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Since 1929

# PACIFIC CITIZEN

The National Publication of the Japanese American Citizens League

#3061/ Vol. 143, No. 2 ISSN: 0030-8579

JULY 21-AUG. 3, 2006

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

**Nat'l JACL does not take a position on Iraq war but expresses concern over two of the three charges Watada faces. Honolulu JACL comes out in full support of the JA officer.**

By CAROLINE AOYAGI-STOM  
Executive Editor

First Lt. Ehren Watada, 28, has now been officially charged by the U.S. Army for his decision to refuse deployment to Iraq last month. He now faces three charges including missing troop movement, conduct unbecoming an officer, and contempt towards officials.

Although national JACL has been mostly silent since Watada announced his decision in June, the

organization has now come out with an official statement. Although they will not take a position on the officer's refusal to deploy to Iraq, believing this to be strictly a military issue, they expressed concern over two of the charges: contempt and conduct unbecoming an officer.

"We are not 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 he defied a direct military order falls under the aegis of military law and beyond the reach of the JACL's authority based on the organization's mission statement."

The statement went on to say: "However, the JACL does express its strong concern that Lt. Watada be



National JACL and the Honolulu chapter recently came out with statements regarding 1st Lt. Ehren Watada. Here Watada answers questions at a press conference last month in Tacoma, Washington.

PHOTO: JEFF PATERSON

given fair and balanced treatment in the charges brought against him ... We find that the application of these two articles (contempt and conduct unbecoming an officer) raises questions about the intent of the Army to apply undue punishment to 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 their 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 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."

On the contempt and conduct unbecoming an officer charges Tateishi reiterated: "They don't make sense to me. The enhance-

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## A J-Pop Culture Identity



Kristin Iwata, 22, shows off some of her J-pop culture CDs and posters. For many young JAs these days, J-pop culture is a way to get in touch with their ancestral roots.

PHOTO: STACY IWATA

**JA youth these days are increasingly interested in Japanese popular culture. What they're finding is that it's not only entertaining, it's a way to explore their ancestral roots.**

By CAROLINE AOYAGI-STOM  
Executive Editor

Yonsei Geoff Tsudama likes to spend most of his days listening to his favorite J-pop music artists like Yano Maki, m-flo and Chihiro Onitsuka. Japanese anime like "Bleach" and "One Piece" are regu-

lar reads and each week English subtitled Japanese dramas like GTO ("Great Teacher Onizuka") and "Summer Snow" are must-sees.

Tsudama is an obsessed fan of Japanese pop culture.

"I spend a considerable amount of time and money in feeding my habit/addiction," the 23-year-old jokingly admits. "I listen to Japanese music on a daily basis,

See J-POP CULTURE/Page 12

## JACL Calls Toledo Radio Host's Racially Harassing Remarks an Outrage

**APA groups are contacting the station's advertisers and filing a complaint with the FCC.**

By Pacific Citizen Staff

Asian Pacific American groups including the JACL are demanding action from a Toledo, Ohio radio station for its recent broadcasts of a series of prank calls to local Asian restaurants.

Tower 98.3 (WTWR FM) disc jockey "Lucas," whose real name is Josh Garber, is being accused of making racially insensitive remarks during a portion of his weekday 7 p.m. to midnight "Madhouse" radio show where he called a Japanese restaurant and made fun of the

## Fighting for the Right to Rock the Vote

**The first step in the battle to reauthorize the landmark Voting Rights Act has been made with the House's OK. Now as the Senate takes up the issue, APAs say voting barriers must be demolished.**

By LYNDALIN  
Assistant Editor

With citizenship comes responsibility, so when Kit Fong Yeung raised her 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 turned to outrage. 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



FILE PHOTO

**AMERICAN DREAM:** APAs who want to participate in the electoral process are still facing barriers.

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 materials and assistance to APAs with

See VRA/Page 3

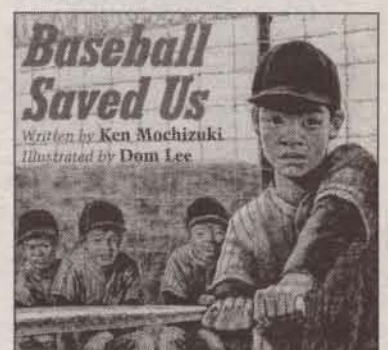
## Committee Recommends Children's Book about Internment Be Taken Off Curriculum, Moved to Library

**'Baseball Saved Us' uses the J-word to show the pain of racism.**

By LYNDALIN  
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 as a "trade book" from the second and third grade level and placed in the schools' libraries.

The committee asked to wait until students are older before using it with entire classes, said Thomas

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# Letters to the Editor

## Readers Speak Out On Watada Case

Our Country recently celebrated the anniversary of the Declaration of Independence. I want to remind your readers that the courageous men who signed the Declaration of Independence, including American heroes such as Thomas Jefferson and George Washington, signed the Declaration in protest to the tyranny of King George and the British Crown. Each man signed the Declaration of Independence, convinced that signing the document would mean certain death to 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 Nuremburg Tribunals led to the execution of Japanese and German officers for committing atrocious war crimes, the same as the war crimes being committed by America.

Lt. Ehren Watada as an American officer could face the same charges. To date, since the start of the war over 100,000 innocent Iraqi citizens have been killed by violence led by American troops. And thousands of young American sons and daughters have died or will never be able to lead productive lives. The massacre and slaughter of the Iraqi 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 Sansei 1st Lt. Ehren Watada took in refusing deployment to Iraq. By the latest polls, most Americans agree that the actions in Iraq are a mistake, and that our soldiers need to come home.

His mother writes: "His decision came through much soul-searching and thorough research and consultation with experts across disciplines, 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 records of our Nikkei World War II soldiers. The bravery and outstanding performance of the 442nd and the MIS, despite the incarceration of JAs during the War, has been acknowledged by the American military and the government. And the public.

We need to look at the vast differences between the "war on terror" (which could last indefinitely) and WWII. Our Nisei 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?

We also know that it will be a difficult time for Lt. Watada.

Remember the treatment accorded the "Resisters" in the Wyoming concentration camp during WWII. Many had to serve prison terms.

I hope the JA community as well as the general public will stand behind Lt. Watada for his brave and principled stand against participating in the Iraq war. He is the first officer to take such a position. He needs to know of our support.

**Chizu Niyama**  
El Cerrito, CA

Many P.C. readers voiced their support of 1st 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 hero. When he was commissioned as a U.S. Army officer, he took a solemn oath to obey all orders. The effectiveness of our military will be undermined if the actions of men like Watada are accepted without consequence. If one has reservations about such things, then why join in the first place?

I am a World War II veteran and I volunteered for the U.S. Army from Gila River Internment Camp in November 1942, when it was not a popular thing to do. I believe we should instill patriotism and loyalty in our present and future Nikkei generations.

We can respect his decision, but let's not applaud him.

**Col. Harry K. Fukuhara, retired**  
San Jose, Calif.

*Editor's Note: Portions of the following letter were inadvertently cut by our printer in the July 7th issue. The text of the letter appears in full below.*

I support very strongly 1st Lt. Ehren Watada's refusal to serve in Iraq. I applaud his decision and the courage it took to make it. He has behaved honorably and honestly. The repercussions might be very harsh but the consequences of violating his conscience would be even harsher.

As a Japanese American and a child of the 1960s, I am proud of him and stand in solidarity with him.

**Masaru Nakawatase**  
Philadelphia Chapter, JACL

Why I support Ehren Watada:

1. Ehren swore to "honor and defend my nation" in 2003. Why has he changed his mind? Because like Winston Churchill, Ehren "would rather be right than consistent." Because unlike shallow thinkers, Ehren refuses to say, "Don't bother me with the facts; I've already made up my mind." Because, like Carl Schurz, the great American patriot of the Civil War era, Ehren believes "My country, right or wrong; if right, to be kept right; and if wrong, to be

set right.

2. To those AJAs who label Ehren a disgrace to the AJAs — especially to those who fought and died in WWII, I ask, "What did those veterans fight for?" I believe they fought to prove our loyalty, so we would be accepted as "full" citizens. I would add: (1) They should not have had to — we were already loyal! (2) But they did! Must we keep on "proving" our loyalty in order to attain full acceptance? That would be an insult to those who 60 years ago fought and died for we would be saying to them, "You fought and died in vain."

My two brothers served in the 442nd in Europe, another brother served in Occupied Japan. They served so Ehren could exercise his full constitutional rights — and responsibilities!

**Yoshie Tanabe**  
Honolulu

First Lt. Ehren Watada's refusal to serve in Iraq is a courageous and patriotic act. At a time when people in this country have been made intimidated from speaking their conscience for fear of being labeled "un-American," Lt. Watada has dared to risk his own freedom so that this terrible silence might be challenged. My heart goes out to Lt. Watada and his family with deep gratitude for his sacrifice.

**Deborah Wei**  
Philadelphia, PA

## P.C. Receives Generous Donation

To the dedicated *Pacific Citizen* Staff — Caroline, Lynda, Brian and Eva.

George and Bess Yasukochi were devoted supporters of the *Pacific Citizen*, proud of your many accomplishments, and the fine work you do representing the JACL and the API community.

