

Since 1929

PACIFIC CITIZEN

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70s Icon Hello Kitty Grows Up

See page 3

Queen of the Pins

Hawaiian native is the only female APA on the U.S. Bowling Team.

 By LYNDA LIN
 Assistant Editor

HONOLULU — Holly Hoopii knows what disappointment feels like. More than once, she had come within kissing distance of securing a position on the U.S. Bowling Team, but an obstinate pin here and slight ball arch there, always kept her goal just out of reach.

At her second tryouts, she needed to place in the top five spots to become a team member — she missed by nine pins. Then came a withdrawal period when Hoopii put away her bowling shoes, focused on school and tried

to forget about the sound of the ball whirring down the lane. But she was not about to stay out of the game for long. Soon, tryouts came around again and Hoopii was there, for the third time, poised to make the team. "You're thinking I made top five after all that, right? Nope. I came in eighth," she said.

But there is a silver lining to this story; the tournament committee also picks three others from the top 32 qualifiers to be on the team and seeing Hoopii's abilities and tenacity, selected her.

Now, the native Hawaiian is the only female Asian Pacific American on the team, smashing down barriers in the sport that gained U.S. prominence in the 1800s, but denied women's participation until over a century later.

Since becoming a team member, Hoopii has scored a perfect game and 764 in a series. In late August, the U.S. bowling team swept the Tournament of the Americas in Miami with top individual and team titles. In January 2005, she

will be competing against her teammates in the National Amateur Championship.

Not bad for a girl who never thought she would make the team. These days, the 24-year-old balances competition and travel with her day job as an auto parts deliverer.

Pacific Citizen: How did a girl from Hawaii

end up on the U.S. Bowling Team?

Holly Hoopii: Well, when I was a kid and we had just moved into our new house, we got to know our neighbors who had kids as well. They were in a league every Saturday so my brother and I decided to join too. From there came high school bowling, which put a lit-

See BOWLING/Page 4

COMMENTARY A Tribute to Clifford Uyeda

 By JOHN TATEISHI
 JACL Executive Director

Last month, a giant passed from among our ranks.

The passing of Clifford Uyeda marks for us the end of an era highlighted by the incredible redress campaign in which Clifford played a central role. For me personally, it marks the loss of a close friend for whom I had enormous respect and affection.

Our younger members would not



See TRIBUTE/Page 2

'Buddha Bar' Draws Ire of Local Hawaiian Buddhist Community

 By CAROLINE AOYAGI
 Executive Editor

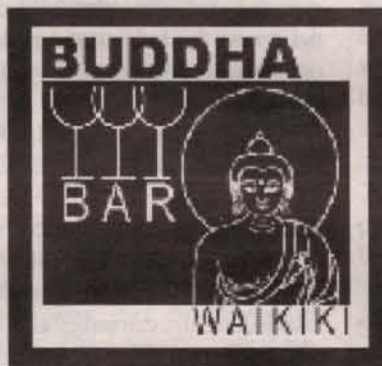
HONOLULU — The Buddha Bar in Paris is the place to be for the hip, trendy, nightlife seeking crowd and other cities like Miami Beach, Detroit and Montreal are

judgment and insensitivity to a large percentage of the population of Hawaii," said Poranee Natadecha-Sponsel, president of the Hawaii Association of International Buddhists.

Although Buddha Bars in other parts of the world may be seen as

still relevant after almost 2600 years," said Natadecha-Sponsel. "The use of this name for the bar is inappropriate, offensive, and demeaning to Buddhism as one of the world religions."

The Buddha Bar in Waikiki officially opened Aug. 5 and local



Buddhist statues and images greet patrons as they enter the Buddha Bar in Waikiki (right). Fliers promoting the new bar continue to be distributed despite the protests.



following in the trend by boasting their own Buddha Bars.

But when another unaffiliated Buddha Bar opened recently in Waikiki, Hawaii for the young, trendsetting crowd, loud cries of protest from the local Buddhist community greeted the new establishment.

"We want the owner to know that his choice of the name of this bar reflected his ignorance, poor

nothing more than a hot night spot watering hole, the local Hawaiian Buddhist community, a religion only second in popularity to Roman Catholicism, believes the use of the Buddha for a bar's name not only disrespects their religion but promotes activities entirely counter to their beliefs.

"The Buddha for us is a sacred spiritual leader as well as the revered teacher whose teaching is

Buddhists immediately began a letter writing and phone campaign of protest to local politicians, businesses and community groups alike noting their concerns and demanding a name change.

The protests forced the removal of the "Buddha Bar" signs from outside of the business because it was discovered that the owners

See BUDDHA BAR/Page 6

Petition Drive Has No Michigan Donors

By ASSOCIATED PRESS

LANSING, Mich.— Supporters of a planned 2006 initiative to ban affirmative action in government hiring and college admissions in Michigan have raised almost all of their money in California, according to a campaign finance report.

Reports filed last month by the Michigan Civil Rights Initiative Committee listed no Michigan donors to the ballot drive, *The Detroit News* reported Aug. 26.

The committee has raised about \$140,000. The Sacramento, Calif.-based American Civil Rights Coalition, headed by businessman and former University of California Regent Ward Connerly, contributed 95 percent of that total.

"It shows this was not an effort that was driven by a need that Michiganders felt," said Kary Moss, who heads the American Civil Liberties Union of Michigan and opposes the initiative. "There is a small group from outside the state

See PETITION/Page 6

JACL's Response to Author Michelle Malkin

Michelle Malkin's book "In Defense of Internment: The Case for 'Racial Profiling' in World War II and the War on Terror" is a desperate attempt to impugn the loyalty of Japanese Americans during World War II to justify harsher governmental policies today in the treatment of Arab and Muslim Americans.

Malkin's thesis depends on WWII intelligence cables for her argument that the Japanese consular offices in the United States had successfully recruited JAs as spies and saboteurs, notwithstanding the fact that those intelligence communiqués had previously been examined by scholars and government researchers for decades and rejected as justification for the WWII incarceration of JAs.

The Magic cables were reviewed by the Commission on Wartime Relocation and Internment of Civilians, a fact-finding commission created by the President and

Congress in 1980. Following a thorough examination, the commission found no evidence connecting the decision to intern JAs to any of the information contained in the cables.

Furthermore, a finding in the commission report, "Personal Justice Denied," stated that "not a single documented act of espionage, sabotage or fifth column activity on the mainland was committed by an American citizen of Japanese ancestry or by a resident Japanese alien on the West Coast," a view consistently substantiated by independent scholars and researchers for almost half a century since WWII.

The JACL finds it offensive that Malkin would make the judgmental leap that any intent by Japan to form a spy network during WWII somehow implicates the entire population of JAs, thereby causing the necessity for their mass incarceration. The facts speak for themselves, and President Ronald Reagan concurred

See MALKIN/Page 4

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TRIBUTE

(Continued from page 1)

remember Clifford and his single-handed efforts to seek a presidential pardon for Iva Toguri, the most unlikely but alleged "Tokyo Rose" of World War II; or his personal efforts to curb environmental groups that were determined to boycott Japanese American stores in San Francisco's Japantown as protest of Japan's whaling policies; or his personal commitment to stop a senseless U.S. government policy which proposed to relocate Hopi and Navajo tribal lands. The list is seemingly endless.

In these and so many other efforts Clifford quietly went about his business, undaunted by the criticism he sometimes provoked and always with conviction and determination. At times, I would marvel at how clearly he could define issues for himself, and marvel even more at how single-minded he could become when he saw injustice in the world and set out to make it right.

What was so unique about the man was that he was driven by what he believed to be moral causes, but never for himself. It was never about him, and quite frankly, he shied away from being recognized for his role in any effort because he always felt it distracted from the issue itself.

He rarely accepted speaking engagements because he was more interested in getting things done than in recognition for his efforts. In some cases, he worked behind the scenes and let others take credit for his work. He often preferred it that way.

There was a kind of quiet and unassuming dignity about the man that set him so far above anyone else I've ever known.

Unfortunately, what most people don't know and, in my estimation, never appreciated enough, is just how critical he was to the success of the redress campaign.

He was the first chair of the JACL's redress committee to make something happen, to do more than simply talk about reparations. It was

under his guidance that the JACL redress committee produced a booklet entitled "The Japanese American Incarceration: A Case for Redress." In that brief book, he and the committee outlined the basic constitutional arguments for redress which served as the foundation throughout the campaign. Others would later lay claim to framing the campaign around the constitutional issues, but it was Cliff's work that outlined exactly what the issues were.

I remember talking with him in February 1978 about how resolutions placing redress as the JACL's priority were repeatedly introduced at the JACL's conventions but how the issue needed prodding. In one of our many conversations about redress, I suggested that he, as the redress chair, convene a meeting of a new committee with representatives from each district to hammer out guidelines for redress to present to the delegates at the Salt Lake City convention later that year.

Soon thereafter, he had formed a new committee and, two months later, produced the so-called Salt Lake City guidelines for redress. It was that document that helped set the course for redress and took the organization beyond simply talking about the issue.

Before our departure for Salt Lake City for the convention, he asked me if I would take over the redress committee chairmanship and asked what I thought I could accomplish in the biennium. As I outlined my goals — establishing the campaign as a constitutional issue, getting the issue in the public arena for debate, setting up a grassroots campaign within the JACL to launch a legislative drive — he listened carefully and said, finally, "You do whatever you think is necessary to achieve your goals. You know what's needed better than anyone. As long as what you do is morally right and for the benefit of Japanese Americans, I'll support anything you do."

In the two years we worked together, he was true to his word and was a strong and great leader. When I guided my committee to support legislation which would seek the cre-

ation of a federal commission to investigate the facts of the internment, Clifford was one of the only ones with courage enough to stand up publicly with me to defend that decision, and certainly was the most vocal in defending my decision.

Throughout the two years I served him as the redress chair as we worked together in those early years to make redress a reality, he played such a critical role in helping drive the campaign. And after he left the presidency, as I moved my operations to Washington to lobby Congress and run the JACL's campaign from the nation's capital, he continued to support my efforts in so many ways.

In Memory of Clifford Uyeda

Dear Clifford,

It is with great sadness that I write this tribute to you.

I was a member of the Redress Committee which you organized for JACL in 1978. As JACL president you took the initiative to bring together key people committed to redress in gaining justice for our internment. It was your strong, sensitive leadership which provided the basis for the passage of redress legislation a decade later.

The story of how you overcame monumental obstacles to become a respected physician is truly inspiring. You deserved to sit back and live a comfortable life after working so hard to achieve your career goal. Instead, you chose to also devote your life to healing the ills in our community.

Clifford, today we gratefully remember all you have given to our community. Be assured that future generations will hold you up as a model of activism with integrity.

May you rest in peace.

Phil Shigezumi

Civil Rights Chair
San Fernando Valley JACL

It was with sadness to learn of the passing of Dr. Clifford I. Uyeda. He was truly one of our greatest national JACL presidents. In one term he accomplished so much so effectively for the Japanese Americans. I first had the honor of meeting him at the Asilomar Conference and got to know him by visits with him in San Francisco and by correspondence. It was like going to the mountaintop.

Dr. Uyeda took an early retirement from his successful medical practice to devote himself to JA causes. As the saying goes, he walked the talk more than he talked the walk. Among his many accomplishments was being one of the main founders of the highly respected National Japanese American

In my mind, Clifford Uyeda is the JACL's "redress president." It was he who was at the helm when the campaign was launched to national prominence, who helped bring the organization together on this divisive issue, who stood firm and supported my efforts in the face of sometimes scathing criticism because he believed in right, and who gave dignity to an unpopular cause.

The JACL is lesser today by the passing of Clifford Uyeda, but those of us who had the privilege of working with him will always remember his integrity, his courage, and the incredible dignity he brought to our ranks. ■

Historical Society.

During his term as the JACL president he was not too interested in being politically correct but concentrated first and foremost on numerous JA issues and causes. He reached out to and worked with the rank and file members. He felt that this was what the organization was about and would have never let issues such as the "Jap" roads in Texas counties linger on for over 12 years.

A true son of the Meiji Issei, Dr. Uyeda had a sense of *giri* to his people and so doing brought *meiyo* to himself and in turn to all of us. The recently elected national JACL officers could truly learn from his selfless service to the people and also learn from many of his successful accomplishments.

