Bidding 'Aloha Oe' to an Enduring Love

INEXTRICABLE LOVE: Dick Miyagawa was a champion boxer when he met his wife Marion Smithback. After decades together and years apart, they are finally reunited, loved ones say.

A Nisei boxer and a Norwegian homemaker's love story endured discrimination and two marriages — to each other.

By LYNDA LIN
Assistant Editor

married her twice. Eleven years after the young couple exchanged vows for the first time in a little Georgia Army chapel, they met at the altar again in marriage to a Caucasian woman was not legally recognized. Their love story, told with a touch of humor, officially ended Oct. 18 when Marion passed away at 84, but their legacy of triumph over adversity lives on and continues.

INEXTRICABLE LOVE: Dick Miyagawa was a champion boxer when he met his wife Marion Smithback. After decades together and years apart, they are finally reunited, loved ones say.

 Communities Work to Preserve Historic Castroville Japanese School

Although its history was lost for several decades, former students and the local Hispanic community are working on a redevelop­ment project to restore the school building and surrounding areas.

By CAROLINE AOYAGI-STOM
Executive Editor

The simple, single-story wooden building stands unassuming today surrounded by a field of patchy grass. It's hard to imagine that this was once a bustling Japanese language school where former students like Janice Higashi, now 78, used to run down its hallways and play in the surrounding fields during recess.

In the fall of 1929, San Francisco's JROTC programs install APA youth with life skills, but school board members contend the military has no place in their schools.

By LYNDA LIN
Assistant Editor

Crystal Zhou was a quiet student before she earned her uniform. A sturdy belt cinched around a dark green coat with badges of honor stitched to the sleeves empowered Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger.

Asking, Don't Tell" ban on openly gay individuals in the military is a longstanding district program that may get eliminated this year.

By CAROLINE AOYAGI-STOM
Executive Editor

Ask, Don't Tell" ban on openly gay individuals in the military is a longstanding district program that may get eliminated this year.

A Luxurious Place for Senior JAs to Call Home

Nikkei Senior Village is a proposed large-scale assisted living facility outside of Los Angeles. The plans, seven years in the making, are about to take off but some worry about the business model.

By LYNDA LIN
Assistant Editor

When Toji Hashimoto, 62, needed to find a place to care for his elderly mother, he reluctantly settled for a nursing home not far from his home in Pacoima, Calif. But the austere, hospital-like setting and the level of care did not make him happy. His mother wanted to live in senior housing for Japanese Americans, but she was over qualified for the low income program. Where could local

A Sweep of Gold

After a disappointing Olympics, Miki Ando comes back strong.
Letters to the Editor

Iraq is a War of Choice

I support Lt. Ehren Watada because he is right. I do believe that the issues surrounding Watada were settled at the National Pearl Harbor Trials. We ought not forget that the war with Iraq is a war of choice. It is President Bush’s war. Furthermore, the JACL doctrine bears sensitive scrutiny.

M. Takeda
San Jose, CA

Reader Admonishes P.C. for Watada Coverage

There are many of us that have served and are currently serving our country. I have served a total of eight years with two years of active duty as a U.S. Army officer. I have several relatives including a niece and nephews who are currently serving in the U.S. military. When we accepted for active duty, we did not specify where or under what commander. It is our country’s tradition to serve in the military. Overseas assignments were selected for the best of our ability. We also were "stowaways" as seem common to travel the Japanese. The P.C. should be careful on how it depicts the situation where it is unwise to serve in the military, deployment because he did not want to go to Iraq, using the excuse that he did not believe in the Commander-in-Chief. When I was Lt. Ehren Watada became a U.S. Army Officer, he took an oath and is obligated under the law to serve in the military and respect the Commander-in-Chief. It is disingenuous for him to mislead military personnel with his command responsibility. The time for this was before he took the oath of an officer.

Marin Chapter

JACL Mid-Columbia Chapter to Disband

Our JACL chapter was organized in 1933. Hood River, a small valley of fruit growers, had a population of over 50,000 families. Today there are none and the Nisei are down considerably, many in their 90s. Reluctantly, the few members left decided to disband our chapter. Our chapter has been in the hands of two Caucasian gals, Nancy Tanura, married to a Sansei Kenneth, and Kathy Nitishimoto, married to Rick Schick. The two held the chapter together for the past 10-plus years. It is 75 years since we formed our chapter.

Cliff Nakamura
Hood River, OR

Watada Should Suck It Up

Yoshi Tanabe of Honolulu wrote: "The U.S. Constitution states: "Treaties Article VI, Sec. 2: This Constitution and the Laws, of the United States, and all Treaties made... under the Authority of the U.S. shall be the Supreme Law of the Land." And they followed with, 'In 1946, our country signed U.N. resolutions supporting the Nisei for Watada to suck it up, accept the judgment. I do believe that the judgment is not a typo. Read the last two sentences again. You get one AND your chapter gets one. All your chapter has to do is call Silvana Watanabe (800-544-8826) at the JACL office and designate your chapter Club Credit Union representative. Please call Silvana and get more details. Start accumulating for that vacation now. You win, the JACL Credit Union wins and the JACL wins.

