U.S. Army Charges 1st Lt. Watada; JACL Comments for First Time on Officer's Ordeal

The Japanese American Citizens League (JACL) does not take a position on the war in Iraq, nor are we in a position to defend his position on the legality of the war in Iraq, nor are we in a position to judge his criticism of the war's morality," the national JACL's statement explained. "That is our strong concern that Lt. Watada because, as an officer of the United States Army, it appears he is being made an example."

The Japanese American community has been vocally expressing its opinions regarding Watada's situation — the first Asian American officer to refuse deployment orders to Iraq — including in this newspaper. Although many have expressed their support of the officer, some even calling him a hero, others, especially fellow veterans and past and present, have expressed their disapproval.

And many have asked for and demanded JACL's official position on the matter.

"This is such a sensitive matter because of the community politics … the situation with our veteran members," said John Tateishi, JACL executive director. "It was important as a civil rights organization ... to make a statement regarding [Watada’s] position."

The Japanese American Citizens League (JACL), a student organization from Asian American Legal Defense and Education Fund (AALDEF) have been made with the House's OK. Now as the Senate takes up the issue, APAs say voting barriers must be demolished.

By LYNDM LIN Assistant Editor

With citizenship comes responsibility, so when Kit Fong Yeung received right hand to pledge allegiance to the country she has called home for nearly two decades her next move was naturally to pick the next U.S. president. In 2004, the Manhattan Chinatown resident arrived at her polling place to find the voting machine broken and other voters filling out affidavits. The words on the form did not really make much sense to Yeung and an interpreter was not available to help, so she just filled out the form herself plunging her mind into uncertainty.

When she learned about her rights as a citizen, which includes language assistance — uncertainty — to Yeung along with four other Asian Pacific American voters and four APA groups including the Asian American Legal Defense and Education Fund (AALDEF) have sued the New York City Board of Elections for violating language

AMERICAN DREAM: APAs who want to participate in the electoral process are still facing barriers. Language assistance provisions required by Section 203 of the 1965 Voting Rights Act.

The lawsuit filed in February 2006 accuses the board of failing to provide election related material and assistance to APAs with See VRAI/Page 3

Committee Recommends Children's Book about Internment Be Taken Off Curriculum, Moved to Library

'Baseball Saved Us' uses the 'word to show the pain of racism."

By LYNDM LIN Assistant Editor

The use of an ethnic slur in a children's book continues to stir debate in New Milford, Connecticut with a school board subcommittee's recent recommendation to remove "Baseball Saved Us," Ken Mochizuki's coming-of-age story set in a World War II internment camp. From the second grade reading program.

The school board's six-member Committee on Learning in late June recommended the book be moved into a "trade book" from the second and third grade level and placed in the school's libraries. The committee asked to wait until students are older before using it with entire classes, said Thomas
Readers Speak Out On Watada Case

Our Country recently celebrated the anniversary of the Declaration of Independence. I want to remind my readers that the courageous men who signed the Declaration of Independence, including American heroes such as Thomas Jefferson, George Washington, signed the Declaration in protest to the tyranny of King George and the British Congress. Each of them made the Declaration of Independence, convinced that signing the document would transcend the fate of each man. Their own countrymen accused them of treason, mutiny, and as traitors leading an insurrection against the beloved mother country. They are American heroes.

I am proud of my son for having the courage to step forward as an officer of the United States Army to refuse to participate in an illegal and immoral war. The tyranny of our leaders is illegal. The Nuremberg Tribunals led to the execution of Japanese and German officers for committing war crimes, so the same as the war crimes being committed by America.

Lt. Ehren Watada, an American officer, faces the same charges. Today, since the start of the war over 100,000 innocent Japanese citizens have been killed or violently wounded by American troops. And thousands of young American sons and daughters have died. If war is not able to lead productive lives. The massacre and slaughter of the Japanese people and their homes, and the shattering of American families must stop now.

Lt. Ehren Watada is a patriot and American hero.

Robert Y. Watada
Honolulu

I wish to commend and support the courageous stand that Saseki Lt. Ehren Watada took in refusing deployment to Iraq. By refusing to serve in this illegal war, polls, most Americans agree that the actions in Iraq are a mistake, and that our soldiers must be brought back home.

His mother writes, "His decision came through much soul-searching and thorough research and consideration with families, inside and outside of the military and the government."

His reasons are perfectly clear; that he believes the war to be illegal and morally wrong, based on lies and resulting in torture, destruction and the injury and death of vast numbers of Iraqi and American occupation forces.

It is especially difficult for Japanese Americans to challenge the American military. We speak rightfully and proudly of the ideals of our Nikki Watada World War II soldiers. The bravery and outstanding performance of the 442nd and the M5, dedicated to the liberation of the people, War has been acknowledged by the American military and the government.

We need to look in the vast differences between the "war on terror," which could last 50 years, and WWI. Our Nikki soldiers fought for many reasons — including the need to prove their loyalty. WWII was a war against fascism. Remember the Holocaust? The Rape of Nanking? And we will also know that it was a difficult time for Lt. Watada.

Chiyoko Yamasaki
El Cerrito, CA

Many PAC leaders offered their support of Lt. Ehren Watada's refusal to deploy to Iraq. However, I strongly disagree with his decision. How effective of an Army would we have if we allowed our soldiers — especially officers — to refuse to comply with military orders just because they did not agree? Some consider him a hero for refusing to deploy. It took a great deal of fortitude to come to such a decision, but that does not make him heroic. When he was commissioned as a U.S. Army officer, he was an American soldier, an officer and a gentleman. He has his reservations about such things, then why join in the first place?

Chigusa Tanigawa
Sacramento, CA

FRIDAY BEFORE DATE OF ISSUE

Editorial Note: We publish the opinions expressed by columnist often by the president or national director do not necessarily reflect JACL policy. Events and products advertised do not necessarily reflect endorsement of the JACL. Director: John Tashiro Assistant Editor: Christine Okada Office Manager: Brian Tanaka Circulation Director: Yuka Lau-Ting Intern: Stacey Ikeda

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LETTERS

Thank You From D.C.

Many thanks to Ted Nambu (convention chairman), his family (Michelle, Lauren, and Brian), and the Arizona chapter for planning and hosting a wonderful NACL Convention in Chandler, Arizona. All the events were executed with precision and were enjoyed by all. Thank you to everyone who helped make the convention a success.

