Ann Jyono never spoke a word of what her priest did to her in the middle of the night — until now. She's not alone.

By LYNDA LIN
Assistant Editor

For over 20 years, Ann Marie Jyono's secret burned in silence: the Catholic priest who was a fixture in her family's life had sexually molested her for seven years starting when she was only five years old.

It began the first time he spent the night at the Jyono's Lodi, Calif. home in 1971. Father Oliver Francis O'Grady convinced Ann's devoutly Catholic parents to turn him tuck in the children. From there, bedtime stories turned into nightmares. Her parents, Sansei Bob and Maria, who is of Irish descent, had no idea a monster was feeding on their innocence — and Ann kept quiet until one day she screamed it from the rooftops.

"He was a man of God telling me something bad was going to happen if I told anyone. We were taught to believe him because he was the direct extension to God," said Ann, 40, in a phone interview. "I thought I would probably die with that [secret] in me."

In 1993, Ann testified in the criminal trial against O'Grady brought forth by two young brothers. Yes, there were other victims — about 25 in total. O'Grady was sentenced to 14 years in jail, but was deported to Ireland after serving only seven years. On the Emerald Isle, he remains free — last seen at a children's store in Dublin — so Ann is speaking up again.

A 'Happy' Childhood
The path that led O'Grady to the Jyonos is filled with chance. In 1961, 24-year-old Bob was stationed in Tokyo. As a sailor, he had little chance of meeting Ann's family, but fate intervened. Before the war, Bob had been sent to service in the Philippines. He met Ann's mother, Marie, when she was 16 and became her stepfather. By 1961, she was a 25-year-old widow who was looking for a husband to raise her children.

Ann was born a few months later, and her parents welcomed her into their Lodi, Calif. home was exposed as a sexual predator.

Excising the Demon of Silence

Grassroots Campaign Fights for a Commemorative Postage Stamp Honoring the Heroic JA WWII Veterans

After their proposals are rejected by the U.S. Postal Service, the group launches a coalition effort with the Tuskegee Airmen and the Navajo Code Talkers in hopes of a series of commemorative stamps.

By CAROLINE AYAGI-STOM
Executive Editor

Before you lick your next postage stamp onto the electricity bill or a postcard from the latest family vacation, take a look at the variety of commemorative stamp choices you will have this year. There's the Marvel Super Heroes stamps, the Disney inspired ones, and a special "With Loves and Kisses" stamp just in time for Valentine's Day. For history buffs there's the Settlement of Jamestown stamp and Ella Fitzgerald is featured in the ongoing Black Heritage series stamp collection.

But missing again this year is a stamp honoring the heroic Japanese American World War II veterans who served their country under the stark realities of their decision to refuse to deploy to Iraq last summer.

Community Braces for More Heated Debate as Watada Court Martial Begins

The JA officer faces up to six years in prison for his decision to refuse deployment to Iraq last summer.

By CAROLINE AYAGI-STOM
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Before I begin this report, I would like to say something about John Tateishi who has very ably served as the JACL executive-director for the past seven years. John is feeling a lot better but his illness is very serious and he will not be returning to work. As he continues to recuperate at home, he is taking daily walks to restore some strength in his body. His mind is as keen as ever, and his typical humor remains as notable as ever on an occasional e-mail. Our thanks for a job well done and best wishes for a complete recovery out go to John Carter. I applaud the decision of the national JACL board not to support 1st Lt. Ehren Watada. This must have been a tough decision to make because it will divide the JACL. This is a problem without a solution of war or right or what. Lt. Watada had a chance to oppose President Bush and in the Iraq war is wrong. The solution is to end the war after the war had started. Why did he enlist in the Army if he were against the war in Iraq? There is no draft, only a volunteer Armed Forces. Did he really think he would be defeated?

The charges against the lieutenant are not whether this is a justified war, but his deviation of duty according to the Uniform Code of Military Justice. The lieutenamt took his oath upon his enlistment and again to the U.S. Constitution to not participate in something unconscionable or that makes him guilty of war crimes under the Geneva Accords or Nuremberg principles. He is not a conscious objector. Watada’s attorney encourages the public to write to Lt. Lewis washing commanding general (Gen. Dutich) and newspapers in support of Watada. Public opinion in support is encouraged. Public meetings should be informational and organized and should not use Watada to advance their own agenda.

This is about Watada’s individual act of conscience. Therein lies its authenticity. While his act derives from his conviction that the United States is doing a wrong in the world, his refusal of movement to Iraq is a matter of personal conscience that came with much mental struggle and his parents’ initial shock and disappointment. On the other hand, the individual and human level we who support him can better identify with and respect his act as a deeply personal and honorable one.

JACL members

Change of Address
If you have moved, please send information to:
National JACL
1756 Sutter St.
San Francisco, CA 94115

Allow 6 weeks for address changes.

