

SPECIAL YOUTH ISSUE!

PACIFIC CITIZEN

The National Publication of the Japanese American Citizens League

EXTRA!
Listing of National JACL
Scholarship winners! PAGES 7-13



EXCLUSIVE!

Wong Fu Revolution!

After taking over YouTube, the trio faces its next biggest challenge — answering your questions. >> page 4



'DREAM' Come True?

Life is an
'invisible prison'
for many
undocumented
APA students.

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Checkmate!

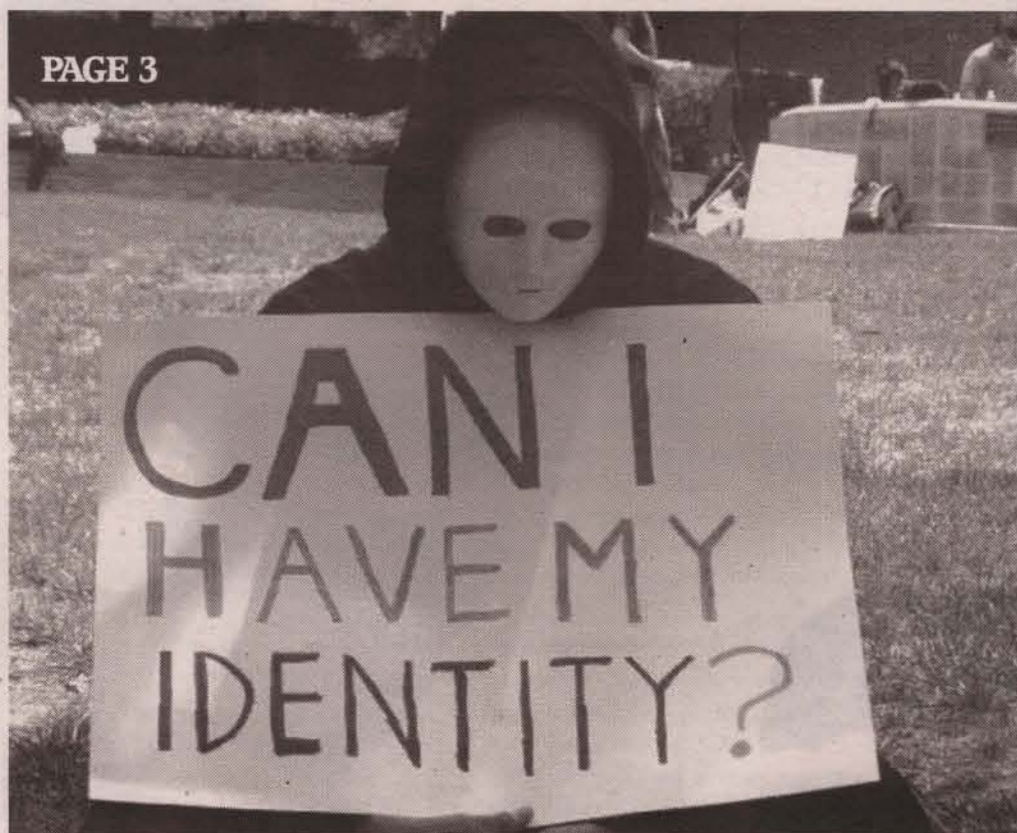
In the game of
chess, Hikaru
Nakamura's got
game. Can you
take him on?

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Dreaming of a Brighter Future

Without comprehensive immigration reform, many young APA students are not eligible for financial aid or other basic services. They say the DREAM Act is the only way out of their 'invisible prison.'



Men of Wong Fu

Wesley Chan, Ted Fu and Philip Wang respond to questions submitted by JACL youth members.

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Grand Master

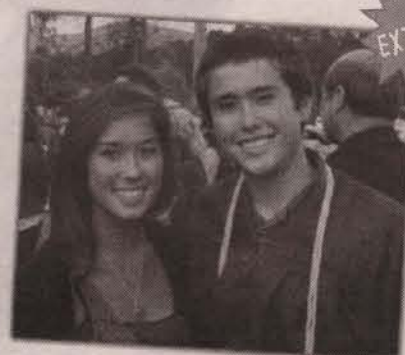
Hikaru Nakamura, 21, holds the highest title awarded to a chess player.

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Keys to Adulthood

Columnist Peter Frandsen shares the wealth about becoming a full-fledged adult.

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Nat'l JACL Scholarship Winners

Who won? Find out in the listing of future JACL leaders.

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PACIFIC CITIZEN

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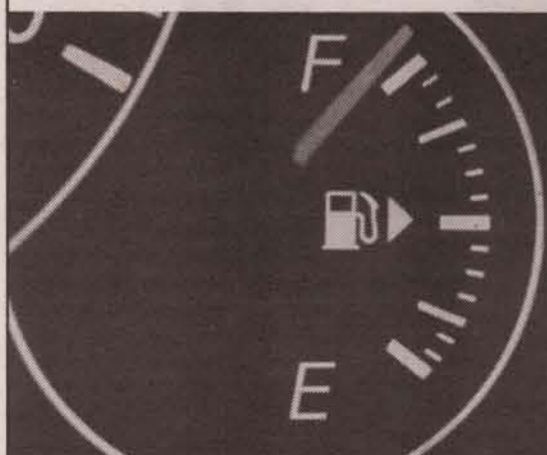
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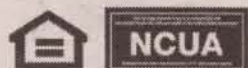
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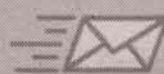
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VICTORY ... FOR NOW

Philadelphia-based APA community groups celebrate a decision by state regulators to relocate the proposed Foxwoods Casino project outside of Chinatown.