I am honored to be serving as national president for the past two years and to the national board of directors, John Tateishi and the JACL staff. We want to thank those involved with awarding the Ruby Fin to Floyd Imperial, and Iris Iwasaki, Barry Saiki, and many others.

Thank you to those who also helped to bring in as our keynote speaker, John Tateishi and the JACL staff.

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I would like to thank especially Silvana Watanabe, IDC governor, and the Mount Olympus chapter.

Irene Wini
Washington, D.C.

Pacific Citizen

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* "Editorial" reflects the active, public discussion within JACL, if a wide scope of ideas and issues, though they may not reflect the views of the national board of directors or the U.S. Pacific Citizen.

* Short expressions on public issues, unless otherwise noted, are non-exhaustive, does not mean to reflect positions of the authors or any group or any organization. All columns, letters and others are subject to editorial judgment. Where the public issues, unless otherwise noted, are non-exhaustive, does not mean to reflect positions of the authors or any group or any organization.
imments are basically to get him." Although some veterans have compared the current Watada situation with the controversy a few years ago over the Chinese American JACL's apology to the World War II Resisters of Conscience, Tateishi does not think the two issues are similar.

"This is not the same issue as the Resisters," he said. "I don't want to bring this over again." And in fact, Watada has not been classified as a conscientious objector because he is not against all wars. The Chinese American JACL's apology was over the current war in Iraq. Prior to his refusal to deploy to Iraq, Watada had offered to serve in any other part of the world. So, although he offered his resignation but in the end all his offers were rejected and Watada decided to refuse his deployment.

Tateishi believes the Iraq war is not only immoral but illegal and he now faces a possible eight years in military prison and a dishonorable discharge for those beliefs. He is currently assigned to an administrative position at Fort Lewis, Washington.

Back in Watada's home state of Hawaii, the Honoloalu JACL came out in full support of Watada, backing his decision to refuse deployment to Iraq.

The JACL Hawai'i, Honoloalu chapter supports Lt. Ehren Watada's thoughtful and deliberate act of conscience. We believe Watada's refusal to participate in a war that violates the U.S. Constitution and international law is a principled act of patriotism, the chapter said in their statement. We believe "a staunch defense of Constitution and consent is keeping JACL Hawai'i's primary mission of protecting the civil and human rights of all." The decision of the Honoloalu chapter came after several weeks of debate and a bare majority of board of directors voted to support Watada at the chapter's meeting's hour.

The Honoloalu chapter also noted that their support of Watada does not mean they support the soldiers and their families who are currently fighting in the Iraq war. They also pointed to the historical legacy of preserving the Japanese American community, especially during WWII, as reasons for why they came to their decision.

In 2002, supporting Lt. Watada, JACL Hawai'i honored our legacy of preserving the lessons of the World War II internment of Japanese Americans to ensure that such mistakes are never repeated for many other minority, and national teaching young children about this dark spot in American history.

The committee was asked to review the text in May after O'Brien objected to the book being read aloud in class. Then debate about age-appropriateness and racial stereotypes began to swirl around the book. The pace of the show is a little slower for younger children, mostly in the kindergarten-eighth grades set wide-eyed and drunk in visual treats. The second season, was recommended for an older audience (First-eighth grades) only because teachers speak out, good things happen, "he added.

"I believe history will judge him kindly ... but at this moment it is a very unpopular decision." - John Tateishi, JACL executive director

reaffirms our principled efforts to protect the Hawai'i Constitution." Although the Honoloalu chapter has gone a step further in their support of Watada, Tateishi does not see their position as a conflict with Watada's. "We don't think that we're out of alignment with them. Our position is reasonably close to the Honolulu chapter," said Tateishi, noting that no other AA organization or civil rights groups have come out vocally regarding Watada's situation. Many believe the bottomline is, Watada is JACL and as a member of the organization they feel an obligation to get involved with the debate.

"We've brought into the debate because he is JACL," said Tateishi, who disagrees with those who believe a fellow JACL should automatically support him. "I don't buy the fact that because he is JACL he demands our support. If he was not JACL, would that still be such a strong concern? I think not."

Although national JACL plans to quietly stay out of any pending military court case for Watada, they will continue to monitor the situation.

"We'll wait to see how it develops," he said, but added, "I believe history will judge him kindly ... but at this moment it is a very unpopular decision."

PHOTO BY JEFF PATERNOSTER
PHOTO CREDIT OF THE 5TH AVENUE MUSICAL BASEBALL SAVED US

FROM PAGE TO PAGE: Seattle's 5th Avenue Theatre performed the musical "Baseball Saved Us" for two seasons to students in grades ranging from kindergarten to 8th grades. The cast (above from left) Matt Durasott, Chrissy Chin, Lelani Wolfram, Marc delo Cruz and Gene Ma. said the pace of the show is a little slower than most kindergartners like. "It's really uplifting for children to see because the world depicted in "Baseball Saved Us" was the children's world," said Jennifer Rice, 5th Avenue's public relations manager. "There were never any complaints about the show or its content," said Rice. AALDF collected many testimonies from APA voters who were discriminated against by poll workers.

"These are Asian people like my grandparents and parents who want to take part in the electoral process and have an advantage," said Glenn Maguayt, AALDF's voting rights attorney.

"We want to support plaintiffs in the lawsuit against the New York City Board of Elections faced many barriers while trying to cast their votes, so they decided to come forward and incite change. The suit is currently in settlement negotiations, so Maguayt said, "I think they were very brave. When our community stands up and speaks out, good things happen," he added."
**APAs in the News**

By Pacific Citizen Staff

**Yu Gets Nod From Primetime Emmy**

Jessica Yu's "In the Realms of the Unreal" is nominated for a primetime Emmy in the category of Exceptional Merit in Nonfiction Filmmaking.

"In the Realms of the Unreal," profiles Henry Darger, a reclusive janitor by day and visionary artist by night. Yu won the 1997 Academy Award for Best Documentary Short for "Breathing Lessons: The Life and Work of Mark O'Brien," a portrait of the award-winning writer who worked for decades from the confines of an iron lung.

The awards will be presented Aug. 19 at the Los Angeles Shrine Auditorium.

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**Former WWII JA Detainees Make Pilgrimage to U.S. Camp**

By CHRISTOPHER SMITH

Asst. Editor/Staff Writer

HUNT, Idaho — Torii Okano was 6 years old in 1942 when her family were forced by the U.S. federal government to leave their Oregon home to live in a World War II detention camp for Japanese Americans.

More than 60 years later, she has come full circle.

