Radio Station Under Fire for Tsunami Parody Song

BY CAROLINE AOYAGI
Assistant Editor

HOT 97 FM responds to controversy by suspending employees, but angry protests continue to press the radio station for full accountability.

By LYNDIA LIN
Assistant Editor

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Note to HOT 97 FM (WQHT-FMs): Human tragedy is no laughing matter.

The New York-based radio station got the message loud and clear recently when angry Asian Pacific Americans and enraged listeners roared loud enough to force the morning show off the air for playing a tsunami parody song filled with racial slurs and misguided humor.

Listeners who tuned into the popular hip-hop radio station in the early morning hour of Jan. 26 were greeted with a humble announcement of the indefinite suspension of American singer Miss Jones and the usually raucous radio show known for its prank phone calls and face slapping contests. For many outraged listeners, the announcement sounded like sweet bells of justice.

The now infamous song, a parody of the 1985 charity anthem “We are the World,” included these lyrics:

All at once you could hear the screaming chicks,
And no one was safe from the throng.

There were Africans drowning,
Little Chinamen swept away.
You could hear God laughing,
‘Shamin kitches, swam.’

The song hit the airwaves only a month after the South Asian tsunami killed over 200,000 and while rescuers were still recovering bodies in the ruins, it was reportedly replayed for four days. An audio recording of the song was quickly circulated through the Internet allowing listeners to not only hear the tsunami song, but also the racial charge argument between Jones and “Morning Show” Co-Host Miss Info.

“Morning Show” team “due to the content of the tsunami song and its bad taste.”

That morning’s conciliatory broadcast was a stark contrast to the usually raucous radio show known for its prank phone calls and face slapping contests. For many outraged listeners, the announcement sounded like sweet bells of justice.

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Drop it like it’s hot—Hundreds of protestors braved freezing temperatures Jan. 28 to protest the tsunami parody song in front of HOT 97 FM’s New York studio.

The on-air personalities Marvin “The Beast” Anderson and Miss Jones were both fired that day.

On Monday, Feb. 1, Jones and Program Director John Dimnick gave an on-air apology and announced that the entire “Morning Show” team agreed to give up one week’s pay to aid the tsunami relief effort.

“I should have known better and I didn’t. So I’m sorry and hopefully we can move forward from this, or I can move forward from this being a better hostess, because I am better than that,” said Jones, in her on-air statement.

Emmis Communications, HOT 97 FM is a radio station in New York City.

From Texas to Tennessee Fight to Rename ‘Jap’ Roads Continues

By CAROLINE AOYAGI
Executive Editor

Sandra Tanimachi has spent the better part of the last decade taking on the state of Texas. Now her eyes are set on Tennessee.

In the past few months, Tanimachi has seen her hard work pay off with three Texas Counties agreeing to rename roads that contain racial slurs such as “Jap Road” and “Jap Lane.” Now she is taking her fight east where the name of Tennessee is home to two “Jap Lanes.”

“In this day and age, ‘Jap’ is a racial slur just as the N-word is and it should not be used anywhere in the United States,” she said. “All Americans should be treated with the same respect and honor.”

Tennessee’s two “Jap Lanes are in Lawrence County in the cities of Ethridge and Lawrenceburg. Both cities are small and Caucasians make up 98.9 percent of the population in Ethridge and 93.3 percent in Lawrenceburg. The city of Ethridge has no Asian Americans while Lawrenceburg has an AA population of 0.4 percent.

These numbers may make it more difficult to sway a change in these areas. The city of Ethridge has lived with “Jap Lane” for six years and traces the two-mile road’s origins to a man named Jop Hollmond for whom the road was named after.

“Frankly, I don’t care if a town has five or five hundred people in it. If it has a geographical marker of some kind—a road name, a mountain name, or whatever—we need to do what we can to get it changed,” said John Tateishi, JACL executive director. “The only way we’re going to eliminate the use of the word ‘Jap’ is by informing the public of it’s dis­paraging nature.”

Members of the Committee to Change Jap Road (CCJR) agree with Tateishi and plan to forge ahead with their campaign to rename the two “Jap Lanes” in Tennessee. Thomas Kuwahara of CCJR has already been in contact with commissioners in Lawrence County asking for a renaming of the roads.

“If I see this way... if you don’t repair a broken window, then it is more likely that other windows will be broken,” said Kuwahara. “In the worst case, another Vincent Chin,” he continued, referring to the brutal racial murder of Chin in the state of Michigan.

But so far, Lawrence County Commissioners have indicated they will not be renaming any of the roads.

“It will remain the same,” said Commissioner Delano Bemfield, whose district includes Ethridge.

“The people who live on [the road] have no trouble with it. The county has no trouble with it.”

He noted that not only about four or five families currently live on Ethridge, “I’m not sure if [the Jap name] is a town or a road, or whatever — we need to do what we can to get it changed.”

Residents of “Jap Lane” in Orange County, Texas met Jan. 18 to decide on a new name for the road but could not come to a consensus. They have until in the end of February to come to a decision.

Although Orange County Commissioners voted to rename the controversial road late last year, it is still taking a while to choose a name that will be acceptable to both the Japanese people

IN MEMORIAM

Former JACL Nat’l President
Patrick K. Okura Passes at Age 93

A JACL leader for over 65 years, Okura was a pioneer in the mental health field.