Letters to the Editor

Wata da: Individual Act of Conscience
First Lt. Ehren Watada’s court martial is scheduled for February. He is steadfast in facing imprisonment.

Watada is not a coward. He is taking a stand against involvement in a misled and preemptive aggression. Our country violated the United Nations Charter’s ban on war that we have been a party to our own Constitution; Preemptive aggression clearly violates the Charter and our Constitution. As such, Lt. Watada’s officer’s oath to defend the Constitution requires him to not participate in something unconscionable or that makes him guilty of war crimes under the Geneva Accords or Nuremberg principles. He is not a conscientious objector. Watada’s attorney encourages the public to write to Lt. Lewis washing commanding general (Gen. Dutich) and newspapers in support of Watada. Public opinion in support is encouraged. Public meetings should be informational and organized and should not use Watada to advance their own agenda.

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JACL thanks Thomas.

Al Safford’s Hill are a key element in our relationship with members of Congress. Easter Kuania, who was chief of staff for former Congressman Ed Case of Hawaii decided to return to Hawaii after a very positive career on the Hill. Mark Keopu, who most recently served as Sen. Daniel’s Judiciary Committee staffer, will move onto the private sector. Howard Moos, who served as the JACL’s Legislative Director, will also move to the private sector.

The APA liaison for Spokeisen will be Carmella Clednender who has shifted from her position in communications. Carmella replaces Carl Carrillos who has moved to a committee assignment. Several of us in the APA organizations recently met with Spokeisen’s staff to urge the hiring of more APAs in order to maintain the face of APAs on the Hill.

The Organization of Chinese Americans (OCA) has named Michael Lin as its new executive director (Gregor). OCA national president, brings many years of volunteer service and experience to the OCA staff.

Floyd Mori is currently the interim JACL national director.

Dick Miyagawa

Remembered

Thank you for the update on Dick Miyagawa (Pacific Citizen, Nov. 3-16, 2006). Probably hundreds (maybe thousands) of us who were involved in the Civil War Veterans Assembly Center in 1942 remember how well Dick’s leadership and musical talent were in the Intermezzo. I can still sing “Manuela Boy, My Dear Boy,” a Hawaiian ditty that was popularized by Dick Miyagawa in 1942.

H nishida

San Diego, CA
Column in Princeton Student Newspaper’s Joke Issue Stirs Racism Charges

By ASSOCIATE PRESS

PRINCETON, N.J.—The annual joke issue of Princeton University’s student newspaper has left some people accusing its staff of racism.

The Daily Princetonian published a column with a byline that closely resembles the name of Juan Li, an 18-year-old Liverpool, England, native who is seeking civil rights protection against the university last summer after he was denied admission for speaking of it in broken English.

"This article was extremely distasteful," said Li, the Associated Press. "Whoever decided to publish it showed an extreme lapse of judgment."

Under a byline of Jian Liu, the article criticized Asian and Latin American racial stereotypes to bush the school for his humor. "If Princeton? Incredible! Remember me? I so good at math and science. Perfect 2400 SAT score. Ring Bells?" the article begins. "Just in case, let me refresh your memories. I 1 the super smart Asian. Princeton the super dumb college, not accept me."

An article on the controversy was published in the Jan. 19, 2007, edition of The Daily Princetonian. It was a note from the Daily Princetonian’s managing board that stated its members "deeply regret having upset some of our readers," but defended their intentions. "In good faith and in an effort to co-sponsor legislation with the purpose of gaining a greater understanding of the wrongs that were committed," said Jian Liu, an English major.

A companion legislation to Rep. Xavier Becerra’s has also introduced to June 24, in the U.S. Senate by Sen. Daniel K. Inouye, Joining Sen. Chris Dodd and Rep. Zoe Lofgren. "This bill in some ways is more significant than the Redress bill in 1988 that can be painful. But that doesn’t mean we’re going to use humor to hide the underlying hate," said Floyd Mori, JACL interim national director.

"We are not in the business of taking complaints from all quarters, but we believe something good can come from this," he said. Li said he recognized that the article was satire, but said it was "not funny at all." "It’s so outlandish that it can’t be anything but satire," he said. "But do we believe this shouldn’t have been published."

In a letter to the editor that appeared in the Daily Princetonian, Princeton’s Asian American Student Organizations said the article was "offensive to Asian American students and "reflects poorly on Princeton’s reputation as a diverse and informed university."

Mayor Michael T. Mineta and the late Congressman Robert Matsui are also for­ mer internees. "I am grateful to the members of the community who made me aware of the racially insensitive remarks Mr. North has expressed on his radio program," said Smith in a Dec. 16 letter to Yoshino. "I had known about his pattern of behavior, I would have said ‘no’ to the request that we dedicate the field to him."