Okano, of Seattle, was one of about 100 former detainees and their families who made a pilgrimage from Seattle and Portland, Ore., to the Idaho camp now designated the Minidoka Internment National Monument.

"I remember the fence," Okano said July 8 as she walked past the remnants of an entry checkpoint to the former 33,000-acre (13,350-hectare) Minidoka Relocation Center compound. "I remember thinking, "If I could just get over that fence and over those mountains, there would be the ocean and I would be free.""

Okano, of Seattle, was one of about 100 former detainees and their families who made a pilgrimage from Seattle and Portland, Ore., to the Idaho camp now designated the Minidoka Internment National Monument.

The National Park Service hosted the visit with former internees to discuss its plans to develop a 73-acre (30-hectare) unit of a park in 2007 and move the historic camp to the Minidoka Internment National Monument.

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Korean War Vets Announce Dedication of Miyamura Tribute Monument

The city of Gallup, New Mexico has completed a series of individual column-type monuments dedicated to the veterans of all wars. The pillars honor veterans of both World Wars, Korea, Vietnam, Gulf Wars and the WWII “Indian Code Talkers.”

Included in this monument is a separate individual column solely dedicated to honor Hiroshi “Hershey” Miyamura, the only American of Japanese heritage in the Korean War to receive the nation’s highest combat award, the Medal of Honor. Miyamura currently lives in Gallup, New Mexico.

A dedication ceremony is scheduled for Aug. 19 at the Miyamura Tribute Monument Veterans Plaza in the City of Gallup, New Mexico beginning at 4:00 p.m. The Reverend Mark Nakagawa of the Los Angeles Centenary Methodist Church will attend and has consented to provide the invocation and benediction for the dedication service.

Miyamura first served with the Japanese American 442nd Regimental Combat Team at the end of World War II. When the Korean War began on June 25, 1950, Hershey was recalled into active duty with the Army and was sent to Korea as a machine gun squad leader in Company H, 76th Regiment of the 3rd Infantry Division.

At Taejon-Ni, when being over-run by the Chinese Communist forces, Hershey ordered his men to retreat while he held off the enemy with a machine gun, bayonet and his own hands. Records and eyewitness accounts note that more than 20 of the enemy were killed before Hershey was wounded and captured.

After spending 28 months as a prisoner of war, he was released on Aug. 23, 1953, at the Freedom Village in Pannmunjon, South Korea. It was only then that the news of the Medal of Honor award was publicly announced.

The city had asked the Japanese American Korean War Veterans organization to support them by providing the cost of $30,000 for the Miyamura portion of the monument. The JAKWV initiated a fund raising project with a goal of $30,000 to make certain that the city would have the funds to build the separate Miyamura monument.

JAKWV Co-Chairman Sam Shimoguchi reports the funds for the City of Gallup monument has reached its goal of $30,000 in record time, well ahead of schedule.

Persons interested in joining the JAKWV in attending the ceremony and visiting with the Miyamuras are asked to immediately contact Shimoguchi, 310/822-6688, or president of the JAKWV Victor Muraoka at 818/808-4113.

Shimoguchi also noted as prospective donors were notified about the Miyamura memorial, they were told that in the event the fund raising project exceeded the $30,000 goal, excess funds raised would be used to offset the Korean War Vets expenses to raise the $30,000 and the dedication costs.

Also, any additional funds received will be used to complete an additional monument in the Japanese American National War Memorial Court at the Japanese American Cultural and Community Center in Los Angeles, California.

The new additional memorial monument will honor the seven JAs who died during the sinking of the USS Maine in the harbor of Havana on Feb. 15, 1898, as well as Mark Yamane, the one person of Japanese heritage killed on the Island of Grenada, and those killed in Iraq.

Deysen Cariaga, whose mother is Japanese, Paul Nakamura, Steve Salosa, Michael Somoda, Jr., and Daniel Tsue, who wish to contribute to the new “Pooi Vietnam War Memorial Wall,” may call:

• Shimoguchi 310/822-6688;
• Carl Miyagishima 323/256-8451;
• Robert M. Wada 714/992-5461;
• Tax-deductible contributions under the IRS Revenue Code, Section 501(c)(3), made out to "JAKWV," may be sent to:
  Sam Shimoguchi
  1257 Allen Street
  Los Angeles, CA 90066.

Contributions may be sent without the form so long as the check is marked "For Iraq KIAs."
“I started to cry,” Hirai said during an interview on the set, one of 50 miles west of Salt Lake City, where she served as an extra. “It looks the same. I saw the faked tar paper and the stairs and the walls allicky. And I remember that.” She added, “I felt my (tace) parents here with me. It was a spiritual experience.”

The occasion was the set location shooting for “The American Pastime,” an independent feature its makers hope will stir equally strong emotions in moviegoers. The $4 million movie is an inspirational drama about two families, one white and one Japanese, whose destinies collide at Topaz Interment Camps.

Produced by Barry Rosenbush, executive producer of the Disney Channel smash hit “High School Musical,” the movie also is about baseball. The patriarch of the Burrill family is an aging catcher on a Utah minor-league team; one of the Nomura sons is a star pitcher on an all-Japanese internment squad. The two teams face off in the movie’s climactic scene, with more than bragging rights at stake.

Rosenbush got the idea for the film in 2002 while sitting in traffic on a Los Angeles freeway and listening to a radio news program about the major role baseball played in the lives of Japanese Americans during World War II. The show’s guest, Japanese-baseball expert Kerry Yo Nakagawa, described an extra-inning game between an Arizona internee squad and a state-championship high-school team from Tucson, won by the Japanese in a historic upset.

Rosenbush tracked down Nakagawa and acquired the movie rights to his book, “Through a Diamond: 100 Years of Japanese American Baseball.” Nakagawa, a Fresno, Calif., amateur historian whose uncle competed against Babe Ruth and Jackie Robinson, became an associate producer of the movie.

Rosenbush then recruited film-maker Desmond Nakano to write the script and direct. Best known for directing the 1995 John Travolta drama “White Man’s Burden,” Nakano has parents who were in Manzanar.

He chuckled. “I can’t mess it up, nor’ll never hear the end of it.”

To pass the time and restore some sense of normalcy to their lives, internees at all camps organized baseball leagues. Conditions were primitive: Diamonds were patches of dirt, and uniforms were sewn from potato sacks and mattress ticking. But the players were skilled, the games were spirited, and big crowds turned out to watch.