In their memory, please accept this donation towards the purchase of computer hardware, software and associated upgrades.

Keep up the good work!

**Valerie Yasukochi  
& Jim Duff**  
Berkeley JACL

*Editor's Note: On behalf of the Pacific Citizen, I would like to thank the Yasukochi family and Jim Duff for their donation of \$2,500.*

## Remembering Barry Saiki

Barry Saiki has sadly passed away, but not from the lives of the many fortunate he touched. I first met Barry when I volunteered to be a board member for the JACL Tokyo chapter many years ago. No matter what he did or where he went, it was evident that he was a real magnet over there.

I would even venture to say that the membership of the Tokyo chapter increased because of him — and as the membership chair with the "inside" view, I knew. When he eventually returned to the States, I was confident the Stockton chapter would thrive. I might even have

been a bit envious.

Barry had a drawing charisma, which combined with his endless knowledge, wit and humor kept everyone intrigued, clamoring for more, and entertained. One would want to know more about history or any subject matter after speaking with Barry — he had that kind of effect on you bringing the richness of the world around you right to your lap.

And you would soon realize that you would have to make some room on that lap because there might be some newly crafted origami there now. Fifteen years and several international moves later, I still have brightly colored, quietly folded (I don't think he even looked down at his hands when he was composing them!) majestic paper peacocks from him.

Long after Barry left the room, you would still be in deep reflection. It's one that you could carry around with you for years, decades and places afterwards. When you say a man is an inspiration, Barry Saiki qualifies. Though long-serving the Japanese American, U.S.-Japan community, his contributions were for all humanity.

What's wonderful is that they are continuing. So you see what being inspirational means.

**Susan Korus-  
Hautefeuille**  
Via e-mail

## Thank You From D.C.

Many thanks to Ted Namba (convention chairman), his family (Michelle, Lauren, and Brian), and the Arizona chapter for planning and hosting a wonderful National JACL 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.

Thank you also to Ken Inouye for serving as national president for the past two years and to the national board and particularly to John Tateishi and the JACL staff.

We want to thank those involved with awarding the Ruby Pin to Floyd and to me. It was a complete surprise to Floyd, but he is very deserving. It was a total shock to me to receive one also. We are grateful for the honor and thank especially Silvana Watnabe, IDC governor, and the Mount Olympus chapter.

**Irene Mori**  
Washington, D.C.

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

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



## WATADA

(Continued from page 1)

ments are basically to gag him."

Although some veterans have compared the current Watada situation with the controversy a few years back over National 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 begin that debate all over again."

And in fact, Watada has not been classified as a conscientious objector since he is not against all wars, just 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. He also offered his resignation but in the end all his offers were rejected and Watada decided to refuse his deployment.

Watada 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 administra-

tive position at Fort Lewis, Washington.

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

"The JACL Hawai'i, Honolulu chapter supports Lt. Ehren Watada's thoughtful and deliberate act of conscience. We believe Lt. 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 the Constitution is in keeping with JACL Hawai'i's primary mission of protecting the civil and human rights of all."

The decision of the Honolulu chapter came after several weeks of debate and a bare majority of board of directors voted to support Watada at the chapter board's meeting July 10.

The Honolulu chapter also noted that their support of Watada does not mean they do not support the soldiers and their families who are

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

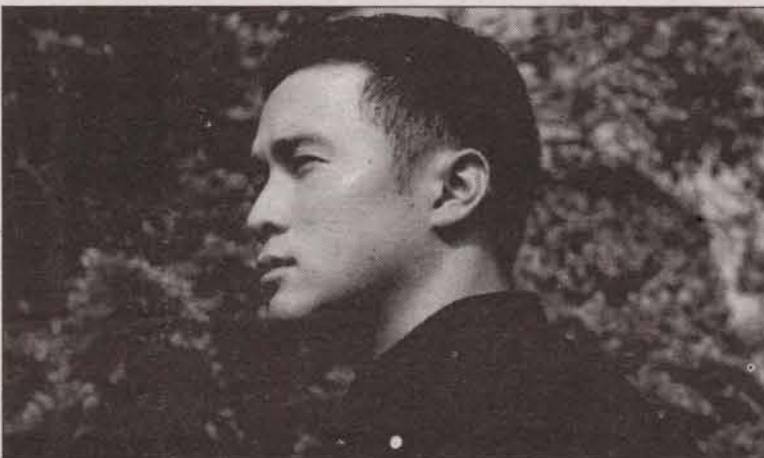


PHOTO BY JEFF PATERSON

currently fighting in the Iraq war. They also pointed to the historical lessons learned in the JA community, especially during WWII, as reasons for why they came to their decision.

"By supporting Lt. Watada, JACL Hawai'i honors our legacy of preserving the lessons of the World War II internment of Japanese Americans to ensure that such mistakes are never repeated nor revisited upon any other minority, and

reaffirms our principled efforts to protect the Hawai'i Constitution."

Although the Honolulu chapter has gone a step further in their support of Watada, Tateishi does not see their position as a conflict with national JACL.

"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 has come out vocally

regarding Watada's situation.

Many believe the bottomline is, Watada is JA and as a member of the community fellow JAs feel an obligation to get involved with the debate.

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

Although national JACL plans to largely 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." ■

To read the entire text of the National JACL and Honolulu JACL's positions on Watada, check out the P.C. Web site: [www.pacificcitizen.org](http://www.pacificcitizen.org)

## CURRICULUM

(Continued from page 1)

Mulvihill, New Milford School District's assistant superintendent. The book was then deemed appropriate for use in grades 4-6 and above.

There are about 50 trade books that teachers use in their classrooms as part of the reading program, said Mulvihill at the committee's June 27 meeting.

The debate centered on the book's use of the word "Jap," which appears several times in the story about a young Japanese American boy nicknamed Shorty, who finds a sense of self-worth playing on the dusty baseball field of his captivity. Upon returning to his "real" life outside of camp, he faces racism and derision from his peers.

Some New Milford parents, who are JA according to local reports, objected to the introduction of racial slurs to children in the second grade. Peter O'Brien told committee members at the June 27 meeting that his child felt uncomfortable after reading the book. The history of internment and WWII is not appropriate for children of such a young age, O'Brien is also quoted as saying.

"It's baffling for me that this is

going on," said Mochizuki, 52. "The O'Briens have every right to control what their child reads or doesn't read ... but leave it up to the individual parent to make that decision."

Mochizuki penned the book nearly 13 years ago based on the experiences of his ancestors and 110,000 other JAs incarcerated during WWII. He specifically used the J-word to convey the hurt of his community at the time. Since then he has been touring schools across the nation 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 New England town of 28,000 residents. Bill McLachlan, committee chair, said he not only objected to the ethnic slur, but also cited the stereotypical reference to the book's main character as short.

"While board members felt the book was a great teaching tool, the majority agreed with the parents' position that schools should not be in the business of introducing what they regard as a slur word to kids

that age," said Mulvihill.

"They felt the book to be a good book and a valuable book — hence let's be sure to leave it in the library available to all primary students — but they felt more comfortable having the book used by teachers with classes when the child might be a year or two older," he added.

The full Board of Education is expected to take up the issue in August.

The course of action has left Mochizuki wondering if it weren't a JA parent bringing this up, would this issue have gone this far. He advises those who oppose the book to "read the book next time and look at the final picture."

Shorty knocks the racism being hurled at him right over the fences.

"Read between the lines," Mochizuki urged.

Since being published by Lee and Low books in 1993, "Baseball Saved Us" has gone on to win literary awards and has been translated to a stage musical by the Seattle-based 5th Avenue Theatre Association. In addition to producing its own musicals, the theater group also runs an educational outreach program that brings musical theaters to schools.

Each year, the theater performs



PHOTOS COURTESY OF THE 5TH AVENUE THEATRE



**FROM PAGE TO STAGE:** Seattle's 5th Avenue Theatre performed the musical version of 'Baseball Saved Us' for two seasons to students in grades ranging from kindergarten to 8th grade.

The cast (above from left) Matt Durasoff, Chrissy Chin, Leilani Wollam, Marc dela Cruz and Gene Ma.

original shows and adaptations of books in schools across Washington. The theatrical version of "Baseball Saved Us" ran for two seasons with over 180 performances. The first season, young children, mostly in the kindergarten-eighth grades sat wide-eyed and drank in visual treats. The second season, was recommended for an older audience (first-eighth grades) only because teachers

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. ■

## VRA

(Continued from page 1)

limited English proficiency.

"I want us all to be treated equally," said Byung Soo Park, another plaintiff in the lawsuit who needs an interpreter to vote.

But the problem isn't isolated.

The Chinese American Voters Association (CAVA), a New York-based non-profit organization, set up a complaint hotline at the last general election for voters to report violations. The phone calls "went through the roof," said Hank Yeh CAVA co-president. In 2004, AALDEF received about 600 complaints from voters across the nation.

And perhaps most scary of all is the fact that provisions of the Voting Rights Act, including language assistance, is set to expire in 2007. Civil rights groups including the JACL have been charging the course for the passage of HR 9 or

"The Fannie Lou Hamer, Rosa Parks and Coretta Scott King Voting Rights Act Reauthorization and Amendments Act of 2006," which if signed into law would reinstate the provisions for another 25 years.