Dr. Uyeda has left us. God be with him. May his spirit live among us and inspire us all to carry on as he did for us.

Stanley N. Kanazaki

New York JACL Chapter

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* "Voices" reflect the active, public discussion within JACL of a wide range of ideas and issues, 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, 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.

JACL MID-YEAR CAMPAIGN

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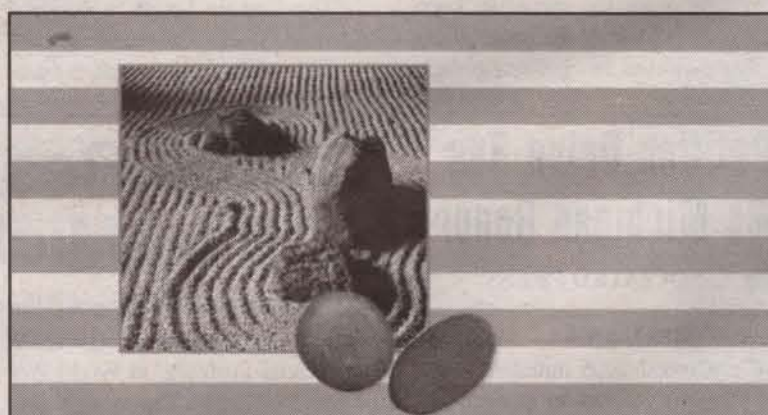
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'Hello Kitty is something from my childhood that I can never get sick of because everything that Sanrio sells is really practical and really cute.' — Xochitl Robledo.



Find the Girl: Xochitl Robledo, 30, fills her San Fernando Valley home with all things Hello Kitty.

Hello Kitty Is Not Just for the Kids Anymore

By YUMI SAKUGAWA
Special to the Pacific Citizen

Hello Kitty is growing up. Her franchise, known more for cute mechanical pencils and pink plastic wallets for little girls, now includes high-end diamond jewelry and lingerie for the more grown-up crowd.

The iconic feline with the yellow button nose and curiously absent mouth, celebrates her 30th anniversary this year. Coincidentally, she is the same age as Xochitl Robledo, who has had a lifelong love affair with this ubiquitous Sanrio character since she was about five.

"Hello Kitty is something from my childhood that I can never get sick of because everything that Sanrio sells is really practical and really cute," Robledo said. "People used to make fun of me, but now they understand that it's a part of my life. It's not just a novelty thing."

In elementary school, Robledo owned Hello Kitty pencils, notebooks and backpacks. Nearly two decades later, Robledo's personal collection of Hello Kitty paraphernalia has expanded to include a toaster oven, a sandwich maker, an alarm clock, a CD player, purses, a jean jacket, a water bottle and underwear, to name just a few. She even has a promise ring from her boyfriend that has Hello Kitty and a little diamond on it.

Robledo is one of the many adults who are in love with Hello Kitty, a Sanrio character that was created originally in Japan that was once targeted specifically for the elementary school age demographic. However, in the last three decades, Hello Kitty's fan base has greatly broadened to cater to more adult tastes as well.

"When Kitty was first introduced, she was primarily for twelve-year-olds," said Bill Hensley, marketing director of Sanrio. "As we've watched Hello Kitty customers grow up, Hello Kitty has changed with that customer, particularly with that customer's changing lifestyle. When Hello Kitty fans are five years old, she can go off to elementary school with a Hello Kitty lunch case and when she's 25, she can go to work with a Hello Kitty cell phone case."

Due to a licensing agreement that allows over 100 companies to create Hello Kitty products in their partic-

ular markets, Hello Kitty products are now readily available in a variety of items that are not simply limited to bubblegum and pencil boxes.

Sanrio's co-brand licensor Samantha Chang released a Hello Kitty lingerie line marketed for adult women. Tarina Tarantino, another co-brand licensor, creates high-end Hello Kitty jewelry that Cameron Diaz was once spotted donning at the Kid's Choice Awards last year, which gave Hello Kitty plenty of media buzz.

Just a couple of weeks ago, a Hello Kitty diamond pendant was auctioned off at New York for the Arts for Life Foundation for \$20,000, which further proves the idea that Hello Kitty isn't just for kids anymore.

"Hello Kitty's always updating her styles and product selection, so she's always appropriate for the different lifestyles of the fans she has," said Hensley. "I think the most notable change is that she used to be very static and consistent in her dress and color palettes. Now she can and is just about anything. There are very few opportunities for Hello Kitty where there isn't some kind of fun and appropriate Hello Kitty version of an adult product."

Among other items, a Hello Kitty hair crimper is coming out this holiday season, which crimps Hello Kitty's image right into your hair. Devoted customers can now even buy a full-sized Hello Kitty beach cruiser, where Hello Kitty's face is imprinted on the tire treads, leaving Hello Kitty faces on the pavement if you splash through a puddle.

Robledo, who has even visited the Sanrio amusement

park in Japan last summer, said she personally would not buy a Hello Kitty beach cruiser. After all, her mind is set on something bigger: to fulfill her dream of one day owning a Hello Kitty car that is manufactured only in Japan.

In the meantime, Robledo said she will continue to buy new Hello Kitty products so long as the company keeps making them.

"I think Hello Kitty has been so popular because they just kept up with the times," Robledo said. "Of course they always make things for kids, but now they've been creating new and inventive things for older adults, especially the couture, high-end stuff that they have now. It's just a happy, universal product to buy."

■

This Cat's New Look

Hello Kitty just turned 30 years old, but she hasn't resorted to botox just yet. She gives a whole new spin on 'plastic' surgery with new products that go beyond pencil cases and purses.



Go For Broke to Debut Oral History Kiosk at Arkansas Military Museum

The Go For Broke Educational Foundation will debut its interactive oral history computer kiosk "Arkansas' Nisei Heroes: An Interactive Journey Through the Lives of Japanese American WWII Veterans" at the MacArthur Museum of Arkansas Military History Sept. 24 and will run through March 31, 2005.

The debut is part of the University of Arkansas at Little Rock (UALR) project, "Life Interrupted: The Japanese American Experience in World War II Arkansas" taking place Sept. 23-26.

The Educational Foundation's Arkansas' Nisei Heroes computer kiosk enhances the MacArthur Museum exhibit of the 100th Battalion, 442nd Regimental Combat Team and Military Intelligence Service that will also debut on Sept. 24.

Arkansas' Nisei Heroes provides visitors with an interactive and personal experience utilizing oral history video, brief biographies and personal veteran photos. The kiosk features veterans who joined the Army from Jerome or Rohwer concentration camps and details the lives of five Nisei veterans from childhood, pre-WWII, incarceration experiences, war recollections, to resettlement after WWII and their lives today.

"The Go For Broke Educational Foundation is very excited to debut 'Arkansas' Nisei Heroes as it provides us with an opportunity to partner with an important institution like the University of Little Rock at Arkansas," said Christine Yamazaki, executive director and president, Go For Broke Educational Foundation. "These collaborations enable us to reach out and educate the public on a widely unknown but extremely important story for all Americans."

The oral histories included in Arkansas' Nisei Heroes come from the Educational Foundation's oral history archive of nearly 500 WWII veteran testimonies to date. Through its Hanashi Oral History Program, the Educational Foundation is able to preserve the life stories of Nisei WWII veterans nationwide. The oral histories, which are keyword searchable and fully viewable, archival photos and comprehensive historical information are available on the Educational Foundation's Web site www.GoForBroke.org.

For more information on the Educational Foundation's Arkansas' Nisei Heroes interactive kiosk, call 310/328-0907 or email esoldier@goforbroke.org. For information on the "Life Interrupted" events in Arkansas, visit www.lifeinterrupted.org. ■

Overwhelming Percentage of Gay and Lesbian Asians Victims of Hate Crimes

An astounding 62 percent of participants in an Asian and Pacific Islander (API) Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, or Transgender (LGBT) study reported general experiences of discrimination according to a groundbreaking new report conducted by the Asian Pacific Islanders for Human Rights (APIHR)/Ohana House entitled, "Beyond Stereotypes and Cultural Conventions: Attempting to Reach an Underserved Southern Californian Community."

The report is the first ever done of the API LGBT community. Among the other findings of the report are that of the 64% that reported being sexually active, 12% did not practice safer sex and 37% indicated that they sometimes, rarely, or did not know their sexual partner's STD or HIV status.

"It is imperative that studies such as this get funded," said Patrick Mangto, executive director of

APIHR/Ohana House. "Up until this moment, we did not have any information about the discrimination that our community faces or how Asian norms reflect upon the LGBT attitudes towards safer sex."

The report concludes that 54 percent of the respondents demand an API specific space, reflecting a need for programming and services designed for API LGBT that are culturally and linguistically specific. These services and programming can be used to address the difficulties APIs face with regards to sexuality, as well as politics and socioeconomic conditions.

The report is based on a survey conducted between November 2003 and June 2003 in Southern California with participants ranging from 16 to 53 years in age, with 44% men and 53% women.

The whole report is available at APIHR/Ohana House's website: www.apihr.org. ■

Bleak Numbers



— 62% API Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual or Transgender reported discrimination

— 64% API Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual or Transgender are sexually active

— 54% Respondents want an API specific space

Source: APIHR

National Newsbytes

By P.C. Staff and Associated Press

Museum's Vietnam War Exhibit Opens Old Wounds

OAKLAND, Calif.—An exhibit that includes artifacts and oral histories about the Vietnamese American experience during the controversial war recently opened to mixed reception at the Oakland Museum of California.

"What's Going On? California and the Vietnam Era" promised a forum to amplify the often ignored voices of Southeast Asian immigrants, but critics including two Vietnamese researchers who helped develop the presentation have protested that it doesn't coherently narrate how the Vietnamese community's own ideological struggle over communism made the conflict as much the community's war as America's.

Instead of exploring how that struggle persisted in California, critics say the exhibit sticks to the predictable script of high school textbooks and movie theaters.

Curator Marcia Eymann said it was impossible to cover every perspective of the war in such limited gallery space.

Wisconsin Makes \$1 Million Available for Hmong Resettlement Effort

MADISON, Wis.—The state has made another \$1 million available to counties to help Hmong refugees find work. The money will go to Wisconsin Works programs to provide benefits to the immigrants in almost two-dozen counties.

Officials of some social service agencies have worried they might not have enough money to provide medical care and other aid to the refugees, many of whom have little schooling, money and suffer from malnutrition and mental health problems.

The Hmong — an ethnic minority — resettled in the United States after fleeing from Laos when the communists seized control in 1975 following the end of the Vietnam War.

Hundreds Register for Event on JA Camps

LITTLE ROCK—A September reunion of Japanese Americans forcibly relocated to Arkansas internment camps marks the first time in the six decades since the war that this state has paid tribute to the history of the two southeast Arkansas camps.

The interest has been overwhelming with nearly 900 people expected to attend. Organizers added additional bus trips from Little Rock to the camps at Jerome and Rohwer near McGehee.

Among those tentatively scheduled to attend the conference are former president Bill Clinton, U.S. Sen. Daniel Inouye, D-Hawaii, "Star Trek" actor George Takei and U.S. Transportation Secretary Norm Mineta.

Exhibit Hopes to Capture MacArthur's Influence in Japan

NORFOLK, Va.—Two experts of Western and Japanese art and antiquities examine artifacts on a show called "Kaiun Nandemo Kanteidan," but on Sept. 28, the audience will see a two-hour special on the treasury of Japanese artifacts given to Gen. Douglas MacArthur and his wife, Jean.

Staff members of the MacArthur Memorial were excited about the chance to learn more about the pieces in the permanent collection and researchers are hopeful that the show will help younger generations understand why the legendary five-star general was so revered by the people living in postwar Japan.

It's just one of the symbols of friendship that one professor thinks Japanese audiences will take pride in seeing "respectfully" preserved and displayed in Norfolk.

MacArthur served as supreme commander of the Allied Powers in Japan, and he and his wife lived there until 1951.

Immigration Measure Set on Arizona Ballot

PHOENIX—An initiative to require proof of citizenship when registering to vote or when seeking social services will be on the November ballot unless a court challenge succeeds.

The "Arizona Taxpayer and Citizen Protection Act" or Proposition 200 would also make it a misdemeanor punishable by up to four months in jail for state and local government workers to fail to report illegal immigrants who apply for government services.