Asian Americans Continue to Rally for Passage of a DREAM



If passed, the DREAM Act would provide a conditional path to citizenship for undocumented young people who were brought to the U.S. before the age of 16.

By Nalea J. Ko
Reporter

Twenty-nine-year-old Jong-Min said he lives in an invisible prison and has seen firsthand the limitations of being an undocumented citizen.

The Korean American cannot register to vote, obtain a driver's license, work legally, receive financial aid or return to his home country.

Jong-Min said his family moved to Tennessee from South Korea on a visa when he was just one year old. The visa eventually expired, unbeknownst to him. Jong-Min, who wished to only be identified by his first name, found out at 17 that he was an "undocumented alien."

"My story is about what happens after you receive all of that schooling," Jong-Min said of being an undocumented citizen, who completed college. "This is for the other dreamers too. It's not only for me it's for them, too."

The 29-year-old graduated *magna cum laude* with a bachelor's degree in sociology from the University of Tennessee. He graduated nearly six years ago and now does odd jobs to make a living. He works at his parent's grocery store, at a flower shop and sometimes a pizza restaurant. The Korean American has dreams of one day becoming a federal judge.

Jong-Min is one of thousands of "dreamers" who stands to gain if the Development, Relief and Education for Alien Minors, or the DREAM Act, is passed by Congress this year. An estimated 65,000 undocumented students graduate from high school each year, according to the National Immigration Law Center.

A similar act was first introduced to Congress in 2001, but failed to pass. The 2009 DREAM Act would provide a conditional path to citizenship for young people who were brought to the United States before the age of 16 as undocumented immigrants.

But some say the act would only reward lawbreakers.

"The absence of a benefit is not the same as a punishment," said Ira Mehlman, national media director of the Federation For American Immigration Reform, or FAIR. "Any time parents break the law it has consequences for their children. If I don't pay my taxes and the IRS freezes my assets it's going to affect my children."

The Dreamers

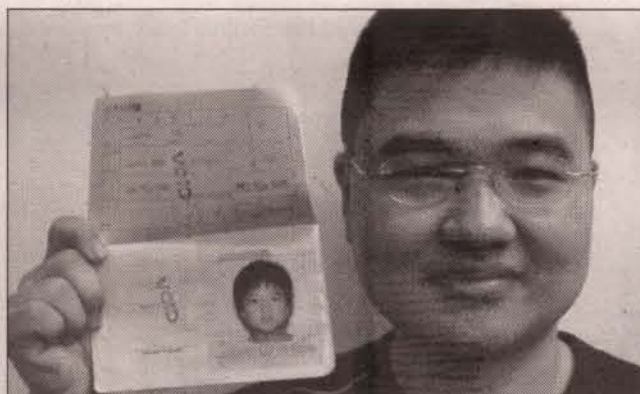
Most supporters of the DREAM Act say without the legislation higher education for undocumented students is difficult, if

not unattainable.

Undocumented students have limited options for college because they cannot receive financial aid or work legally.

Only a few states have passed legislation to offer in-state tuition for undocumented students. Those states include California, Texas, New York, New Mexico, and Oklahoma, among others.

"FAIR has opposed the DREAM Act as an amnesty for a large segment of the illegal population. It winds up rewarding people who broke the law," Mehlman said. "You also have to remember we are dealing with a finite amount of money ... We are taking away resources for people who broke the laws."



'Being undocumented is like being in an invisible jail.'

— Jong-Min (pictured above), who found out at 17 that he was undocumented.

Opponents of the act say it is a massive give-away to finance illegal immigrants' college education.

Others argue that the children of immigrants should not be punished. Most young undocumented students say they did not realize their citizenship status until after high school.

Twenty-year-old Wendy, who wished to only be identified by her first name, is a junior at the University of California, Los Angeles. The Japanese Latin American arrived in California at 13 from Peru, where she became concerned about the crime rate after being mugged.

"I was out in the street and this guy came over to me," Wendy explained. "He took my money and my bicycle. I was scared because it happened firsthand to me. It was scary because he told me he had a gun." Her family flew to the U.S. on a visitor's visa, which eventually expired.

Wendy said people's fear of immigration reform, like the DREAM Act, only limits the lives of others.

"If they are fearful it just means that they don't really want other people to succeed and other people to be happy," Wendy said, in a tear-choked voice. "There's nothing to fear. If more people are in a better situation and more people can succeed, there's going to be more opportunities for everyone."

Wendy became involved with the DREAM Act after joining the Improving Dreams Equality Access and Success, or IDEAS. It was a group where Wendy finally felt free of the stigma of being an "illegal alien."