The provisions set to expire in 2007 are:

The "preclearance" provisions of Section 5, which require jurisdictions in all or part of 16 states to prove that a voting change does not discriminate against minority voters before that change can be implemented;

The minority language provisions of Section 203;

Provisions of Sections 6-9 which authorize the Department of Justice to appoint an examiner and send observers to polls to deter, witness and report discriminatory activities at the polls.

A major victory was won July 13 when the House voted 390-33 to pass HR 9 while defeating four amendments to the bill that many

civil rights leaders say would have weakened the Voting Rights Act's protections.

"The Voting Rights Act is perhaps one of the most important civil rights laws as the right to vote helps to protect all other rights," said Karen K. Narasaki, president and executive director of the Asian American Justice Center (AAJC). "We are pleased that the bipartisan leadership in the House passed a strong bill to ensure that all Americans continue to have the ability to exercise their right to vote."

However, this is just the first step.

The focus now shifts to the Senate, where the Judiciary Committee is expected to take up the measure.

At the June 21-24 national JACL convention in Chandler, Arizona the national council unanimously passed an emergency resolution to urge Congress to ensure the extension of the VRA's expiring provi-

sions. The resolution also calls for JACL chapters along with the executive director to send letters of support to lawmakers regarding the VRA reauthorization.

"Voting rights is what JACL has fought to retain for many decades," said JACL Director of Public Policy Floyd Mori. "While language may not be a problem for most of us today, the language provisions are essential to recent immigrants much like it was to our Issei forefathers."

"Fighting for voting rights is a legacy of JACL that does not stop just because most of us today have the right to vote. It is also a critical reminder to us that our voice needs to be heard at the ballot box in order for this country to be what our founding fathers intended it to be," said Mori.

As one of the fastest growing ethnic communities, statistics show APAs can be profoundly affected by the fate of the VRA reauthorization. In a survey that included eight states

and 81 poll sites in 23 cities spanning nearly 17 years, AALDEF revealed language competency, cultural differences and discrimination at the polls contribute to voter disenfranchisement. AALDEF collected many testimonies from APA voters who were discriminated against by poorly trained poll workers.

"These are Asian people like my grandparents and parents who want to take part in the electoral process and are taken advantage of," said Glenn Magpantay, AALDEF's voting rights attorney.

The four named 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 negotiation, said Magpantay.

"I think they were very brave. When our community stands up and speaks out, good things happen," he added. ■



## National Newsbytes

By P.C. Staff and Associated Press

### WWII Aircraft Carrier to Feature 100th/442nd/ MIS Display

ALAMEDA, Calif.—The USS Hornet, a navy aircraft carrier that served in WWII and also took part in the Apollo 11 mission, is hosting an Aug. 5 grand opening of a 100th/442nd/MIS display. The celebration is open to the public.



The Watsonville-Santa Cruz JACL is organizing a one-day trip for the grand opening. A chartered bus will be taking participants to the USS Hornet's dock site located at the Alameda Naval Pier at 9:15 a.m. The

cost — which includes transportation, lunch and admission fee to board the USS Hornet — will be \$20 for Senior Center and youth members and \$25 for all others.

Sign-ups will be taken until July 27. For more information, contact Carol Kaneko 831/476-7040 or Mas Hashimoto 831/722-6859.

### Rock No Longer Bears Racist Name

BOCA RATON, Fla.—The racially derogatory name of a coastline in Highland Beach has been replaced with a name to honor the Japanese settlers who used to fish and picnic there.

"Jap Rock" officially became Yamamoto Rock in June with the U.S. Board on Geographic Names' unanimous vote to rename the outcropping.

Talks for a name change began two years ago when the state required reporting of places with ethnic or religious slurs and asked for suggested new names.

Yamato Colony was an agricultural community founded in 1905.

### Military Translators to be Honored with Memorial Stone

HONOLULU—Seven Japanese American World War II veterans of the Military Intelligence Service will dedicate a memorial stone to their comrades at the National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific's Memorial Walkway July 22.

The memorial will be the 67th stone in the cemetery's walkway.

The MIS included more than 7,000 JAs who worked as interpreters and translators through the 1940s and until the end of the Korean War. ■

## 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.

### Senate Confirms Ikuta as Judge of Ninth U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals

Sandra Segal Ikuta, deputy director and general counsel of the California Resources Agency and a former partner at O'Melveny & Myers, was confirmed in late June as a judge of the Ninth U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals.



The Senate confirmed Ikuta, 51, on a roll call of 81-0 to fill a seat that has been vacant since Judge James Browning took senior status in 2000.

Ikuta earned her law degree from UCLA, received her masters in journalism from Columbia University, and graduated from UC Berkeley after majoring in English. She is a past chair of the Executive Committee of the Environmental Section of the Los Angeles County Bar, and has been active as a writer and speaker on environmental issues.

### Seabrook JACler Receives Encore Award

John Fuyume, project director of the Seabrook Educational and Cultural Center (SECC), recently was honored by the South Jersey Cultural Alliance "Encore Award 2006 Recognizing the Patrons of the Arts, History & Cultural Community of our Region and the State" in Atlantic City, New Jersey.

The award is given annually to an individual who has been instrumental in the creation and enhancement of cultural programming.

Co-founder of SECC, Fuyume is also affiliated with the Bay Atlantic Symphony, of which he was president in 2004-5, and the Cumberland County Tourism Advisory Council.

### Tanamachi Receives Foreign Minister Award

Sandra Tanamachi, this biennium's Edison Uno Civil Rights Award winner, has been selected as a winner of the Japanese Foreign Minister Award.

Tanamachi led the fight to change the names of Texas' "Jap" roads and lanes. She has also been honored by the Japanese American Veterans Association with the group's first "Courage, Honor, Patriotism Award." ■

• FLOYD MORI •  
JACL DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC POLICY

## WASHINGTON WINDOW

### Bringing Healthcare Issues to the Forefront



The issues of physical, mental, and emotional well-being and health care are important to members of the JACL. The goals of Healthy People 2010, the national promotion and disease prevention initiative, are to increase the quality and years of healthy life and to eliminate health disparities.

The JACL would do well to become more involved with health issues by fostering coalitions and networks, by influencing policy and legislation and by providing more valuable information to its members. There have been very few published health studies on Asian Americans over the past 40 years as compared to other ethnic groups. Although Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders (AAPIs) are generally grouped together for most studies, there are many differences within the various groups included in the designation of AAPIs.

To promote good health, people need to get involved and involve others. Prevention is a key element to improved health. The national JACL and chapters can assist in community education on health issues, have health fairs and screenings, and strengthen individual knowledge and skills regarding health.

One of the excellent workshops held during the National JACL Convention in Arizona was entitled: "Exploring Healthcare Disparities in the Asian American Population." The workshop was sponsored by Pfizer, Inc. with

Dorothy Ouchida, Western Regional senior manager for Pfizer, Inc., as facilitator.

Joining Dorothy on the panel were Dr. Richard Arakaki, professor of medicine, John A. Burns School of Medicine at the University of Hawaii in Honolulu; Roxanna Bautista, director of the Chronic Diseases Division for the Asian and Pacific Islander American Health Forum (API-AHF); and Dr. Ken Babamoto from Pfizer Health Solutions. Additional information on the Medicare prescription drug plan was presented by Ann Avery of the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS).

The panelists agreed that health is an issue worthy of becoming a major focus of the JACL for the future. The JACL can work together with government agencies and private entities such as Pfizer in bringing health care issues to the forefront for the JACL. With the groups working together as partners, more good could be accomplished in the realm of health and health care for members of the JACL. Pfizer is anxious to assist the JACL in this important area and has already shown their support.

The APIAHF is a national advocacy organization founded in 1986 which is dedicated to promoting policy, program, and research efforts to improve the health and well being of the AAPI communities. Ms. Bautista gave statistics regarding the health care disparities of the AAPI peoples as compared

to other groups. To learn more about their work, visit [www.api-ahf.org](http://www.api-ahf.org).

Dr. Richard Arakaki is an expert in the field of diabetes research. He reported that diabetes results from the inability of the body to use energy which results in high blood sugar and may be caused by a lack of insulin. Although diabetes is not curable, it is controllable. Some of the symptoms of diabetes are an increase in thirst, urination, and eating, blurred vision, numbness or tingling, weight loss, fatigue, weakness, and headache, or there may be no noticeable symptoms.

All adults over the age of 45 should have a fasting blood sugar test for diabetes. Screenings should be done at a younger age or more often if a person is overweight or obese, has a first degree relative with diabetes, has high blood pressure or high cholesterol, or is a member of a high risk ethnic group which includes Asians. The test may also identify pre-diabetes so that precautions may be taken.

The cornerstone of diabetes treatment as well as for most health issues is proper diet and exercise. Other factors which may contribute to improved health are to get people to stop smoking and to reduce weight if advisable.

AAs are the only racial group who experience cancer as the leading cause of death. Asians as an ethnic group also have other health concerns. The JACL will begin to focus more heavily on these important issues of health. ■

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

By CHRISTOPHER SMITH  
Associated Press Writer

HUNT, Idaho — Tomi Okano was 6 years old in 1942 when she and 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 few vivid memories of this place in the southern Idaho desert, save one.