The Credit Union is one of the greatest tangible benefits that JACL has to offer. It is a member benefit of the 75 plus of all the services they have to offer. They are the biggest supporter of JACL membership.

Finally, as always, thank you for your commitment to this wonderful organization. Your efforts and hard work are truly appreciated.

For Better Americans in a Greater America"

EMPLOYMENT

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For more information on this job description, please visit the JACL PSW website at www.jaclpsw.org. The JACL is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

Vacations, Vacations, Vacations!!!

Well, summer is over, the holiday season is just around the corner and most of us are back to work. Already thinking of another vacation? Sure am. If you are, then read on.

The JACL Credit Union is offering an incredible vacation member ship program. They are offering vacations to every one of you right now. Every JACL member: This vacation program is not a drawing where you have a chance to win. Every JACL member is able to earn a free vacation.

Here is how the program works. The program runs through January by the Japanese American Citizens League (founded 1929). out express permission of the publisher. American Citizens League, 250 E. First Street, Ste. 301, Los Angeles, CA 90012 OFFICE HOURS — Mon.-Fri., 9 a.m.-5 p.m. Pacific Time. ©2006. All rights reserved. JACL or any other organization, seeks a qualified candidate.

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The proposal to ban affirmative action has survived more than two years if the government ended its own efforts.

APA Groups Call for Investigation in Anti-Latino Voter Intimidation

By D.C. Staff and Associated Press

Asian Pacific American groups in Los Angeles and Orange Counties are denouncing an APAC Congressional candidate’s recent use of mailers to latino voters as “intimidating and illegal.”

The groups — the Asian Pacific American Legal Center of Southern California (APALC), the Orange County Asian and Pacific Islander Community Alliance (OCAPICA), and Asian American Justice Center (AAJC) — signed on to a letter in late October along with numerous Latino organizations requesting an investigation by the U.S. and California attorneys general.

The controversy started when Tan Nguyen — who is running against Rep. Loretta Sanchez, D-Garden Grove, in the 47th Congressional District — was accused of sending Spanish-language mailers to Spanish-surnamed naturalized U.S. citizens registered to vote in Orange County. The mailer allegedly warned immigrants that they could be deported if they voted.

Immigrants who are naturalized U.S. citizens have the right to vote. "The use of such a mailer as an attempt to intimidate registered voters of Hispanic decent is an attack on all minority voters, including Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders who are merely exercising their rights to vote under a democratic system," said Stewart Kwoh, executive director of APJAC.

Before Election Day, the Department has bilingual staff available to answer election-related questions. On Nov. 7, limited English proficient voters may ask for language assistance at their polling place. Bilingual staff members are required to wear nametags. If bilingual staff are not available, a telephone will be provided for the limited English proficient voter to call and receive language assistance.

Limited English Voters Need Equal Access at Polls, Advocates Say

APA groups will enforce assisted language laws at San Francisco’s polling places.

To ensure limited English voters can cast their ballots that Nov. 7, several Asian Pacific American groups will monitor over 100 polling places throughout San Francisco.

The coalition includes the Asian Law Caucus, the Bay Area Immigrant Rights Coalition, Lawyer’s Committee for Civil Rights of the San Francisco Bay Area, Partnership for Immigrant Leadership and Action and Chinese for Affirmative Action (CAA).

Currently the San Francisco Department of Elections translates all election materials into Chinese and Spanish. A bilingual poll worker is placed at a precinct if three percent of the voters assigned to that precinct requested translated election material.

Before Election Day, the Department has bilingual staff available to answer election-related complaints and clearing immigration backlog, a demand for equal rights for all workers and the defense of minority voters.

Immigrant rights proponents say the rally is "round two" of the APA communities' response to Congress' failure to propose and pass a fair legalization bill.

"We marched by the millions earlier this year to demand legalization for all the governments’ response was one of increased enforcement and militarization. We refuse to be ignored and we will continue to expose the governments' attack on our civil and human rights and not stop until our demands are met," said Rishi Singh, an immigrant student and member of District Rising Up and Moving (DRUM).

Thousands of Immigrant Rights Advocates Take to New York Streets Demanding Fair Immigration Reform

By Pacific Citizen Staff

Over 75 New York-area immigration rights groups marched into Times Square Oct. 21 demanding action from lawmakers who failed to pass what they call a fair and humane legalization bill.

More than 2000 protesters shouted, "No Deal! No Half-Steps, No Half-Measures! Full Legalization Now!" and called for an end to detentions and deportations.

Signs reading "Border Wall of Remembrance and Resistance" dotted the New York streetscape along with a procession of funeral coffins signifying the death threat the anti-immigrant policies pose to human rights and democracy.

"Today we broke the silence around deportation," said Aarti Shahani, co-director of Families for Freedom. "Now, no excuses. Lawmakers must push immigration laws that protect and consider our American-born children."

"We are marching today to send a message to those in Congress and across the country that we need full immigrant rights, we deserve full immigrant rights, and that the immigrant rights movement is not over; it is just beginning," said Hannah Weinstock, community organizer with the Forest Hills Community House.

The coalition of groups formally presented its platform of demands, which includes a call to keep families together by putting a stop to deportation and clearing immigration backlog, a demand for equal rights for all workers and the defense of minority voters.