Kent Wong, director of the UCLA Center for Labor Research and Education, estimates that there are 700 undocumented students at UCLA. Most of the undocumented students in the U.S. are Asian and Latino. Forty percent are Asians.

"We are losing a generation of talented, committed, brilliant and young people who want to contribute to our society," Wong said. "They find this cruel irony. They have done everything our society has asked them to do. They have excelled in school, yet because of their status they are barred from most of the opportunities."

Jong-Min said his status has relegated him to the underground economy.

"I think I was 17 when I found out that I was undocumented. I couldn't do this hospital program. I didn't have proof of residency," Jong-Min explained.

He became publicly involved in the DREAM Act after college, getting his photograph in the newspaper.

"My picture was in the paper and my mom got mad because she didn't want people to notice her," Jong-Min said. "When you're Asian, you usually don't talk about it. Maybe I want to change all that. This is obviously a huge problem with our community."

Proponents of the DREAM Act believe President Barack Obama's support of immigration reform is a good sign.

Dreamers are optimistic with the promise of new DREAM Act co-sponsors such as Sen. Michael Bennet, D-Colo. and Rep. Melvin Watts, D-N.C. The Senate and House introduced the DREAM Act on March 26. Supporters of the legislation, like Jong-Min, hope legislators hear their stories.

The 29-year-old said his life is in limbo without comprehensive immigration reform.

"Being undocumented is like being in an invisible jail," Jong-Min said. "You have all these invisible bars. Usually you are alone. Most of the time you are there with your whole family. Then you see that you can't do a lot of things that your peers can do. You feel that there are many barriers."

"Hopefully whoever reads this story will realize that our future as undocumented citizens is bleak without the DREAM Act." ■

The United We Dream Network will hold a 'Back-to School Campaign' Sept. 23. For more information, visit www.nilc.org.

From Online Filmmakers to Entrepreneurs



Questions
submitted by
JACL youth
members!

Their online videos and fan base are exploding. Now Wong Fu Productions' Philip Wang, Ted Fu and Wesley Chan answer the questions you've always wanted to know.

It seems like just yesterday that Philip Wang, Ted Fu and Wesley Chan were running around their University of California, San Diego campus with a video camera shooting "Yellow Fever," a 2006 short comedic take on interracial dating that took YouTube by storm and launched Wong Fu Productions.

Blink and the men behind Wong Fu Productions are entrepreneurs. Since graduating from UCSD, they've built an impressive list of achievements, including a trip to the Cannes Film Festival to rub elbows with Hollywood's elite.

Philip, Ted and Wesley have succeeded in turning their passion for filmmaking into a thriving career. Along the way, they've been breaking down barriers for Asian Pacific Americans in the media one online video at a time. And now, they're sharing the wealth with other young APAs who have dreams of striking out on their own.

Fresh off of their successful International Secret Agent Concert, Philip, Ted and Wesley tackle questions submitted by you — JACL and APA youth — on topics ranging from filmmaking to identity. It's everything you wanted to know about Wong Fu Productions. And as always, the trio speaks with one united voice.

— Pacific Citizen Staff

How did the idea for Wong Fu Productions originate, and did you expect it to become as big as it is?

— Tomomi Amakawa, 19, La Jolla, Calif.

WONG FU PRODUCTIONS: We didn't really start Wong Fu Productions with a direct idea or intention in mind. We just started making videos for fun. This was in 2003, before YouTube, so when we finished a short or music video and wanted to share it with friends, we'd send them an actual file to download. This is how our first videos started to get passed around — strictly word of mouth. The fan base just grew very gradually. We never would have expected it'd be like it is now. We're definitely very grateful and a little lucky we started at a good time.

What is the message that you would like to convey through your films?

— Amy Shinzaki, 17, San Diego JACL

WFP: Each video has a different message, but overall, we just want to tell good stories in a good way. There's so many online videos out there, and we hope ours stand out not only because of the stories but also because of the quality. We're always trying to improve and learn more. We also try to have relatively positive themes and messages in our videos. There are so many bad influences out in the media, and we don't necessarily feel like we need to add to it. Haha.

What made you go into filmmaking when the industry is so difficult for APAs to break into? And what specifically about your ancestry influences your filmmaking?

— Michelle Hirose, 24, Venice-Culver JACL

WFP: We didn't really think about how hard the industry would be towards APAs when we started, because truthfully, we didn't know. We weren't exposed to that. Not 'til we got out here and saw and heard from our peers did we really understand the struggle. Luckily for us we have great supporters and fans, so we don't necessarily need to rely on what Hollywood will "give" us. We can take matters into our own hands.

In terms of how our ancestry influences our work, I'd say just the way we were brought up by our

immigrant parents in a lifestyle that's "Asian American," which is reflected in our characters and the way we write stories. Though we do feel and hope that the emotions or humor we try to depict in our videos cross all racial borders.

What would you say is your greatest accomplishment as a group so far?

— Megan Sadakane, 21, San Diego, Calif.