"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 go over that fence and over those mountains, there would be the ocean and I would be home.'"

Okano, of Seattle, was one of about 100 former detainees and their families who made a pilgrimage from Seattle and Portland, Oregon, 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) parcel set aside in 2001 by former President Bill Clinton into an educational exhibit focusing on civil rights and the wartime experience of Japanese Americans.

Recently, the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation agreed to a proposal to transfer 10 acres of land in southern



The chimney in the wating room still stands at Minidoka.

Idaho to the National Park Service to expand visitor services at the Minidoka site.

Minidoka was one of 10 detention camps operated between 1942 and 1946 in the western U.S. and Arkansas. The camps held thousands of West Coast residents who were deemed a security risk because they had at least one-sixteenths Japanese ancestry.

The forced removal of JAs from the coastal "military exclusion area" was ordered by President Franklin Roosevelt two months after Japan's Dec. 7, 1941, surprise attack on Pearl Harbor.

Minidoka residents lived in dozens of tarpaper-covered barracks and worked on irrigation projects and farms. Today, only a handful of original structures remain.

"This was the site of some very dark days in our nation's history," Republican Sen. Mike Crapo of Idaho said. "The incarceration of almost 10,000 Japanese American citizens here at Minidoka represents a blight on the otherwise bright record of respect for human rights that our nation strives to uphold and promote."

The Park Service's new plan for Minidoka recommends Congress remove the word "internment" from the monument title, because the agency says it means imprisonment of enemy aliens during wartime and does not accurately describe the government's detention of U.S. citizens.

It also proposes converting a still-standing camp warehouse into a visitor center, reconstructing military guard towers and restoring barracks to replicate conditions at the camp. The agency is working with various historical societies to preserve the memories of the surviving Minidoka detainees, a task complicated by a cultural inclination to remain silent about the experience.

"Dad never talked about it," said Larry Matsuda, a Seattle University professor who was born at Minidoka in 1945.

For others, discussing their years at Minidoka is just too painful.

"My mother was sick when we were sent here and she died here when I was eight," says Okano, whose maiden name is Kusachi. "Many of us, I think we have just blocked those memories out." ■



# 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



**HONOR:** A monument to all veterans in Gallup, New Mexico pays special tribute to Hiroshi 'Hershey' Miyamura (left), the only JA in the Korean War to receive the Medal of Honor. Miyamura currently lives in Gallup.

active duty with the Army and was sent to Korea as a machine gun squad leader in Company H, 7th Regiment of the 3rd Infantry Division.

At Taejon-Ni, when being overrun 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 50 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 Panmunjon, 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 818/368-4113.

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: Deyson Cariaga, whose mother is Japanese; Paul Nakamura, Steve Sakoda, Michael Sonoda, Jr. and Daniel Tsue.

Those who wish to contribute to the new "Post 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)(19), made out to "JAKWV," may be sent to:

Sam Shimoguchi  
12557 Allin Street  
Los Angeles, CA 90066

Contributions may be sent without the form so long as the check is marked "For Iraq KIAs." ■

## Watsonville-Santa Cruz Names Kee Kitayama Scholarship Winners

Watsonville-Santa Cruz JACL announced the selection of two outstanding young women to receive this year's Kee Kitayama Memorial Scholarships.

Both recipients have an impressive record of academic and athletic achievements as well as civic and community involvement. They each wrote an essay on their understanding of Executive Order 9066 — Day of Remembrance.

Joyce Yonemoto, daughter of Hiroshi and Fumie Yonemoto of Watsonville, wrote her essay about the painting of Heart Mountain in her uncle's living room.

She will be attending UC San

Diego in the fall, majoring in nutrition.

Kelli Okuji, daughter of Dr. David and Cindy Okuji of Aptos, Calif. wrote: "Through this enduring feeling of dignity, Japanese Americans nationwide are able to relate to one another in a way that can only be felt by one that has been affected by discrimination."

Kelli will attend Harvard University and participate in Division I soccer and track & field next fall.

Each received \$1,000 and the historical book, "Patriotism, Perseverance, Posterity" from the National Japanese American Memorial to Patriotism. ■



YONEMOTO



OKUJI

## RADIO

(Continued from page 1)

ing the recipients of those calls were dehumanizing, derogatory and outrageously offensive," read an online petition initiated by ACU to stop the radio station's racist harassment.

The JACL sent a letter to Tower 98.3 Program Director Brent Carey and Cumulus management calling the prank calls "an outrage."

"This demeaning behavior cannot be dismissed as harmless pranks or as simply having fun to entertain listeners," wrote Bill Yoshino, JACL Midwest regional director, in the July 7 letter. "At the very least, this behavior may reinforce the views of some, including children and young people, that ridiculing people in a racist manner is acceptable. At an extreme, it may be a precursor to violence or the threat of violence by individuals who are looking for an excuse to act on their bigotry."

JACL is also contacting the radio station's advertisers to make them aware of the situation.

"The fact that Tower 98.3 management has not sanctioned these employees means that you condone their racist behavior," said Yoshino in the letter.

Tower 98.3, which plays contemporary hits/pop music, is part of Cumulus' 306 radio stations in 61 mid-sized markets.

Members of ACU have also filed complaints with the Federal Communications Commission, according to published reports. ■

### On the Web:

[www.cumulus.com](http://www.cumulus.com)  
[www.tower983.com](http://www.tower983.com)  
Sign the petition to stop racism on Tower 98.3's airwaves:  
[www.petitiononline.com/ACU123/petition.html](http://www.petitiononline.com/ACU123/petition.html)

## Newly Formed Historical Society Focuses on Preservation of Little Tokyo



PHOTO: JACK IWATA COLLECTION

**HISTORIC PHOTO:** This spot in Los Angeles' Little Tokyo was an assembly point for JAs during WWII.

Community leaders interested in preserving the history of Los Angeles' Little Tokyo have formed the Little Tokyo Historical Society (LTHS) to collect stories, photographs, documents and other materials related to the history of the Little Tokyo neighborhood.

Although there are many other historical societies that focus on the collection, preservation, authentic interpretation and sharing of historical information about the Japanese American experience, the goal of LTHS is to specifically focus on the JA community located in Little Tokyo.

Sharing the history of Little Tokyo is also essential in the preservation of Little Tokyo, many say.

Although many of the proposed activities will be discussed at the first planning meeting, some ideas include the publishing of a book on the history of Little Tokyo. Other ideas include a digital compila-

tion of the material to be placed on a comprehensive public Web site.

According to Bill Watanabe, executive director of the Little Tokyo Service Center, "there are many people who are interested in doing something to help preserve the historic ethnic neighborhood."

Those interested in helping preserve the history of Little Tokyo were invited to bring photos and share stories of Little Tokyo at LTHS' first meeting July 15.

"It is important to research and document the historic sites, buildings and stories that make up our ethnic community heritage, and how our forefathers helped to build up this city over 100 years ago," said Deanna Matsumoto, a professionally trained historic preservationist. ■

For more information on the Little Tokyo Historical Society, contact Craig Ishii: [cishii@lthsc.org](mailto:cishii@lthsc.org) or 213/473-3022.

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# Movie Filmed in West Desert Shows How Baseball Helped Unify a Community

By ASSOCIATED PRESS

SKULL VALLEY, Utah—Alice Hirai was a little girl during World War II when the United States government forced her and her Japanese-born parents from their San Francisco home to the Topaz camp, where they lived for more than three years. So when the Ogden woman, now in her 60s, set foot last month on a remote movie set built to replicate Topaz, the memories and the tears came flooding back.

"I started to cry," Hirai said during an interview on the set, some 50 miles west of Salt Lake City, where she served as an extra. "It looks the same. I saw the faded tar paper and the signs and the stairs all rickety. And I remember that," she added. "I felt my (late) parents here with me. It was a spiritual experience."

The occasion was 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 in the 1940s.

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 Burrell family is an aging catcher on a Utah minor-league team; one of the Nomura sons is a star pitcher on an all-Japanese internecine 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 of baseball in the Japanese internment camps. 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 uncles competed against Babe Ruth and Jackie Robinson, became an associate producer of the movie.

Rosenbush then recruited filmmaker 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.