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"We marched by the millions earlier this year to demand legalization for all but the government's response was one of increased enforcement and militarization. We refuse to be ignored and we will continue to expose the government's attack on our civil and human rights and not stop until our demands are met," said Rishi Singh, an immigrant student and member of District Rising Up and Moving (DRUM).
J-SCHOOL

(Continued from page 1)

her teachers telling stories in Japanese and carrying ink and brush supplies to make cloisonne lessons. "The Japanese School was really close by to our regular school. However, I thought it was because of the language and learning calligraphy, I have fond memories of that," she said. With a chuckle, Oshita added, "The classes sometimes... but we always did what our parents told us." For two hours each day after regular school and half-days on Saturdays the Japanese School located at 11199 Geil Street was home to J-SCHOOL students and half-days on Saturdays. They may not always have enjoyed the extra homework, but it helped. In this way, the language and culture was something their Issei parents believed was of utmost importance.

"Our parents insisted on learning the Japanese language and culture, and that they made sure we went to the school," said Frank Oshita, 86, who was born in Castroville and began attending the school at 15. He admits he never enjoyed attending the school, but with a chuckle adds, "I'm thankful for getting recs.

Redevelopment of a Community

Although dozens of students have graduated from the school, the history of the Castroville Japanese School has long been interrupted until the 1990s with the name "Kodomo No Tame Ni" or "For the Sake of the Children." The theme of the redevelopment project, a motto that was important to the pioneering Issei who built the original school and for the local Hispanic community who will use the facilities to educate their kids. "This way students made the sacrifice to pool their resources to build the structure, so their kids could be educated," said Galindo, 83. "Today it's the same thing - an immigrant's vision - to make things better for the future."

MACK MIYA

(Continued from page 1)

pounds.

Mack has been in the bodybuilding business for the past 60 years and has owned and ran Mack's Gym, created the World of the World of Toronto since 1990. But with his recent health problems - he had congestive heart failure, and a landlord whose looking to increase his rent and move in a new tenant, the gym has been forced to close.

"It's been a bit of a strain on me mentally," said Mack, speaking with the gym's tenants. "I've been using my old age pension funds to cover the costs of running the gym and isn't pulling in enough revenue. He's received calls of support from across the country, even from Mexico. "It's a historic place and it should be in the near future."

A Bodybuilding Star is Born

Mack was born in Stevenson, British Columbia in 1923 and worked as a logger during his early years. For a short time he was one of the thousands of Japanese Canadians who were relocated to World War II internment camps. He ended up in Angler, Ontario, Mack's career in bodybuilding grew out of his interest in boxing, an interest that began at the age of nine when he was still being beaten by kids. He went on to win several amateur featherweight titles and at 17 was purchased the building and surrounding property. "It's a historic place and it should be in the near future."

"Because I was so strong, no one wanted to compete with me," said Mack with a knowing chuckle.

Eventually he got married to Chiyoko in 1946 and had two children: Karen and Son Ritchie.

The World of Mack's Gym provides Blue Cross of California health care coverage.

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To protect you and your family from even common accidents and illnesses the JACL HEALTH TRUST provides Blue Cross of California health care coverage. Blue Cross of California has been providing health care coverage to Californians for over 65 years. Blue Cross is committed to keeping you connected to quality health care services.
The PACIFIC CITIZEN Nov. 3-16, 2006

The Portland Assembly Center Memorial Project Committee recently announced that it has reached an understanding with the City of Fresno staff and developer NMSBPCSDLLB, a California limited partnership, for the development of a memorial in Pinedale. The memorial, to be known as "Remembrance Plaza," will help preserve the history of the site, which was part of the Sugar Pine Landmark Company, Portland Assembly Center and Camp Pinedale.

On Oct. 25 the Fresno Planning Commission recommended that the Fresno City Council approve the Mitigated Negative Declaration and rezone application and approved the conditional use permit for the developer's overall project, including Remembrance Plaza. The City Council will consider the Mitigated Negative Declaration and rezone application as well as designation of Building 8 to the Local Register of Historical Resources on Nov. 14.

The understanding contemplates that the developer will dedicate to the City 7,500 square-feet of property located on the Alluvial frontage near Remington for Remembrance Plaza. Remembrance Plaza will consist of a fountain, planter area around the fountain with California Registered Historical Landmark No. 934, concrete walkways, interpretive wall with storyboards and landscaping. The fountain, planter, historic landmark and storyboards will be the responsibility of the Committee's sponsors: Central California Nikkei Foundation and the JACL Central California District Council. The developer will be responsible for maintenance and repair of Remembrance Plaza, except the historic landmark and storyboards. The Committee contemplates a groundbreaking ceremony on Feb. 19, 2007, the 65th anniversary of Executive Order No. 9066. Although actual construction will continue months away, the Committee hopes to dedicate California Registered Historical Landmark No. 934. The current draft of the inscription of the landmark reads: "This memorial is dedicated to over 4,800 Americans of Japanese Ancestry who were confined at the Portland Assembly Center from May to July 1942. This was an early phase of the mass incarceration of over 110,000 Americans during World War II pursuant to Executive Order 9066. They were detained without charges, trial or establishment of guilt. May such injustice and suffering never recur."