Sen. Smith, a former community director, said he had not been offended by the article. "I thought it was that people were so offended by it, because it shows that racism still exists," Felix Huang, another Senn school council member whose parents are from Taiwan, told The Times. "But I think the column was a joke and I look for the satire that was meant to be."
Questions Linger as APAs Mount Shelfless Hmong Hunter

By Associated Press and P.C. Staff

ST. PAUL, Minnesota—Maikue Vang's sadness was laced with anger and frustration as a traditional three-day funeral began for her uncle, a Hmong hunter slain in the northern state of Wisconsin last month.

"A lot of people are concerned and wondering, 'Why did this happen to him?'" said Vang, who traveled from Fresno, Calif., for the funeral of Cha Vang, 30, a refugee who lived in Green Bay, Wisconsin. "Hmong on the West Coast are wondering, 'What is happening in the Midwest?'

Vang's death has rekindled racial tensions on Wisconsin hunting lands just two years after a Hmong hunter was shot and killed six white hunters there.

Vang's body was found partially covered by leaves and debris on Jan. 6 in a wildlife refuge near Green Bay, Authorities charged James Nichols, 28, with murder after an autopsy showed the hunter had been stabbed several times and shot in the head and torso.

Nichols, who is white, told police that he was acting in self-defense. His public defender, Kent Hoffmann, did not immediately return a message.

Wisconsin, Minnesota and California are home to the largest populations of Hmong, an ethnic minority that fled Laos after the Vietnam War.

APAs groups from across the country are calling for a district attorney to look into this case as a hate crime.

"We would urge the filing of hate crime charges, if appropriate, as provided in the Wisconsin statutes," said JACL Midwest Director Bill Yoshino in a recent letter to the Marquette County District Attorney.

When I see an avenue towards improvement, I strive for it. I want to solve it faster." —Tyoison Mao about the Rubik's Cube

Tyoison (right) figures out a puzzle flanked by Toby (left).

PHOTO COURTESY TYSON MAO

Extra!
See the video at www.pacificcitizen.org

Small and handsome prizes don't keep the competitors away. The little winter storm that was disrupting world record in Toby — the Kobe Bryant of the cubing titans — who last August, solved his cube in 10.48 seconds at the U.S. Nationals competition. In one of the many videos of Toby on the internet, he slams the cube down on the table and celebrates like a rock star.

"It was the final solve of the competition. I was unable to realize that [why I did it] and I thought 'Wow, that's fast,'" said Toby.

Like any other sport, competition encourages the straw to improve for their personal bests, but there is no cutthroat malice, all they say — they all help each other. And when it comes to competition, they also echo the name of Shotoro "Macky" Makumiti, the 16-year-old Japanese phenom who attends high school in Pasadena and wins all the cubing competitions, except when his mom says he can't go, jokes Leyan.

"I know I can never attain that level of excellence," Leyan said.

The World Rubik's Cube Championship 2007 will take place in Hungary this year.

The Clichy/Discovery 2007 Spring Competition is slated for May 5 at the Discovery Science Center in Santa Ana, Calif.
All JA Vets Reunion to Feature Former Hawaii Five-O Star Poncie Ponce

Poncie Ponce, who gained fame as an actor on the hit TV show "Hawaii Five-O" and now entertains with his own band, is set to appear at the All Vets Reunion in honor of the Japanese American veterans of the 42nd and all other JA vets on Feb. 17 at the Japanese American National Museum.

Poncie serves as an honorary member of H Company in the Japanese American Go For Broken 42nd Regiment Combat Team.

In addition, there will be a memorial service to honor and remember all JA vets at the Japanese American National War Memorial Court on Feb. 18. Immediate families, relatives, and friends of these veterans are invited to attend.

"Construction is slated for the new memorial monument in the War Memorial Court in memory of those who sacrificed their lives in Iraq and other wars or conflicts after the Vietnam War," said Monument Committee Chairman Thorr Yamamoto.


There will also be tours, video presentations by the AJAWWIMA, and a central hospitality room during the reunion. The Japanese American All Wars Exhibition will also open its doors to reunion visitors and the public at the Doizaki Cultural and Community Center in Little Tokyo.

For more information or to reserve, call 818/368-4113, e-mail v.muraoka@verizon.net or NVCC President Mrs. Muraoka at 323/292-3165.

To protect you and your family from even the common accidents and illnesses the JACL Health Trust provides Blue Cross of California health insurance coverage. Blue Cross of California has been providing health coverage to Californians for over 66 years. Blue Cross is committed to keeping you connected to quality health care services.

To learn more about the plan and how to become a member please call the JACL Health Trust at 1-877-848-4875.