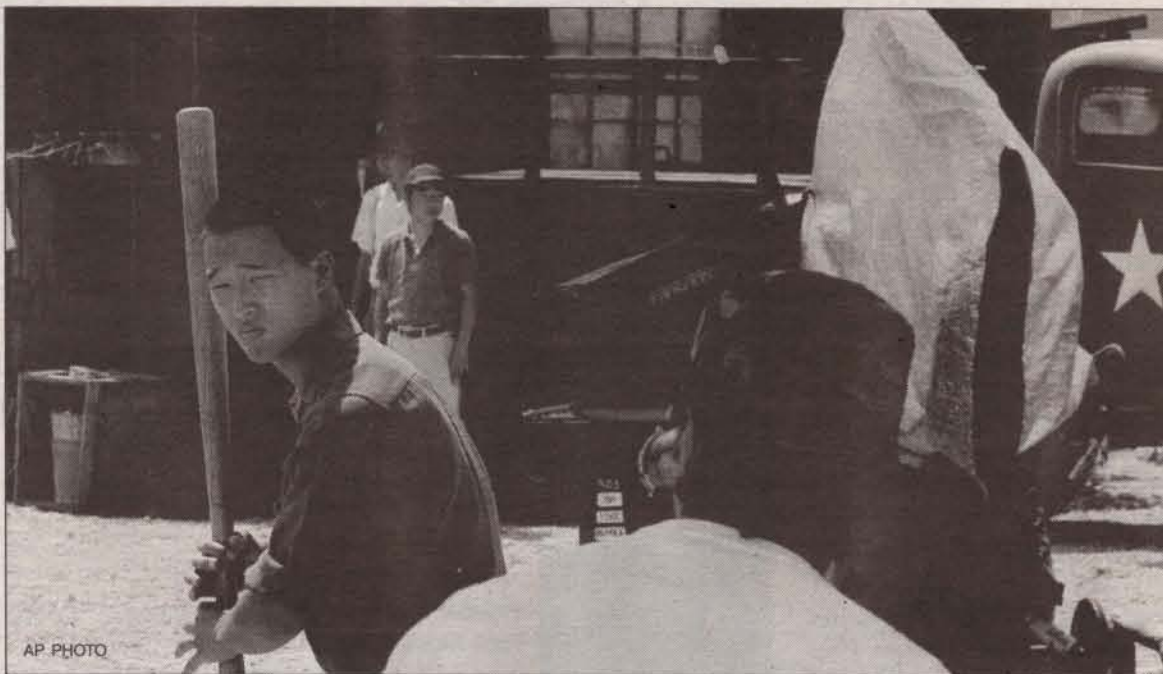
He chuckled. "I can't mess it up, or I'll never hear the end of it."

To pass the time and restore some sense of normalcy to their lives, internees at all the 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 digitally in post-production, swelling the on-screen camp to its actual size.

"Based on the photos I've seen, it looks very authentic," said Rick Okabe, secretary of the Topaz Museum board, a group seeking to preserve the Topaz site as a historic landmark. "They've done their homework."

Filming began June 15 with a cast of mostly little-known Asian and



AP PHOTO

**FAIR PLAY:** Actors play ball during the filming of 'The American Pastime,' a historical drama filmed on a set in Skull Valley, Utah.

To ensure historical accuracy, a re-creation of the Topaz internment camp using old government blueprints and a good old-fashion ball game were used.



PHOTO: MATTHEW WILLIAMS

American actors and several hundred extras from Utah's Japanese community. The elder Nomuras are played by Masatoshi Nakamura and Judy Ongg, big stars in Japan who are making their American film debuts.

The most familiar face in the cast may be that of veteran actor Gary Cole ("The West Wing," "The Brady Bunch Movie"), who plays embittered minor-leaguer Billy Burrell.

Shooting is scheduled to wrap July 24.

The filmmaking experience has been a magical one so far for

Nakagawa.

"To be here in Utah and see these characters come alive in the flesh has been an absolute dream come true for me," said the wiry former athlete, whose godfather, actor Pat ("The Karate Kid") Morita, was interned at a camp in Arizona. "We only had to suffer the inconvenience of mosquito bites and the desert heat for eight days. We had bottled water and food anytime we wanted. I can't imagine what it was like for the internees, who were here for three years. That's something I'll never forget."

But the filmmakers insist it's not a sobering, concentration camp drama.

"It's not about, 'Look at how

much these people suffered.' There's a lot of joy in this," said Korean-born actor Aaron Yoo, who plays hotshot pitcher Lyle Nomura. "What's beautiful about the movie is that something as simple as a game can bring people together."

Rosenbush has yet to find a distributor for the film. He would love to premiere "The American Pastime" at the 2007 Sundance Film Festival, which has long championed movies about marginalized subjects and characters.

"It's a way to tell a story about injustice through a sport that's as American as apple pie," he said. ■

*'The American Pastime' is produced by Shadowcatcher Entertainment's David Skinner, Tom Gorai and Terry Stazik.*

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10/23-11/10 **Yamato Tour to Italy in conjunction with the International Dry Cleaners Congress Convention** - Part 1 Oct. 23-Nov. 1 Rome, Pompeii, Sorrento, Amalfi Coast, Positano, San Casciano del Bagni, Florence & Bologna. Part 2 Nov. 5-10 Venice, Verona, Sirmione and Milan. Tours can be taken separately or combined. Peggy Mikuni

Nov. 2-16 **Yamato South Pacific Wonders Tour with Collette Vacations** - 15 days/12 nights. Melbourne, Cairns, Great Barrier Reef, Sydney, Queenstown, Milford Sound, Mt. Cook and Christchurch.

Dec. 2-6 **Yamato Best of Branson** - Including Shoji Tabuchi, Mike Ito with the Baldknobbers, Bobby Vinton, Lee Greenwood & Crystal Gayle, Yakov Smirnoff and Andy Williams. Peggy Mikuni & Lilly Nomura

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Feb. 21-26 **Yamato Egypt Discovery Tour** - 6 days Cairo and Giza.

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April 2-7 **Yamato Washington, D.C. Cherry Blossom Tour** - 6 days/5 nights plus visits to Lancaster County and Hershey, Pennsylvania.

April **Yamato Deluxe Spring Tour to Japan.**

June 21-28 **Yamato London & Paris Tour with Collette Vacations** - 8 days/6 nights, 3 nights London, 3 nights Paris.

9/26-10/5 **Yamato Great Lakes Sampler with Gadabout Tours** - 10 days/9 nights. Chicago, Spring Green to see Frank Lloyd Wright's Studio, visit House on the Rock designed by Alex Jordan, Green Bay, Mackinac Island and to Allen Park to visit the Henry Ford Estate.

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**The National JACL Credit Union**  
3776 S. Highland Drive  
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or call Silvana at (800) 544-8828 • (801) 424-5225

\*Participants must be members of JACL, JACL CU, or 1/16 Asian/Pacific Islander and or spouse.



## GOLF

## Heat Exhaustion Forces Wie to Withdraw from Deere Classic

SILVIS, Ill.—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 61 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 and 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. ■

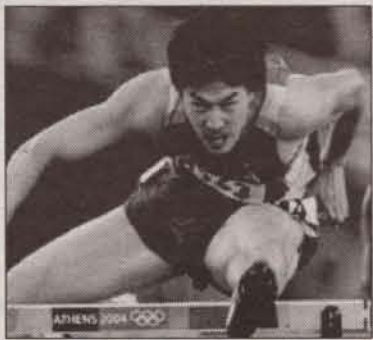
## TRACK AND FIELD

## Liu Breaks 110-meter Hurdles World Record

GENEVA—China's Liu Xiang set a world mark in the 110-meter hurdles July 11, breaking the record he shared with Britain's Colin Jackson. Liu's time of 12.88 seconds at the Athletissima Grand Prix meeting was .03 better than the record he matched in winning gold at the 2004 Athens Olympics.

To celebrate his new record, Liu ran a victory lap shirtless and flailed his arms before climbing to sit on the red metal clock on the field that showed his record time.

"I can't believe it, I can't express it," Liu said through a translator. "I had a good start and after the first five hurdles, it was a perfect race."



Liu was a high jumper back in fifth grade when he was advised to give up sports after a bone test revealed he would remain too short to become a world-class athlete. He became China's first sprint Olympic gold medalist in Athens. ■

## BASEBALL

## Sun Rises Again on Hawaii Winter Baseball

HONOLULU—Before Ichiro Suzuki won seven batting titles in Japan and almost a decade before 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 scrawny kid with surprising punch for the Hilo Stars. Giambi was the big-swinging, speedy third baseman for the Kauai Emeralds.

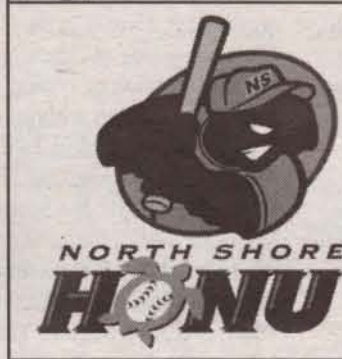
They were among 136 players in the short-lived Hawaii Winter Baseball (HWB) league during the mid-1990s who eventually made it to the majors.

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

"Eight years — it was a long rain delay," said Clyde Nekoba, 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: Waikiki Beachboys, North Shore Honu, West Oahu Canefires and Honolulu Sharks.

Duane Kurisu, the league's chairman and chief executive officer, hopes to eventually expand HWB to the other islands as an eight-team league and make it a permanent training camp for the world's up-and-coming baseball stars. The MLB 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

HWB alumni include Tadahito Iguchi, A.J. Pierzynski, Todd Helton, Michael Barrett, Derrek Lee, Adam Kennedy, Mark Kotsay, Preston Wilson and Randy Winn.

HWB marked the first time many of the youngsters played alongside and competed against players from other countries.

They ate together, shared cultures and broke language barriers, said HWB Chairman and CEO Duane Kurisu. Using baseball and Hawaii as a bridge was one of his goals — then and now.

"They will end up better players and better people," he said. ■

## 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 14-0 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. "We have worked hard the past three years in establishing a database and developing a scouting network throughout Asia and we hope this signing is reflective of those efforts."