Vets Encouraged to Wear Medals for Veterans Day

To help spark a new kind of patriotism, veterans are being asked to wear their medals on Veterans Day. The call for the Veterans Pride Initiative came from R. James Nicholson, secretary of Veterans Affairs and leaders of major veterans organizations. Several Japanese American veterans included Yeichi Kaji and Norman Hirobaysashi helped launch the initiative.

Kawayama, a combat medic, wore his Silver Star, Purple Heart, and Ranger Hall of Fame Induction Ribbon for Remembrance Plaza. Medals were among some 12 Veterans Service Organizations' representatives who stood behind Nicholson.

"Once you get them, ... you don't want to parade around and show off. But now I have a reason to put them on," Kwawayama said to the Stars and Stripes. "We are announcing a Veterans Pride Initiative to remind Americans of the pride and honor in the hearts of those who have served," Nicholson said. "We expect Americans will see our decorated heroes unite in spirit at ceremonies, in parades and elsewhere as a compelling symbol of courage and sacrifice on Veterans Day, the day we set aside to thank those who served and safeguarded our national security."

The campaign is modeled after a tradition in Australia and New Zealand where veterans wear their military decorations on Australia Day and New Zealand Army Corps (ANZAC) Day, April 25. "Let Americans know who you are and what you did for freedom this Veterans Day," said Nicholson. "Wearing these medals and ribbons will demonstrate the deep pride our veterans have in their military services and bring Veterans Day home to all Americans.

Under certain circumstances official replacements for lost or damaged medals may be obtained from the government by sending a request to the appropriate branch of service.

For more info: http://www.va.gov/veteransbenefits/

JACL Honolulu Event to Feature Panel on Watada Case

The JACL Honolulu chapter is sponsoring a panel titled "Ehren Watada: Conscience and Constitutionality" on Nov. 19 at 3 p.m. at the University of Hawaii, Manoa Architecture Auditorium. The featured speaker will be Bob Watada, Ehren's father. Speaking will be Professor John Van Dyke of the University of Hawaii's Richardson School of Law and Watada's attorney, Eric Seitz.

Watada is an Army first lieutenant who has refused deployment to Iraq, citing the illegal nature of the war. He is the first commissioned officer to do so. He faces a general court martial and up to eight years in prison for his actions. The case has received national publicity and sparked heated debate within the Japanese American community.

"We know Lieutenant Watada's actions have divided the community, and we hope this event will shed light on why he is doing what he is doing," said Yoshi Tanabe of the JACL's education committee.

"There are serious constitutional and ethical issues at work here." Bob Watada is in the midst of a national tour in support of his son. He is the former executive director of the Hawaii State Campaign Spending Commission who brought to light several instances of wrong doing by powerful people during his tenure.

Professor John Van Dyke has taught Constitutional Law, International Law, International Ocean Law and International Human Rights at the University of Hawaii since 1979. He has written or edited eight books and has authored many articles on Constitutional law and international law topics. In 1987, he received the University of Hawaii's Presidential Citation for Excellence in Teaching, and in 1984, 1993, 1996 and 2002, was selected "The Outstanding Professor" at the Law School.

Prof. Van Dyke will be speaking on the constitutionality of 1st Lt. Watada's actions.

The event is co-sponsored by American Friends Service Committee-Hawaii, Interfaith Alliance Hawaii, Not In Our Name-Hawaii, OH Office of Multicultural Services, Veterans for Peace, and the World Can't Wait Hawaii.

The event is free and open to the public. Light refreshments will be served.

Fellowship Available for Future Scientists

Thinking of a career in biotechnology? The Biotechnology Institute is now accepting applications for its 2007 Minority and Indigenous Fellows Program, a mentoring program for minority graduate students, postdoctoral fellows and early career scientists.

Fellows get trained and mentored by industry professionals on the different types of research and employment opportunities. The May 3-6 program will take place in Boston, Mass.

Participants will also be eligible to attend the 2007 International BIO Convention held immediately after the Fellows Program. At the BIO Convention, Fellows will introduce program participants to industry colleagues and representatives.

The Institute will pay for travel to the meeting, travel costs, lodging, meals and the BIO Convention registration.

The application deadline is Dec. 1.

For more info: http://biotechnologists.org

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members of her Delta Company stay on campus to compete against each other in drills. About 90 percent of her fellow cadets are Asian Pacific Americans.

"Before I joined, I saw a lot of people marching around and I thought that's all they did," said Zhou, a four-year JROTC member, who said she has learned much more than marching including lessons in basic first aid skills and map-reading "in case you get lost."

"If there were no JROTC I would have nowhere to go," said Kenneth, -17, another Lowell JROTC cadet. In four years, he's learned life skills like how to become a better public speaker, financial planning and setting time management goals.

In JROTC class, he teaches underclassmen how to drill.

JROTC supporters say these leadership exercises are imperative to students, especially young APAs. Participants also have a higher rate of graduation and higher grade point averages, they say.

"I think it's a beneficial program for Asian youth because Asian youth lack leadership. They lack role models," said Nelson Lum, a Vietnam veteran and a member of the American Legion's Cathy Post, who points out that APAs are usually taught to be strong; academically, intellectually taught to be strong; academically, intellectually...