Using government blueprints of Topaz, the producers built a handful of barracks, guard towers and other structures. Special-effects wizards will add dozens more buildings later, mostly little-known Asian and arid a state-championship high school team from Tucson, won by the Japanese in a historic upset. Nakagawa, a Fresno, Calif., amateur historian whose uncle competed against Babe Ruth and Jackie Robinson, became an associate producer of the movie.

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Please contact JACL HO for complete job posting. (415) 922-5225 Ext 25 or jad@jacl.org. Job search will close on July 21, 2006.

National News

Japanese-born parents from their

By ASSOCIATED PRESS

search will close on July 21,

2006.

memories and the tears came

San Francisco home to the Topaz

set built to replicate Topaz, . the

she served as an extra.

Fresno, Calif., amateur historian

Nakagawa, a

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According to the National JACL Credit Union, the average interest rate on a 30-year fixed-rate mortgage on July 20 was 6.25%. The credit union offers loans for home purchases, home improvement, and consumer purposes. Please contact JACL HO for complete job posting. (415) 922-5225 Ext 25 or jad@jacl.org. The job search will close on July 21, 2006.
GOLF

Heat Exhaustion Forces Wie to Withdraw from Deere Classic

SILVIS, III.—Michelle Wie grabbed her stomach. She doubled over. At times, she took a seat on her golf bag and buried her head in her hands or pulled her cap over her face. Then she withdrew from the John Deere Classic because of heat exhaustion after the ninth hole during the second round July 14. Wie was attempting to become the first woman in 65 years to make the cut on the PGA Tour. But she struggled to keep herself from getting sick on the course on a hot, steamy afternoon.

After being treated at the course medical trailer, she was taken to a hospital in an ambulance, an IV in one arm. Wie is resting in good spirits, according to a statement from her publicist.

She’ll now have a week off before a two-week trip to Europe for the Evian Masters in France and the Women’s British Open.

BASEBALL

Sun Rises Again on Hawaii Winter Baseball

HONGOLULU—Before Ichiro Suzuki won seven batting titles in Japan a decade before June 14, Jason Giambi put on Yankee pinstripes, they faced each other under a sweltering Hawaiian sun on a dusty diamond surrounded by a chain-linked fence and a few hundred fans.

Suzuki was the savvy kid with a signing punch for the Hiko Stars. Giambi was big-swinging, speedy third baseman for the Kaiu Emeralds.

They were among 136 players in the short-lived Hawaii Winter Baseball (HWB) league during the mid-1990s who eventually made it to the majors.

HWB folded following the 1997 season, but after eight years it returns with a new look, different teams but the same international focus. The 40-game season opens Oct. 1 and runs through Nov. 22.

"Fights — it was a long rain delay," said Clyde Nelson, the former general manager of the Hilo Stars.

The revived four-team league will use mostly Single-A and Double-A players from the San Francisco Giants, Los Angeles Dodgers, Boston Red Sox and Atlanta Braves, as well as young professionals from Japan and South Korea.

Unlike the previous league where the teams were spread across four islands, the new teams will be based on Oahu, at the request of Major League Baseball, to cut travel costs and assist scouts.

The teams again all have catchy names: Walikiki Beachboys, North Shore Honis, West Oahu Canefires and Honolulu Sharks.

Dane Kurisu, the league’s chairman and chief executive officer, hopes to eventually expand HWB to the whole state and make it a permanent training camp for the world’s up-and-coming baseball stars. The MLBP is using the Hawaii league to develop prospects in the offseason, allowing players to face some of the best young talent in Asia. Besides Suzuki and Giambi, other

INDIANS SIGN TAIWANESE PITCHER

CLEVELAND—The Cleveland Indians signed free agent Sung-Wei Tseng, a 21-year-old who pitched for Taiwan in the World Baseball Classic. Tseng was signed July 7 to a one-year, minor-league contract for 2007 by the Indians.

The No. 1 starter on a touring national team, the right-hander pitched five shutout innings July 4 against a U.S. team comprised of top college players.

He posted a 1-0 record in two college seasons and was selected Taiwan’s top amateur pitcher in 2006 after going 7-0 with a 0.36 ERA in nine games.

“We have seen him compete at the highest levels of amateur and international competition,” Indians assistant GM John Mirabelli said.

“His history is very good, a top-quality pitcher from Taiwan.”

For Taiwan in the World Baseball Classic and now

SOFTBALL

USA Wins II World Cup of Softball

The USA Women’s National Softball team beat Japan 5-2 in the II World Cup of Softball Classic on July 17 to keep the World Cup in the U.S. for the first time.

Cat Osterman (Houston, Texas) tossed a two hitter and the U.S. offense launched three homers to capture the title.

O sterman took the circuit for the U.S. accounting for every out through three innings with eight strikeouts and one groundout.

Before this meeting Japan pitcher Yukiko Ueno had allowed only six runs in her last seven games against the U.S. but this time the U.S. put up two runs in the first inning.

Leadoff hitter Claudin Lowe (Tustin, Calif.) hit a single up the middle for the U.S.’s first base-runner and advanced to second when Natasha Watley (Irving, Calif.) reached first on an error by Ueno.

“It feels so amazing to be here,” said Lowe who hit .324 with a team-tying high 11 hits in six games. “Everyone was so pumped up to play Japan. I wanted to start the team on the right note and I was really excited to be able to do that.”

Jessica Mendoza (Camarillo, Calif.), who led the team with 16 RBIs and three homeruns during the World Cup hit a single to left field to score Lowe and advance Watley to third. A passed ball allowed Watley to score and give the U.S. a 2-0 lead. Mendoza also turned in a team-tying high 11 hits and was second in overall World Cup batting average with .615.

Leading off in the fourth, Stacey Nuveman (La Verne, Calif.) was one ball away from a walk when she homered to centerfield, her first since last year. With a World Cup best .615 batting average, Lovie Jung (Fountain Valley, Calif.) took a 0-2 pitch with two outs and hit it out for her second homerun of the Cup.

“We worked really hard to get here. It was nice to come out and make a statement from what everyone was saying last year,” said Jung. “Last year we had just started playing together, and it made a huge difference this year when we had practiced together more.”

SADAHARU OH TO HAVE SURGERY

TOKYO—Japanese home run king Sadaharu Oh will have surgery to remove a stomach tumor and does not know when he will return to his job as manager.

The 66-year-old baseball great did not say if the tumor was cancerous.

He said he felt ill and underwent tests that revealed the tumor.