Tseng will report to Winter Haven, Florida for the Florida Instructional League in September following his commitment to the Taiwanese team. ■

## 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 July 17 to keep the World Cup in the U.S. for the first time. T

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

Osterman took the circle 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 batter Caitlin Lowe (Tustin, Calif.) hit a single up the middle for the U.S.'s first base-runner and advanced to second when Natasha Watley (Irvine, Calif.) reached first on an error by Ueno.

"It feels so amazing to be here," said Lowe who hit .524 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 .611.

Leading off in the fourth, Stacey Nuveman (La Verne, Calif.) was one ball away from a walk when she homered to centerfield, her first of the 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." ■



JUNG

## 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 they have to do and I hope they 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 homers 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 Daiei Hawks. ■



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Stories by P.C. Staff and Associated Press



• HARRY HONDA •

## VERY TRULY YOURS

You Never Walked So Much as  
at This Past Convention

WELL, THE 39TH 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 main lobby at the third level. We had entered assuming it was the first level but as the elevator went down, we wondered whether our room would be in the basement. Talk about "layout."

On the Gila River Indian Community southeast from Phoenix and off the I-10, the 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 Pima 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 the "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 had selected.

The national council, the gala luncheons and Sayonara banquet convened in the convention center ballroom. 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 roomed at the two hotels in Little Tokyo — the Miyako and Olympic — both five stories high. That convention saw Mike Masaoka, 23, from Salt Lake City escorted off the council floor because he was not credentialed as a chapter delegate. He had 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 Hito Okada re-elected national president in JACL's first mail-in ballot election. Final tally was not announced. Here was the first hilarious 1000 Club wing-ding at Dawn Noodle House, setting the tradition of cutting off men's long ties and fining women without garters.

The 11th biennial in 1950 at Chicago's Stevens Hotel inaugurated the Nisei of the Biennium awards, the honors going to Masaoka. 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 "recessed" 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 P.C. away from JACL headquarters.)

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

The 14th Biennial in 1956 at the Sheraton Palace Hotel in San Francisco issued its salvo to reverse the 1944 Supreme Court decisions in the Korematsu, Hirabayashi, and Yasui cases. The first JACLer of the Biennium honors were shared by Jerry Enomoto of San Francisco and Abe Hagiwara of Chicago.

The 15th Biennial in 1958 at Hotel Utah again 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 Kido (against JACL tangling in foreign affairs) and Mike Masaoka.

\*\*\*

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

• YUMI SAKUGAWA •

## MEMOIRS OF A NON-GEISHA

Godzilla: Destroying  
Tokyo and My Social Life

It's a Monday night, and two people call me on my cell phone to ask me if I 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 of 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 York 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 meant 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 protagonists 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 Westernized storyline 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?

Throughout the course of this research, I realize more and more that Godzilla is more than a man in a rubber dinosaur suit, but in actuality a monster of complex proportions who embodies Japan's ambiguous attitudes towards militarism, nuclear warfare, power structures and Japanese society at large.

Ultimately, though, I suspect that the raw appeal of Godzilla is much simpler than that. Cultural and social connotation asides, I think we all secretly love and envy Godzilla because it appeals to the darker id of our human natures. After all, who wouldn't want to wreak havoc on a big city just because they've been woken out of a really long nap? ■

Yumi Sakugawa is currently a student at UCLA majoring in the arts.



Agree?  
Disagree?  
Opinions?

E-mail us:  
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By Thelma Robinson



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## Sensei, Fu Manchu and Long Duk Dong Meet in 'The Slanted Screen'

By LYNDA LIN  
Assistant Editor

Jeff Adachi is perhaps the Asian Pacific American community's closest thing to a real life superhero — by day this Yonsei protects the poor as San Francisco's elected public defender, but by moonlight he's a self-made celluloid scientist.

He's the first to say APAs need to become more involved in the entertainment or "image-making" industry, so in his spare time he cooked up a film to encourage and educate.

"The Slanted Screen," his debut feature length documentary about the portrayal of APA male actors has gained critical acclaim while making its rounds on the film festival circuit.

You can tell how passionate he is about his work by counting the slashes in his title: director/writer/producer/etc.

"My goal is to have it on PBS, where it would have an audience of at least one million," he said in an e-

mail. Step-one to world domination is a Q&A with the *Pacific Citizen*.

**Pacific Citizen:** The amount of clips and archival footage is staggering. What kind of research did you have to do to ensure the documentary 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' documentaries 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 like being a public defender! But I loved the 'Zatoichi' films, and we used to watch samurai films every week at the Buddhist temple, where



**IN DEFENSE 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 *kaikan*. I thought, 'Wow, Zatoichi! He's a Japanese hero!'

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

**JA:** Heidi Levitt is a well-known casting director who cast 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 it's a problem. I think it was very brave for her to come out and say so.

**PC:** Have Hollywood stereotypes 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 element to the discussion about APA actors — on the one hand we're usually glad to see Jackie Chan headlining a movie at a local theater, but at the same time we're uncomfortable with his movie roles.

**JA:** Many people do not distinguish Asians 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 different 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 comedic 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 could have been a separate film, and in fact was the subject of 'Slaying 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 unassimilable, the representations are very different for each.

Asian women are portrayed as dragon ladies and sexual, submissive creatures while Asian men are shown as Fu Manchu types or alternatively 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 question?

**JA:** Yes, I do, but it's a question of when, and having the creative and economic forces necessary to make it happen. AAs, in my opinion, have not grabbed the ram 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 profession. 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 documentary helped you work through your ideas and perceptions of race representation in Hollywood?


**JA:** Yes, though you won't necessarily 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](http://www.slantedscreen.com)

## PACIFIC CITIZEN

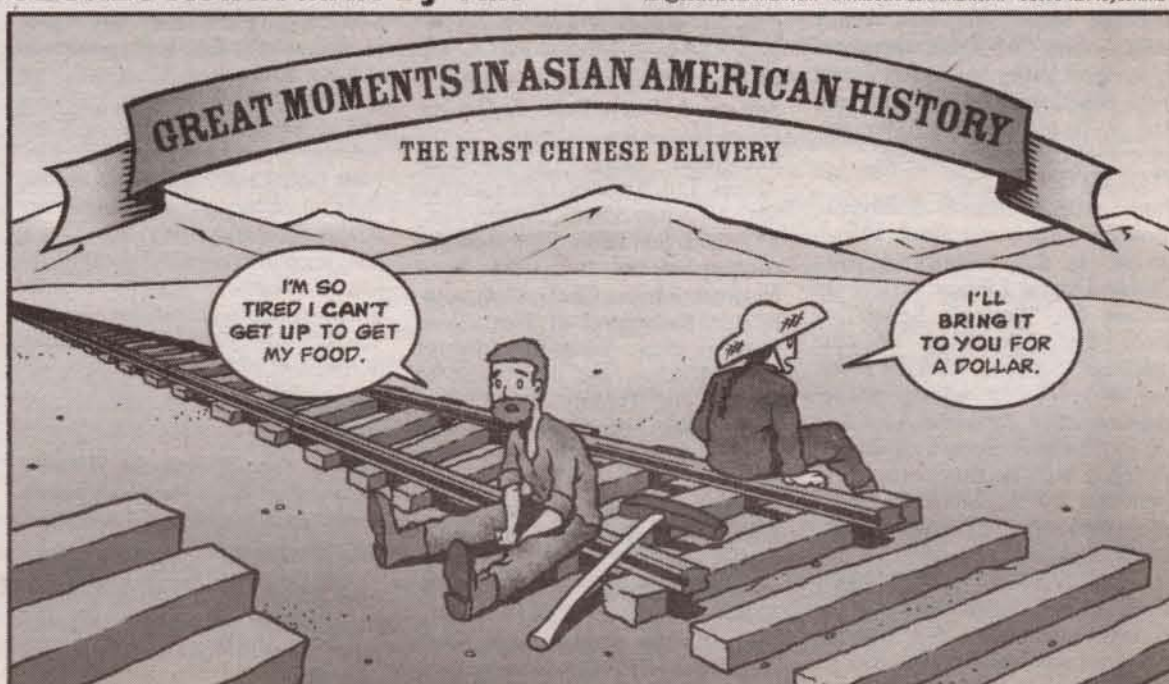
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# Calendar

## National

### SAN FRANCISCO

**Mon., Oct. 2**—3rd Annual National JACL Golf Tournament, "Swing for Justice"; Harding Park Golf Course, 99 Harding Road; \$200 Early Bird registration, deadline extended to Sept. 1, and \$250 after; entry fee includes golf cart, bento lunch, tee prizes and dinner; sponsorships are available; field is limited to 144 spots; committee is also looking for golf stories from camp, email to Mas Hashimoto at hashi79@earthlink.net. Info: co-chairs, Jason Higashi, 707/837-9932, jltjh@comcast.net or Jim Craig, 916/652-0093, thaya-joyce@sbcglobal.net.

## Midwest

### EDINA, Minn.

**Sun., July 30**—Twin Cities JACL Summer Picnic; noon-4 p.m.; Rosland Park, 4300 West 66th St; bring a salad, side dish or dessert to share; includes children's games, bingo and prizes; RSVP by July 29 to Lisa Shakerin at 763/537-6829 or mincks01@aol.com.