WFP: We are pretty proud that we were able to make our first feature-length film in our fourth year in college with just the three of us. Afterwards we took it on a 40-university, cross-continental tour. Also, going to the

Cannes Film Festival for two of our short films last year was nice. Most recently, we're most proud of our feature on CNN's "Headline News." We had fans in Malaysia saying they saw us on TV at the airport.

How is your work on APAs influenced by mainstream pop culture, which is often divided into a black-white dichotomy?

— Jessica Kawamura, 24, Berkeley JACL

WFP: Our work is more influenced by our own lives and experiences than mainstream pop culture. I mean, we can appreciate good stuff that's out there, but we don't really look at it with race in mind. If something is good, beautiful or funny — we see it for what it is — not because it's white or black. In the same way, we hope people can see our work and not focus on the fact that we're Asian so this must be "Asian-y," but just that we're trying to do good work. We feel this is the best way to represent.

Wong Fu Productions has made several music videos. Are there any particular music video directors who have influenced your style?

— Todd Kushigemachi, 20, South Bay JACL

WFP: I can't say our music video catalogue is very extensive, so our style hasn't really been developed, but usually when we are planning out music videos, we definitely do research and bring up various videos and ask, "How can we do something like that?" Or "Let's make sure we DON'T do this." Haha. One thing we typically



Wong Fu's Philip Wang (top), Wesley Chan (center) and Ted Fu call themselves lucky for their success.

PHOTOS: JEFF SOO

No Fear Chess

Grand master chess player Hikaru Nakamura started playing the game as a child. He is now one of the top 16 players in the world.

By Nalea J. Ko
Reporter

Grand master Hikaru Nakamura has realized through playing professional chess for over a decade that some of life's greatest lessons can be learned from one's failures.

"If you lose enough times and have the mindset to get better, then the fear of losing leaves," explained U.S. Chess Champion Nakamura over the phone from his home in Seattle, Wash. "Once you have the fear leave, you can get better."

And he did.

Nakamura, 21, started playing professional chess when he was seven. At 10 he was named chess "master," the youngest American to ever hold the title. Then at 15 years, one month and 27 days, he beat Bobby Fischer's record as the youngest American grand master. Nakamura earned the title after winning the Bermuda International Chess Festival.

Grand master, or GM, is the highest title awarded to a chess player. The designation is given to chess players who have international ratings of 2,500, among other requirements. Nakamura's FIDE, or Federation Internationale des Echecs, rating is 2,735 to date. But Nakamura did not always win.

"My very first tournament I lost all four games," Nakamura explained about playing chess as a child. "It made me angry." Nakamura's parents removed him from the sport for about a year when he became increasingly frustrated with losing. After a respite, Nakamura hit the chess circuit again with greater success.

The Hapa chess player, who is half Japanese, proved his prowess in chess again this year when he won the U.S. Chess Championship for the second time. The first time he won was in 2005. And he is not slowing down any time soon.

It is perhaps no wonder that Nakamura has been called the "best blitz player," or fast-speed chess player. His chess schedule recently has been hectic and hurried, with trips to Germany and Japan. Nakamura said he is feeling the impact of his on-the-go itinerary.

"Yeah, I did get sick," Nakamura said, his voice noticeably hoarse during a phone call to the *Pacific Citizen* after returning home from traveling abroad. "It's bound to happen. Sooner or later it's bound to catch up with you."

"Usually it's not that busy. From about the first week of May, I was more or less playing