Supporters say the initiative is intended to combat welfare and voter fraud. Opponents say it is unnecessary and rooted in racism.

A poll released in July by Arizona State University said three of every four voters surveyed said they supported the initiative.

Student in Hawaii Charged Over Fatal Crash

MANILA, Philippines—A Filipino American student has been charged with reckless imprudence resulting in homicide after his vehicle struck a car and killed a presidential adviser last month.

Jason Ivler, 23, from Hawaii, was driving his sport utility vehicle in Manila in the early morning hour when it veered into the opposite lane into oncoming traffic and collided with another SUV, killing Nestor Ponce, Jr.

A cause for the accident is yet to be established. If convicted, Ivler could face up to four years in prison. He is scheduled for his first court hearing Sept. 7.

Correa Named New Honolulu Police Chief

HONOLULU—The Police Commission recently announced it had selected Boisse Correa, 58, to succeed Lee Donohue who retired on July 1 after a 40-year career.

Born and raised in Hawaii, Correa has 34 years of experience with the department. He was selected from four finalists including acting chief Glenn Kagiya and two female candidates. ■

BOWLING

(Continued from page 1)

high school bowling, which put a little competition in my life. But it was my parents and friends who pushed me to bowl in the Oahu Junior Bowlers Tour (OJBT), a tournament that travels to different bowling alleys around the island. This I feel was the start because once you win that first title you want to win them all.

PC: When did you realize that you had a talent for the sport?

HH: I realized I had a talent for the sport when I hit high school. My coach at the time, Mr. Ted Chock, worked extensively with me those four years, which I guess put the groundwork for later on when the competition got tougher and I stepped up to meet it.

PC: How did you parlay that talent into becoming a national athlete?

HH: It was all by chance. The location of the tournaments and the timing all played in the part of going and competing. I guess I would say luck had a lot to do with it. I never expected to make the team. I always went to bowl with the best and to see how I measured up. Making the team was the bonus.

PC: Have you ever wanted to quit?

HH: Yes. That feeling has come many times but something always



seems to pull me back in. I've had some great friends that have encouraged me to push through those hard times. And having parents that support me and pay for my trips, well, that is just the best.

PC: Do you feel privileged to be participating in a sport that has historically shut out women?

HH: Well, as in all things in life, I am happy that equal rights for everyone has come along. Everyone has worked hard to come this far to make women's bowling what it is and it will only get stronger as big changes are coming such as moving towards becoming an Olympic sport.

PC: You're also the only Asian American member of the U.S. Bowling Team. Do you consider yourself a groundbreaker?

HH: Well, being from Hawaii has always been a sort of novelty, as it doesn't happen very often. For being AA, I never really thought of that. Growing up in Hawaii, we don't see each other by what nationality we are, only who we are as a person, which I think is great. Bowling on the Mainland where I am usually the only Asian, is an eye-opener, but I enjoy seeing the differences as well as the similarities.

PC: The shoes need a little fashion update and the uniform is a little bland. If USA Bowling asked you to revamp the women's uniform, what would you change?

HH: I like the uniforms the way they are, as I've grown up wearing similar attire throughout bowling. I could do without the collared shirts though. Maybe a sleeker look for

the women.

PC: Are men intimidated or impressed by your bowling scores?

HH: I say a bit of both. If I'm bowling on my own, they're impressed. If I'm bowling against them ... no one wants to lose to a girl.

PC: Could you ever use it as a pick-up line?

HH: No. I wouldn't use it as a pickup line ... a deterrent maybe.

PC: The popular opinion about bowling is that it's more a hobby and a pastime than a professional sport. Do you come across this bias often?

HH: Yes. Actually I do. When I tell people what my trips are for or what sport I play, they get this incredulous look on their face. "Bowling? Isn't that a drinking game?" But then I tell them all that we do and where I get to go ... well it gets them thinking.

PC: Why isn't bowling recognized as an Olympic sport after all these years?

HH: Well, the reason I hear the Olympic Committee is not accepting bowling is that bowling is too scattered. The men have ABC (American Bowling Congress), the women with WIBC (Women's International Bowling Congress) and the youths with YABA (Young American Bowling Alliance). But some new changes are happening very soon with all these programs coming together as one to be the USBC, so we'll see what the future has in store for bowling. ■

MALKIN

(Continued from page 1)

acknowledging the injustice of the internment.

The JACL's objection to Malkin's recent publication is that it purports to present the "truth" about the historical facts of the internment but, in fact, is a regurgitation of old arguments that attempt to justify the decision to imprison JAs.


In writing the book, Malkin states that her purpose is to debunk the internment as "racist" and "unjustified." By her own admission, Malkin makes no claim to expertise on the subject, admits that her work is not thorough, fashions conclusions to suit her political views, all the while asking her readers to "reject political correctness ... and the ability to view the writing of history as something other than a therapeutic indulgence," a criticism that fails to escape her own work.

In a recent Op-Ed piece, Malkin states, "Getting the history right is vital to informed debate about the proper balance between civil liberties and national security."


With this we would agree; however, history tells us that intolerance and bigotry played a devastating role in denying JAs their civil rights during WWII, and it is for this reason that the JACL will continue to be outspoken toward any policy that targets or profiles Arab and Muslim Americans or undermines the civil liberties of any American.

Unlike 60 years ago, when JAs had few proponents to defend their loyalty and speak up for the American values of fairness and equality, today many have reacted quickly and knowledgeably to Malkin's outrageous claims.

The JACL values and thanks all those individuals whose conscience will not abide distortions of history to suit a political agenda. ■





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YOUTH FORUM

Pidgin Contest: More Cross-Cultural Dialog, Less Racism

By STEVEN SHO BECRAFT

Jap road. Jap plays. Jap bitch. Why do people use slurs like "Jap"?

I've been thinking about this for half of my life, my life spent in America, where I have been exposed to a myriad of cultures and customs. Yet I'm constantly caught in the "in-betweens" and trying to find a place where people can be courteous and tolerate each other.

I was nine years old when I came to the United States, and although I've had great experiences here, some bad memories linger in my mind from time to time. I remember a time when kids were brutal. I was in tears when a group of White and Hispanic kids called me a "Jap bitch" because I wore a shiny vinyl randoseru backpack.

Perhaps they thought it was effeminate. It's a stereotype of Asian Americans that has been rooted in American culture for well over a century — feminine subservience. I wore the backpack because I was attached to it and because I wanted to express my culture. I thought it was a good thing, but instead, I experienced my first account of xenophobia in the United States.

I've noticed that difference makes people uncomfortable. This feeling leads to cultural pluralism, and although this isn't necessarily a bad thing, it could have its negative influences on a community. Kids don't understand cross-culturalism so they purge their discomfort of the unknown with either cynicism or mockery. Unfortunately, we don't learn when we're grown-ups.

The other day, a senior college



student at Southern Oregon University said, "I don't understand why Japanese Americans get so emotional about being called a Jap. The British don't get so upset when they're called Brits. We don't get pissed when we're called Yanks. Why can't we shorten Japanese with Jap?"

It didn't convince him when I mentioned that there is a historical context that "Jap" has been used as a slur and that history suggests the term is used with malice. Unlike "Brit" or "Yank," there is an open condescension towards the Japanese with many disrespectful connotations. The term was not created from "linguistic convenience" or as a "verbal colloquialism" like the latter two terms. The J-word was created to hurt people. The problem is obvious — the word itself was created specifically with racist intent.

I believe the lack of dialog and the naiveté created from this lack of dialog is the problem with why civility in our culture is never solidifying in a growing multi-cultural society. In the 90s, we thought "political correctness" was the perfect solution. Unfortunately, little has changed over the past few decades.

My favorite author, Frank Chin, suggests that political correctness is too "fascist and demagogic" to solve this problem regarding the absence of civil language in our society. If we want civil language, we have to re-name PC from political correctness to "pidgin contest." Chin claims that in pidgin, people from a plethora of cultures were able to interact with each other without offending others, while still maintaining cultural integrity for all. That is what we want.

This pidgin contest can't be achieved without an open and frank social discussion. I think this is what JACL is always working towards,

MORI MEMO

Notes From the Convention

By FLOYD MORI

Immediate Past Nat'l JACL President

The week in Paradise has ended for those who attended the 38th Biennial National JACL Convention in Honolulu in celebration of JACL's 75th anniversary.

The convention was outstanding with many spectacular events. Special thanks go to Susan Kitsu, Art Koga, the convention committee, the Hawaii chapter, the sponsors, speakers, special guests, and the volunteers and interns as well as the JACL staff who worked so hard to put on a great convention.

Past JACL national presidents, Jim Tsujimura, Lillian Kimura, and Helen Kawagoe were delegates. Frank Chuman and Raymond Uno, also past presidents, attended the convention. Our condolences to the families of past presidents Clifford Uyeda, Roy Nishikawa, and Denny



creating a dialog in order to promote tolerance and understanding, hoping that we will one day reach a world where AAs can live without being stereotyped or being associated with Pearl Harbor. In order to achieve these goals for a hate-free multicultural atmosphere, I sincerely believe it is important that JACL continue to inform people and raise awareness of what our community stands for.

I'm sure if people truly understand our culture and history, they would be more sensitive. Maybe if we keep trying for the next few decades, our children will be living in a world where kids won't be crying for being called a "Jap bitch" or for wearing a randoseru. ■

Yasuhiro who have passed away. Yone Arai, wife of JACL's first national president Clarence Arai, also passed away this year.

Several past presidents who usually attend the conventions were missed this year. They include: Jim Murakami, Hank Tanaka, Patrick Okura, Cressy Nakagawa, Floyd Shimomura, and Jerry Enomoto. Some are ill or have spouses who are not well. Our best wishes to you.

Shea Aoki from Seattle has attended every national JACL convention except the 1930 convention. She was in attendance at the business sessions so she could keep informed of what is going on in JACL.

Ruth Hashimoto from Albuquerque was accompanied by her granddaughter Rachele. Ruth was in an automobile accident shortly before the convention, but her doctor told her she could make the trip, so she was there in a wheelchair.

A new category of membership called the Millennium Club was approved by the national council. This is available to all persons willing and financially able to support JACL by contributing \$1,000 a year for membership. Thanks to Milo Yoshino and Frank Sakamoto for spearheading this effort, and thanks to the 26-plus members who have already joined the Millennium Club.

Etsu Masaoka, wife of early JACL leader Mike Masaoka and sister to Norman Mineta, U.S. Sec. of Transportation, was there as always with members of her family. Edith Ichijui, Harry Honda, Frank Sakamoto, Mary Kawakami and her daughter Marilyn were there. Clarence Nishizu, Grayce Uyehara, Cherry Kinoshita, Molly Fujioka, and George Hinoki are a few of the regulars who were missed.

Some of the great Japanese American leaders who were in attendance were: Mineta; Congressman Mike Honda, former Gov. of Hawaii, George Ariyoshi,

and former Lt. Gov. of Hawaii, Mazie Hirono. Also playing an integral part were Glen Fukushima and Dale Minami. We missed Congressman Robert Matsui who was unable to make it.

It has been my great pleasure to serve as national president of JACL for the past four years and four previous years as a vice president. I especially appreciate the board members with whom I have worked and John Tateishi, our JACL executive director, and all the JACL staff. The board works tirelessly as volunteers to keep JACL viable and valuable in our lives. The staff is often overworked, and they are dedicated individuals to whom we owe a great deal.

Congratulations to Ken Inouye, our new national president of JACL, and to the incoming board. Thanks to all who ran for board positions. Your dedication to JACL is commendable and appreciated.

Special thanks to Ryan Chin, our outgoing vice president of membership, who spent countless hours compiling a history of JACL. The book was available for sale at the convention for \$35. I encourage all JACL members to purchase the book, the proceeds from which will benefit national JACL.

Another fundraising event being planned to benefit the youth programs of JACL is the National JACL Golf Tournament Oct. 9 in Southern California. Thanks to George Aratani for being the honorary chairman and to the Aratani Foundation for their generous donation.

The next Biennial National JACL Convention will be held in Phoenix, Arizona, June 21-24, 2006. The Arizona Chapter has begun preparations to provide another outstanding convention. Conventions are not only for delegates but are for all JACL members. It will be a good opportunity to re-connect with old friends and make new friends.