By CAROLINE AOYAGI
Executive Editor

Former JACL National President Patrick K. Okura, whose impact went beyond JACL to include the mental health and civil rights communities, passed away Jan. 30 after a lengthy illness. He was 93.

“One thing we’ve seen the passing of one of our major figures from the past,” said JACL Executive Director John Tateishi. “The death of Pat Okura, while not unexpected because of his failing health of late, is nevertheless a sad and tragic loss for the JACL.”

“Pat served the organization with such dedication over the span of decades, always so willing to be a friend, advisor, mentor, and father figure to so many young Japanese Americans who were fortunate to be a part of his life,” said John Tateishi.

The Okuras at the 1988 JACL Nat’l Convention.

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See TEXAS/page 2

Since 1929

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NEWS DEADLINE: FRIDAY BEFORE DATE OF ISSUE

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Connerly Leaves UC Board With Warning: Don't Bring Back Affirmative Action

By MICHELLE LOCKE
Associated Press Writer

SAN FRANCISCO—Ward Connerly, the University of California regent best known for dismantling state programs that gave minorities preferences, completed his term with a final plea to fellow board members: Don't bring back affirmative action admissions.

"There will be a great temptation — for you to relax your attitude about diversity," Connerly said in his parting remarks Jan. 20.

"For God's sake, don't do it!"

After dismantling UC's affirmative action system, Connerly, 65, chaired a state ballot initiative, Proposition 209, that scrapped similar programs in public hiring, contracting and education.

His next battleground is Michigan, where he and others recently performed. They believe they have enough signatures to get a constitutional amendment similar to Prop. 209 on the November 2006 ballot.

Connerly, who is of black, white and American Indian descent, has been a catalyst for conflict during his 12 years as a regent. He was praised by supporters as a civil rights hero, denounced as a sellout; some opponents cheered Connerly's departure during the public comment portion of the recent meeting, crying out at times that he is "a sellout.

"Some of the issues Connerly spearheaded led to tense times," Preuss said, "but is a board which really doing its job?"

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"Always Dream" Foundation which provides scholarships, and the Circle in Danville, Calif. and the Drinking, become more exposed to what adolescents are "for their long time," he added.

The cost for the gala dinner is $100 per person with an "early bird" special of $80 per person if you register by Feb. 15. Registration forms for seating and menu choices can be obtained from JACL chapter presidents or downloaded from the district website http://jaclncwn.org. Completed registration forms and checks should be sent to Carolyn Budnik, California JACL, 1 Waterfront Circle, Stockton, CA 95209.

The Blackhawk Auto Museum is located at 3700 Blackhawk Plaza East, Danville, Calif. and the dinner will start at 6 p.m. Attendees are encouraged to celebrate the event by wearing red, white, or blue.

For more information about the gala event, contact Putty Wadu, Regional Director, at 415/345-1075 or email jaclnews@msn.com.

Yamaguchi is president of the Pacific Citizens for Justice Foundation, a political action committee that lobbies for full restoration of the Fourteen Amendment. The amendment, which guarantees all citizens equal rights under the law, was the basis for the Brown v. Board of Education Supreme Court decision that ended racial segregation in public schools.

"It's a great honor to represent our community and our organization in this case," Yamaguchi said. "And I'm really happy to be here."
Warning System

By Inouye, D-Hawaii, Ted Stevens, R-Alaska, and Maria Cantwell, D-Washington

Upgrade Tsunami nation's tsunami warning system.

The bill would authorize up to $35 million a year for the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) to upgrade tsunami detection and warning capabilities on the East and West Coasts and the Gulf of Mexico.

Protecting human life and property from natural disaster requires the Akaka Bill to Be Reintroduced in 2006 Senate Bid

For the state Senate in 2006 because Nakano Announces

helped create the first ever Asian American and Pacific Islander American Bar Association Commission on Racial and Ethnic Diversity.

The centers' commitment campuses in Clovis, Madera, and Oakhurst. Ikeda has worked for Tanamachi was honored for her successful 12-year struggle to have various Texas counties remove schools that contained the racial slur "Jap." She will be presented with the award later this year.

APA Professors Win Rosenfield Distinguished Book Award

The Japanese American Veterans Association (JAVA) has selected Sandra Tanamachi of Texas for its Courage, Honor, Patriotism Award.

As an example of Japan's refusal to take responsibility for past crimes.

The Japanese American Veterans Association of the United States for the purpose of prisoner redress issues for those who have not received proper acknowledgement for the violation of their civil rights during World War II.

The assembly to remove hate crime laws also faces opposition from Attorney General Kelly Ayotte.

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APAs in the News

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JA Authors Honored With Wooden Award

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Deborah Ikeda Named Dean of Instruction and Student Services

Deborah J. Ikeda has been named dean of instruction and student services at the Center for Community College District's North Centers. The centers' commitment.

Touring—Luke Do's parents, who are of mixed heritage, made it difficult to find a bone marrow match, but they finally found a match in a Japanese American police officer in Seattle. Because matches usually are made with a native or woman of the same racial or ethnic background, multiracial people rarely have success.

only 2 percent of those who list their ancestry with the National Marrow Donor Program are multiracial.

The NMMDP will study multiracial patients' medical records this year to better understand what kind of marrow tissue they tend to inherit from their parents.

Bill Would Eliminate Hate Crime Laws

CONCORD, N.H.—A group of lawmakers is pushing to eliminate New Hampshire's hate crime laws, claiming the state is punishing people for unpopular beliefs.