## Intermountain

### SALT LAKE CITY

**Through Aug. 20**—Exhibition, "Diamonds in the Rough: Japanese Americans in Baseball"; Salt Lake City Public Library, 210 East 400 South; Mon.-Thurs. 9-9 p.m., Fri.-Sat. 9-6 p.m., Sun. 1-5 p.m.; the exhibit chronicles 100 years of Nikkei ballplayers—their struggles, triumphs, and legacies. Info: SLC Public Library 801/524-8200.

## Pacific Northwest

### OLYMPIA

**Sat., Aug. 12**—Olympia Bon Odori; food sales begin at 5 p.m., entertainment at 6 p.m. and obon dancing at 7 p.m.; Capitol Lake at Water Street; sponsored by the Olympia JACL and the Olympia Sister City Assn. Info: Reiko Callner, 360/943-1029.

### PORTLAND

**Through Aug. 27**—Exhibit, "Big Drum: Taiko in the United States"; Oregon Nikkei Legacy Center, 121 NW Second Ave.; Tues.-Sat. 11-3 p.m., Sun. 12-3 p.m.; traveling version of JANM's exhibition; features photographs, artifacts and media arts; \$3 donation, free to ONLC and JANM members. Info: ONLC, 503/224-1458.

## Northern California

### SACRAMENTO

**Sat.-Sun., Aug. 12-13**—60th Annual Sacramento Buddhist Church Bazaar; noon-9 p.m.; Sacramento Buddhist Church, 2401 Riverside Blvd.; free parking and shuttle from W and 7th St. Info: Steve Kawano or Betsy Uda, 916/446-0121.

**Sun.-Mon., Sept. 17-18**—Multi Camp "Get Together"; DoubleTree Hotel; activities may include golfing, tours, dinner, etc.; space is limited; hotel rates good through the first week of Aug. Info: 866/421-4744, or saccustomtours@aol.com.

### SARATOGA

**Sat., Aug. 19**—Daruma Craft Boutique; 9:30-4 p.m.; Saratoga Community Center, 19655 Allendale Ave; boutique will feature handmade arts and crafts, food, children's activities and raffle/silent auction; proceeds benefit the West Valley JACL Senior Clubhouse; sponsored by the West Valley JACL; bentos and sushi tickets will be pre-sold until Aug. 9. To order: pam@yo-koo.net. Info: www.darumafestival.org.

### STOCKTON

**Wed., Aug. 2**—Book discussion, "Suitcase Sefton and the American Dream" by Jay Feldman; 6 p.m.; Chavez Central Library, 605 N. El Dorado St; "Suitcase Sefton" is about the experiences of mac "Suitcase" Sefton, a Yankees scout, and a promising young pitcher interned in a Japanese-American camp; Stockton Ports tickets and souvenirs will be distributed; free; sponsored by the Stockton JACL. Info: (866) 805-7323 or www.stockton.lib.ca.us.

**Fri., Aug. 4**—The Linc. Monthly Mixer (Leaders Involved in the Nikkei Community); 6-7:30 p.m.; 856 Restaurant and Lounge, 856 W.



Iron Chef Morimoto is scheduled to appear at the Los Angeles Tofu Festival on Aug. 13. The Tofu Festival runs Aug. 12-13 and features tofu cooked in many ways. Visit [www.tofufestival.com](http://www.tofufestival.com) for more info.

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

**Sat., Aug. 26**—Meet Delphine Hirasuna, 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: 866/805-7323 or [www.stockton.lib.ca.us](http://www.stockton.lib.ca.us).

## Southern California

### CULVER CITY

**Sat., Sept. 16**—Benefit concert, "In Grateful Remembrance" featuring Hiroshima and Carry On; 5:30 p.m.; Culver City Veterans Auditorium; sponsorships available, reserved tables of 10 are \$1,250, general admission is \$100 per person; tickets will not be sold at the door; there will be raffle prizes, a commemorative booklet and photos by Toyo Miyatake Studio. Info: Laraine Miyata, [laraine\\_virgo@yahoo.com](mailto:laraine_virgo@yahoo.com) or Julia Tominaga, 310/328-0907.

### FULLERTON

**Sept. 23-Jan. 14**—Exhibit, Sowing Dreams and Cultivating Lives: The Japanese American Farmer; Fullerton Arboretum at California State University, Fullerton, 1900 Associated Rd.

### GARDENA

**Sat., July 22**—Hana Uno Memorial Scholarship and Chapter Benefit Dance presented by Greater LA Singles JACL; 7-11 p.m.; Ken Nakaoka Center, 1670 W. 162nd St.; \$20 donation. Info: Miyako, 310/839-1194 or Janet, 310/835-7568.

### LOS ANGELES

**Aug. 9, 11**—Performances, "At Home in This World"; 7 p.m.; UCLA's Gloya Kaufman Dance Theater; 18 celebrated performers from Asia and America will present individual and original works of music, dance, theater and shadow puppetry; \$12 general admission, \$10 seniors and students. Ticket info: 310/825-2101.

**Thurs., Aug. 3, 24, Sept. 7**—JANM's First and Central Summer Concert Series; 6 p.m.; featuring: Aug. 3, Lenine and DJ Sergio Mielniczenko; Aug. 24, Riffat Sultana & Party; Sept. 7, Dengue Fever. Info: [www.janm.org](http://www.janm.org).

**Sat.-Sun., Aug. 12-13**—11th Annual Los Angeles Tofu Festival; Sat. 2-10 p.m., Sun. noon-6 p.m.; 237 South San Pedro St; featuring a cooking demo from the Food Network, Iron Chef Morimoto, Reggie Sutherland of Next Food Network Star, Scott Liebfried of Hell's Kitchen and more; also to appear are Tommy Tang, Troy Thompson, Ann Gentry and Candice Kumai; a Sat. concert will feature Blackalicious; the tofu eating contest will allow participants to flavor their tofu before eating; \$8, seniors and kids 5-12 are \$5. Info: [www.tofufestival.com](http://www.tofufestival.com) or 213/473-3030.

**Aug. 12-20**—66th Annual Nisei Week Festival; events include: baby

pageant, Nikkei Games, car show, Pioneer Luncheon, Coronation Ball, the Grand Parade and much more. Info: [www.niseiweek.org](http://www.niseiweek.org) or 2113/687-7193.

**Sat.-Sun., Aug. 19-20**—Teacher Training Workshop; Go For Broke Little Tokyo office; workshop will focus on the segregated fighting forces of WWII through personal experiences of the 100/442 RCT and the MIS; \$25 for two days and provides an optional Continuing Education Unit through CSU Dominguez Hills for an additional \$40; more workshops are scheduled for: San Gabriel Valley, Oct. 7-8; Long Beach, Oct. 21-22; LAUSD specific Manual Arts High School, Oct. 14-15; and LAUSD specific Peary DELTA Prof. Development Center, Nov. 5-6. Info: [www.GoForBroke.org](http://www.GoForBroke.org) or Wayne Osaka, 310/222-5702.

**Feb. 16-18, 2007**—All Vets Reunion; New Otani Hotel, Little Tokyo; open to all JA veterans from all wars and conflicts; Maj. Gen. Rodney Kobayashi will be a luncheon keynote speaker. Info: Sam Shimoguchi, 310/822-6688, [samkuni@verizon.net](mailto:samkuni@verizon.net); Victor Muraoka, 818/368-4113, [v.muraoka@verizon.net](mailto:v.muraoka@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@jaclpsw.org](mailto:office@jaclpsw.org).

## Nevada

### LAS VEGAS

**Oct. 17-19**—Manzanar High School Reunion; California Hotel; Tues. Welcome Mixer 6:30 p.m. in the Ohana 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 who developed an alternate source of latex from the guayule plant. Info and applications: Henry Nakano, 714/871-8179, Sam Ono, 310/327-5568, Cabby Iwasaki, 714/637-1412, Shig Kuwahara, 626/289-7892 or Victor Muraoka, 818/368-4113.

**Oct. 27-29**—JACL Singles Convention; Plaza Hotel, downtown; events include: Fri.: 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. \$76/night for single and double occupancy, Thurs. and Sun. is \$54; open to everyone; hosted by the Las Vegas JACL. Info: [www.mwt.com/jaclsingles](http://www.mwt.com/jaclsingles) or Yas Tokita, 702/866-2345 or Muriel Scrivner, 702/790-9547.

## Hawaii

### HONOLULU

**Thurs., July 27-Sept. 13**—Exhibit, Japanese Design Today 100; gallery hours are Tues.-Sat. 10-4 p.m.; Japanese Cultural Center of Hawaii; exhibit features everyday objects that show the lifestyles of Japanese today; sponsored by the Japan Foundation. Info: 808/945-7633 or [www.jech.com](http://www.jech.com).

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## In Memoriam - 2006

All the towns are in California except as noted.

**Gomes, Mae Nishitani, 96**, Kenmore, Wash., June 20; survived by husband, Anthony; daughter, Jina (Ray) Lankford; son, John (Sheila O'Connell); 5 gc.; 3 ggc.; and sisters, Connie Sekijima and Martha Nishitani.

**Higashi, Jerry, 65**, San Juan Capistrano, May 25; survived by wife, Judy; sons, Jeff (Jaime), Jim (Sabrina) and John; 2 gc.; mother, Tomoye; and sister, Sharon (Sam) Chiang.