Thanks to ALL members of JACL for joining and renewing your memberships in JACL. The organization could not function without your support. ■

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BUDDHA BAR

(Continued from page 1)

had not officially received permission to use the "Buddha Bar" trade name. But the signs have now returned and at an Aug. 26 meeting, local Buddhists voted to continue pressing the owner for a name change.

Several calls to bar owner Les Hong, 60, went unanswered.

But in an interview with the *Associated Press*, Hong said, "I'm at a loss how to handle it. It never crossed my mind that this would upset people. We are sensitive to the concerns of some people and we will try to address it."

The current Buddha Bar is in the former location of the House of

Hong, a popular Chinese restaurant that had occupied the site for more than 40 years. Ironically, the Buddha Bar will only be open for the next nine months since the Outrigger Lewers Street redevelopment project will soon occupy the area.

Still, local Buddhists are pressing ahead with their protests, seeking a permanent name change for the bar.

George Tanabe, Jr., professor of religion at the University of Hawaii, notes that the Hawaiian Buddhist community has a history of objecting to the use of Buddhism for marketing purposes and wonders if bar owners would be as willing to invoke the Christian religion.

"My guess is that some Christians would object to 'Jesus Bar' but no one has attempted to open a drinking establishment under that name," said Tanabe. "Therein lies another problem: the ease with which 'Buddha' (but not Jesus) can be used to name a bar betrays a lack of respect for the Buddhist religion."

Although many Buddhists have shown their support for the current uproar, there are some who believe the protests go too far.

Rev. Alfred Bloom had originally been dismayed to discover the Buddha Bar in Waikiki but later changed his mind, deciding not to join in on the protests. A follower of the Japanese Buddhist tradition, he notes that not all Buddhists are against the consumption of alcohol and believes the current situation with the Buddha Bar should be used to educate the larger community about the Buddhist religion.

"Buddha is only a title. If you don't like the name (of the bar) better teach what the name means, use it as a tool for education," said Bloom. "We can be critical but instead of opposing it, let's use it to show what Buddha really means — Buddhism is a tolerant, broad-minded religion." ■

Honolulu Chapter Honors Community Leaders

The JACL Honolulu chapter honored community leaders Colbert Matsumoto and Art Koga at their annual membership meeting recently at the Waikiki Beach Marriott Resort.

Matsumoto is the chairman and CEO of Island Insurance Co., Ltd. and was critical in the campaign to save the Japanese Cultural Center of Hawaii. Koga is the former national JACL secretary/treasurer and for over 20 years was a teacher and administrator at the school and district levels.

Also honored at the dinner were winners of the Emerging Leader scholarship awards: Lindsay Doi, Tiffany Loo, and Kathryn Tanigawa. Each will receive \$1,000.

Watsonville-Santa Cruz

JACL Awards Kee Kitayama Memorial Scholarships

This year's winners of the Watsonville-Santa Cruz JACL chapter's Kee Kitayama Memorial Scholarships are: Mark Yonemura of Watsonville High School, Laura Nagamine of Aptos High School, and Lisa Tatsuno also of Aptos High School.

Yonemura, son of Shuzo and Doris Yonemura of Watsonville, will be attending UC Davis in the fall majoring in engineering or psychology. Nagamine is the daughter of Roy and Phyllis Nagamine of Watsonville, and Tatsuno is the daughter of Sheridan Tatsuno and the late Muneko Tatsuno of Aptos who passed away last New Year's Eve. Lisa is the granddaughter of former internees Dave and Alice Tatsuno and she will matriculate at UCSC in the fall of 2004.

All three winners demonstrated a clear understanding of the significance of the "Japanese American Experience: The Internment" and will each receive \$1,000 from the combined Kee Kitayama Memorial Scholarship Fund and Day of Remembrance Education Fund.

Boise Valley Chapter Announces Scholarship Recipients

Recipients of the annual Boise Valley JACL Scholarship Program were awarded \$500 checks and certificates. The winners were: Elizabeth Oyama, Kimberly Hirai, Karin Hayashida, and Sarah Campbell.

SFV Groups Announce Scholarship Winners

The JACL San Fernando Valley chapter and the San Fernando Valley Japanese American Community Center presented their scholarship awards at a program held at the Nikkei Village in Pacoima, California.

This year's scholarship recipients are: Adam Yukihiko Beckler, Michelle Castillo-Castro, Andrew Makoto Jonokuchi, Brent Hamashita, and Kristy Monji.

Dr. Teresa Williams-Leon, the chair-elect of the Asian American Studies Department at Cal State Northridge, was the featured speaker. Mistress of Ceremonies was Nancy Gohata and Sumi Yamaguchi was this year's scholarship chair for SFVJACL. ■

PETITION

(Continued from page 1)

who have brought their agenda to Michigan."

The Michigan Civil Rights Initiative will report a list of several hundred Michigan donors later, said Chetly Zarko of Ann Arbor, treasurer of the fund-raising committee.

"It's totally untrue that we don't have support within the state," Zarko said. "We have 1,400 to 1,700 volunteers, and a large number of donors who haven't been reported yet."

Citizens for a United Michigan, organized to defeat the initiative, has raised \$314,610, campaign finance records show. The leading contributor is Detroit Renaissance, a non-profit group of city business leaders, which donated \$200,000. The Presidents Council of State Universities of Michigan contributed \$50,000. Giving \$5,000 each were the University of Michigan Alumni; American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees; and Detroit Federation of Teachers. ■

2004 CCDC JACL Scholarship Recipients



This year's winners of the CCDC and chapter scholarships included: (l to r, top): Kimberly Koga, Stevie Hatakeyama, Nichole Lanctot, Valerie Kanemoto, Whitney Ah Tye, Michael Kiriara, Reid Yoshimura, and Kent Yamaguchi; (l to r, bottom): Megan Ikeda, Sarah Rios, Judi Loeser, Mika Ibello, and Lauren Mihara.

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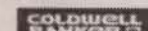
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OLYMPICS
Clay Powers Way to Silver Behind Sebrle in Decathlon

By BOB BAUM
AP Sports Writer

ATHENS, Greece—Hawaii’s **Bryan Clay**, the little guy among the giants of the decathlon, chased Roman Sebrle to the finish in one of the most powerful American performances in the event’s history.

Sebrle, the world record holder from the Czech Republic, won the gold medal Aug. 24 with 8,893 points — an Olympic record and the second-highest total of his magnificent career.

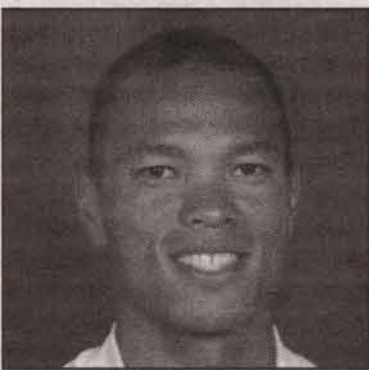
The 24-year-old Clay, a Castle High School graduate who upset reigning world champion Tom Pappas in the U.S. trials, was second with 8,820 points, the third-highest ever by a U.S. decathlete. Only Dan O’Brien had better scores among Americans.

“It hasn’t sunk in yet,” Clay said. “But I’m pumped.”

“I think people kind of take me for granted,” he said. “They don’t really take me seriously sometimes, whether that’s my personality or my size or whatever. Hopefully now they’ll know I’m for real.”

Clay, who competed for and still trains at tiny Azusa Pacific University in southern California, stands just 5 feet, 11 inches and weighs 174 pounds. Still, he threw the javelin a personal-best 228 feet, 8 inches, then finished with a 4 minute, 41.65 second 1,500 meters — closely following Sebrle all the way around the track four times.

“I was just focusing on the corner



of Roman’s shoulder,” Clay said, “just trying not to let that get away from me.”

Clay, who finished the exhausting 10-event competition with personal bests in the javelin and 1,500 meters, was just 71 points off O’Brien’s American record. Dmitriy Karpov of Kazakhstan, the leader through eight events, was the

bronze medalist with 8,725, an Asian record.

Clay, whose mother is Japanese American and father is black, moved to Hawaii at age 5 and considers it his home state. He said he wanted to celebrate with a Hawaiian flag along with the American, but decided it wouldn’t be appropriate.

“All I can say is I remember sitting down watching people like Dan O’Brien and Dave Johnson and Chris Huffins and all those guys put up those huge scores at the Olympic Games and get to run around with the flag,” Clay said. “I’d get goose bumps just sitting there watching them. I still look up to those guys. Now that I know that I just surpassed most of them, I don’t know what to tell you. It’s just an unbelievable feeling.” ■

Kimiko Soldati Eliminated From Springboard Diving Competition

ATHENS, Greece—**Kimiko Soldati** of Magnolia, Texas, was quickly eliminated from the Olympic 3-meter springboard diving competition Aug. 25, her only event.

Soldati, who won springboard at the U.S. trials in June, had a poor opening dive and never recovered, winding up 21st in the preliminaries.

“It wasn’t what I pictured it would be,” Soldati said of her first Olympics.

The Americans haven’t won the springboard since Jennifer Chandler’s victory at Montreal in 1976. And that drought did not end



in Athens.

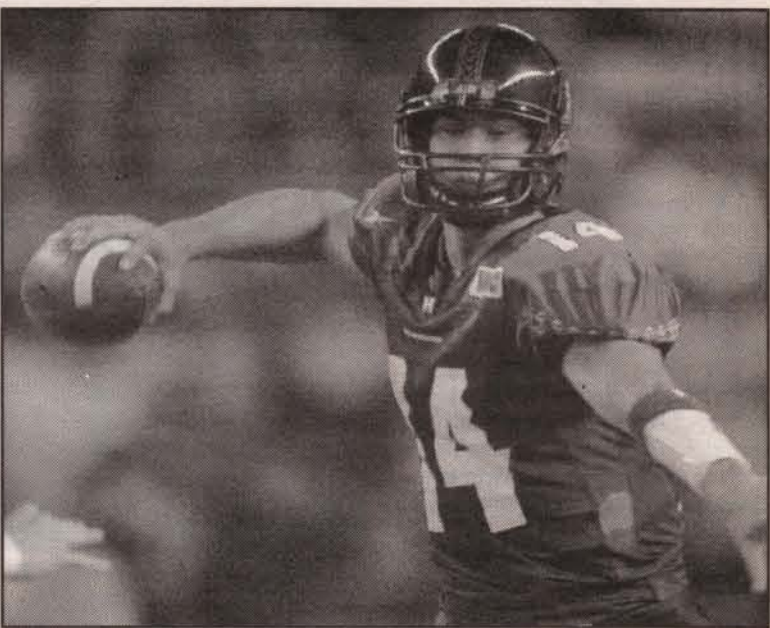
Soldati went through a lot just to make it to Athens. She only started diving seriously a dozen years ago and overcame numerous injuries — including four shoulder operations and two knee surgeries — to make her first Olympic team at age 30.

But her stay didn’t last long.

Soldati’s right shoulder began acting up after the trials, and she had to skip a week of training once she got to Athens. After the prelims, she wore a large ice pack.

“I left my heart out there and I didn’t give up,” she said. “I’m proud of that.” ■

Email the P.C. at
paccit@aol.com



Hawaii quarterback Timmy Chang has thrown for 12,814 yards and 79 touchdowns and is closing in on becoming the most prolific passer in college history. (AP Photo/Ronen Zilberman)

FOOTBALL
Loaded Warriors Look Forward to Starting Season

By JAYMES SONG
AP Sports Writer

HONOLULU—With 10 returning starters on Hawaii’s high-flying offense, senior quarterback **Timmy Chang** can only think of one team that could stop the Warriors.

“If we’re not moving down the field, it’s because of us,” said Chang. “Only we can stop ourselves, not any defense.”

Chang needs 2,218 yards to surpass Ty Detmer’s NCAA career passing record of 15,031, and barring injury, he’ll break it midseason. He struggled late last season but came off the bench to throw for 475 yards and five touchdowns in a wild 54-48 triple-overtime victory over Houston in the Hawaii Bowl, which ended in a nasty brawl.

The Hawaii Bowl capped a rollercoaster 9-5 season and marked the third postseason game in five years under coach June Jones.