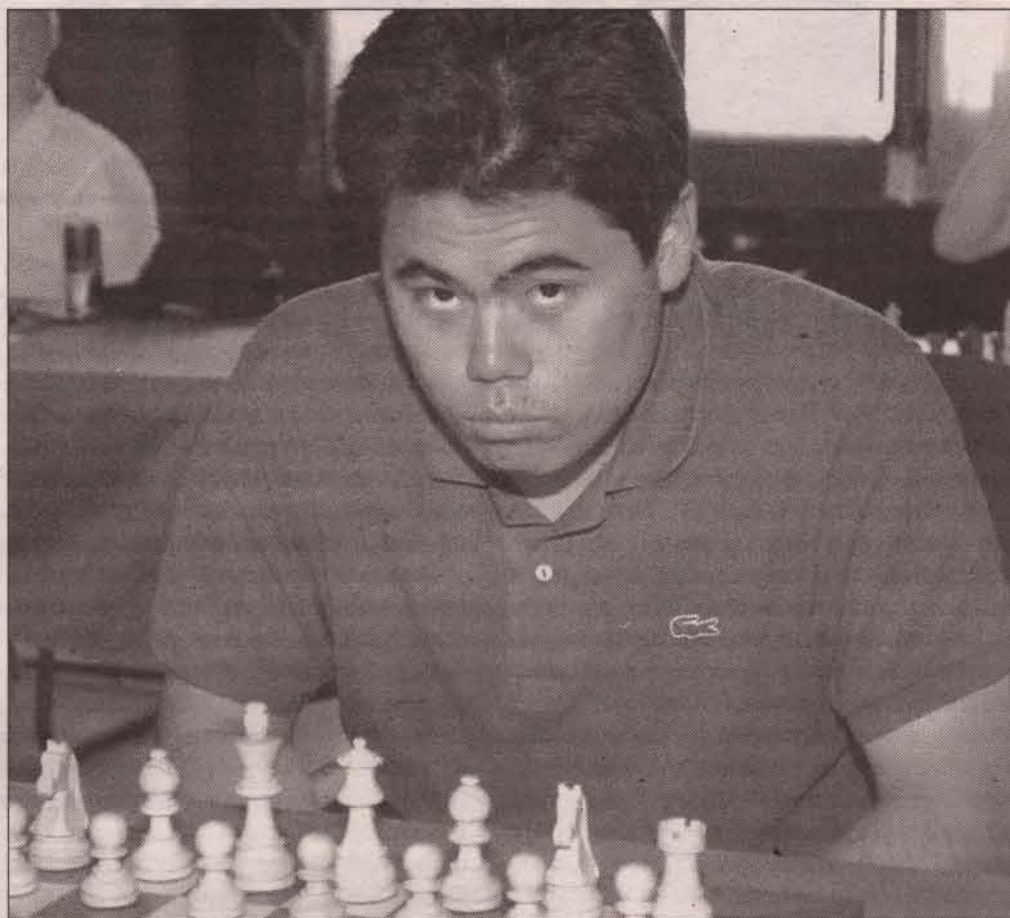


PHOTO: DAVID LLADA

At 15, Hikaru Nakamura beat Bobby Fischer's record as the youngest American chess grand master.

something with the exception of about a week. This one was definitely different from past summers."

American Chess Prodigy

Nakamura was born in Japan in 1987 to a Japanese father and a Caucasian mother. When he was two, Nakamura's mother moved with her two sons back to the United States, eventually settling in New York.

It is perhaps not surprising that Nakamura excelled at chess, the game has been a family affair.

"My brother started playing in kindergarten. He was very talented," Nakamura explained. "And through chess my mom met my stepfather."

His brother, Asuka, was once the best chess player in his age group.

Sunil Weeramantry, Nakamura's stepfather, is also well known as one of the best scholastic chess coaches in the U.S. It was Nakamura's experience going to chess tournaments with his stepfather and brother that first piqued his interest in the game.

At the 1994 U.S. Open in Concord, Calif. Nakamura played chess in the Skittles Room, an area with a series of chess tables. Soon Nakamura honed his talent and excelled past his stepfather and brother. But Nakamura's focus on chess has had limitations.

"Having a girlfriend is kind of difficult," Nakamura said in response to a question about his love life. "The few times I've tried, my chess went down quickly. At some point, sooner or later I'll probably get married."

Nakamura's style of chess has been called, "aggressive and relentless." They are terms he

does not refute. His chess personality is the exact opposite of how he tries to be outside of chess tournaments, said Nakamura.

"Playing chess, I'm very intense. I tend to be very anti-social," Nakamura explained. "I want to win and have no distraction. I remember there was a time when Roger Clemens said, 'On the field these players are my enemies and off they're my friends.' That's the sort of attitude I have."

It is an attitude that has paid off. Nakamura pocketed \$40,000 for his win at the U.S. Chess Championship this year. Despite his recent success, Nakamura said there are pluses and minuses to chess.

"I would say on the plus side you get to travel so much. I've already seen more of the world than most people will see in their lifetime. It kind of opens your eyes to what the world is like," Nakamura said.

There are also drawbacks to traveling frequently. "When you travel so much you don't have the opportunities to make friends who live in the same areas as you do," Nakamura told the *P.C.*

He is playing in the U.S. Chess League now, but will not compete "seriously" until October.

For now, the New York transplant is getting settled in his new home in Seattle. He drove four days across country from New York with his mother.

One day he hopes to go into finance like some of his other chess mates, taking the lessons he has learned from about 14 years of chess play.

"Getting to be a master at the age of 10, it sort of proves to yourself that you can do something if you want it bad enough." ■



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BY HARRY K. HONDA

Nikkei Identity Across the Americas

FOR YEARS, THE subject Nikkei identity has been a major topic addressed by youth. (Who am I?). Graduation from high school or college often means looking ahead. Those interested in their cultural heritage naturally lean on an East-West dimension — across the Pacific to Japan. But often I have suggested a North-South dimension. We are all Japanese Americans, broadly speaking.

The North-South look was engendered over the past 30 years by visiting Japanese communities in Mexico, Canada, Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Paraguay and Peru. I've heard and exchanged stories of our respective backgrounds with fellow Nikkei beyond our borders. It is refreshing to travel and listen to youth groups.

With Nikkei journalists in South America, the ice-breaking questions began with: a.) What's the population? b.) Who were the first Japanese immigrants? Then came stories of why. Often the tales held a similar vein — of Issei struggles as well as contributions to nation. Among journalists, numbers can be in the ballpark, but here Akemi Kikumura-Yano's "Encyclopedia of Japanese Descendants in the Americas" (2002) is our source for population.

WHAT WE FOUND while visiting three countries was the historical aspects surrounding Nikkei identity.