Asian Americans have cultural differences. A lot of us always say that we used to be really quiet and sit in the back of the class, but after joining the JROTC we stand tall and sit at the front of the class," said Zhou. "JROTC helps bring out the loud side of us."

The programs' proponents say that over 70 percent of the city's JROTC cadets are APAs and a cut would be detrimental to the already marginalized community.

"If these programs are to be abolished without after school activities, what happens to these kids?" said Lum.

The JROTC programs run deep in American history since its establishment in 1916 as a part of the National Defense Act. Under provisions of the act, high schools are allowed to use military equipment and military personnel as instructors.

Currently, JROTC has about 1,600 students in seven San Francisco high schools.

Opponents like Dr. Dan Kelly, an incumbent in the San Francisco school board race, calls the JROTC a "branding tool" for the military that needs to be removed. They also accuse the JROTC of recruiting students for the military.

"It teaches students to draw their self-worth through identification with the organization. Its curriculum is thin and it does not meet state or district standards. Its teachers are not credentialed, but are compensated at much higher rates than our regular staff. It discriminates against [Lesbian/Gay Bisexual and Transgender] adults and students in a variety of ways because of the military's ban on openly gay members," said Kelly, a 16 year San Francisco school board veteran.

Opponents say the JROTC also targets low-income and immigrant students in the school the more likely the school would have a JROTC program.

"Certainly, it is important for all young people to learn about the military. As adults, they will be called upon to vote for representatives who in turn will make decisions about whether or not to send this country to war and how much to spend on the U.S. Military. But such learning is best done in classes with trained teachers who can promote free and open dialogue about the military rather than military officials who are intent on acquiring new recruits," said John Rogers, UCLA professor and IDEA co-director.

This isn't the first time the JROTC programs have come under fire. In 1994, a hazing incident at another San Francisco school that resulted in injury and a lawsuit spurred scrutiny of the programs and several other failed attempts at a ban.

Since then, the threat of being cut has been hanging over their heads, but now the threat is coming to a head, said Lt. Col. Douglas Ballard, Lowell's JROTC instructor.

Discriminatory policies like "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" do not exist in the JROTC and instructors are restricted from recruiting.

But Zhou admits there is a misconception out there about the JROTC being just about the Army.

"I tell my friends, "You see me right? I have no interest in the Army whatsoever," said Zhou, who wants to become a surgeon. "The district receives federal funding. The federal government discriminates in a thousand ways, so why are they targeting the JROTC?" said Ballard. He also questions the motives of the board's haste to vote.

Current board members Sarah Lipson and Eddie Chin are terming out and not running again. The move to vote before January, when new board members take office, is being heavily criticized.

"To vote on this as a lame duck board is really cowardly," said Ballard. A crowd of about 1,100 rallied at city hall Oct. 25 in support of the JROTC.

"I personally feel this is a different form of discrimination. If this program were 72 percent African American or gay and lesbian, they wouldn't try to ban it. It's because there is this perception that Asian Americans are silent. There's no fear of any retribution," said Lum.
COMPETITIVE EATING

Japanese Champ Defends Hamburger-eating Title in U.S.


That beat the previous record of 69 burgers, which he set at the first Krystal contest in 2004. Last year, Kobayashi swallowed 67 hamburgers to win the title and a check for $10,000.

Jocy Chnst of San Jose, California, came in second place by eating 91 hamburgers, and Pat Benoînt of Chicago ate 76.

Kobayashi, who is from Nagano, also holds the title of hot dog-eating champion, after eating 49 hot dogs in 12 minutes.

FIGURESKATING

Ando Surprising Winner Over Meissner and Asada

By BARRY WILNER

HARTFORD, Conn.—Miko Ando fought through right foot injuries and some coaching issues a year ago. This year is different than last year. I am able to concentrate better," she said. "Tonight is an example of that." Her program to a Mendelssohn concerto, sizzled from start to finish. Ando nailed 10 jumps in the first 2 1/2 minutes and posted a personal-best 125.85 points for the free skate.

"I couldn't stand up and finished 15th at the Turin Games, Ando is off to a sensational start to the new season. "I am getting better," she said through tears. "I am able to do everything I did tonight, in the Olympics. Ando nailed her opening triple axel, some other than her smooth, lengthy spins. Her flamenco routine was punctuated by six triple jumps and some enchanting footwork, not a strength in her previous two years as a senior. Her spins were slow and other than her smooth, lengthy spirals, the 16-year-old Asada struggled in falling to third.

"I feel regrettable about today's result," she said through an interpreter. "I didn't feel any pressure today. I don't think the (bucked) triple Axel was the reason for the whole program."
The Way I Walk

H ere is a common scenario that I ran into every time I visited an Asian country that is not Japan. I am walking down a busy street choked with sourcery kiosks and owners desperate to sell their overflowing stock of key chains, jewelry, handbags, T-shirts and other hokey tourist junk that are mass-produced every stone’s throw away.

“Aren’t you from Japan?” Konichwiha?

I ignore them and keep walking. They then go through their repertoire of other Asian greetings to try to get my attention. “Nǐ háo ma?” Maybe I’m just overanalyzing, but…

Asian person living in Asia, your Xangas and guessing each other’s folks back home. Put two AA from now when alien anthropologists— it’s all the same in the end. No drinking boba, updating their my back.