Chang, who finished the season with 4,199 passing yards and is being promoted again by UH as a Heisman Trophy candidate, leads the wide-open run-and-shoot Warriors, who were No. 2 in the nation in passing last year (384.4 yards per game) and No. 6 in total offense (488.1).

Chang, the preseason WAC offensive player of the year, said he feels more confident and stronger for his senior campaign.

Hawaii’s hefty offensive line, which gave up only 19 sacks in 754 pass attempts last year, will seek to give Chang extra time in the pocket.

Hawaii will rely on its offense more than ever with the defense losing nine starters including 2003 WAC defensive player of the year Travis LaBoy and fellow defensive tackle Issac Sopoaga, both of whom were drafted to the NFL.

Sticking with recent tradition, the Warriors open the season at home against a Division I-AA opponent for the fifth year in a row. Hawaii faces Howard Schnellenberger’s Florida Atlantic on Sept. 4 before entering conference play.

Hawaii plays four of its 12 games on the road, including key conference matchups against Boise State and Fresno State. Hawaii closes at Aloha Stadium against two Big Ten opponents: Northwestern on Nov. 27 and Michigan State on Dec. 4. ■

Arkansas Author
Seeks Former
Rohwer Internees

Author seeks to gain permission for publication of art work apparently completed by the interneers in school or in summer art classes as students of “Miss Jamison” while they were incarcerated at Rohwer Relocation Center, 1942-1945.

The individuals are:
Lily Koyama
Sadao Oku
“Nobi” Tanimato
“Aki” Yanokawa
Masajiro Kotake
L. Yamamoto
Kery Hayashino
Mary Nakada
“H20”

If you have information, please e-mail Dr. Jan Ziegler at janz@black-rivertech.org, or phone at 870-248-4000, ext. 4185



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JAPAN SPRING HOLIDAY TOURAPR

HAWAII HOLIDAY CRUISEAPR

AMERICAN HERITAGE HOLIDAY TOURMAY

CANADIAN ROCKIES HOLIDAY TOURJUNE

GRANDPARENTS-GRANDCHILDREN JAPAN TOURJUNE

ALASKA HOLIDAY CRUISEJULY

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A JACL Convention that Sets an International High

AS ONE who has attended 19 national JACL and 12 international PANA conventions, the five-day 38th biennial hosted by the JACL Honolulu chapter will be hard pressed to beat in approach, beauty and camaraderie.

The aloha spirit permeated the Honolulu "spectacular," thanks to co-chairs Art Koga and Susan Kitsu. I'm confident the new national officers, led by President Ken Inouye from the Selanoco chapter, are imbued to carry on.

Convention week began, amid long white welcome banners fluttering from lampposts along Waikiki beach and elsewhere. As souvenirs now, they're available for a \$50 contribution to Honolulu JACL, P.O. Box 1291, Honolulu, HI 96807.

The first day of the convention, Aug. 10, "quietly" passed. That is: 16 years ago on this day in Washington, President Reagan signed HR 442. Yet, no one remembered to celebrate the Japanese American redress legislation as a possible antidote to Michelle Malkin's Aug. 9 column in the *Honolulu Star-Bulletin*.

Her column advanced her argument that internment was justified. "Almost everything you'll hear this week from the JACL about the internment of ethnic Japanese during WWII is false. It's time to correct the record ... Effort by Japanese American activists and their media allies to minimize the importance of the intelligence [MAGIC] that supported President Roosevelt's wartime decision amounts to educational malpractice."

Thoughtfully, the *Star-Bulletin* had forwarded her column to JACLer David Forman, confab's PR man, for a response on the same Op-Ed page. He noted: "Nothing Malkin writes will ever erase the painful memories of Japanese American business and

VERY TRULY YOURS



Harry Honda

homes lost and families uprooted because of their ethnicity."

While the responses, printed on Sunday after the convention had adjourned, were mixed about whether the camps were necessary, Stockton JACLer Barry Saiki faulted Malkin, a Filipino American, for not accepting racism played in the internment. To wit: Between January and March, 1942, three persons of Japanese ancestry were murdered in downtown Stockton; witnesses reported the three assailants were Filipino. Homes occupied by Japanese were subject to gunshots at night. The lack of public concern and law enforcement raised "the fear of lynching hysteria." Barry concluded Malkin needs to re-educate herself: "She may write well, but being truthful and accurate are more important."

Personally, this was a fantastic and fun convention, chatting with former chapter delegates sitting in the gallery and JACL elders who were credentialed to call the shots. Excuse me as I miss some longtime friends in this column; otherwise, let me introduce:

Former convention chairpersons Dr. Jim Tsujimura, Raymond Uno, Lillian Kimura, Larry Oda and Edith

Ichijui; keynoter Norm Mineta and his sister Etsu Masaoka; Sharon Ishii-Jordan and Helen Kawagoe (both savvy about JACL nomination-election); George Baba (who had the sad duty to report the murder of a Jr. JACLer to her mother in 1970); George Wakiji (an interim Washington JACL rep after Mike Masaoka); Dr. Frank Sakamoto (the perennial 1000 Club taskmaster); Sam Sakaguchi (a 14-year city councilman in Idaho Falls); S. Ruth Hashimoto (an honored Sister City advocate rooted in JACL); Yas Tokita (long-active IDC retiree about to make waves in Las Vegas); Miyo Senzaki (mother of the late national JACL director Randy); Miki Himeno (who showed us around at the first Honolulu convention in 1984); Elaine Akagi of Seattle (once a Detroit Jr. JACL leader); John J. Saito (ex-PSW regional director); Gary Mayeda (one of JACL's early computer gurus); Greg Marutani (Judge Bill's nephew); Lucy Adachi (who revealed the auto she won at a

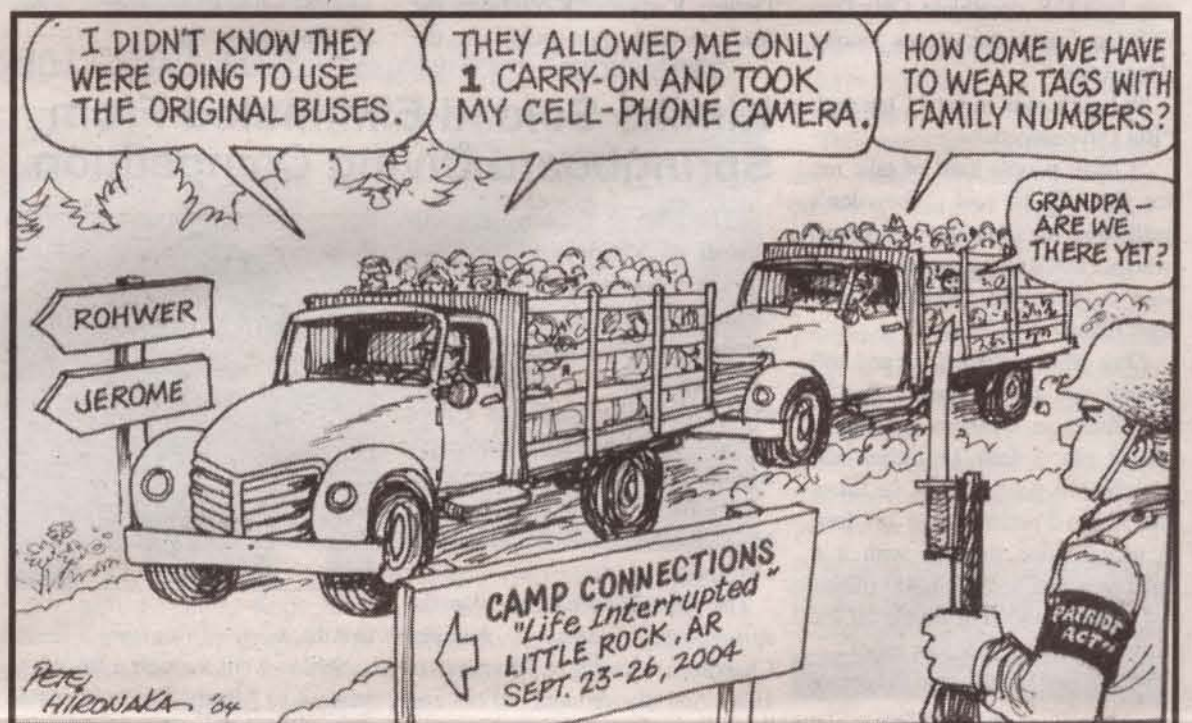
national convention raffle was a no-frill model); Daisy Satoda (longtime secretary to the late Masao Satow); Claire Sanpei (who took care of finances at HQ after Daisy retired); Dr. Jim Taguchi (most responsible for the no-smoking rule at council meetings); Sumi Takeno (late husband Roy was Mountain Plains regional director 50 years ago); Lily Masamori (her late husband Tom was a JACLer of the Biennium); Tats Misaka (better known as brother of basketball ace Wat); Cherry Tsutsumida and Peter Ueyehara (whose parents were Issei pioneers in Santa Maria Valley); Dave and Carol Kawamoto of San Diego; Stanley Kanzaki of New York and a PANA enthusiast; Joe and Susie Ichijui from Washington; Ernie and Chizu Iiyama from Contra Costa (Ernie is 92 years young); Frank and Sadie Yoshimura from Salt Lake; John and Lilia Yamada from Eden Township; and Dr. Homer and Miki Yasui from Portland.

And a new friend — Florida-born

Sansei Deni Murasaki, 62, a leader among South Florida's Asian American community who started a JACL chapter in Miami, came to get a better handle about JACL's past, present and future. The latest census shows 2,533 Japanese "alone" and 3,688 "alone or in combination" in the Miami-Ft. Lauderdale area.

Unexpected Mainland friends now retired in Oahu were John/Gloria Masunaga and Augusto/Rosa Miyahira. John, a retired pharmacist like his older brother George in Denver, has joined the Honolulu chapter. Rosa and Augusto, both Peruvian Nisei, hosted a Chinese dinner away from Waikiki Beach Marriott, and we chatted non-stop for two hours. Rosa served as my interpreter during Alberto Fujimori's presidential inauguration in 1990. I also met Augusto's cousin, Wayne, executive director at the Okinawa Cultural Center, which sits on a hill with a bird's-eye view of Pearl Harbor.

Overall, it was convention too good to miss, JACL or PANA. ■



Saving this may save your life...

What to do when you need an interpreter to explain your ailment to a doctor.

here's why

Every year, thousands get misdiagnosed because they only speak and understand limited English; some even lose their lives. Not all hospitals and clinics have the resources to pay interpreters, but there are steps you can take to improve your access, like the ones listed below. Save this page because you'll never know when you might need it.

how to get help

- 1. Make an appointment** First and always, when making an appointment, ask a friend or family member who speaks English to make the appointment for you. When they call, they should ask if there are interpreters available for your language.
- 2. Medi-Cal or Healthy Families** If you have Medi-Cal or Healthy Families, call your doctor and ask for an interpreter. Federally funded clinics and hospitals must provide you with language assistance.
- 3. Private Health Plans** If you belong to a private health plan, call the member hotline and ask about interpreter services. If you have a problem with your health plan, call the HMO Helpline: 1-888-HMO-2219 or visit www.hmohelp.ca.gov.
- 4. Tell your doctor about telephone interpreters** Although these services charge fees, many doctors feel these services are important to their patients.
- 5. SAG/PALS for Health** provides bilingual cards that are convenient to carry with you and will help you request an interpreter from your health care provider. To request one, call 213-553-1876.

Call your local Health Consumer Alliance organization for advice or visit their website at www.healthconsumer.org for health access information in 13 languages.