Oh managed Japan to the title in this year’s inaugural World Baseball Classic and now manages the Softbank Hawks of the Pacific League.

“I’m really disappointed to have to leave the team,” Oh said. “I love the game and it’s difficult to leave. But the players know what we have to do and I hope we will make it to the Japan Series.”

Oh, who played for the Yomiuri Giants, holds Japan’s career record of 868 home runs. He set the season record of 55 home runs in 1964, a mark tied by Tuffy Rhodes (2001) and Alex Cabrera (2002).

Oh managed the Hawks to the Japan Series title in 1999 and 2003, when they were known as the Dalei Hawks.
WILL, THE 99TH Biennial turned out to be an extraordinary JACL convention from the standpoint of its layout. The Sheraton Wild Horse Pass Resort, no higher than four stories, has its resort sits in the Sonoran Desert several miles west of the interstate. On the way, you drive past the casino, a golf course and saguaro cactus to the resort’s entrance loop featuring landscape with an unexpected cascading waterfall.

As one who’s covered national JACL conventions across the country and in Hawaii twice, those hotels were not resorts but were higher and had fast elevators. This Sheraton was spread over two Y-shaped wings from an elegant lobby courting a vista of the desert and buttes beyond.

The convention center was off center. As would happen, the delegates were primed a long time ago to request rooms in the Pina Wing (closer to the convention center) but the Sheraton was renovating that wing. We all quartered in the Maricopa Wing facing the sunrise. Thus, this one turned out to be a “walking-est” convention. It was one way to burn off some (not all) the calories acquired from the tasty luncheons and sumptuous dinners the Arizona JACL convention committee selected.

The national council, the gala luncheons, and the kindness extended toward us by the convention center hallows. I found it to be larger than the House of Representatives.

Conventions not so “walking-est”
At the 1938 JACL 5th Biennial convention in Los Angeles, delegates convened in the city hall council chamber. Delegates roamed at the two hotels in Little Tokyo—the Miyako and Olympic—both very high stories. That convention saw Mike Masakoa, 23, from Salt Lake City elected off the council floor because he was not credited as a chapter delegate. He demanded the floor to tell what was wrong with JACL. This was my first JACL convention.

The next convention for me was the 9th Biennial in 1946 at Denver’s Cosmopolitan Hotel. Besides adopting a $64,000 JACL budget, Mike, now the Washington, D.C. JACL representative, defined a long-term legislative program that included stay of deportation, Issei naturalization, evacuation claims, amending immigration law and Hawaiian statehood.

The 10th biennial in 1948 at the grand Hotel Utah in Salt Lake City saw Hiyo Okada re-elected national president in JACL’s first mail in ballot election. Final tally was not announced. Here was the first hilarious 100 Club wing-ding at Dawn Noodle House, setting the tradition of cutting off men’s long ties and fighting women without glasses.

The 11th biennial in 1950 at Chicago’s Stevens Hotel inaugurated the Niels of the Biennial awards, the honors going to Masakoa. JACL’s second and last mail-in ballots to nearly 10,000 members tallied Dr. Randolph Sakada of Chicago with 2,452 votes, defeating Minoru Yasui of Denver with 1,337 votes for national president.

The 12th Biennial in 1952 at St. Francis Hotel in San Francisco was “the greatest yet” with 800 JACLers registered. The first day, however, began under somber circumstances. President Truman had vetoed the Walter-McCarran omnibus bill that included naturalization for Issei. The national council “succeeded” to have delegates wire their respective senators and representatives to override the veto. Two days later, the Senate voted 57-26 and the House cast 278-113 to override the veto. (This was also a turning point for Pacific Citizen as the national council voted to separate PC away from JACL headquarters.

The 13th Biennial in 1954 at the Statler Hotel in Los Angeles attracted 1,200 delegates and attendees—a high mark that still stands. The occasion noted over 6,000 Issei had been naturalized since mid-1953. This renewed my postwar spirit of attending every convention.

The 14th Biennial in 1956 at the Sheraton Palace Hotel in San Francisco issued its solicitation to reserve a place in the decision regarding the Korematsu, Hirabayashi, and Yasui cases. The first JCLER of the Biennial honors were shared by Jerry Enomoto of San Francisco and Abe Higawara of Chicago.

The 15th Biennial in 1958 at Hotel Utah in Salt Lake City recognized Southwest L.A. JACL (no longer active) as Ichiban with 1,216 members. U.S.-Japan Affairs, as a standing committee, was restricted to act on a “per issue basis” after a torrid debate between Saburo Kado (against JACL) and three foreign affairs and Mike Masakoa.

So, congratulations to Arizona JACL for a super convention. I shall continue this review of succeeding national conventions, now that I’ve started.

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You Never Walked So Much as At This Past Convention

It’s a Monday night, and two people call me on my cell phone to ask me if I’ll want to go out, but I politely decline. I need to watch my Godzilla movies, I tell them. They understand and hang up. I have a personal date with a radioactive dinosaur, the kind that is prone to stomping through Tokyo and melting buildings with its atomic breath.

I am voluntarily holing myself up in my muggy apartment to watch four hours worth of Godzilla movies because I decided at some point that I want to write a full-length play that somehow involves Godzilla, and this is all a part of the research process.

I figure that this personal summer project can also serve as my very bizarre way of learning more about my Japanese culture. And what better way to learn about your own culture than watching cheesy sci-fi movies involving mutant reptiles?

It’s been pretty fun reading articles on one of Japan’s most famous (or infamous, depending on how you look at it) personalities to emerge from the postwar era. Further research on the subject reveals just how big an influence Godzilla still has on global popular culture.

Making its premiere onto Japanese cinema nearly 50 years ago after being awakened by a hydrogen test bomb, Godzilla now boasts 28 movies and is probably one of the most popular kaiju (monster) to grace the cinematic screen, not to mention one of the few monsters to ever win an MTV Lifetime Achievement Award.

In a 1985 survey conducted by the New Times/CBS asking 1,500 Americans to name a famous Japanese person, Godzilla ranked in the top three along with Hirohito and Bruce Lee (who isn’t even Japanese, of course.) Even to this day, Godzilla fans across the globe still organize fan conventions and even academic talks based on this famous lizard whose trademark scream was created by the composer running a glove across a contrabass string.

I think we all secretly love and envy Godzilla because it struck so close to home in the immediate aftermath of World War II. In a 1985 survey conducted by the New Times/CBS asking 1,500 Americans to name a famous Japanese person, Godzilla ranked in the top three along with Hirohito and Bruce Lee (who isn’t even Japanese, of course.) Even to this day, Godzilla fans across the globe still organize fan conventions and even academic talks based on this famous lizard whose trademark scream was created by the composer running a glove across a contrabass string.