Argentina — The first Japanese (Kinzo Makino) arrived in 1886 aboard an English ship in Buenos Aires and prospered as a flower grower in Cordova. More Japanese trudged over the snow-covered Andes from Peru and Bolivia in the 1910s. The plight of hundreds of Nikkei *descamisados* was startling. They demonstrated against Dictator Peron in the 1970s and 7,000 Nikkei marched to defend the *Islas Malvinas* (Falkland Islands) in 1982. Japanese population (2006) is estimated at 23,000.

Brazil — In 1908, 783 Japanese immigrants landed at Santos and were dispatched to coffee plantations. Brazil's open immigration policy preferred families; 23 percent of the first group were married. The following decade, Japanese cleared virgin forests for railroad lines and stations into the interior and opened new plantations.

After our Japanese Exclusion Act of 1924, both Japan and Brazil subsidized Japanese immigration

through 1935, when a new constitution shut down all immigration, foreign language press and schools. During World War II, many Brazilian Nisei fought in Italy breaching the Gothic Line. Japanese population is estimated at 1.75 million, the most in one nation outside Japan.

Canada — First Japanese in Canada (Manzo Nagano) jumped ship in 1877, became a longshoreman in Gastown, Vancouver before opening a store in Victoria in 1890.

Japanese, Chinese and Asian Indians were unwelcomed at the turn of the century. It reached its apex in the race riot of 1907 in Vancouver, "sufficiently serious for Ottawa ... to restrict immigration, despite the terms of Anglo-Japanese trade treaty which allowed free entry of Japanese into Canada," as one learns from Ken Adachi's "The Enemy that Never Was" (1991).

One Issei editor came to light. When publisher Yasushi Yamazaki of the *Tairiku Nippo* saw pictures of the white mob fleeing from banzai-shouting Japanese, who fought back during the 1907 race riot, he regarded the Japanese in Canada as different from those in the homeland — more independent and free-thinking.

Yamazaki in 1915 appealed to young men to organize a Japanese Volunteer Corps to serve in the Canadian Army "for the betterment of all Japanese in Canada and for world peace." Roy Ito summarizes in his book, "We Went to War" (1984) that 174 Japanese Canadians — all naturalized citizens — were sent to France. Fifty four were killed in action, 12 came back unharmed; the rest suffered injuries. Names of the 54 are engraved at the Japanese Canadian War Memorial in Vancouver.

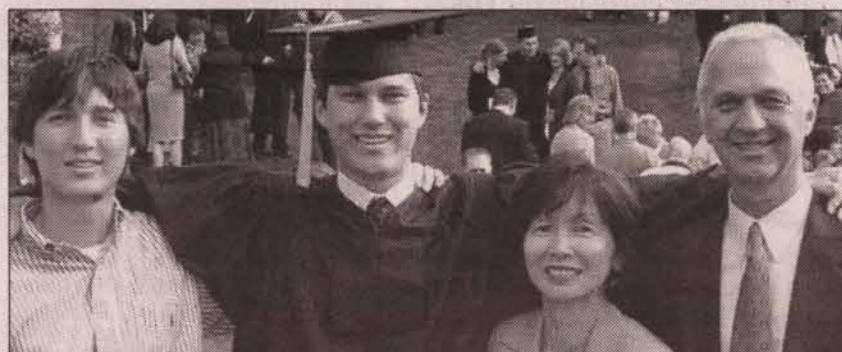
The WWII evacuation was similar (only more severe, many argue), though the numbers were not: 21,000 in Canada versus 110,000 in the U.S. Japanese in Canada — 77,130 (1996 Census).

Comparison of lives and experiences in the Americas shows how Nikkei identity can be a vibrant study and perhaps lead to a career, if not avocation. ■

Harry K. Honda is the Pacific Citizen editor emeritus.

THE SHIGEKI SHAKE DOWN Keys to Adulthood

BY PETER SHIGEKI FRANDSEN



Peter Frandsen (center) celebrated his 2005 graduation from Brigham Young University with family members Nick (left), Shauna and Ron Frandsen.

Navigating the choppy seas from older adolescence to young adulthood can be perilous.

It encompasses more changes in a few short months than most people experience over decades of their life. Hold on tight, it is going to be a rush and you are going to love it.

Since I've just graduated dental school, I am technically a young professional now. But trust me, I'm no "pro." There are, however, some simple ideas I wish I knew when I was graduating high school and college and moving on to becoming a full-fledged adult.

I like to call them, "The Keys to a Shake-Down."

Key No. 1: Listen to your elders.

When you're leaving home for the first time or branching out to a new graduate program, I know the last thing you want to do is take the same stale advice you've been hearing your entire life. That being said, listening to the right elders is essential. And I'm not talking about your parents, aunts/uncles or grandparents.

There are a multitude of successful people in every imaginable industry. It is now your responsibility to find these people and soak up as much information as possible. Sometimes I think it was easier to do this in high school when you were required to talk with your parents' friends, teachers, principals and other community types.

But then in college, your entire social structure is built around people your age — plus or minus three years. Suddenly the adults in your life (aside from relatives) become professors, bosses, and other people who hold your promotion/grades/letters of recommendations in their hands. It can be very daunting, so you need to acquire "professional adult-speaking" skills.