JA Veterans Break Ground for 'All Other Wars Memorial'


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The Last JA Memorial at JANM

"Making the newspapers available on the web will give students, teachers and researchers unprecedented access to the inside-the-camp perspective," said Denso Executive Director Tom Ikeda. "We see these newspapers as a rich source of information about daily camp life, camp events and individuals."

The remaining papers include: Denso Tribune (Jerome), Gilman News-Courier, Granada Pioneer, Heart Mountain Sentinel, Poston Chronicle, Rohwer Outpost, Tule Lake News and Tule Lake Dispatch. This project is generously funded by the California Civil Liberties Public Education Program and will be completed in the summer of 2007.

The Manzanar Free Press and Minidoka Irrigator are now available online in the Denso Digital Archive (www.denso.org/archive). Both newspapers feature typed article titles, comprehensive indexing and a printable PDF of each issue.

Denso is currently in the process of digitizing and making available to the public all ten War Relocation Authority (WRA) camp newspapers. Published from 1942-1945 by Japanese Americans incarcerated in WRA camps, these newspapers detailed events inside and outside of camp.

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UNHAPPINESS walked into their lives as their community's newest priest, fresh from Ireland with a heavy lilting accent that sounded like music to Maria's ear.

"I was so homesick when I got here," she said, "I met [O'Grady] in church and when I visited out from Limexich, which was 45 minutes away from my hometown. It was so wonderful to meet someone who always loved them. That's totally separate."

His Pious Façade

COURT MARTIAL (Continued from page 1)

Recent letters to the editor here at the Pacific Citizen show the starkly opposing sides within the community.

"Wada is not a coward. He is a true American pacifist in a misplaced and preposterous aggression," writes James Tanabe of Honolulu, a staunch supporter of the 28-year-old officer. "This is about Wada, his individual act of conscience... On this individual and human level we who support him can better identify with and respect his act as a deeply personal and honorable one."

"I am deeply saddened," says Sakana of Arizona echoes similar sentiments of those who oppose Watada's decision: "I truly respect him for his decision to oppose,"President Bush and the war in Iraq simply by not entering the Army," adds James Watanabe, Ltd. Why did he enlist in the Army if he was against the war in Iraq? There is no doubt that he will be happy with what the board decide. If he really think he was not being deployed?"

Soon after the lieutenant's announcement last June, community members began to ask, what is going to happen to Wada, Wada matter, the first commissioned officer to refuse deployment?"

The former JACL Executive Director John Tatsushi last July released a statement of concern over the Wada board and their actions. Why did he enlist in the Army if he was against the war in Iraq? There is no doubt that he will be happy with what the board decide. If he really think he was not being deployed?"

The Pacific Citizen editor in chief said that the Wada decision was made in his initial decision and reaffirmation, I felt that they made the correct decision," said Floyd Mori, JACL's executive director. "There was political pressure of doing a battle on a different level by taking a political act that would clearly divide the organization. I also felt that it was important to respect the opinion of the majority of our World War II veterans who are in large part responsible for the credibility of the organization."

But some national JACL board members continue to question the national organization's hesitancy in taking a stronger stand on the issue. "I think that [Watada] is a principled young man," said Hideo Oda, executive director. "He is trying to avoid harm, but is against U.S. polices. If he is good, he is aware of his constituents' opportunities in the pending court martial."

And in fact some individual JACL chapters have given their full support to Watada including the Honolulu, Berkeley, and Watsonville-Santa Cruz chapters. The NCWNP district also passed a resolution in support of Watada's free speech rights. Over the past several months many of the JACL veterans groups have come out in strong opposition to Watada and his actions, including the Japanese American Veterans of Wartime and the National Association of Japanese American Veterans.

"We have said that this is a military matter and is not a question of the legality of the war. It is not a civil rights issue," either," said Bob Wada, a Korean War veteran, who spoke on his behalf and not for any organization. "A Korean or a woman does not have the right to pick and choose his or her assignment and for [Watada] to try and go to Iraq with this unit was absolutely wrong."

"I did not support this in continuing this controversy," he added. "The Japanese American veterans have been struggling with their decisions with his actions and don't have any new different thoughts... We will let the court martial decide his fate and accept their decision."

David Masuo, a Vietnam War veteran, echoed those sentiments, "Lieutenant Watada was wrong in his decision to disobey an order of troop movement to Iraq and wrong in his statements to the press and in meeting with the Commanding Officer in Chief's decision regarding the war," he said. "Military personnel do not have the luxury of deciding which war they want to participate in."

But not all veterans groups are opposed to Watada. The Asian American Veterans Organization (AAVO) has been behind the lieutenant from the beginning and plan to march in his support on Feb. 5 in Los Angeles' Little Tokyo.