You would think that a movie about a radioactive dinosaur carried so much political commentary that the Americans felt the need to heavily edit down its original message?

Throughout the course of this research, I realize more and more that Godzilla is more than just a multi-buck monster, but in actuality a monster of complex proportions depending on how you look at it both good and bad. Who would have thought that a movie about a radioactive dinosaur carried so much political commentary that the Americans felt the need to heavily edit down its original message?

Ultimately, though, I suspect that the raw appeal of Godzilla is much simpler than that. Cultural and social commentary aside, we all secretly love and envy Godzilla because it appeals to the darker side of our human nature. After all, who wouldn’t want to wake up on a big city street and see they’re been woken out of a really long nap?

---

Godzilla: Destroying Tokyo and My Social Life

A great many years ago after being awakened by a hydrogen test bomb, Godzilla now boasts 28 movies and is probably one of the most popular kaiju (monsters) to grace the cinematic screen, not to mention one of the few monsters to ever win an MTV Lifetime Achievement Award.

In a 1985 survey conducted by the New Times/CBS asking 1,500 Americans to name a famous Japanese person, Godzilla ranked in the top three along with Hirohito and Bruce Lee (who isn’t even Japanese, of course.) Even to this day, Godzilla fans across the globe still organize fan conventions and even academic talks based on this famous lizard whose trademark scream was created by the composer running a glove across a contrabass string.

You would think that there is nothing serious about the Godzilla franchise, but I was surprised to learn that the original Godzilla movie was made to be a serious allegory on nuclear warfare and a psychological catharsis for the only country in the world to truly experience an atomic holocaust.

While people may now laugh when they see this movie, back then the Japanese audience openly shed tears when they saw scenes of familiar buildings being destroyed and people being carried to hospitals in stretchers as a result of Godzilla’s mayhem because it struck so close to home in the immediate aftermath of World War II. In the heavily edited American version, an American character who wasn’t even in the actual film is spliced within the original footage to create an English-speaking protagonist who somehow convinces the main protagonist to use the only nuclear weapon that is capable of destroying Godzilla.

Important dialogue concerning the moral dilemma that arises from using weapons of mass destruction is also noticeably cut, which turns what was a serious meditation on weapons of mass destruction into a typical Western story in which the American saves the foreigners from further mayhem.

Who would have thought that a movie about a radioactive dinosaur carried so much political commentary that the Americans felt the need to heavily edit down its original message?

Ultimately, though, I suspect that the raw appeal of Godzilla is much simpler than that. Cultural and social commentary aside, we all secretly love and envy Godzilla because it appeals to the darker side of our human nature. After all, who wouldn’t want to wake up on a big city street and see they’re been woken out of a really long nap?
PACIFIC CITIZEN
National business and Professional Directory

Your business card is a quick view of 20 issues & 10,000 Burke for the three readers, Larger type (12 pt.) justifies
her lines, Logo same as line rate as required. PC has made no determination that the businesses listed
in this directory are licensed by proper government authority.

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Small Business
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Greater Los Angeles

INDEFENSE OF APAS: Jeff Adachi
plans to show "The Slanted Screen" to
Hollywood industry insiders in a Screen Actors' Guild
and Academy of Television Arts & Sciences-sponsored event in
October. they showed films in the kaijin, I thought. "Wen, Zouchi! He's a
Japanese hero!"

"In your film, a Hollywood
casting director says there are no
roles for Asian man. Many
APAs say the same, but was it a
coup to finally hear it from someone
in Hollywood?"

"Jeff: Levitt is a well-known
casting director who casts films like
"Nixon" and "JFK." She has tried to
provide opportunities for Asian
actors when she cast films such as
"The Joy Luck Club" and "Heaven and
Earth." But she states candidly
that the roles just aren't there, and
that's a problem. I think it was
very brave for her to come out and
say so.

PC: Have Hollywood
sterotypes of Asian men come
full circle? Daniel Dae Kim and
Will Yun Lee are today's sex symbols.

JA: No, not yet, Daniel and Will
are just starting out in their careers.
They have not achieved leading
man status yet. Daniel stars in an
ensemble show "Lost," and Will
is regularly featured as a supporting
character. Both are great actors, but
whether they will achieve what
Sessue Hayakawa and James
Shigeta did in their time will depend
on whether there are projects that
envision an Asian man in a leading role,
and of course, whether their films
produce results at the box office.

PC: There is a push/pull ele-
ment to the discussion about APA
actors — on the one hand we're
usually glad to see Jackie Chan
headlining a movie at a local thea-
ter, but at the same time we're
uncomfortable with his movie roles.

JA: Many people do not distin-
guish Asian from Asians born
and raised in America. Some people
who saw "The Slanted Screen" said
"What about Chow Yun-Fat or
Jackie Chan?" But they are in a dif-
cent category than an Asian
American actor, who hasn't had the
experience of making dozens of
films overseas before trying to make
it here.

We think it's cool that Jackie
Chan is a great martial artist and
comic actor, but as an AA, I know
that he does not represent me or
my experience in this country. When
you think of a Jackie Chan film, you
know he's gonna' kick some butt,
and then go back to Hong Kong or
China, or wherever his character
comes from. So he's not like the guy
who lives next door to you.

PC: What about APA women in
Hollywood, a subject that receives
no attention in the documentary?

JA: The subject of APA women
who have been a separate film, and
in fact was the subject of "Staying
the Dragon," a film by Debbie Gee
made in the late 80s. I didn't want to
remake that film. Instead, I wanted
to focus solely on Asian men. While
there are some commonalities in the
stereotypes, since both Asian men
and women are portrayed in early
cinema as untrustworthy or unus-
usual, the representations are very
different for each.

SECRET ASIAN MAN By Tak

Asian women are portrayed as
dragon ladies and sexual, subservi-
cent creatures while Asian men are
shown as Fu Manchu types or alter-
natively as asexual or nerdy. Likewise, the experience of Asian
male actors was much different from
that experienced by female actors,
and that's still true today. Who's the male counterpart to Sandra Oh or Lucy Liu? Think about it.

PC: The documentary ends on
a hopeful note. Are you hopeful that
some day APAs are going to be
represented in Hollywood without
questions?