The lawmakers believe that it is discriminatory to levy a heavier penalty for hate crimes, while activists from many minority groups spoke out against the idea. The opposition to remove hate crime laws also faces opposition from Attorney General Kelly Ayotte.

Japan to Dissolve Compensation for Former Sex Slaves

TOKYO—The private fund used to compensate women forced into World War II brothels ran by the Japanese army will be dissolved in March 2007. The fund was created by the government in 1995 but independently operated with private donations and has given out 2 million yen to 285 women in the Philippines, South Korea and Taiwan.

Critics are decrying the decision as an example of Japan's refusal to take responsibility for past crimes.

Michigan Voters Support Banning Affirmative Action

LANSING, Mich.—More than half of Michigan voters favor banning race and gender based preferences in university admissions and government hiring.

A poll revealed that voters favored or were leaning toward a state constitutional amendment banning preferential treatment, which could be on the November 2006 ballot.

Minorities, A&F Employees Eligible for Settlement

For more information, visit www.abercrombieclaims.org or call 866/654-4175. The Gonzalez v. Abercrombie and Fitch is open to the public and will focus on the personal testimonies of U.S. citizens and immigrants of Japanese, German and Italian ancestry in the United States and from Latin America.

Other activities include: examination and dialogue of how race prejudice and war hysteria impact citizens and immigrants; personal stories of individuals and families who were interned in the Department of Justice camps and Army facilities as part of the enemy alien program and discussion of what government action is considered permissible.

Over 2,200 Japanese Latin Americans were abducted during WWII from 13 Latin American countries and interned in the United States for the purpose of prisoner exchanges with Japan.

A complete set of audiotape recordings and transcripts will be deposited at the National Japanese American Historical Society archives in San Francisco. Copies of the testimony and videotaped excerpts from the proceedings will be submitted to the U.S. Congress and the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights as background educational information for consideration of pending and future legislation and litigation. For more information, contact the Campaign for Justice at 510/528-7288 or check their Web site: www.campajusticeforjustice.org.

By P.C. Staff and Associated Press

Inouye, Other Senators Introduce Bill to Upgrade Tsunami Warning System

WASHINGTON—Sens. Daniel Inouye, D-Hawaii, Ted Stevens, R-Alaska, and Maria Cantwell, D-Washington, recently introduced legislation to upgrade and modernize the nation's tsunami warning system.

The bill would authorize up to $35 million a year for the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) to upgrade tsunami detection and warning capabilities on the East and West Coasts and the Gulf of Mexico.

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By ALEXIS HISAKA

I have always been intrigued by Japan. Its beauty, enchantment and heroism are a part of my history that I take pride in. However, my associations of Japan contain too many experiences where people live in gaman. Gaman means to "bide it" and be patient, a way of thinking for Japanese when faced with a tough situation they think is unchanging. It is a fact that we live in gaman and it dominates our thinking. It has even helped us survive difficult times, including a bad economy and war.

We can interpret gaman as irrational. In fact, there are innumerable occasions in which it shaped our strength as people. However, the more I learn of my nature, I begin to see a darker side of gaman. The overtones of conformity, secrecy and resilience have set the stage in every situation conceivable, fracturing our communication and blinding us to judgment.

Historically, we have thrived through a need for conformity. As gaman becomes ingrained in our psyche, we silence ourselves rather than deal with the issue. But as Americans today, has gaman outlived its usefulness? Perhaps we have reached a point where we must make a change, otherwise we will only destroy ourselves. In 1941 we were placed in internment camps. We were at war with our ancestors, so obeyed without question and relocated. Afterward, we spoke little of our dark years enclosed behind barbed wire fences. Instead, we practiced gaman. We feared rejection by society, so we remained the "good citizen."

Maybe at the time, gaman helped us survive internment, but the need to speak up for ourselves and share our lives was nonexistent. When does gaman become a bad thing? When is it best to make peace with your situation, and when is it a form of giving in and giving up?

Avoiding conflict is extremely important in Japan and it forces us to communicate indirectly, such as through gossiping and silencing ourselves. And in a culture where conformity is essential, secrecy can also damage us. We may thrive in the workplace and in the classrooms, but we lose the battle when it comes to speaking our minds.

In my years of experience as a student and employee, very few Japanese would participate in lectures and meetings, or confront staff, professors and peers. When it comes to feelings or ethical issues, Japanese Americans fail to make any communication. Gaman is so consistent in our everyday culture and I'm embarrassed by that.

One of the reasons I criticize gaman is because it is so intrinsic. Every Japanese parent wants their child to attend church, play Japanese basketball, and have Japanese friends. But I saw it as a "Stepford" life and I did not want to be a conformist. And because I just wanted to be me, I was looked at as different. At 14 I was young and outnumbered, and I took in every remark and accusation. I thought it made me tough enough while I felt like I was in a coma and slowly destroying myself. I too was practicing gaman.

Recently, a gamban serving in the Army Reserve, Minnesota's language two years ago marked the beginning of the transfer of leadership from the WWII generation. He is also president of Pacific Citizen. Earl S. Takeguchi, a retired Army colonel and a native of Hawaii, began his military career as a cadet in the University of Hawaii, Honolulu, where he earned a Bachelor of Science Degree in Civil Engineering. He attended the Officer Candidate School at Fort Benning, Georgia. He was commissioned in the U.S. Army Signal Corps. Takeguchi's last assignment was at the Pentagon in the Department of the Army with the Office of Director of Information Systems for Command, Control, Communications and Computers.