"For any servicemember to be punished for taking a stand against the illegal war is not just for Watada. "It is part of the organization," said Mike Tanabe, a Vietnam War veteran, the AAVVO national president. "All we can do is help end this unjust war."

The AAVVO will be joined by Nikkei for Civil Rights & Redress (NCRR) at the upcoming Los Angeles' JACL board meeting on April 12. AAVVO has also been vocal in support of Watada. "We support the many men and women who are fighting for Watada and all we can to help end this unjust war," said Mike Tanabe, a Vietnam War veteran, the AAVVO national president. "All we can do is help end this unjust war."

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In a few days Watada will learn if his much publicized decision to refuse to serve in the Iraqi War will result in up to six years of jail time. 
Seattle Times — From now until it's settled, one issue overrides all others for the already issue-overloaded Seattle Mariners: the future of Ichiro Suzuki.

And it looks like that issue's going to be around for a while.

Seattle Times — Ichiro Suzuki has been with the Seattle Mariners for five years and has been an All-Star for each of those seasons. He is also the first player in major league history with 200 hits in each of his first six seasons.

If he returns, the Mariners will have to find a way to fit him into the lineup, which already has a number of other star players.

The Seattle Times — But the timing is not that important. Whatever he and Tony (Atasian, his agent) are comfortable with. And whatever our ownership is comfortable with.

So the potentially tricky negotiations with the franchise cornerstone could drag through the summer.

"I think it should be an issue," Bavasi said. "But — I don't know if you want to believe me — but (urgency) is not going to be an issue here.

Currently, Suzuki is in Japan working out and preparing to report to spring training in Peoria, Ariz., on Feb. 19 for his annual physical.

Suzuki said he expects to be around for a while.

He told the Associated Press on Jan. 23, before heading heavily favored Caroline Zhang to win the junior title. Zhang, who was unbeaten during the junior Grand Prix series, was second.

"It hasn't sunk in yet," Nagasu said. "I wasn't expecting to be in first. It's really exciting. And cool.

Junior champions don't usually get much — if any — attention. But with Michelle Kwan and Sasha Cohen moving on at least temporarily, there's a changing of the guard in figure skating.

There are three years until the Vancouver Olympics, and the junior champ could be the 2010 Olympic champion.

There's no guarantee, of course. There are plenty of U.S. junior champions who fall flat in the senior ranks.

But Sarah Hughes won the title in 1998. Four years later, she had an Olympic gold medal around her neck. Kimmie Meissner was the junior champ in 2004. Now she's the reigning world champion.

"I'm not pretending to have my name said against famous people. It's like, Nagasu said, then passed.

It's So is Nagasu's story, which sounds a lot like that of another little girl from Southern California. Kwan was barely a teenager when she burst on the scene in 1994.

Nagasu's parents, Ikuko and Kiyoto, own a sushi restaurant in Arcadia, Calif. She skates for 1/2 hours in the morning, goes to school full-time and then has ballet class.

When she's finished, she goes to the family restaurant, does homework, and eats dinner. She sleeps in a stor­age closet that's been cleaned out until the restaurant closes and her parents can take her home.

Asked who her role models in skating are, Nagasu said she likes Japanese phenom Mao Asada.

"But mostly," she added, "my idol is my mom. And my dad.

Unlike Zhang, who was drawing comparisons to Kwan after her spectac­ular Grand Prix series, Nagasu came to nationals as a complete unknown. She didn't even make nationals last year, failing to get to the final qualifier after finishing fifth in her regional — and that was in the novice division, a step below juniors.

"I was a little bit disappointed in myself because I didn't make it out to be second at nationals," Nagasu, who turns 14 in April. "I was one of the people who expected to go. I think it made me overconfident and I didn't practice as hard as I did this year.

Nagasu pulled off a stunning upset Jan. 23, beating heavily favored Caroline Zhang to win the junior title. Zhang, who was unbeaten during the junior Grand Prix series, was second.

While other skaters struggled with their landings or noticeably lost speed, Nagasu landed lightly and kept right on going.

"The work we've done to pull the loose ends together, I think that's what you saw manifest itself tonight," Wong said.

"There's still, obviously, a lot of growth to happen," she added of Nagasu.

"The training we've done to pull the loose ends together, I think that's what you saw manifest itself tonight," Wong said.

With Junior Title to Her Name, Nagasu an Unknown No More

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When Karen Falkenstrom and Lulu Rice, 58, broke a sweat.

While the class raises heart rates, it's doable at my weight and my physical benefits regardless of what your potential is," she added.

Most positions engage the whole body, and it's easy to imagine how exciting. The pose — called kamae — they take in front of a drum is a deep, low squat with a strong, engaged core and straight spine. This in itself is a strengthening exercise, and you can feel the intensity after just one minute.

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Many of the women in the class were beginning exercisers and found the workout to be just a half-hour of performing can be an intense workout.