Here and I must hail from the land you are an individual of Asian that all Asian people look the same are wrong, of course! There are different .eyelid shapes and back home, away from the throng is not Japan. I am walking down a night club in Singapore.

“Excuse me,” he said. “But are you Japanese?” I told him that I was.

“I knew it!” he said triumphantly. “I could tell from the way you walk.”

I should have walked away at this point, but I humored him and asked him to clarify.

“Japanese women have a very distinctive way of walking,” he continued explaining. “When I saw you walking around the club, I just knew that I had to go up to you and ask.”

He then went on to tell me how much he loves Japanese culture, how he goes there every year to participate in their seasonal festivities, and demanded why— I mean— a Japanese person out of all people— would not make it to visit the beautiful motherland every year.

A sharp observation of a very ardent Japaneseophile or the pathetic pick-up line of some yellow fever junk are, of course. We were both too tired to argue.

After about 30 seconds of listening to him rant on about how much he loves Japan, I abruptly cut the conversation short and my friend and I took the taxicab back home in the midst of the throng of dancing Asian people, all with their different eyelid shapes and checkpoint structures.

Yumi Sakagawa is currently attending UCLA.

SENIOR HOME (Continued from page 1)

Community Center. Its focus will be to care for non-ambulatory and special needs seniors. The cost starts at $4,000 for a studio.

Currently, a low-income senior housing facility called Nikkei Village Housing is adjacent to the Community Center. When it was established in 1983, JAs dominated it’s resident population. Now the number has dwindled to 20 percent because many more Nisei and Sansei— who made good lives before retirement — found themselves over qualified, said Hiroshi Murakoa, a SFVJACC board member.

The Nisei and Sansei want to be a culturally sensitive housing with Japanese food, said Murakoa. The closest facility of that kind is Retro in Boyle Heights. There was a need in the San Fernando Valley so Murakoa and Harry Nakada began forming their vision of a senior oasis. In 1999, “a miracle stepped in.”

The SFVJACC bought the land from the Hashimoto family for $650,000. “I was also concerned that seniors wouldn’t have a place to go at their age. I saw my mother go to a nursing home. I didn’t like that. I saw this as a good opportunity,” said Hashimoto.

The Hashimoto nursery business, like the city, is steeped in J history. After World War II, the rural land of 10 percent of the housing’s population. The people who’ve worked elsewhere. The small community has experienced a boom of J residents who faced housing restrictions elsewhere. The small community has a Community Center baseball field to a local charter school. The decision to collaborate the Community Center has stirred controversy within the community.

“It seems the figures that they’ve projected seem overly optimistic,” said Phil Shigekuni.

“Back when we first started thinking of it, it made sense. But now costs have gone up. Competition with other assisted living facilities in the Valley has also become more intense.”

“It just seems like we’re kind of being overstretched. I hate to do this because the people who’ve worked on it are really sincere. They worked very hard and the goal of senior assisted living is important,” he added. “The Community Center is being compromised for a $2.3 million loan and that concerns me. Shigekuni is a member of the San Fernando Valley and teaches a guitar class at the Community Center. He also attends JAC, meetings here. Murakoa and the SFVJACC board members have held two town hall meetings with financial consultants explaining that the project is financially sound, but he said a small group has actively voiced opposition to the project.

“I really think they’re misin­formed,” said Murakoa, who pointed out that if they had backed on the hard money loan, they would have incurred severe penalties. Even if the project fails, they could sell the land, pay back the donation and still net a profit, he added.

“We did this project when we knew we couldn’t make everyone happy. But there’s a need for assisted living and we’re hoping to provide a place for those people to live at the Nikkei Senior Village for the rest of their lives,” said Murakoa.

With approval from HUD, Shigekuni said he hopes to break ground in December for 16 months of construction.
PC: I have worked at the tackle shop for the past three years and also at the same time became a licensed trout-fishing guide. I originally had no plans to become a guide but was coaxed into it by some other friends who were guides because of my experience and knowledge.

I am able to work during trout season at Crowley because I am on season hiatus from my television shoot-up. I love trout fishing because it makes me forget about my worries and makes me feel free of spirit plus it is a lot of fun... especially when I then kids how to catch fish.

PC: What sparked your interest in stories about former internees escaping camp to go fishing?

CS: In April 20, 2004, there was an article written in The Los Angeles Times by Daniele Ciminiello, which featured a story of an interview — Ishikawa Fisherman — who snuck out of Manzanar to catch ‘golden trout.’

While working at Crowley, I noticed thousands of Japanese Americans coming annually to fish. Nice, Sansei, and Yonsei alike. On some days, up to half of the anglers were of Japanese descent.

On one of my trips from my home in L.A. to Crowley and the Eastern Sierra a few years ago, I was passing the Manzanar Relocation Camp just off Highway 395 when the thought suddenly popped into my head: ‘Was there some connection between the JAs who fish the Eastern Sierra today and the internees at Manzanar so many years ago?’

I went to Manzanar to find out. Ranger Richard Potashin confirmed that yes, indeed, there were internees who snuck out and went trout fishing.