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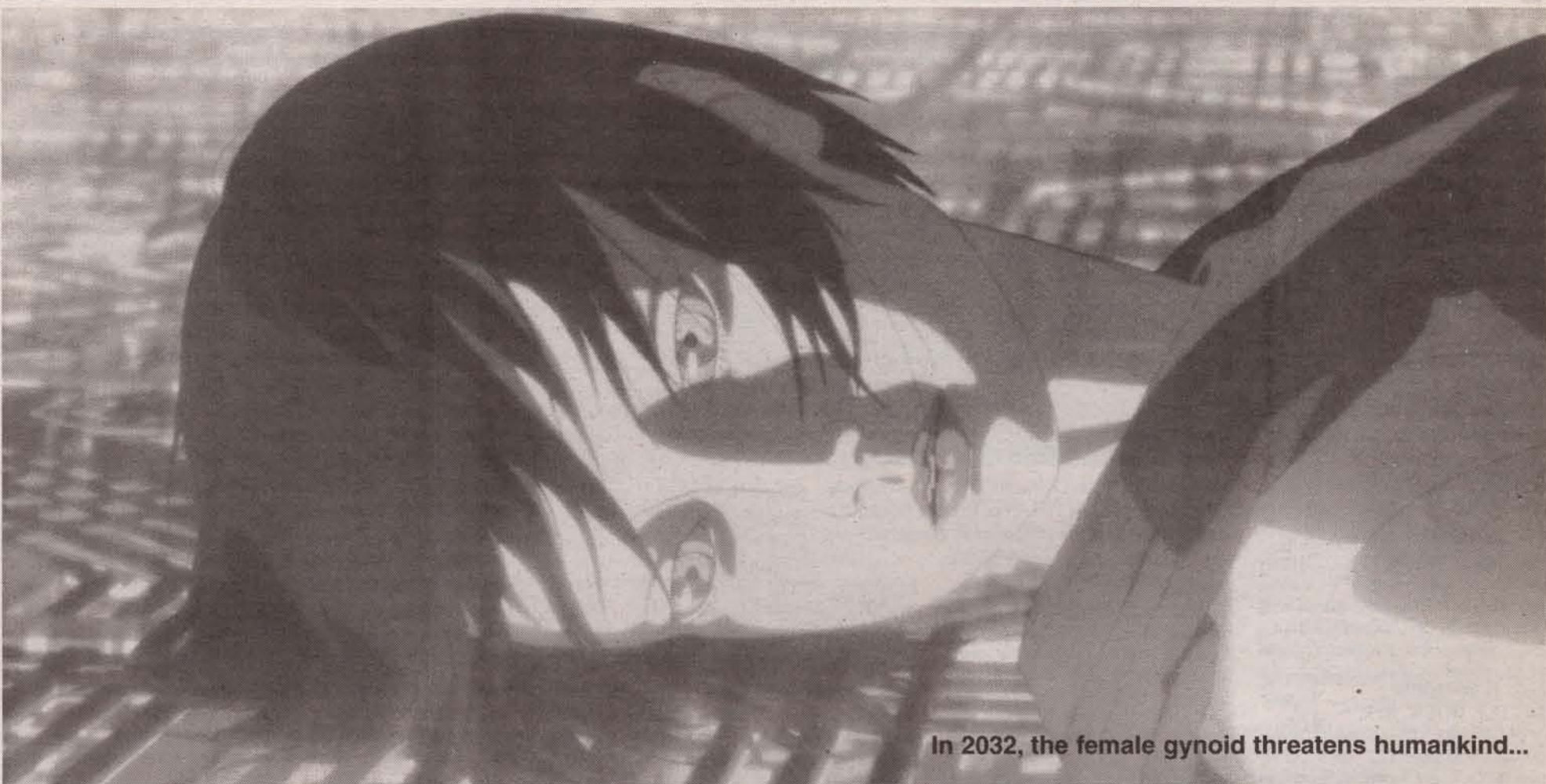
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In 2032, the female gynoid threatens humankind...

CRACKS in the 'SHELL'

Director of the first anime film considered for top prize at the Cannes Film Festival free-associates about the meaning of life and killer dolls wiping out mankind.

By **LYNDA LIN**
Assistant Editor

To explain the theme of his latest animated film, "Ghost in the Shell 2: Innocence," Director Mamoru Oshii holds his right hand like a blade and motions back and forth like he's slicing into the tender flesh of his left arm. As he's carving into his imaginary wound, he explains the fundamental question he was trying to address in the movie: If you keep losing body parts, what would be the last part that would keep you unique?

When he was making the original "Ghost in the Shell" in 1995, the eccentric director thought the answer was the human brain, so the first film was appropriately populated with futuristic characters whose brains were the only body parts that distinguished them from robotic life forms. Oshii made the main character Batou, a cyborg detective, one of the most celebrated anime torchbearers of all time when his female counterpart, simply called The Major, surrendered her brain into the network and disappeared, mentally leaving behind her physical "shell."

Oshii and the film were widely credited for influencing "The Matrix" series, a distinction that the director presently groans about when a journalist asks for comments on the films' par-

allels. This is perhaps the bazillionth time he's heard the same question, but nevertheless insists that they are two completely different movies, just with similar plot points and film techniques.

But nine years have quickly passed since the original and in that time Oshii continued to examine this question with the same theoretical eye that distinguished the first "Ghost in the Shell" from the other sugary pop anime being churned out in Japan. And Batou is back in "Innocence," brooding as he did when he was first created almost a decade ago, but now the year is 2032 and he is investigating the case of a gynoid (a "hyper-realistic female robot created specifically for sexual companionship") who malfunctions and kills her owner. Big oopsie by the manufacturers, but because it's an Oshii film, it gets far more complicated than just a recall of faulty products.

Oshii is also back on the publicity circuit, fresh from Tokyo to face the press on the DreamWorks compound, which is orchestrating the film's U.S. premiere. Fifty three years old, but smaller in stature than your average teenage boy, Oshii fields questions by way of a translator from Production I.G., the premier Japanese production house that also worked on the animated segment in Quentin Tarantino's "Kill Bill: Volume 1." He laughs after hearing every question, the corners of his eyes crin-

gling with merriment, and answers them diplomatically. He does not establish eye contact except when he's making like he's severing his own arm.

Again, his question of body parts falling away is revisited in the sequel, but this time the director has come to a different conclusion — he decides that what actually makes an individual truly unique is his body and his relationships with others. In the sequel, Batou maintains his last bit of humanness by nurturing a basset hound, arguably the real star of this film, and rekindles a relationship with The Major. Circumstances have changed and she certainly does not look like she used to, but Batou's unchanged relationship is proof of his humanity.

It's not a far stretch from Oshii's own life in Japan where he lives with a basset hound named Gabriel, who he admits to cooking every meal for. On this special day, Oshii is even wearing a t-shirt with the likeness of the same breed of dog splashed across his chest. Does PETA (People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals) need a new spokesperson?

"Taking care of the dog is [Batou's] way of taking care of his own body," he said, adding, "When I was making ["Innocence"] I came to one thought: maybe the brain or the head isn't that special. And traditionally in Japan, the brain or the head isn't that important."



Oshii could have said that giant shrimps were taking over the world or effused any other far-fetched theory because his explanation is, well, vague and the journalists speaking with the director are so silent that eyes blinking could be heard.

So Oshii explains further:

"I believe people have already lost their human bodies. People spend so much of their hours watching television and so many hours on the telephone, so the substitute of your own body is your family ... taking care of a thing or another person is actually a substitute of taking care of your own body."

Despite the indelible importance of the first film, many critics are not biting on the sequel, complaining that there's excessive philosophical rambling. Since its premiere at the Cannes International Film Festival this year, the first time an anime film ever competed for the competition's top Palme d'Or Award, critics have been sounding off.

A JoBlo.com review described the film as "a really complicated, boring, technical computer manual," and there are many other reviews that don't mince words in describing the film's complex story. But lucky for Oshii, he doesn't pay attention to the press, fan fare and box office counts. He likes for films to ferment on video and DVD, developing character like good cheese.

"It takes a couple of years for a movie's reputation and the people's perception of the film to be fixed. There are so few films that stand the test of time," he said.

But since "Spirited Away" walked away with an Academy Award last year, there are rumblings about "Innocence" being nominated this year and perhaps even winning, if not only on its own merits then on the credibility of its reputation as one of the most important anime of all time. Even that will be okay for the director and his basset hound, but it's still to be determined whether Oshii will include his spiel on body parts in his acceptance speech. ■

'Ghost in the Shell 2: Innocence' opens Sept. 17.



Batou

Human or Humanoid: Taking care of a basset hound is a motif in Oshii's films where the line between human beings and robots are blurred. Batou, the anti-hero returns in the sequel to investigate the murder of a man by a robot.



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JACL COMMUNITY Calendar

East Coast

PHILADELPHIA

Sat., Sept. 18—"Meet and Greet" social; 6-9 p.m. home of Martha Fujimoto/Russ Hirai, 724 Harvard Ave., Swarthmore, Penn.; RSVP: Martha Fujimoto, 610/544-5449 or fujimruss@aol.com or Miiko Horikawa, 610/525-6620 or herbhorik@aol.com.

Through March 6, 2005—Exhibition, "The Poetry of Clay: The Art of Toshiko Takaezu"; Philadelphia Museum of Art. Info: Dominic Mercier, 215/684-7364 or dmercier@philamuseum.org.

Midwest

CINCINNATI

Sun., Sept. 26—O-Tsuki-mi Festival; 11334 Pemmican Run; 3 p.m., social hour; 4:30 p.m., dinner buffet; \$35 per person; \$15 for those who donate a dish; reservations with check payable to Cincinnati Chapter JACL should be sent to Shiro Tanaka at the above address by Sept. 13. Info: 513/489-9079.

LITTLE ROCK, Ark.

Sept. 15-Oct. 15—Exhibits, symposium, documentary and publications about the Japanese American experience at Jerome and Rohwer internment camps; Statehouse Convention Center, Markham & Main Streets; includes traveling exhibits from the JANM: "Going to Camp: The Japanese American Experience in World War II Arkansas," "Witness: Our Brother's Keeper," "Henry Sugimoto: Painting an American Experience," and "Beyond the Call of Duty"; produced by the University of Arkansas at Little Rock and funded by the Winthrop Rockefeller Foundation. Info: Heather Register, 501/569-8152; e-mail: hmregister@ualr.edu.

Fri., Sept. 24—Premiere, "Time of Fear"; part of "Camp Connections: A Conversation about Social Justice and Civil Rights in Arkansas"; Life Interrupted is a project of the University of Arkansas at Little Rock Public History Program, in partnership with JANM. The project is dedicated to researching and educating the citizens of Arkansas and the nation about the experiences of JAs in World War II.

Sat., Sept. 25—All-day conference, "Camp Connections: A Conversation about Social Justice and Civil Rights in Arkansas" at the Peabody Hotel adjacent to the Statehouse Convention Center. Info: Jessica Hayes, 501/569-8391; jahayes@ualr.edu, or Nancy Araki, JANM, 213/830-5649; naraki@janm.org.



PHOTO COURTESY OF PHILADELPHIA MUSEUM OF ART
"The Poetry of Clay: The Art of Toshiko Takaezu" is now on display at the Philadelphia Museum of Art.

janm.org.

Thurs.-Fri., Sept. 23-24—Opening of exhibition, "Arkansas and the Japanese American Story" at seven locations throughout Arkansas. Info: Jessica Hayes, 501/569-8391; jahayes@ualr.edu, or Nancy Araki, JANM, 213/830-5649; naraki@janm.org.

Sun., Sept. 26—Bus tour to Jerome and Rohwer campsites. Info: Jessica Hayes, 501/569-8391; jahayes@ualr.edu, or Nancy Araki, JANM, 213/830-5649; naraki@janm.org.

ST. LOUIS

Sat.-Mon., Sept. 4-6—Japanese Festival at the Missouri Botanical Garden; 4344 Shaw Blvd; sponsored by Missouri Botanical Garden and the Japanese Activities Committee. Info: www.mobot.org.

TWIN CITIES

Sun., Sept. 19—Annual golf tournament; noon; Francis Gross Golf Course, 2201 St. Anthony Blvd., Minneapolis; \$50 for JACL members; \$55 non-members. Reservations: Dale Wakasugi, 651/578-3723.

Mountain Plains

ALBUQUERQUE

Sun., Sept. 26—Aki Matsuri; Park Square, in the courtyard of Japanese Kitchen (Louisiana Blvd. and Indian School Road).

Intermountain

DRAPER, Utah

Sat., Sept. 11—JACL Autumn Golf Classic Scholarship Tournament; 8 a.m.; South Mountain Golf Course; \$70 includes cart, prizes, awards and luncheon following play; supports JACL youth leadership development programs. Info: Floyd Mori, 801/572-2287.

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OLYMPIA

Sat., Sept. 25—API Leadership Conference; 8 a.m.-4:30; The Long House, Evergreen State College; \$30 early registration (checks only), \$40 day of event (cash or checks); registration deadline Sept. 9. Info: Kelvin Hoang, khanghhoang35@hotmail.com, Hisami Yoshida, raibon1@earthlink.net, Lin Crowley, crowley1@evergreen.edu or Bob Nakamura, sgtmilehibob@att.net.