PHOTO: GRANT HIRABAYASHI

Since 1947 the JACL HEALTH TRUST has offered Health Care coverage to JACL members. Blue Cross of California has been providing health care coverages to Californians for over 65 years. Blue Cross is committed to keeping you connected to quality health care services.

Blue Cross of California

COMMUNITY NEWS

Making History, JAVA Elects All Post-WWII Officers

For the first time in its 12-year history, all of the new JAVA (Japanese American Veterans Association) officers are from the post-WWII generation.

The new JAVA officers recently elected to unbroken succession are: President, Bert Mizusawa (incumbent); vice president, Thomas V. Mukai; secretary, Dave Buto (incumbent); and treasurer, Earl S. Takeguchi.

Presently a Colonel serving in the Army Reserve, Minnesota's language two years ago marked the beginning of the transfer of leadership from the WWII generation. He is also president of Pacific Citizen.

Earl S. Takeguchi, a retired Army colonel and a native of Hawaii, began his military career as a cadet in the University of Hawaii, Honolulu, where he earned a Bachelor of Science Degree in Civil Engineering. He attended the Officer Candidate School at Fort Benning, Georgia. He was commissioned in the U.S. Army Signal Corps.

Takeguchi's last assignment was at the Pentagon in the Department of the Army with the Office of Director of Information Systems for Command, Control, Communications and Computers.

PHOTO: GRANT HIRABAYASHI

Golfing for a Good Cause

By FLOYD MORI

Commentary Chairman

Sports have always played a big part in my life. I remember putting that radio-listening to the University of Utah national championship basketball team play every game. One of my childhood idols, Wat Sakata, was a star guard on that team.

If the game included something round that bounced, I played the game associated with it and dreamed of being a pro when I grew up. When I graduated from high school in Utah, my dream to go to Southern California to become a Trojan was fuelled by the dream of playing basketball and being part of a championship team.

Well, my dreams never did come true as a player. I did coach some championship basketball teams in Little League and in high school. But there was a time when I played on three different softball teams at the same time. But here I am now a senior citizen who never really made the grade to the pros.

Over 30 years ago I made a serious attempt to take up the game of golf. This opened a new world of competition and fellowship that I hadn't really explored as a youth. Golf is my "rich man's" game from that point on.

Today, golf is my man's and woman's game. I have made many new friends through the game of golf. In the past 15 years I have probably spent more time with my golf buddies than anybody else save my wife who even gets dragged out to the golf course now and then.

If you're interested in golf, you might want to know that there are many in the Japanese American community who have found the same satisfaction and enjoyment in the game of golf that I have. Whether it is the businessman from the city or the farmer from the countryside, golf has become the pastime for many who never had given a thought to it for many years. This past October, the national JACL held its First Annual Golf Tournament at the Strawberry Farms Golf Club in Irvine, California. It was our first attempt to use the sport of golf to raise money. Over 100 players showed up, had a great time, won some prizes, ate a special buffet dinner, and felt the enjoyment of friendly competition. Many non-players enjoyed the day as volunteers. The result was funding for the youth programs of JACL.

I really want to give a big Artigato to all of those who participated as players and as volunteers. Many have reported to me that it was truly the best golf tournament they have ever had on a golf course. It took the work of many people on the committee to make sure all elements of the tournament were successful. Thank you! Thank you! Thank you!

A huge thank you goes to George Aratani and the Aratani Foundation for their financial support. Without George's early encouragement and help, the tournament would not have come to fruition. All our sponsors and donors are greatly appreciated.

We are now planning the golf tournament for next year. All you golfers, save the date of June 20. Come and join in on the fun and fellowship of a friendly round of golf with over 100 other players. While you're having a great time you'll be helping fund the youth programs of JACL.

I am hopeful that many of you will volunteer your talents to help us with our next event. And all you help will be gladly accepted and appreciated. Anyone wishing to help may contact me by email at araturen@ix.netcom.com or send a note to national JACL.
"When all 320 high school students hugged me, it felt like a dream. Now my life is almost complete."

— Mary Kitahara

High School Diplomas 62 Years Later

While Nisei rebuilt their lives after World War II and many continued their education or established successful businesses, the loss of their formative youth remain as hidden wounds.

While interned at Heart Mountain with their family, Tom Okumura and his sister Mary (Okumura) Kitahara were pulled out of Mountain View High School. He was drafted into the Army and served with the 442nd Regiment. Okumura was injured in a German bunker during his wounds.

Six years after World War II, the Okumuras, unable to complete their education, or establish successful businesses, the loss of their formative youth remained as hidden wounds.

"I was told I wouldn't be able to complete my education, I lost all hope of anything. I stopped going to school and let it go," said Okumura.

After her incarceration, Kitahara returned to the Bay Area and contacted Mountain View High School to see if she could receive her high school diploma, but was told they had no record of her attendance. She inquired several more times over the years, but always received a similar response.

"I contacted Mountain View High School Assemblywoman Sally Lieber's office and Mountain View High School to inquire about my high school diplomas and was honored at the Mountain View High School commencement in June 2004."

"After all those years ... what others did to make it possible, I was completely surprised and pleased ... I'm glad it happened," said Okumura.

"With eyes twinkling and a soft bright smile, Mary said, "When all 320 high school students hugged me, it felt like a dream. Now my life is almost complete.""