JA: Yes, I do. It's a question of
when, and having the creative
and economic forces necessary to
make it happen. AAs, in my opin-
ion, have not grabbed the rams by
the horns in the way that is necessary
to effectuate core change in the image-
making industry. Yes, many have
achieved a high degree of success,
for example, in the medical profes-
sion. I've heard that over one-third
of entering students [in medical
schools] are Asian. But if you don't
exist on shows like "ER," then you
don't exist in the minds of a lot of
people.

PC: Has making this documen-
tary helped you work through your
ideas and perceptions of race
representation in Hollywood?

JA: Yes, though you won't neces-
sarily find any deep revelations in
the film. I wanted to create a film
that would raise questions and let
people find their own interpretations
of race, culture and the impact of
distortions created by the media. I
didn't want to hit people over the
head with it. Instead, I wanted
to create a film that made people think,
"Hmm, I never thought about that before."

On the Web:
www.slantedscreen.com

Seattle, WA

SECRET ASIAN MAN By Tak

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"I'M SO
DON'T GET UP TO GET MY FOOD."

"I'LL BRING IT TO YOU FOR A DOLLAR."

"Great Moments in Asian American History
The First Chinese Delivery"

Come young grasshopper, don't wax on, wax off about stereotypes — do something about it.

By LYNDALIN
Assistant Editor

Jeff Adachi is perhaps the Asian
Pacific American community's
closest thing to a real life superhero — by day he protects the
poor as San Francisco's elected pub-
lic defender, but by moonlight he's a
self-made cellist and
"The Slanted Screen" has debut
feature-length documentary about
the portrayal of APA male actors has
gained critical acclaim while mak-

ting its rounds on the film festival
scene.

You can tell how passionate he is
about his work by counting the
slashes in his title: director/writer/
auteur. "I always liked the crime and
gangster movies — 'The Godfather', 'Goodfellas' [and]
"The Dragon," a film by Debbie Gee
Kono -&
secretasianman.com

Pacific Citizen: "This amount of
clips and archival footage is stag-
ggering. What kind of research did
you have to do to ensure the docu-
mmentary represented APA film
history?"

Jeff Adachi: I couldn't include
everything. My goal was to tell the
story of a representative group of
Asian American actors, and let them
tell their stories. I would have liked
to include so many others, such as
Pat Morita. But the sad thing is that
other than Bruce Lee, there hasn't
been any 'biography' documen-
taries made about AA actors.

PC: Who were your movie role
models?

JA: I always liked the crime and
gangster movies — 'The Godfather',
"Goodfellas" [and] 'Scarface' — that's probably why I
"The Joy Luck Club" and 'Heaven and
Earth.' But she states candidly
that the roles just aren't there, and
that's a problem. I think it was
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say so.

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and women are portrayed in early
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different for each.
SACRAMENTO
Sat., Aug. 12—Daruma Craft Boutique; 9:30-4 p.m.; Saratoga Community Center, 16555 Allandale Ave.; boutique will feature hand-made arts and crafts, food, children’s activities and raffle; proceeds benefit the West Valley JACL. Info: Telephone 916/960-4744, or sacsostoots@aol.com.

SATARAFO
Sat., Aug. 19—Rancho Cucamonga Community Festival; 10-6 p.m.; Rancho Cucamonga Community Center, 10000 Lone Oak Ave.; festival will feature music, arts and crafts vendors, children’s activities, food, live entertainment and more. Info: www.ranchoonline.com.

STOCKTON

IROQHE
Sat., Aug. 12—“In the Style of Today’s Freestyle” featuring Hiroshirma and Curry Ono; 5:30 p.m.; Califorina Veterans Affairs; sponsored by the Stockton Public Library and the Stockton JACL; Info: 800/805-7323 or www.stockton.lib.ca.us.

Southern California
CULVER CITY
Sat., Sept. 16—“Benefits” concert, “In Gunteral Rememberance” featuring Hiroshirma and Curry Ono; 5:30 p.m.; Culver City Veterans Affairs; sponsored by the Stockton Public Library and the Stockton JACL; Info: 800/805-7323 or www.stockton.lib.ca.us.

LAS VEGAS
Sept. 27-29—JACL Singles Convention; Plaza Hotel; downtown; Includes pit, golf tournament at Palm Valley Golf Club, welcome reception; Sat.: workshops, luncheon and dinner dance; Sun.: brunch and morning free play golf at Highland Falls Golf Club; room rates are Fri. and Sat. $750 for single and double occupancy, Thurs. and Sun. is $550 open to everyone hosted by the Las Vegas JACL. Info: www.nv.jacolinks.org or Victoria Murakaza, 713/606-2037, victor.murakaza@verizon.net or Bob Hayamizu, 323/292-3165.

TORRANCE
Sat., Sept. 16—PSW JACL Annual Awards Dinner; 5 p.m.; registration, 6 p.m.; dinner; Torrance Holiday Inn. Info: PSW Office, 213/626-4471 or office@pswca.org.

LAS VEGAS
Oct. 17-19—Manzanar High School Reunion; California Hotel; Tues., Welcome Mixer 6:30 p.m. in the Okura Room; Wed.: slot tournament and buffet dinner and program; Dr. Glenn Kageyama will be the featured speaker and will talk about the achievements of the researchers that developed an alternative source of latex from the guayule plant. Info and applications: Henry Nakano, 714/571-8179, Sam Ono, 310/327-5556, Gobby Iwasa, 714/437-4112, Shig. Kuwahara, 629/289-7992, Victor Murakaza, 310/368-4113, or victor3684113@verizon.net.

HONOLULU
Oct. 27-29—JACL Singles Convention; Plaza Hotel; downtown; Includes pit, golf tournament at Palm Valley Golf Club, welcome reception; Sat.: workshops, luncheon and dinner dance; Sun.: brunch and morning free play golf at Highland Falls Golf Club; room rates are Fri. and Sat. $550 open to everyone hosted by the Las Vegas JACL. Info: www.nv.jacolinks.org or Victoria Murakaza, 713/606-2037, victor.murakaza@verizon.net or Bob Hayamizu, 323/292-3165.

Health Plans for California JACL Members at 1.800.400.6633 or visit www.jacalhealth.org

Call the JACL Health Benefits Administrators at 1.800.400.6633 or visit www.jacalhealth.org


Ben Holt Dr; sponsored by the Stockton JACL. Info: Chuyo Miyai, 209/478-0800, ext. 201 or drben@mac.com.