Northern California

SALINAS

Through Nov. 7—

Exhibition, "From the Sierra to the Sea: The California Landscapes of Chiura Obata"; National Steinbeck Center, 1 Main St. Info: 831/796-3833 or www.steinbeck.org

SAN FRANCISCO

Sat.-Mon., Sept. 21-23—Shinzen USA Nikkei Youth Goodwill Basketball Program of Japanese Cultural and Community Center of Northern California (JCCCNC). Info: JCCCNC, 415/567-5505 or www.jcccnc.org; Karl Matoba, lmatoba@jcccnc.org.

Fri.-Sun., Sept. 24-26—"In Need of Goddesses"; a new play by Nancy Wang; Fri. and Sat. at 8 p.m.; Sun. at 2 p.m.; Magic Theatre, Bldg D, Ft. Mason Ctr., SF; \$23 general, \$18 advance; order online www.manja.org; \$16 group rate (8/more), \$14 community partner special. Info: 415/908-3636.

Through Sept. 26—Exhibition, "Geisha: Beyond the Painted Smile"; Asian Art Museum, 200 Larkin St.; \$10 for adults, \$7 for seniors, \$6 for youths 12-17 and free for children under 12, museum members are free. Info: 415/581-3500 or www.asianart.org.

Sun., Sept. 12—Nikkei Widowed Group monthly meeting; new members, both men and women, are welcome. Info: M. Kusaba, 415/333-5190; Kay Yamamoto, 510/444-3911.

Sat., Sept. 18—Reunion, Buchanan YMCA; a nostalgic reunion of former Japanese YMCA members and participants at two sites in Japantown; the planning committee is requesting old photos of Buchanan YMCA sports teams, clubs, and social events for a visual display at the reunion. Info: Alexander Vaughan, 415/931-9622.

SAN JOSE

Through Sept. 2004—Exhibit, "Beyond Manzanar"; San Jose Museum of Art, 110 S. Market St.; 3-D interactive technology casts viewer in the role of an internee inside the camp; free. Info: 408/294-2787, www.SanJoseMuseumofArt.org

Sun., Sept. 26—Book signing and reception, "Nisei Voices" by Joyce Hirohata; 2 p.m.; Wesley United Methodist Church, 566 N. 5th St. Info: Japanese American Museum of San Jose, 408/294-3138.

Through Feb. 27, 2005—Exhibit, "Jack Matsuoka's Cartoons: Making the Best of Poston"; Japanese American Museum of San Jose, 535 N. Fifth St.; co-sponsored by Watsonville-Santa Cruz JACL. Info: 408/294-3138; www.jamsj.org.

SAN MATEO

Sun., Sept. 26—Movie matinee, "I Live in Fear"; 1:30 p.m.; JA Community Center, 415 S. Claremont St.; directed by Akira Kurosawa, starring Toshiro Mifune and Takashi Shimura.

Sat., Oct. 9—2nd Health Fair, "Health and Wellness for All Ages"; 9 a.m.-2 p.m.; San Mateo Senior Center, 2645 Alameda de las Pulgas; sponsored by the San Mateo JA Community Center. Info: SMJACC, 650/342-2793.

Southern California

GOLETA

Sat., Oct. 9—2nd Annual Golf Tournament/Fundraiser; noon shotgun start; Glen Annie Golf Club; \$125/golfer (includes green fee, cart, and barbecue); bbq only, \$25/person. Info: Wade Nomura, 805/488-9912.

IRVINE

Sat., Oct. 9—First Annual JACL Golf for Youth; Strawberry Farms Golf Club; 10 a.m. registration; \$300/golfer (includes luncheon, cocktail hour, awards dinner, discounted future round, range balls, shotgun start); supports JACL youth leadership development programs. Info: 213/626-4471, psw@jacl.org or 4thforrest@msn.com.

LOS ANGELES

Wed., Sept. 15—"Manzanar: An American Story"; an evening with conductor Kent Nagano and playwright Philip Kan Gotanda; 6 p.m. reception for Annual Giving Circles Members and Arts Patrons, 7 p.m. panel discussion with David Sefton, Director, UCLA Live; JANM, 369 E. First St.

Sun., Sept. 26—Annual Aki

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Matsuri boutique by the WLA JACL Auxiliary; 9:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.; Venice Japanese Community Center, 12448 Braddock Drive, Los Angeles.

Sat., Nov. 6—Go For Broke Educational Foundation 3rd Annual Evening of Aloha Gala Dinner; Westin Bonaventure Hotel; for sponsorship opportunities: Martie Quan, 310/328-0907 or eveningofaloha@GoForBroke.org. Info: www.GoForBroke.org/EOA.

NEWPORT BEACH

Mon., Sept. 13—2004 Go For Broke Golf Tournament; Newport Beach Country Club. Info: Abe Tsuboi, 310/329-1700 ext. 15, Steff Tamehiro, 310/222-5706 or Golf@GoForBroke.org.

PASADENA

Through Sept. 20—Exhibition: "Chinese Art from the Permanent Collection"; Norton Simon Museum, 411 W. Colorado Blvd.; \$6 for adults, seniors, \$3. Info: 626/449-6840 or www.nortonsimon.org.

TORRANCE

Sat., Oct. 16—Luncheon, "Uptown L.A. Reunion II"; 11 a.m.; Torrance Holiday Inn, 19800 S. Vermont Ave.; \$40 per person with checks made out to "Uptown L.A. Reunion II, mail to c/o Takao Shishino, 4521 Commonwealth Cir., Culver City, CA 90230. Info: Yuri Matsunaga (Yamazaki), 323/663-9394, Toru Iura, 310/478-7758 or Frank Omatsu, 626/968-7833.

VENTURA

Sat., Aug. 28—JACL Picnic/Beach Party; Marina Beach Park; 11-3 p.m.; potluck. R.S.V.P. by Aug. 21. Info: Betty Wakiji, 805/383-2703.

Arizona - Nevada

LAS VEGAS

Sat., Sept. 18—Las Vegas JACL's civil rights program 2004; 2-5 p.m.; Riviera Hotel and Casino, 2901 Las Vegas Blvd.; featuring keynote speaker, Bruce Yamashita and screening of "A Most Unlikely Hero."

LAUGHLIN

Fri.-Sun., Oct. 8-10—Poston I Family Reunion; Hiroshi "Hershey" Miyamura is the guest of honor; for a registration packet contact, Aki Amano, 310/541-4648 or EAAmano@aol.com. Info: Mary (Kinoshita) Higashi, 310/832-6303, Sets (Kobata) Shinto, 323/721-1387 or Bob Wada, 714/992-5461. ■

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Mme. KEI YOSHIDA, Researcher/Instructor

NINA YOSHIDA, Translator

All the towns are in California except as noted.

Amimoto, Hisa H., 86, May 28; survived by brothers, George (Irene) Hirashiki and Tami Hirashiki.

Asano, Fujio Fred, 86, Los Angeles, July 8; Seattle, Wash.-born; survived by wife, Kazuye; daughters, Michiko, Jane (Jim) Kenreich; 1 gc.; brothers, Mikio and Katsunobu (Shizuye); and brother-in-law, Tom (Aiko) Sakata.

Fincher, Kazue Terai, 75, Hacienda Heights, July 27; Shimane-ken, Japan-born; survived by daughter, Michele; and sister, Fujie (Shigeharu) Tamura.

Fujita, Ann Sumiko, 90, Santa Rosa, Aug. 8; San Francisco-born, Amache internee, JACler; survived by son, Dennis (Sue); daughter, Nancy (Dave) Thomsen and Gayle (Robert) BonDurant; daughter-in-law, Sandie Fujita; 5 gc.; and 1 ggc.

Fujita, Kay Isamu, 90, Aug. 6;

survived by wife, Masako; daughters, Irene (Stanley) Kinoshita, Judy Daza and Karen Fujita; 4 gc.; and 1 ggc.

Hamanaka, Janet Aiko, 78, Aug. 5; survived by sons, Ralph (Nancy) and Earl (Donna); daughter, Ann Hamanaka; 5 gc.; brothers, Kenneth, Richard, George and Isamu Hagino; and sister, Myrtle Wakida.

Iwata, Peggy Setsuko, 87, Sacramento, Aug. 2; San Fernando-born; survived by daughters, Kay (Alton) Marine and Jean (Phil) Hiroshima; sons, Clyde (Fern); 6 gc.; and 3 ggc.

Kaneko, Hisako, 66, Seal Beach, July 16; Osaka, Japan-born; survived by sons, Glenn (Jung Min) and Brian; daughter, Denise (Curtis) Anderson; 2 gc.; brothers, Hiroshi (Emi) Taru, Shoji (Kazuyo) Taru and Kengo (Chizuko) Taru; and sister, Eiko (Ken) Nagata.

Kawai, Kiyoshi, 95, Los Angeles, July 15; Nisei; survived by daughter, Kyoko (Thomas) Torigoe; daughter-in-law, Fumiko Kawai; 6 gc.; 11 ggc.; and sister, Chiyoko Nitta.

Kubota, Tom, 87, Seattle, Wash., Aug. 9; MIS. Joined the Army in 1942 and served in military intelligence while his family was confined

This compilation appears on a space-available basis at no cost. Printed obituaries from your newspaper are welcome. "Death Notices," which appear in a timely manner at request of the family or funeral director, are published at the rate of \$15 per column inch. Text is reworded as necessary.

to a federal internment camp in Idaho.

Mayeshiro, Doris Hatsue, 85, West Covina, July 17; Pepeekeo, Hawaii-born Nisei; survived by daughters, Dorothy (Bob) Yamamoto, Marian Clutterbuck, Susan (Larry) Newton and Evelyn (Hector) Garcia; sons, Melvin, Alfred (Mirta) and Dennis (Margie); sisters, Jane Asato and Fumie Jitchaku.

Mikasa, Masato, 81, Fowlerville, Mich., Aug. 19; Moneta, Calif.-born; survived by brothers, Hideo and Shiro; sisters, Tokiko Mori, Miyoko (Wataru) Nakamaru and Tomiko (Jiro) Shimoda.

Mori, Sumiko, 85, Torrance, July 20; Venice-born Nisei; survived by son, Dennis (Lillian); daughters, Carolyn (Thomas) Kato and Linda (Martin) Abe; 6 gc.; 2 ggc.; brother, Jeff (Midori) Tanaka; and sisters, Ann Higuchi and Mary (Roy) Yokoyama.

Ono, Kiyoko, 99, Gardena, July 16; Okayama, Japan-born Issei; survived by sons, Paul (Sharlene) and Douglas (He Soon); daughter, Florence (Howard) Doi; 5 gc.; and 4 ggc.

Sakai, Robert K., 85, Honolulu, Aug. 15; former Univ. of Hawaii summer session dean and vice chan-

cellor for academic affairs. Sakai joined the Japan-America Society in 1980 and was its president for two terms in the mid-1990s.

Shigeta, Mitsuo, 86, Inglewood, July 22; Kauai, Hawaii-born Nisei; survived by wife, Fumiko; daughter, Arlene (Bob) Mitsuhashi; sons, Melvin and Clyde (Wendy); and 3 gc.

Shimahara, Grace Akemi, 45, West Los Angeles, July 28; survived by parents, Yutaka and Miyoko; and sister, Lilly (Roland Palmquist) Shimahara.

Shiroma, Takeo, 79, Monterey Park, July 14; Sanger-born; survived by wife, Roberta; daughters, Julie (Douglas) Hom and Joanne (Karsen) Luthi; daughter-in-law, Cindy Shiroma; 6 gc.; sisters, Rose Ohye, Mary (Kay) Tagami, Chiyo (David) Ikefugi and Sue (Togo) Taira.