The California Nisei Project has been helping people like Okumura and Kitahara — former internees whose high school years were interrupted due to forced removal from California and incarceration during WWII — to achieve their dreams. The project was established to provide community outreach and education for legislation, AB 781, which became law in 2004 and authorizes any high school district, county unified school district, or county office of education to retroactively issue a high school diploma to eligible individuals from their home town school.

As a part of the California Nisei Project, the following individuals are being sought by Lodi High School for their retroactive diplomas:

Class of 1942
Katsumi Kume
Toshiko Thomas Odate
Harumi Terada (Kishita)

Class of 1943
Takeo Monji
Bun Motoo

Class of 1944
Yukako Kitamura
Minoru Monja
Sanji Morimoto
Chizuko Ota
Emiko Ama Ohashi
Osamu Sato Shuzo
Ted Tanaka
Chizuru Tomimoto

Class of 1945
Sally Hideo Asada
Sally Harko Otsuka
Shigeru Sato
Pamela Evelyn Shizunai

Individuals listed, or someone who knows the whereabouts of these individuals, should contact the Japanese Cultural & Community Center of Northern California at 415-557-5500 and Susan Endo-Baker at Lodi High School at sehuber@lodahlard.k12.ca.us. For more information, check www.cansei.org.

Watsonville-Santa Cruz JACL to Present ‘Camp Dance’

A s a follow-up to the popular World War II evacuation reenactment in 2002, the Watsonville-Santa Cruz JACL will host "The Camp Dance: The Music and the Memories" April 2.

Playwright Soji Kashwagi of the Grateful Crane Ensemble, in association with the Watsonville-Santa Cruz JACL and the Oy Family Properties will present this program with special guest vocalist Mary Kayegeyama Nomura, best known as the "Songbird of Manzanar," and Helen Chizu Iwanaga.

"The Camp Dance" is a sentiment look back in time at Watsonville-Santa Cruz JACL to Present ‘Camp Dance’

As a tribute, all WWII veterans, their spouses and former camp internees, students and teachers are invited as sponsored guests.

To support the Watsonville-Santa Cruz JACL Camp Dance Fund, make a tax-deductible donation by sending a check to Watsonville-Santa Cruz JACL, P.O. Box 163, Watsonville, CA 95077. For more information, contact Mas Hashimoto at 831-772-6859 or luzh@earthlink.net.

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Apr 7 China Deluxe - 13 Days - All Meals - $3695 - Beijing, Xian, Yangtze River Cruise & Shanghai. "recipes for worry-free travel"

May 12 Great Lakes "Tulips & Mackinac Island" 10 Days - Meals - $2295 - Chicago, Holland, Traverse, Mackinac Island Grand Hotel, Mackinac Island, Mackinaw City, Wisconsin Dells & Chicago. "recipes for worry-free travel"

May 27 Georgia & South Carolina "Hospitality" - 8 Days - 14 Meals - $1895 - Atlanta, Charleston, Beaufort, Savannah & Jekyll Island.


June 20 Summer Japan "Family Tour" 10 Days - 21 Meals - $2955 - Child 11 & Under $2095 - Tokyo, Takayama, Nara, Kobe, Hiroshima, Shido Island & Kyoto.


Sept 7 Central-Eastern Europe "Danube" 12 Days - Meals - $2955 Prague, 8 Day Cruise-Nuremberg-Vienna-Bratislava-Budapest.


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April 14 Spain & Portugal

May 11 Rome to Barcelona on Seven Sea's Voyager

May 19 Japan's Ancient & Contemporary Highlighs

May 29 Williamsburg & Washington, D.C.

June 20 Scandinavia - Denmark, Sweden, Norway

July 18 Highlights of Japan for the whole family

July 30 Princess Alaska - Cruise & Land Tour

Aug. 13 Best of the Rhine River - Holland, Germany, France & Switzerland

Aug. 23 Russia - "Waterways of the Czars"

Sept. 12 Reflections of Italy

Sept. 15 Northern Japan - Hakkaido & Tokko

Oct. 6 Cruise Canada & New England - New York - Radisson Seven Seas "Navigator"

Nov. 15 Osen of Hokkaido plus Seoul & Taipei

Nov. 3 Southern Japan - Okinawa & Kyushu

Nov. 30 The Best of South America - Brazil, Argentina & Chile

Dec. 6 Holiday Season in San Antonio

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KOKUSAI-PACIFIC 2005 TOURS

Tokyo, Takayama, Nara, Kobe, Takahashi, Miyajima, Hiroshima, Shido Island & Kyoto.
FOOTBALL
Hawaii’s Chang Trying to Prove He’s NFL Ready
By JAYMES SONG
AP Sports Writer

WAILUKU, Hawaii—With 13
NCAA records and his No. 14 jer­
sey in the College Football Hall of
Fame, Hawaii quarterback Timmy
Chang has left his mark on the
game. Now he is trying to prove he
deserves a shot at the NFL.
Chang’s college career came to an end
in the Hawaii Bowl. He had 405
touchdown passes, he is second to Ty Detmer (121).
He had 17,072 yards, attempts (2,436), comple­
tions (1,408), and total touchdowns (169). With 117 touchdown pass­
es, he is second to Ty Detmer (121).
My best memories are just repre­
senting the state and being eligible for a winning program — not the records,” he said.
This past season, Chang led the Warriors to an 8-5 mark and a 59-40
round pick, which is often a late pick, pro potential. He figures to be a late­
round pick, in the College Football Hall of

Chang was a prep football star in
Honolulu before starting for Hawaii
for four years. “He’s been under a lot of pressure,” said West head coach Mike Bellotti, of
Oregon, said he believes Chang will
succeed. “He has a very accurate, strong
arm,” Bellotti said. “Stronger than most people think. Stronger than I
thought.”
Chang said he spoke with several NFL teams over the past couple
weeks, but declined to say which
are interested, they’re interested, they’re
not just a reflection
of Hawaii’s school of thought.
“You can be a system’s guy, but
if you’re not very good, you aren’t going to succeed. You have to be
able to hit the field, you still have to have to make the throws, you still have to be able to read the
coverages,” he said. “So he obviously
did something right.”