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And it's easy to tell just by looking at them they're feeling it.
How do you thank someone for sacrificing a limb for you? How do you thank an entire generation for enduring institutional racism so that you can have a better life? As the number of living Nisei declines rapidly, this is the challenge that their descendants like me now face.

My Uncle Yoshio died last November at the age of 94 with Aunt Yasuko, his wife of 42 years, by his side. A typical Nisei in many ways, he was a quiet person who kept mostly to himself. He grew up as the son of farm sharecroppers who toiled among the grapevines of the Central California valley. His parents, my grandparents, scraped enough savings together to purchase a small ranch of their own in the small farming community of Reedley.

But then World War II erupted, and my grandparents were sent to the dusty and barren prison camp at Poston, Arizona, along with their three sons: Uncle Yoshio, my dad, and Uncle Charlie (who preceded Yoshio in death). All three served in the U.S. military during the war. The family somehow survived the war years and returned to the ranch, miraculously tended to and returned by a just and kind and loving family.

After the war, the three brothers devoted themselves to their respective fields: Uncle Yoshio as an illustrator for Rockwell International, my father as an academic, and Uncle Charlie as a farmer on the family ranch. Each had, and my father continues to have, a rich and fulfilling life, despite many setbacks stemming from the wartime experience and racial injustices.

After delivering Uncle Yoshio's eulogy at the Reedley Buddhist Church, I reflected on the hardships he and others of the Nisei generation endured and how that is just not possible for those of us who are Sansei, Yonsei, Gosei, or Nosei to fully fathom or appreciate or express our gratitude for.

Uncle Charlie as a farmer on the family ranch. Bach had, and my nose piercing or dyeing my hair a shade lighter than a very dark brown. If I do end up working in Japan after I graduate, I should start exercising my back muscles so my spine doesn't break from all the sudden influx of bowing I will be doing to my superiors.

Nonetheless, I can't help but imagine my future life in Japan as a ridiculous, twisted hybrid of the movie "Lost in Translation," sonic Japanese postcards, and every other Asian American novel ever written where the American born protagonist visits her parents' native country for the first time.

I will have an ambiguous, emotionally charged affair with an older, married man. I will come across a hidden family albums in the home of my ancestors and discover that I have a long-lost half sister. After being overwhelmed by the alienation of modern society, I will participate in a tea ceremony in full traditional regalia and realize that inner peace is possible even in a big city.

Interpersed between many dramatic happenings, there will be long, scenic shots of me riding the subway in Tokyo late at night, looking contemplative and deep, while some '80s cover band plays some nostalgic rock song in the background.

I won't wait.

Yumi Sakugawa is currently attending UCLA.

---

**YUMI SAKUGAWA**

**MEMOIRS OF A NON-GEISHA**

**Back to the Motherland**

I am graduating from college in less than five months. Everyone else around me is applying to med school or grad school, but my goal is to go back to Japan.

I mean, seriously, what's a girl with a degree in fine arts to do with herself?

To be honest, I am not too sure what I will end up doing in Japan. Depending on what job options fall through, I may be doing translation and interpretation work at some random company. Or I may join the legions of other out-of-college students who temporarily move to the land of the rising sun to tutor English to the many Japanese students, teachers and businesspeople who can't distinguish an 'r' from an 'l'.

The way I see it, it's a win-win situation. I get to postpone finding my true life calling for at least another year. I will be forced through means of survival to really improve my mediocre Japanese language skills. I have a chance to see extended family whom I hardly ever get a chance to see. And finally, if I have more opportunities to entertain notions of acquiring a hot Japanese boyfriend.

Maybe studying abroad in Singapore and traveling through all of Southeast Asia have simply made me anti-gay. Now that I have eight additional stamps in my passport, I may be getting a firsthand feel of the Japanese society. I have somehow given us the answers, or at least made us ask better questions.

Don't get me wrong, I'm still a little nervous about this decision that I have made for myself. Becoming a working bee of Japanese society means saying baggy-toe to my nose piercing or dyeing my hair any shade lighter than a very dark brown. If I do end up working in Japan after I graduate, I should start exercising my back muscles so my spine doesn't break from all the sudden influx of bowing I will be doing to my superiors.

Nonetheless, I can't help but imagine my future life in Japan as a ridiculous, twisted hybrid of the movie "Lost in Translation," sonic Japanese postcards, and every other Asian American novel ever written where the American born protagonist visits her parents' native country for the first time.