Sat., Aug. 26—Meet Delphone Hirunsu, author of “The Art of Gaman”; Chavez Central Library, 605 N. El Dorado St.; autographed copies of her book will be available at a reduced price; refreshments will be served; sponsored by the Stockton Public Library, Friends of the Stockton Public Library and the Stockton JACL; Info: 800/805-7323 or www.stockton.lib.ca.us.


Ben Holt Dr; sponsored by the Stockton JACL. Info: Chuyo Miyai, 209/478-0800, ext. 201 or drben@mac.com.
In Memoriam - 2006

All the towns are in California except as noted.

Gomes, Marie Nishitani, 96, Kenmore, Wash., June 20; survived by husband, Anthony; daughter, Ina (Ray) Lankford; son, John (Sheila O’Connell); 5 gc.; and sisters, Connie Sekijima and Martha Nishitani.

Higashj, Jerry, 65, San Juan Capistrano, May 25; survived by wife, Judy; sons, Jeff (Jaime), Jim (Sabrina) and John; daughter, Lynn (Tom) Dwyer; brother, Masashl (Shiromi) Kajioka; nieces, Koyanagi, Yasuichi, 97, Long Beach, May 23; and sisters, Luiko (Yoshiko) and Stanley; and 2 gc.

In Memoriam - 2006

Hirai, Toshi, 93, Harbor City, May 31; survived by wife, Betty; daughters, Janet ‘Nomura; 2 gc.; 2 ggc.; and sisters, Luiko (Yoshiko) and Stanley; and 2 gc.

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Hokanishi, Albert, 83, Stockton, June 17; a Stockton native was also a gifted origami folder. He was known to pull out squares of mortality loan programs with exceptional rates. Let us help you save money and build equity through homeownership.

Hoshino, Kanzo, 82, Los Angeles, June 1; survived by wife, Chiyo; son, Jeffrey; brother, Yasuo (Kimiko) Nakatsu; and sisters, Mary Mura and Ann (Steve) Tamanaha.

Hosokawa, Yukiko, 97, Los Angeles, June 1; survived by wife, Kiyoko; daughters, Dorothy (Kazuo) Yamasaki and Dorothy (Kazuo) Yamasaki; and granddaughter, Dorothy (Kazuo) Yamasaki.

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J-POP CULTURE
(Continued from page 1)
more so than I listen to American music. I own more Japanese comic books than I own American books. I watch Japanese dramas and anime on a weekly basis, sometimes daily if I’m bored.”

Whether its anime, J-pop music, or doramas (Japanese dramas), Japanese popular culture is becoming increasingly trendy among younger generations of Japanese Americans. It’s ironic because many of them do not speak or read Japanese and most have never visited Japan. But it’s an obsession many Yonsei and Gosei are turning to to get in touch with their cultural roots.

“I believe that Japanese popular culture is a way to get in touch with my cultural roots,” said Tsudama, who became interested in J-pop culture after hosting a Japanese exchange student during his senior year of high school. “They are interested in it because they are starting to lose their identities as Japanese people. I’m Yonsei and I don’t speak Japanese. By immersing themselves in Japanese culture, they are able to reconnect to their Japanese roots that are slowly disappearing.”

For most Yonsei and Gosei, the Japanese culture is as foreign to them as say, the Bangladeshi culture. When we enter a house, but we shake hands instead of bow to people. "After looking back at my initial fascination with my roots, I think that my ancestors probably wouldn’t help me in that regard either," said Tsudama.

But lately there has been a burgeoning movement to get back in touch with the “motherland.” So listening to the latest J-pop artist’s songs all in Japanese and watching Japanese language dramas with subtitles is a new trend that many younger JAs are using to learn about the “Japanese, Japanese” culture.

Gosei Kristin Iwata, 22, had no interest in J-pop culture until she happened to room with an obsessed exchange student during his senior year at UC San Diego. She doesn’t speak Japanese and has never been to Japan but within a few weeks she found herself sucked into the world of Japanese anime and now J-pop music like EXILE and Its Yuma and the drama “Hana Yori Dango” are among her favorites.

"My generation is realizing that it doesn’t know enough about Japanese culture, and it’s a big enough feeling of loss to motivate various efforts to acquire some of that Japanese culture back," said Nakano.

But these JA youth also realize that the story lines and portrayals of J-pop culture are not accurate representations of today’s Japan. They realize that what J-pop culture offers is entertainment, but it’s something they have found an interest in largely because of their own ancestral background.

"Honestly I feel like for me J-pop culture does not help me in getting in touch with my roots, because the Japan that my ancestors came from is a different Japan from that represented in today’s J-pop culture," said Nakano.

"As for music and J-dramas, I think that their popularity is growing because they aren’t upsettingly bad," said Iwata who finds that today’s American pop culture holds nothing interesting for her. "I believe that at least for me, American pop culture has reached a low point, and J-pop culture provides new and different perspectives and content.”

A perusal of the Internet shows dozens and dozens of J-pop culture sites that get thousands of hits each day with bloggers professing their love for the latest hot J-pop music star. There’s such a vast variety of J-pop artists and the latest in J-dramas and anime, it’s a wonder these youth can keep up with all of the latest trends.

On J-fan.com there are 85 fan sites dedicated to Ayumi Hamasaki, a popular singer. And an Associated Press article recently named model and actress Yuri Ebihara, 26, as one of the most popular “cute” idols in Japan today.

Eric Nakamura, publisher of “Giant Robot,” a leading magazine on Asian pop culture, believes the popularity of Japanese pop culture among JA youth is nothing surprising.

"Japanese popular culture is popular outside of JA youth as well, but I do think there’s a natural curiosity about people’s ancestry especially if it might be perceived as being better," he said. "Japan has always been technologically ahead at least in my generation, and knowing this makes it somewhat curious and appreciative of what happens overseas.”

For many JA youth, their interest in J-pop culture comes from a natural curiosity about their heritage but it’s something that doesn’t need to be overanalyzed they say.

"I just think it’s kind of funny because Japanese Americans aren’t quite Japanese, but not just plain old American either. We take off our shoes when we enter a house, but we shake hands instead of bow to people. We’re a strange hybrid, and it’s nice to see where the other side comes from," said Tsudama.

"At most, exposure to J-pop culture causes me to wonder about how I would be different if I had been raised in Japan instead of the U.S," said Nakano. "Maybe more than trying to find out about their culture, today’s JAs are more stimulated by exploring the types of things they’d be experiencing if they were Japanese in this era and the most accessible way to do that is through J-pop media.”