After a record-breaking career at the University of Hawaii, Timmy
Chang now has his sights on proving himself in the NFL. The
draft is in April (AP Photo/Ronan Zibelman)

American Holiday Travel

2005 TOUR SCHEDULE
HOKAIDO WINTER FESTIVALS HOLIDAY TOUR 5. Feb 6-14
Sapporo, Asahikawa Onsen, Hokkaido, Noboribetsu, New Chitose Airport
NEW HOKAIDO MINI HOLIDAY TOUR 5. Feb 12-17
New Chitose, Sapporo, Lake Toya, Hokkaido, Hakodate, New Chitose Airport
NAGANO, KANAZAWA, APUKA HOLIDAY TOUR 3. Feb 18-24
Nagano, Kanazawa, Hakuba, Aizu, Kanazawa, New Chitose Airport
SOUTH CHINA SEA HOLIDAY TOUR 4. Feb 28-Mar 5
Bali, Phuket, Khao Lak, Krabi, Ko Samui, Ko Phangan, Bangkok
CHINA 500 MILE BIKE TOUR 4. Feb 24-Mar 5
Beijing, Tianjin, Xian, Yangzhou, Hangzhou, Shanghai, Nanjing, Suzhou, Shanghai

Stories by P.C. Staff and Associated Press

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SUMO
Sumo Holding Three-day Tournament in Las Vegas

TOKYO—The Japan Sumo Association will stage a three-day
tournament in Las Vegas in October to help celebrate the city’s
two!00th anniversary.
“It is a privilege to present this event to a people of the world in Las Vegas,” said
JSA chairman Toshimitsu Kinoshita.
“We are confident that Grand Sumo Las Vegas will meet the expectations of fans in the
United States.”
The tour will take place at Mandalay Bay Resort and Casino from Oct. 7-9 and will mark the first
time in 20 years that Japan’s 1,500­year-old sport has staged an event in the
United States. The Las Vegas tournament will feature most of the sport’s top wrestlers, including Mongolian grand champion Asashoryu, who just won his 10th Emperor’s Cup at
the New Year Grand Sumo Tournament.
“Las Vegas will be one of the most prestigious events ever held in Mandalay Bay,” said	Glen Medas, vice president of entertainment
for the Las Vegas Convention Center.
Tickets will go on sale on April 6, and Medas said he expected the
desert heat to be sold out for all
three days.
A champion will be determined each day, and a grand champion will
be decided on the final day, but
gambling on the outcome of bouts will not be permitted.
The Japan Sumo Association
frowns on gambling so no odds will be posted,” said Medas.
Sumo, which regularly stages overseas events, last held a tourna­

GOLF
Wie to Play in LPGA Under Revised Criteria

HAVRE de GRACE, Md.—Michelle Wie has accepted an
invitation to the LPGA Championship, making it likely the
15­year-old golfer will compete in all four of the women’s majors this
year.
Wie and other top amateurs like Paula Creamer and Jane Park have
decided not to play the McDonald’s LPGA Championship because it was for
professionals.
But the tournament expanded its field from 144 to 150 players, offering one of those addi­
tional spots to a “leading amateur.”
Three extra exemptions will go to a top player from the Korda LPGA,
the Japan LPGA and the Ladies European Tour, and the remaining
spots will go to the next two LPGA
Tour players from a priority list.
The LPGA Championship will be played June 9-12 at Belle Rock.
Anuka Scorses is the two­time
defending champion, having won both titles at DuPont Country Club
in Delaware.
“We could not be happier having Michelle Wie in our field,” tourna­
tment director Herb Lutman said.
“Towa de Micheig in all about the best of the best, competing in one field and showcased at one out­
standing venue.”
We already accepted an amateur exemption to the Kraft Nabisco Championship on March 24­27, and she is exempt to the U.S. Women’s Open in late June because she tied for
1st 10 years ago.
She is expected to get an exemption
to the Women’s British Open at Royal Birkdale in July.
Wie is coming off her second appearance on the PGA Tour, shoot­
ning rounds of 75­74 in the Sony Open to miss the cut by seven shots.

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Ernest & Carol Hida
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OKURA

(Continued from page 1)

enough to encounter him," he con-
tected. "He'll be sorely missed." Okura first joined the JACL in the 1950's on to serve for seven decades at the chapter, district and national levels. He was elected to the JACL national presidency in 1974 and 1991. He was also in 1985, at the age of 90, Okura continued to serve the organization as treasurer to the JACL Washington, D.C. chapter.

Well-known for his skills at coalition building in the civil rights community, Okura often remarked of his experiences representing the JACL at the March on Washington with Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. in 1963.