Also it's important to discern the difference between a mentor and professor. A mentor will teach you what you need to know. A professor will judge you on what you do not know.

Find the right elders, ask the right questions, and learn.

Key No. 2: Listen to yourself.

After high school, I thought I wanted to be an orthodontist, so as a freshman in college I went to the pre-dental office

on campus and mapped out my entire four years. Luckily for me, I found out I actually like dentistry.

What if I were wrong when I was 18 and a half? What if being a journalist or a photographer would have been more satisfying? Eight years and massive student loans later, you're going to hope you made the right choice. I think I got lucky, but not everyone can say that.

So don't let anyone else tell you what to do. You own your future.

Oftentimes, it can be easy to take the classes and pick the careers that everybody is gunning for. It might seem like the path of least resistance to choose medicine, law, or business school. But, you are the one who must be the doctor or lawyer for the rest of your adult life.

The point is that you need to make the best choices for yourself and you are the only one who can answer those questions. So don't let your buddies, fathers, uncles, or rich neighbors tell you what to be. Listen to their advice, but make your own decisions. You will not regret it, I promise.

Key No. 3: Balance is a must.

This most important component of a shake-down is multi-faceted. Key No. 1 tells you to listen to others. Key No. 2 advises you not to listen to anybody. Key No. 3 says to do both.

Remember to find balance in your life outside of just future planning. Don't study too much. Don't play too much. Don't diet or eat too much. Find the middle. No single element in your life is so important that it should create a detrimental effect on your life in its entirety.

Make your own version. You have already personalized your Facebook page, your Twitter feed, and your cell phone accessories. Do the same with your future.

Think: You, Version 2.0.

So there it is, a true three-part "shake-down." You are now armed to conquer the world. Hit the ground running and smiling and you will never look back. ■

Peter Shigeki Frandsen is living in Biloxi, Mississippi. He is a member of the Mount Olympus JACL.



National JACL Scholarship WINNERS 2009

'As a fourth generation Japanese American, I am eager to reconnect with my heritage,' wrote Natsuma 'Nate' Imai, JACL Venice-Culver member in his winning essay.