Tabuchi, Helen Masako, 92, Monterey Park, July 10; Courtland-born Nisei; survived by sons, Donald (Alyce) and Kenneth (Mary); 5 gc.; 5 ggc.; brother, George (Yuri) Fukuda; sisters, Sumako Yoshiyama, Joan (Ken) Onodera, Clara (Dr. Henry) Sanematsu and June (Ben) Yamada; and brothers-in-law, Dr. Tadashi

DEATH NOTICE

SHIZUKO FUJIMOTO SHINTANI

DES PLAINES, Ill. — Shizuko "Seesue" Fujimoto Shintani passed away Friday, Aug. 20 after a long battle with Alzheimer's. Beloved mother of Patricia Cohen, Marsha Steffen and Lorine Haverback; cherished grandmother of Jackie Haverback; and dear sister to Yo and Tamio Fujimoto. She is preceded in death by her husband, Victor; parents, Katsuno and Tamihei Fujimoto; brother, Maseo Fujimoto; and grandson, Christopher Haverback. Memorial and interment services were held at Christ Church of Chicago and at Elm Lawn Cemetery in Elmhurst, Ill.

Ochiai and Masanori Kozawa.

Takahashi, Larry Shinji, 60, Los Angeles, July 9; Denver, Colo.-born; survived by mother, Miyoyo; and sisters, Nancy (Shig) Yoshida and Jean Fujita.

Takata, Margaret Toshiko, 64, Gardena, July 15; Honolulu, Hawaii-born Sansei; survived by husband, Howard; son, Michael (Mirna); daughter, Dawn; 2 gc.; brothers-in-law, William (Sachiko) Takata and Roy Takata; and sister-in-law, Janet (Lowell) Van Cleef.

Yanaga, Joseph C., 88, Lomita, Aug. 2; Kealakekua, Hawaii-born; survived by wife, Irene; daughter, Susan (Richard) Kawasaki; step-daughters, Susan Wada-Fimbres and Judy Wada; 2 gc.; sister, Akie Kuga; and sister-in-law, Clara Tokunaga. ■

IN MEMORIAM

Hiram Fong, First AA U.S. Senator, Dies at 97

By ASSOCIATED PRESS

HONOLULU—Hiram L. Fong, a son of immigrants who overcame poverty to become a millionaire businessman and the first Asian American elected to the U.S. Senate, died Aug. 18. He was 97.

Fong, a Republican, died at home with his wife, Ellyn, and daughter Merie-Ellen Fong Gushi at his side. The cause of death is unknown.

Once a shoeshine boy, Fong rose from the slums of Honolulu to the

U.S. Senate, where he served almost 18 years. He also served as president of nine companies.

Fong was elected one of Hawaii's first two senators in 1959, and remains the only Republican senator the state has had. He was re-elected twice and retired in 1977.

Civil rights were a focus of Fong's Senate career. His amendment to a civil rights bill required auditors at polling places to assure minority voting rights. ■



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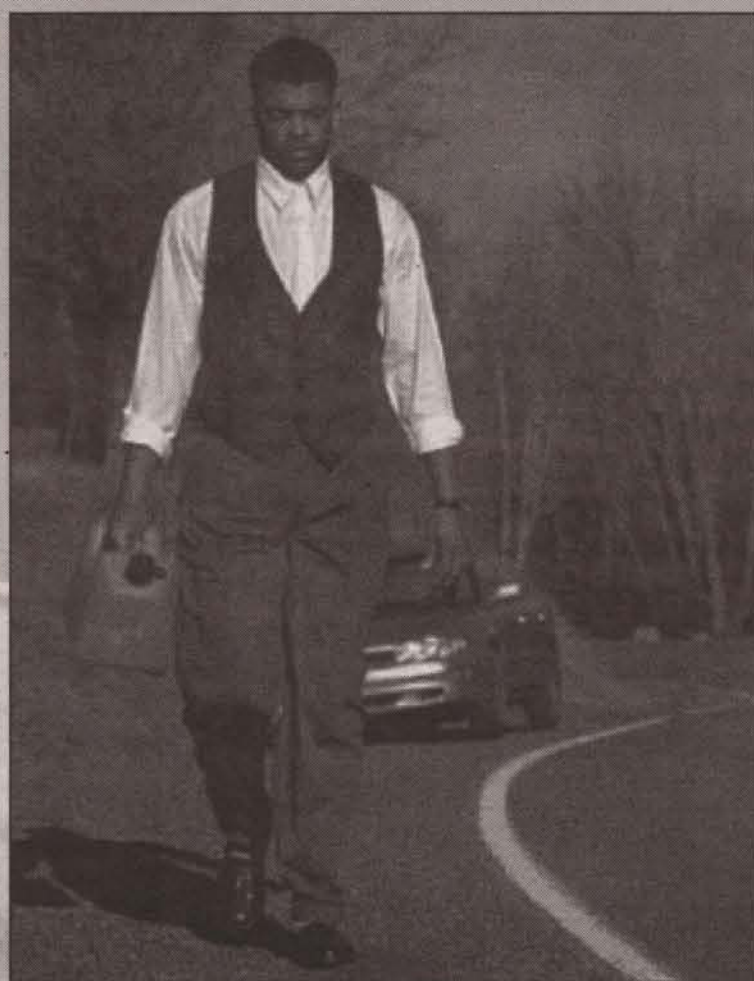
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The Sexual Inner Demons of a 'Lonely Woman'

By YUMI SAKUGAWA
Special to the Pacific Citizen

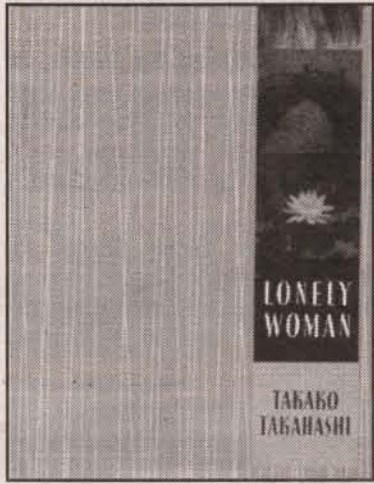
"Lonely Woman" is the title of Takako Takahashi's collection of five individually titled short stories that are loosely linked by common characters and recurring plot elements, but it also expresses the main theme of her literary work: the feminine loneliness that can drive a woman to insanity.

The madness found in Takahashi's heroines is not the melodrama of a neurotic housewife who shoots her husband in a frenzied fit of repressed womanhood. Rather, the mental maladies that ail these five Japanese women are less easily defined and manifest themselves in more subtle ways, which make them all the more unsettling and mesmerizing.

Perhaps this idea is most clearly expressed in the story "The Suspended Bridge," in which a bored housewife named Haruyo ignites her dormant sexual passion when she learns that a man whom she had an emotionally sado-masochistic relationship with in the past has returned to her town. She compares the awakened passion that occurs inside her to that of a transformation into a demon:

"It's not that the female demon described in Japanese legends actually exists. The ordinary, perfectly normal woman, under certain circumstances and at certain moments, can turn into one. Anyone who saw this happen would probably let out a shriek. Only the woman who saw it happen to herself would know why she'd turned into a demon."

Indeed, Haruyo's personal observation can apply to all the female protagonists in Takahashi's stories, who transcend their mundane every-



day existence and metamorphose into something bewitched and demonic when they delve into repressed erotic fantasies that often carry tinges of violence and masochism.

A prolific writer who has won Japan's Woman's Literature Prize, Takahashi seems to specialize in writing about heroines whose very existence are incongruous with the conventional female mold of wife and nurturer, and instead, find their heightened sense of self-awareness through other unconventional means at the expense of their sense of sanity.

In the title story, "Lonely Woman," Sakiko is a young woman who becomes deeply intrigued by the series of arson crimes that have occurred around her area. She is especially drawn to the fact that the arsonist seems to have a pattern of burning down elementary schools, which gives her intensely lucid images of schoolchildren burning in the inferno:

"The little children packed into the classrooms would be roasted alive. Not in an instant, but slowly, slowly,

enveloped in flames, enveloped in smoke, shrieking like locusts, they would burn on and on."

These mental images give her such a sense of perverse pleasure that she nearly convinces herself that she has actually committed the crimes.

Sakiko's mental awakening that links eroticism with violence is similarly found in the next story, "The Oracle," in which a woman named Yoko dreams of her recently deceased husband's infidelity with other women. She is so convinced of these dreams that she obsessively tracks down the women who appear in them. As these nightly visions consume her everyday life and eventually her sanity, Yoko finally finds a brutal voodooist ritual to purge herself of these haunting images.

Perhaps the most compelling and

unsettling story is "Foxfire," a story in which a female store clerk named Ichiko is erotically intrigued by sly youngsters whose innocent facades belie a sexual and primal intensity, such as a cunning nine-year old shoplifter and a twelve-year old boy who secretly flirts with her on the train in the presence of his mother.

All of these stories are somehow linked together by common characters or recurring elements, which suggests that these mysterious spells of loneliness and madness are not limited to these five characters, but include all women who have felt the strains of living in a rigidly defined, patriarchal society.

Although these stories take place in contemporary Japan, Takahashi's clean-cut, minimalist prose, fluidly translated by Maryellen Toman Mori, transforms these familiar landscapes into a sterile and repressive backdrop for a woman's quiet

descent into madness. This mode of writing is often tinged with a sense of dark irony and evokes grim fascination, as mundane details of everyday life carry menacing overtones once filtered through the twisted psychosis of these women.

Mesmerizing and nightmarish as a never-ending fever dream, Takahashi's stories blur the lines between reality and fantasy as she deftly explores the isolation that haunt the depths of every repressed woman's soul. It is in this internal landscape of loneliness where these women transform into demons of their unbridled passions. ■

LONELY WOMAN

By Takako Takahashi

Translated and with an introduction by Maryellen Toman Mori
Columbia University Press, \$24.50, 192 pages

SECRET ASIAN MAN By Tak

secretasianman@weeklydig.com • © 2004 Tak Toyoshima

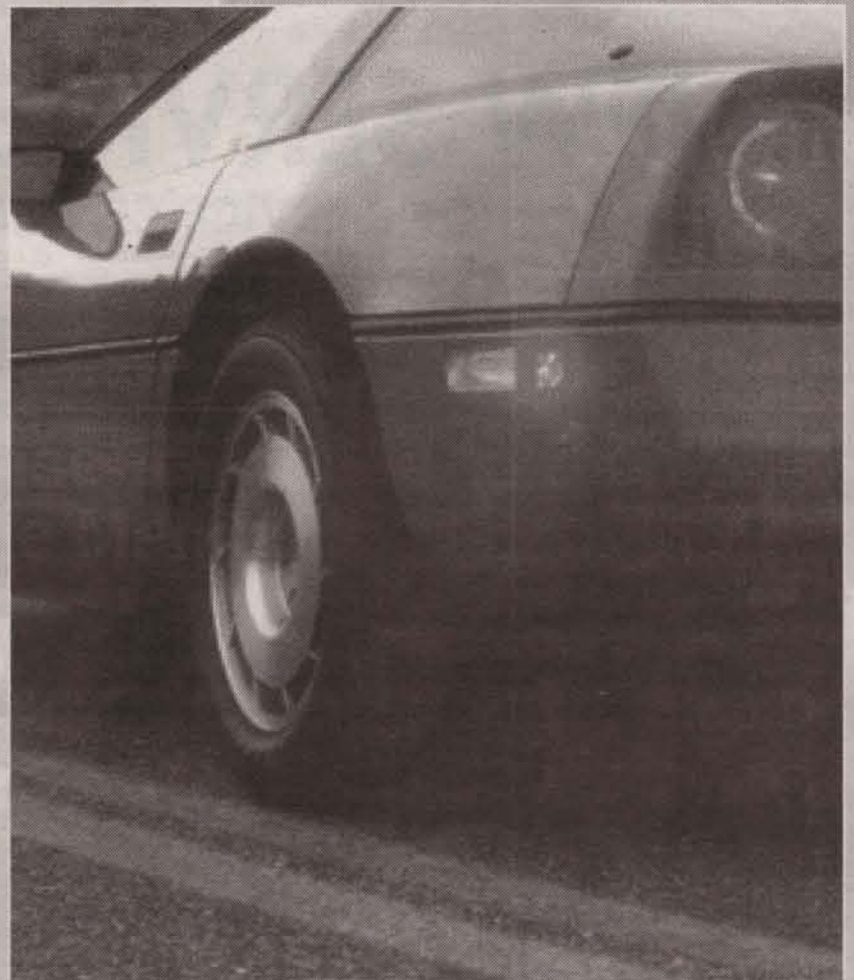


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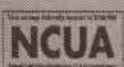


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