PC: How is the documentary going?

CS: Audiotaped interviews were redone on video, and the pieces began to fall into place. All that was needed was to string the pieces together. Richard Imamura, a childhood friend of mine... pored over the hours of interviews and brought together what I had intuitively known all along — that all of the fishermen’s stories touched, in one way or another, a yearning to be free.

The work is not yet finished, but the goal is now clear. What kind of fishing artifacts have you been collecting?

CS: I have caught very small golden trout but nothing even close to what Mr. Ishikawa caught. I have caught large trout up to 12 pounds but I would love to catch trophy size golden trout like one caught by Ishikawa.

PC: What kind of fishing artifacts have you been collecting?

CS: For my research and interviews, I had been fortunate enough to receive actual fishing equipment from former Manzanar Internees. Such items include conventional reel, fly reel, several manufactured rods, fishing creels, butt cans, hooks, sinkers, leaders, snake bite kit, drinking cups, sleeping bags, gloves, hat, hot plate to cook the fish on, etc.

I believe they keep these items as sentimental reminders of what gave them good feelings during a dark time of their life.

PC: How did you find and select your interview subjects?

CS: I first contacted Potashin to see if he could assemble any kind of list of survivors who had mentioned anything about their fishing experiences while incarcerated. I then asked him to get permission from these people to do an oral history. It was a slow process but as the months and years went by, Potashin kept an eye and ear out for visitors who came through the interpretive center and asked each person if they had any fishing stories or knew of anyone who had done such a thing while in Manzanar. The list of people gradually grew from just a few to about a dozen survivors.

Every story was different but was heartfelt. If I had to choose but one person, I would have to say the story of Ken Miyamoto. Here was a man in his early 20s who had faced many hardships even before he was incarcerated but found his freedom and passion sneaking out and going fishing. He told me he fished almost every day while he was at Manzanar.

PC: When you fish, do you think about the JAs who risked life and limb to fish along the same banks?

CS: While I fished the creels that were fished over 60 years ago, I can only imagine what they felt. When I was fishing those very creels, I felt a sense of freedom and peace, something I am sure is what they felt and sought after while they were there.

PC: What is the largest obstacle you have encountered in filming?

CS: I have been working on this project since Spring of 2004 and been a very time sensitive project, finding the survivors to film their stories is a major problem, but up to now I have been producing this project out of my own pocket.

Currently my biggest obstacle is finding resources to fund the completion of this documentary. My goal is to make an hour-long film aimed at distribution to schools, colleges and museums.

For more info. on the documentary: www.fearnotrout.com.

SECRET ASIAN MAN™ By Tak

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FOR OTHER KIDS

SHE SEWED SO COSTUMES

IN HER BosS, SWEETHEART.

WE SHOOED OURSTUFF.

WE SHOED THE WORST.

FOR OTHER KIDS

IN HER BOSS'S SWEETHEART.
Calendar

East Coast
NEW YORK
Sat., Nov. 18—South American Jewish History Project's Annual Conference, I.A. U., 44th St., 11th Floor. Info: alleey@yadoc.org.

Midwest
CLEVELAND
Sat., Nov. 4—37th Annual Holiday Fair; 1-5 p.m.; St. Ignatius High School; enjoy crafts, demonstrations, door prizes, raffle and a silent auction; sponsored by the Cleveland JACL. Info: 216/921-2976 or 440/685-9874.
EVANSTON, Ill.
Nov. 5-8—Student and National Asian American Student Conferences, Northwestern University, Evanston. Info: nasa@northwestern.edu or Building Bridges, Connecting Movements” and seeks to explore the diverse issues that the AAPI community faces.” www.naancon.org.

San, Nov. 4—Workshop, “When Hate Hits You: Responding to Anti­Asian Sentiment”; 10-11:15 a.m.; Northwestern University Student Center, Illinois Room; workshop will focus on key elements of hate speech through historical and contemporary lenses; workshop is in conjunction with the National Asian American Pacific Islander Conference.

ST. PAUL, Minn.
Sun., Nov. 19—Twin Cities JACL Annual Meeting; Minneapolis History Center, 345 W. Kellogg Blvd. (Visit the Conservancy’s “Tribute to Nikko” at 3 p.m.; director, actor Lane Nishikawa and actor Hajji Okimoto will be on hand, helping the community achieve “Greatest Generation.””; $50 for non­members; $35 for adult members, $35 students and children. Info: Joanne Kimagi, 763/420-6639.

Northern California
BERKELEY
Wed., Nov. 29—24th Annual UC Berkeley Nikkei Student Union Community Service Projects Reception, UC Berkeley, Zellerbach Playhouse; $10 admission with lower rates for students and advanced group seating. Info: Colleen Ounoua, ouunouchi@yahoocom.

SF, Nov. 3—ARTIST EXPO Fri., Nov. 3—HOSHIGAKI—The Art of Japanese Hand­Dried Persimmons”; 7 p.m.; Asia Society, 369 E. 1st St.; free; books will be available for purchase; presented by Tosh Kuratomi of Otow Orchard and featured Chef Roy Yamaguchi and Chef Hiro Sone. Info: 310/328-3961.