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**Emily Murase**

**Super Disposal XLI**

**Prejudice**

**Trash**

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**Emilie Murase**

**The Nisei Legacy**
The numbers of Asian Pacific Americans in primetime reality shows is growing. NBC has two APAs vying to work for Donald Trump on "The Apprentice," and a few APAs are popping up in the crowd of game shows like "I've Come to Realize I Don't Know a Lot About This Industry. It's Like Being an Individual to Their Identities Just By Our Lives Unintentionally Everyday. I Don't Know There Is a Burden." Kwon, who is Korean American, is the only person so far to win the $500,000 prize on NBC's game show "Identity." He discovered the audience by successfully matching individuals to their identities just by looking at them. Past identities included an APA who scored 1600 on her SATs and a meek looking APA male virgin clad in an argyle sweater. Does this sound like stereotyping? No, said Talon, it's entertainment. "I think we all do it everyday in our lives unintentionally everyday. I don't think it's a show that causes controversy," said Talon, who will use the prize money to help street kids in the Philippines. "I have great pride in being Asian American. I don't know if there is a burden ..."

"For "Survivor 13" Jenny Guzon-Bae, the 11th contestant to be voted off, the national show served as a platform to represent her Filipino heritage. "I had no qualms. In fact, I was honored," she said.

**Surprise! Reality TV Casts Stereotypes.**

"When Kwon was the other man of the APA "Puka" tribe, he saw a stereotypical Mr. Miyagi character and a gay Asian man. "In my case, they were typecasting too," Kwon said. He was recruited by producers and encouraged to come to the audition wearing a suit and glasses. When he arrived, he noticed the only one dressed that way and realized the producers were looking for an overachieving APA. Yes, it's true. Reality television casts stereotypes. "I felt a sense of obligation to help get out of these stereotypes." Kwon, who is Korean American, called the "Survivor" race segregation an "artificial socially irresponsible idea."

"They told me [about the race segregation] the night before and I was really mortified. Originally, when I was recruited for "Survivor," I thought it was a great opportunity to represent my community in a positive way. When I found out that they were dividing by race, I was close to quitting. I talked to producer Mark Burnett and [host] Jeff Probst and told them I didn't want to have anything to do with it if they played up caricatures and set back race relations 10 years."

"I was glad for the racial diversity on TV, but they did it in such a way that it could've turned out bad. What if one team dominated?" said Kwon. It almost happened during a mutiny when the Caucasians on Kwon's team defected to join the Caucasian team and began to systematically eliminate the minorities.

And the Shows Go On

Some say defining which APAs are role model worthy is a slippery slope. "I believe the community is very diverse and I think we ought to strive for showing as much of that diversity as possible," said Daniel Mayeda, a media activist. "The more APAs there are depicted — whether on reality shows or scripted shows — the more freedoms we will have to portray less than stellar characters or qualities and still be okay with that."

Other reality shows like "America's Next Top Model" are casting for the new season, but for the five new APA cast members of "Survivor: Fiji," Kwon has some words of wisdom: play with integrity and don't lose sight of who you are.

**Quick Facts**

Kwon, 31

Little Known Fact: He was named after Kwon Yul, a Korean Army general during the Joseon Dynasty.

"Survivor" Injuries: He suffered a broken nose, eye infections and gastrointestinal problems.


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**SECRET ASIAN MAN** By Tak

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TOO HOT FOR TV!!!

SEE COLLEGE CO-EDS GO ALL THE WAY!

SPRING BREAK鳥HOTTIES LOSE ALL CONTROL!

HOW COME ONLY WHITE CHICKS GO WILD?
Yoji Ozaki
Yoji Ozaki, 84, has passed away. 

Ron Nakano Co., 42-3 (Los Angeles Co.)
Beaded jewelry and fashion

Yoshihashi, Chiyu
Yoshihashi, Chiyu, Nov. 16; survived by daughter, June (Glenn) Hirono; and 2gc.

Yotaka, Natsumi, Jan. 12; survived by sister, Hisako (Osamu) Sato; and 2gc.

Yurika, Chiyoko, 79, Imperial Beach, Jan. 16; survived by daughter, Diane (Takashi) Muto; and siblings, Michi (Kosuke) Hiramatsu and Toshio Hiramatsu.

Yuriko, Yoshiko, Jan. 4; survived by 2gc.

Yutaka, Sadao, 91, vase shop, West Los Angeles, Jan. 16; survived by wife, Masa (Takao); and 2gc.

Yutaka, Tadashi, 90, Tiki Bar, Los Angeles, Jan. 16; survived by wife, Thelma; and 2gc.

Yutaka, Tad, 76, kamizushi shop, Gardena, Jan. 16; survived by wife, Mae (George); and 2gc.

Yutaka, Takeshi, 73, Los Angeles, Jan. 16; survived by wife, Reiko (Frank); and 2gc.

Yutaka, Tadami, 95, Nippon Restaurant, Los Angeles, Jan. 16; survived by wife, Emma (Norimichi); and 2gc.

