenses. Medical insurance will also be provided.

The fellowship program is made possible through the support of the Anheuser-Busch Companies, Inc. Anheuser-Busch has developed and funded a variety of programs that help meet the needs of the APA community, including initiatives in the areas of leadership development, educa-

tion, business and economic development, arts and culture, health and social services and women's programs.

David L. Kim, Anheuser-Busch director of Corporate Relations, said, "We are pleased to continue the company's commitment to developing leadership in the Asian Pacific American community through this fellowship."

APAICS, formerly known as the Congressional Asian Pacific American Caucus Institute, was established in 1995 as a nonpartisan, nonprofit, educational corporation with the goal of increasing the participation of APAs in the public policymaking process at the national, state and local levels. The APAICS Board of Directors is chaired by former Congressman Norman Y. Mineta and includes other nationally known APA leaders in business, government and community circles.

Applications are due Feb. 5. For an application or more information about the Anheuser-Busch/Frank Horton fellowship program, contact the APAICS office at 202/547-9100 or apaics@apaics.org. ■