SACRAMENTO
Sat., Nov. 18—JACL Health Benefits Trust’s annual CCDC Chapter lunch meeting at the Radisson Hotel Fresno. This year we are encouraging the attendance of regular JACL members to learn about the JACL HBA; how it operates and how it relates to the National JACL, as well as our role in the current health care system. Seating is limited, so please call the Trust office to reserve a space for this free lunch meeting at 800/404-6633.

Southern California
ANAHEIM
Sat., Nov. 11—JACL Health Benefits Trust’s annual PSW Chapter Insurance Commissioner’s lunch meeting at the Radisson Hotel Min Bahamian, Anaheim. This year we are encouraging the attendance of regular JACL members to learn about the JACL HBA; how it operates and how it relates to the National JACL, as well as our role in the current health care system. Seating is limited, so please call the Trust office to reserve a space for this free lunch meeting at 800/404-6633.

SAN FRANCISCO
Sun., Nov. 5—Discussion, “The Art of Japanese Hand­Dried Persimmons” and “One Night in Tokyo S. Gardena West LA.

Sleeping on Potatoes
A Lumpy Adventure from Manzanar to the Corporate Tower by CarlNomura

Sleeping on Potatoes: A Lumpy Adventure from Manzanar to the Corporate Tower by Carl Nomura

By GeorgeKatigel, Portland, OR

"Early in the book, Nomura talks about being born in a barrack in Montana. Later, he refers to a Corporate Senior Vice-President of Honeywell, Inc. In between these two events are going to college, achieving his goals, raising children, learning to get along in marriage and the joy of being and being loved. His writings reveal insights which many of us miss as we go through life. The books captures this description of surviving the depression years. Readers will find that what was actually a tragedy, ended up being an interesting and often humorous experience. There are many parallels with what we have also experienced. If you are looking for some enjoyable reading, read about one of the most successful in America.


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ENDURING LOVE
(Continued from page 1)

to inspire.

"The couple would face opposition on both sides of the family for their decision to marry. Marion held her head high amidst discrimination and stood by her man as they moved to Hawaii and back to Madison again in search of a place they felt welcomed," read the obituary in a local newspaper. "They were best friends," said Judy. "They fought it out. They didn't give up."

The NCAA Champ
Dick was born in Spreckelsville, Maui to hardworking Issei plantation workers. Back then the only way off "the Rock" was to punch your way off, so Dick took up boxing and by the time he was in his 20s he was an All Island golden glove champion and a skilled singer. He won the All Island singing championship and later started a band called the Transplanted Pineapple Pickers.

In 1939, Dick applied to San Jose State, but the school rejected him. His brother, Johnny - the only one of the family to consider himself American, - urged Marion to send a letter to the Georgia attorney general, who responded that under state law, their marriage was unlawful. Their pastor, Andrew Clark, married them anyway and after 11 years of marriage the couple were newlyweds again.

The Nisei and the Granddaughter of a Norwegian Viking
Dick met Marion Smithback, a striking waitress of Norwegian descent, at a Madison drug store where she worked. He was smitten but the feeling was not mutual at first. It wasn't until her coworker and Dick's boxing team member, Robert Hammel, urged Marion to go out on a date with Dick that the couple embarked on a lifelong relationship dappled with adversity.

From his brother, Johnny — a decorated member of the 100th Battalion — Dick heard glorious stories of heroism that stirred his soul, so in 1945 he enlisted in the Army and headed south to Camp Wheeler in Macon, Georgia. "Being interned really hurt my father's feelings because he really considered himself American," said Rick. But the woman he fell in love with refused to be left behind. Soon Marion and her sister hopped on a train to visit Dick, and it was there on a Georgia base that Marion and Dick got married for the first time.

"He used to say that she was like a Japanese girl," said Judy about her parents. "She was always very supportive and did whatever he wanted. But she was also really strong-minded and feisty."

From the start, they faced discrimination from both sides of the family and from the community where they couldn't find housing.

During that time, anti-miscegenation statutes were still on the books in 16 states, mostly in the South and the Midwest. In 1956, the couple read a newspaper article about states that banned interracial marriages including Georgia. They asked their pastor to send a letter to the Georgia attorney general, who responded that under state law, their marriage was unlawful. Their pastor, Andrew Clark, married them again and after 11 years of marriage the couple were newlyweds again.

Back Together Under the Hawaiian Sunset
Dick hung up his boxing gloves for a career in real estate while Marion raised the kids. They spent all their time together going to football games and bowling until Dick started showing signs of Alzheimer's. After his death, Marion spiraled downwards.

"It was really, really hard for her," said Judy about Marion who also battled Alzheimer's. "She used to say she missed her husband, Dan McCarthy, when they were 15. They have now been married for 34 years. "My dad was a very motivated person. He would ask, 'What did you do today to justify your existence?' And maybe the answer is love."

And her parents' enduring love story has also influenced Judy, who met her husband, Dan McCarthy, when they were 15. They have now been married for 34 years.

Later in life, Dick and Marion also battled Alzheimer's. "She used to say she missed her husband, Dan McCarthy, when they were 15. They have now been married for 34 years. "My dad was a very motivated person. He would ask, 'What did you do today to justify your existence?' And maybe the answer is love."

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