Yutaka, Tadashi, 88, Los Angeles, Jan. 16; survived by wife, Violet; and 2gc.

Yutaka, Takeo, 72, Torrance, Jan. 16; survived by wife, Yuriko; and 2gc.

Yutaka, Tad, 80, Torrance, Jan. 16; survived by wife, Masa (Ike); and 2gc.

Yutaka, Teruo, 83, Torrance, Jan. 16; survived by wife, Masako; and 2gc.

Yukimi, Masa, 78, Torrance, Jan. 16; survived by wife, Masako (Seiji); and 2gc.

Yukimi, Masako, 81, Torrance, Jan. 16; survived by wife, Yutaka; and 2gc.

Yukimi, Masako, 82, Torrance, Jan. 16; survived by wife, Yuko (Kazuo); and 2gc.

Yukimi, Makiko, 72, Torrance, Jan. 16; survived by 2gc.

Yukimi, Kazuko, 80, Torrance, Jan. 16; survived by 2gc.

Yukimi, Kazuko, 80, Torrance, Jan. 16; survived by 2gc.

Yukimi, Mayumi, 81, Torrance, Jan. 16; survived by wife, Yuko; and 2gc.

Yukimi, Tatsuko, 83, Torrance, Jan. 16; survived by wife, Yuko (Kazuo); and 2gc.

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STAMP CAMPAIGN

(Continued from page 1)

American World War II veterans — the 442nd Regiment, the 100th Battalion, and the Military Intelligence Service. For the past five years a group of individuals — many of them wives of JA WWII vets — have been working on a grassroots campaign to urge the United States Postal Service (USPS) and their Citizens' Stamp Advisory Committee (CSAC) to issue a commemorative stamp in honor of these veterans. But so far only rejection letters have followed.

"Why is our request being rejected when they are recognizing comic book characters and pop icons?" said 38-year-old Sansei Wayne Osako, the group's California campaign organizer.

For Osako, a former schoolteacher, the campaign holds special significance; five of his uncles served in the 442nd and the MIS.

"It's something that's close to my heart," he said. "The history of the JA World War II vets is a key event for Asian Pacific American history. That's why we're really pushing for this.""Chir Ohira, 79, wife of 442nd veteran Henry Ikemoto. "These veterans need to have the visibility so our young people ... will know they should be proud of them."

A Coalition Effort

A petition letter to get a stamp for the JA WWII veterans now has close to 2,000 signatures. And some politicians have also thrown their support behind the effort, including Sen. Daniel Inouye. Still, the group's efforts have not swayed the stamp committee.

Last fall Osako learned that two other veterans' groups were also proposing stamps with little success: the Tuskegee Airmen and the Navajo Code Talkers of WWII. Soon the idea for a coalition effort began to take shape and now all three groups are collaborating to have the USPS issue a series of commemorative stamps to honor these veterans.

"As for combining our efforts, I think it is an excellent idea," said Sylvia Laughter of the Navajo Code Talker Memorial Foundation. "If indeed it is true that the U.S. Postal stamp committee rejected these proposals previously, it makes sense that with our combined efforts will gain greater support overall." Laughter, a former Arizona state legislator, also introduced a successful Arizona state Senate resolution to garner support for the national stamp campaign. Now the groups hope to introduce similar resolutions in California, New Mexico and Utah. Nisei Alko King, 79, has been involved with the JA WWII vets stamp efforts since its beginning and was at first hesitant about a coalition effort. But now she hopes the combined effort will finally show some results.

"Sometimes I think why can't we have our own [stamp]? But if that's the way we're going to get on then we've got to do it," said King. "I just think it is so important ... before all the vets are gone."

The Citizens' Stamp Advisory Committee

The JA WWII vets stamp proposal is just one of tens of thousands of requests the USPS receives each year. The requests are sent to the Postal Service's CSAC — a group consisting of 15 appointed individuals from a diverse array of backgrounds — who meet four times a year.

The CSAC can either reject the proposal or keep it "under consideration." Each year the committee recommends about 25 commemorative stamp selections to the Postmaster General that are "both interesting and educational."

"The decision is a process," said Roy Betts, spokesperson for USPS, who noted that a Tuskegee Airmen stamp has been "under consideration" but there are no current plans to issue a stamp. Stamps for the Navajo Code Talkers and the JA WWII vets are not currently being considered.

"This united front is their choice but I cannot comment on the ineffectiveness or the effectiveness of it," said Betts. "I encourage them to continue to take part in the process."

Honor Our Veterans

"The idea for a coalition was to have a series of stamps that would have our own [stamp] but that's been stopped. But now we hope this will work."

The idea to have a stamp for the JA WWII veterans, supporters of the Tuskegee Airmen (above) and Navajo Code Talkers (below) hope to have a commemorative stamp soon too.