**Kanegawa, Masumi, 70**, survived by wife, Betty; daughters, Katherine (Richard) Ozaki, Patricia (Enrique) Kanegawa-Perez and Nancy Tsuno; son, Douglas; 4 gc.; and sisters, Miwako (Sam) Hanano and Fumiko (Hiromu) Matsumoto.

**Koyanagi, Yasukichi, 97**, Long Beach, May 31; survived by wife, Tokiyo; daughters, Judy Koyanagi, Jane (Wesley) Mitamura and Joyce (Rudy) Costa; and 1 ggc.

**Miyamoto, Eddie Toshio, 89**, Montebello, June 1; survived by wife, Masaye; sons, Howard (Shigeko), Michael (June) and Kenji (Shirley); and 7 gc.

**Morimoto, Frank Y., 90**, May 8; WWII veteran, 442nd RCT; survived by wife, Yuri; 4 daughters and their husbands, 8 gc.; and 9 ggc.

**Nakatsu, Faye Fusaye, 86**, Gardena, May 24; survived by husband, Tokiyoshi; son, Ronald (Judi); daughters, Jane (Larry) Kawahara, Nancy (David) Furukawa, Helene Nakatsu and Irene (Wayne) Igawa; 7 gc.; brother, Tomio (Sachi) Kajioka; sister, Miyo Kimura; and sister-in-law, Ichiko Kajioka.

*This compilation appears on a space-available basis at no cost. Printed obituaries from your newspaper are welcome. "Death Notices," which appear in a timely manner at request of the family or funeral director, are published at the rate of \$18 per column inch. Text is reworded as necessary.*

**Naruo, Taka, 89**, Pleasanton, June 3; WWII veteran, 442nd; survived by sons, Richard and Gerald; 3 gc.; 1 ggc.; sisters, Mary Mura and Ruth Hara; and brothers, Roy and Willy.

**Nitta, Satoshi, 82**, May 18; WWII veteran, MIS; survived by wife, Chiyo; son, Jeffrey (K. Sachie); daughter, Katherine Nitta; 1 gc.; brother, Hakuzo; and sister, Sono (Eiichi) Obuchi.

**Oka, Keith T., 90**, Spokane, Wash., June 2; survived by wife, Nobuko; sons, Gareth (Betty), and Gwain (Darcy); daughter, Lynn (Tom) Dwyer; brother, Masashi Oka; sister, Teru Okawa; 8 gc.; and 5 ggc.

**Saiki, Barry Minoru, 86**, Stockton, June 17; A Stockton native and past president of the Stockton JACL, Saiki passed away of a heart attack. Was interned at Rohwer, Ark. and was drafted into the Army. He retired from in the Army in 1966 and worked for a Japanese public relations firm, mostly in Japan, before returning to Stockton in 1990. Barry was also a gifted origami folder. He



was known to pull out squares of paper and begin folding cranes, frogs and peacocks.

**Shintani, Takao, 86**, Lake Balboa, May 23; survived by wife, Mieko; daughters, Nadine (John) Kawaguchi and Trudy (Terry) Craig; 7 gc.; 1 ggc.; and sisters, Luiko (Masakazu) Hamaguchi and Nanaye Kohigashi.

**Sims, Tara Kimberly, 32**, Carlsbad, May 18; survived by husband, Scott; mother, Pam Tajima Praeger; father, Geoff (Cynthia Lambarth); grandfather, Ted Tajima; and father and mother-in-law, Dr. Arnold and Sherry Sims.

**Tokuyae, Madame Hanayagi, 86**, Los Angeles, June 1; survived by husband, Shigemi Ota; sons, Roy (Yoshiko) and Stanley; and 2 gc.

**Trumblee, Namiko "Nami" Oyenoki Nomura, 81**, Harbor City, May 29; survived by daughters, Kathryn (Van Horn) Diamond and Janet Nomura; 2 gc.; 2 ggc.; and brother, Satoru Oyenoki.

**Watanabe, Tomi, 98**, Los Angeles, May 20; survived by son, Mitsuru (Atsuko); daughters, Masako Watanabe and Yasuko (Ken) Elsing; 3 gc.; 4 ggc.; and brother, Yasuo (Kimiko) Hirai.

**Yamamoto, Haruko, 89**, West Covina, May 23; survived by son, Hiroshi (Karen); daughter, Dorothy Yamamoto; and 1 gc.

**Yamaoka, Thomas, 77**, May 24; survived by wife, Kiyoko; daughters, Carolyn, Janice (Michael) Luszcak and Nancy; son, Bob; and 2 gc.

**Yamasaki, Keijiro, 76**, Lancaster, April 5; survived by wife, Irene; daughters, Fumi (Steve) Tamanaha and Chie (Eric) Shieh; son, Mark; 5

gc.

**Yamashita, Shigeichi Jack, 90**, Torrance, May 27; survived by wife, Fumiye; daughters, Sally (Dennis) Kira and Mary (Toshio) Kuwahara; 3 gc.; and son-in-law, Robert Wilson. ■

### DEATH NOTICE

#### MACK YAMAGUCHI

PASADENA, Calif. — Mack Yamaguchi, 86, passed away June 14. He is survived by his wife Alice, children, Donna Jean (Ken) Inouye, Greg (Susan) Yamaguchi, JoAnn Asakawa, Denise Kimura, Rachel Yamaguchi and eight grandchildren. A memorial service was held July 1 at the First Presbyterian Church of Altadena. Donations in memory of Mack can be made to the First Presbyterian Church of Altadena or Pasadena Nikkei Seniors, Inc.

### DEATH NOTICE

#### ROBERT MASANORI HORIUCHI

Robert Masanori Horiuchi (Bob), 90, passed away July 1. He is survived by his wife, Chiyo; brother Harold (Edith); daughter Lynne; son Makoto (Jeannie) and three grandsons, Akira, Izumi, and Korin; and many other loving family members. Bob worked for the State of Colorado Revenue and Highway Departments, and in Afghanistan and Kenya as a financial consultant. He volunteered for many boards, and was a prominent member of the Asian American community in Denver. He held offices in the Mile-Hi JACL chapter and helped with redress. An informal memorial service was held July 9 for close friends and family. In lieu of flowers, donations may be sent to Mile-Hi Japanese American Citizens League; c/o Brian Matsumoto, President; 1335 So. Kingston Street; Aurora, CO, 80012.

## Whereabouts

Whereabouts is free of charge and run on a space-available basis.

### MAS OKADA

Dr. Robert T. Hayashi of the University of Wisconsin-Oshkosh is looking for Mas Okada. Dr. Hayashi is publishing a book and would like to use the poem "Answer the Call" written by Mr. Okada. The poem was published in the Minidoka high school newsletter, Hunt Hi-Lites. With information email Dr. Hayashi at rhayashi@charter.net.

### SETSUKE JANE ASACHIKA

The Watsonville-Santa Cruz JACL and the Pajaro Valley Historical Assn. are looking for Ms. Asachika. Her father Takeo and mother Fumiye lived in Poston I, block 38-3-D with an uncle George in 21-3-A. After WWII the family lived in the Oxnard area. The Watsonville-Santa Cruz JACL is in possession of a family photo album and would like to return it to any family member. Contact Mas Hashimoto, 831/722-6859, hashi79@sbcglobal.net with info.



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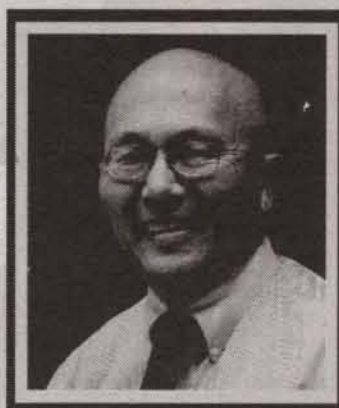
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# J-POP CULTURE

(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. It's something they didn't grow up with because many of their older relatives lost touch with Japan a long time ago. Many who experienced the World War II internment camps learned to emphasize being "more American," a feeling that has been passed on to the younger generations.



J-pop music groups like m-flo (above) and *doramas* such as "Hana Yori Dango" have been very popular amongst younger generations of JAs. J-pop culture has recently been all the rage amongst the Yonsei and Gosei.

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 fan of anime during her first 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 Ito Yuna and the *dorama* "Hana Yori Dango" are among her favorites.

"After looking back at my initial interest in J-pop culture, I think that there had always been a part of me that wondered what made me 'Japanese,'" said Iwata. "I look at the culture that is being portrayed

and think to myself that if my ancestors didn't make the journey to America, I would be living in this culture."

Like Iwata, Yonsei Cindy Nakano, 22, got interested in J-pop culture, especially anime, after being introduced to it in college by her friends. Now she listens to J-pop music daily and her favorite anime include: "Bleach," "Ranma 1/2," and "Fruits Basket."

"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 they see on the J-dramas and the bubblegum cutesy J-pop stars and anime characters are not accurate representations of today's Japan. They realize that what J-pop culture offers is entertainment, but it's some-



thing 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.

"However, I do believe that J-pop culture can serve to inspire people to want to learn more about Japan but it is up to them to find ways to do that themselves."

"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 of interest 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 'us' 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." ■

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