Okura's stories were often passed on to the younger generations, something he took a special interest in as a best of the JACL/OCA Washington, D.C. Leadership conference where participants come to the capital each year to learn leadership skills. Even in his later years, Okura was a frequent speaker at schools and universities in the D.C. area, to educate students about the JACL's World War II experience.

Okura and his wife Lily, like many other JAs, were frequently removed from their Los Angeles homes at the outset of WWII and sent to the Santa Anita Race Track, where they lived in horse stables with 19,000 other people.

FROM THE MIDWEST

JACL's Year in Education

By BILL YOSHINO

Midwest Regional Director

The JACL took large strides in 2004 to secure a strong footing in the area of education.

The foundation of JACL's education program is our much-acclaimed curriculum guide, "A Lesson in American History: The Japanese American Experience." We revised the guide two years ago and prior to reprinting 1,900 copies in 2004, we cleaned up some types, did some re-formating and corrected some errors. Copies of the updated version of the guide are now available at our headquarters office.

During 2004 we also completed an education project, "What It Means To Be An American," funded by a $74,000 grant from the National Conference for Community and Justice and the Cherven/Frankfurter Foundation. The project focused on the bigotry and racism being faced by South Asians, Muslims and Arabs in the wake of the Sept. 11th attacks.

Our project coordinated and implemented three teacher training workshops held at the University of Michigan at Dearborn, the University of San Francisco and the Holocaust Museum Houston. Approximately 100 teachers attended the workshops, which were presented by Sharon biso-Jordan and Greg Muntau.

Each of the daylong sessions consisted of: a review of the JA internment experience; a history of the racism and war atrocities (sic) such as the Naneking Massacre, which makes your little historical anecdote about American internment camps sound like Sunday school. "For we Japanese, it's just a short form of 'Japan' and 'Japanese' equivalent to 'Brit.' If that's a problem for you, if you want to live in the past, if you want to cultivate some kind of a victim complex, if you want to get overly excited about a mere word, regardless of how it's actually used in 2004, we Japanese don't care. The war has been over for 60 years and we Japanese have moved on."

After giving some examples of other Asian and Filipinos Websites that also use "Jap" in headings, Suzuki finished up:

"For my part, the discussion is closed. I've got better things to do than entertain a dumb retro-Yank on a bad Jap trip. Peace and love from a modern Jap journalist in modern Japan."

I trust that Suzuki doesn't speak for all Japanese — I'd love to know what the Federation would think of such inventive, because the Japanese government has been making a concerted effort to outreach to Japanese Americans. It's true that the changing cultural values of the United States haven't necessarily reached all parts of the world; nor, perhaps, should they. But I'd submit that even Japanese who disagree could do so with a little less hatred and a little more grace.

After all, nothing's ever going to change without a discussion across cultures.

Gil Asakawa is the WC. Educational Board Chair and author of "Being Japanese American." He writes a more-or-less weekly online column called "Nikkei View" at http://nikkeiview.com.

Condolences may be sent to Lily Okura's work in the mental health field, and national levels. He was elected for his work in the civil rights field and was inducted into the National JACL Ruby Pin in 1999.

Leaves behind his wife Lily who continues to be active in the JACL's OKC chapter. A memorial service is planned for Feb. 11 at 10:30 a.m. at the Bradley Hills Presbyterian Church in Bethesda, Maryland. In lieu of flowers or cards, Lily requests that donations be made in Pat's name either to the JACL Foundation, or to the Boy's Town in Omaha, Nebraska where Patrick worked as a psychologist.

Eventually, they made their way to Boys' Town in Omaha, Nebraska where Patrick worked as a psychologist. He has lost one of its steadfast guiding lights, someone who, incredibly, has been a valued leader for nearly seven decades," said Paul Dyehuis, JACL national president.

"Although his vision was exemplified by his successful effort to have JACL join the historic March on Washington, it also was manifested in his day to day contributions to the civil rights cause and to JACL."

Okura's influence and reach went far beyond the JACL, making a marked impact on the mental health field and especially its relationship to the Asian American community, an area that has often been overlooked.

In 1972, Okura took a position with the National Institutes of Health where he spent several years advocating for AA health issues. With the redress monies he and his wife received from the U.S. government for incarceration during WWII, they founded the Okura Mental Health Leadership Fund.

To this day, the foundation helps to develop Asian Pacific American leaders gain understanding and access to our national policy process.

Okura's work in the mental health field has been recognized many times over, including an Honorary Doctorate in Psychology from the Phillips Graduate Institute in California in 2001. He was recently appointed as a Fellow of the Asian American Psychological Association and was chosen for the 2004 Katz-Jordan Award from the American Psychiatric Association Committee of Asian American Psychologists.

Okura has also been recognized for his work in the civil rights field and was inducted into the Montgomery County Civil Rights Hall of Fame in 2002. He was also the National JACL's JA of the Bimonthly winner in 1978 and was awarded the National JACL Ruby Pin in 1999.

Okura's work in the mental health field has been recognized many times over, including an Honorary Doctorate in Psychology from the Phillips Graduate Institute in California in 2001. He was recently appointed as a Fellow of the Asian American Psychological Association and was chosen for the 2004 Katz-Jordan Award from the American Psychiatric Association Committee of Asian American Psychologists.
Cynthia Kadohata: When you first finish writing the story, you're writing, but I didn't feel it happened officially. I could learn more from writing ten different stories than writing for children, but I didn't feel it happened officially. I'm just writing to tell those publishers and magazines that previously rejected your work and show off your talent? If I sold four stories to the New Yorker, or whatever, I've been rejected like some 20 or 30 times, you just have to want it so badly. How do you decide to become a writer? In college I majored in journalism and hoped to work nonfiction someday. I moved to Boston when I was 25 and started reading contemporary fiction. I'd read classics previously, but when I lived in Boston, there were a lot of bookstores around. I used to just walk up and down the aisle and look at the books and buy the ones that caught my interest. I tried to read at least 75 pages a night. And I started sending out stories. I applied to quantity over quality, because I felt that I could learn more from writing ten different stories than I would from working the same story for ten months. I was shocked. It's all about the writing, right? Cynthia Kadohata: When you first finish writing the book, obviously it's very rewarding, but you don't jump up in joy because of that (Laughs). I was shocked. It definitely feels different. I used to say that I need new glasses, now I can actually afford them! Do you plan to call those publishers and magazines that previously rejected your work and show off your talent? If I sold four stories to the New Yorker, or whatever, I've been rejected like some 20 or 30 times, you just have to want it so badly. How do you decide to become a writer? In college I majored in journalism and hoped to work nonfiction someday. I moved to Boston when I was 25 and started reading contemporary fiction. I'd read classics previously, but when I lived in Boston, there were a lot of bookstores around. I used to just walk up and down the aisle and look at the books and buy the ones that caught my interest. I tried to read at least 75 pages a night. And I started sending out stories. I applied to quantity over quality, because I felt that I could learn more from writing ten different stories than I would from working the same story for ten months. I didn't feel as if I was officially a writer until I had a story published. Theoretically, you're a writer as long as you're writing, but I didn't feel it happened officially until I saw a story of mine in print. Do you want to stop writing books? I hope they would go around to schools and look for the best of you. How do you capture the voice of a young writer? I guess it's easier for me to write from the viewpoint of a child. I don't know how to write from the viewpoint of an adult! This was your first foray into young adult fiction, how does writing for this age group differ from writing for adults? I think it's more natural. Even when dealing with sad subjects, you have the sense of hope [in the young adult genre]. You can show more of that. If "Kira-Kira" were made into a movie, who would you cast as the lead and the director? I hope they would go around to schools and look for the perfect girl. I believe that's what the filmmakers did with the young actress from 'Whale Rider,' (Keisha Castle Hughes) and she was really great in that part. I wouldn't mind who directed the film, as long as (s)he felt passionate about it. Kadohata's Other Works In the Heart of the Valley, The Floating World, At the End of the World, for All Time...
The 2005 San Francisco Arts of Pacific Asia Show runs through Feb. 6 at the Fort Mason Center, Festival Pavilion.

Mountainside National Historic Site Interpretive Center, join Park Ranger Kris Pitchenik to explore the many ramifications of the "Legacy of Incarceration," administered to Japanese Americans at Manzanar. Discover how a "Yes" or "No" could determine your future.

San Francisco, Sat., Feb. 19—7:30 p.m.; Fort Mason Center, 501, 11th St. Free; refreshments will be served. Hosted by the Philadelphia JACL. Info: Joyce Toyama, 215/832-4000 or info@sjnoc.org.

SACRAMENTO, Sat., Feb. 19—11:30 a.m.; Secretary of State Building Complex, 1500 11th St.; pre-paid reservations necessary; no tickets at the door. Info: California State History Museum, 916/653-5864.

SALT LAKE CITY, Sat., Feb. 19—12:45 p.m.; Salt Lake Buddhist Church, 211 West 100 South. Guest speaker: Congressman Mike Honda, who hosted a number of students. Info: 801/753-7902.

SAN DIEGO, Sat., Feb. 27—San Diego JACL "annual meeting and showing of "Day of Independence" at 5 p.m.; Civic Camp at City Park, 2137 Pacific Coast Highway. Host: California JCC, 3131 Pearl St., and registration: Stephanie Yorizane, 619/230-0314.

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IN MEMORIAM
Shigei Kihara, Taught at First Army Language School, Dies at 90

BY ASSOCIATED PRESS
OAKLAND, Calif. — Shigei Kihara, the last surviving original instructor of the first U.S. Army language school, has died at age 90.

Kihara died Jan. 16 of natural causes at his son's Castro Valley home outside Oakland, said his son, Ron. He had Parkinson's disease and had suffered a stroke three years ago.

Kihara was one of the first four instructors, along with his wife, Shigeya Kihara, taught at the First Army Language School, established in 1941 on the Presidio of San Francisco to teach American soldiers Japanese. It moved to Monterey five years later and became known as the Defense Language Institute Foreign Language Center, the nation's premiere language school.

A Nisei, Kihara was exempted from Japanese relocation camps in 1942 because he worked for the army, his children, grandchildren and siblings were interned at camps in Utah.

Kihara taught and supervised Japanese language training until 1958, then conducted research and development of foreign language programs, and later served as a director. He retired in 1974.

Besides his son, Kihara is survived by his wife, daughter and brother and sister, respectively. A memorial service was scheduled for Feb. 28 at First Covenant Church in Honolulu, Jan. 21; well-known among California surfers for his knowledge of Hawaiian culture and development of foreign language programs.

As a JACL member, you don't have to worry. That's because you can trust JACL and JACL's Long-term Care call center, it's available to you, your spouse, your parents and your parents-in-law.

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