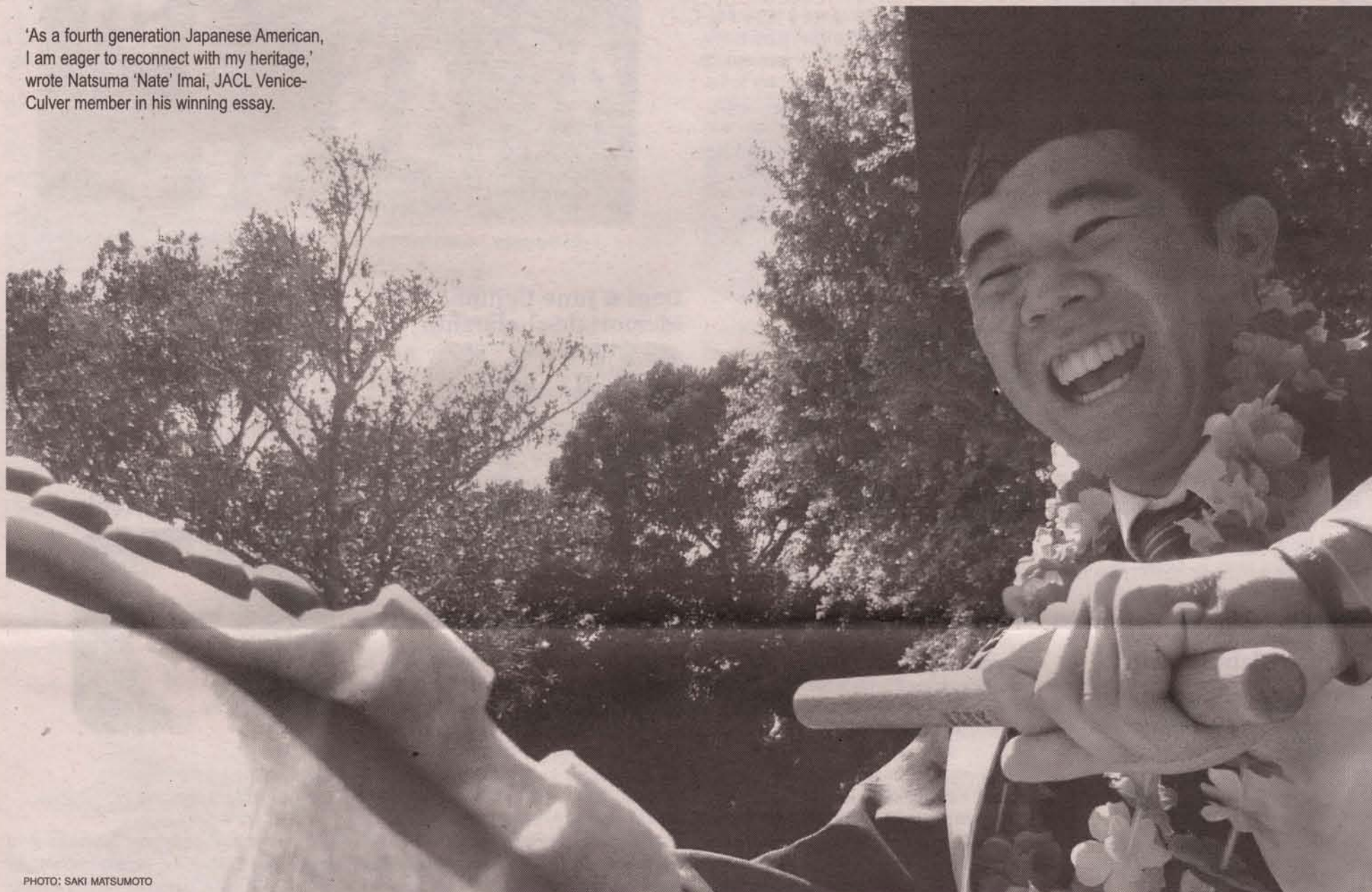


PHOTO: SAKI MATSUMOTO

Recognizing the Brightest Young Leaders

The tradition of National JACL Scholarships and Awards Program began in 1946. This year, 24 JACLers were recognized.

National JACL recently announced the recipients of its 2009 scholarship program. This year JACL awarded 24 scholarships totaling \$59,000.

On behalf of National JACL, Scholarship Committee Chair Carol Kawamoto expressed her appreciation to the Chicago Chapter, and committee of Pacific Northwest District chapters for their assistance with the 2009 national scholarship program.

Chicago Chapter volunteers who evaluated the freshman applications were: Ron Yoshino (chair), Pat Harada, Joyce Morimoto, Lisa Sakai, Pat Yuzawa-Rubin and Ellie Olin.

The PNW committee evaluated the undergraduate, graduate, law, creative and performing arts and financial aid applications. They were: Joy Misako St. Germain, Seattle Chapter volunteer

and chair; Sheldon Arakaki, JACL vice president of general operations and Lake Washington Chapter president; and Kayomi Wada, Puyallup Valley Chapter volunteer.

JACL thanks them for their time and effort. The assessment process was challenging because so many talented students submitted high-quality applications.

We hope all of the applicants successfully complete their academic pursuits and achieve their career goals.

Below are excerpts from the winning essays. Some address the question: 'What would you do to make the JACL more relevant to the younger generation of Asian Americans?'



Winner Sydney Shiroyama (left) is attending UCLA.

SEE NEXT PAGE FOR '09 WINNERS

FRESHMAN AWARDS

Henry & Chiyo Kuwahara
Memorial Scholarship

Michael Jeffrey Loy
Portland Chapter
Harvey Mudd College

"As the band watched the eyes of internees light up during our performance, we dedicated our music to their strength, perseverance and spirit of 'ganbatte.' By listening to the stories of my grandparents, researching Japanese history, participating in Asian community events and connecting with young and old through music and song, the relevance of JACL became real to me as I gained a greater sense of identity, heritage and purpose. Recognizing that my ancestor's sacrifices resulted in the freedom and liberty that we enjoy today, I am committed to keeping the spirit of the Minidoka Swing Band alive as an embodiment of their enduring spirit and as a reminder to my generation and future generations that the bridge to civil liberties and democratic ideals must never be crossed by intolerance and injustice."

Mr. & Mrs. Takashi
Moriuchi Scholarship

Monica K. Sing
Sacramento Chapter
Juniata College

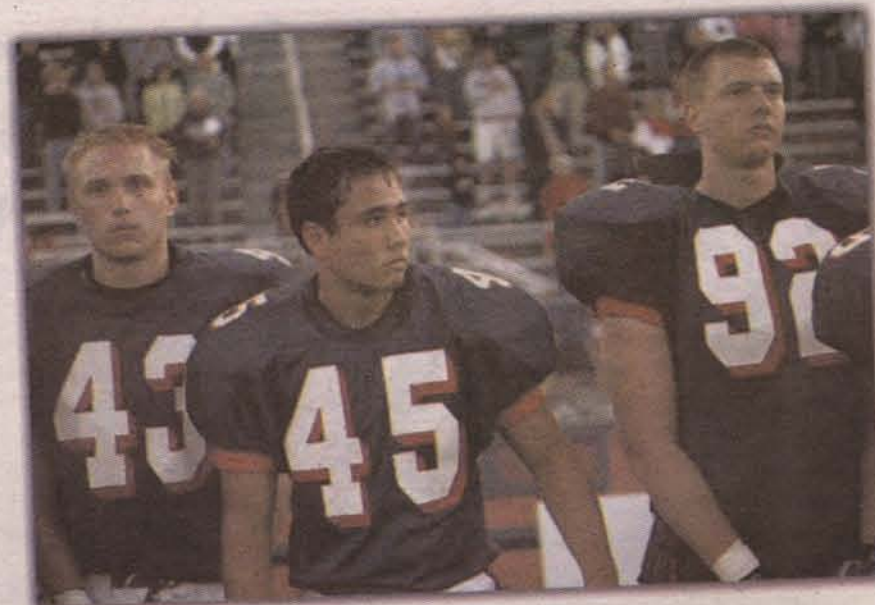
"What do Apple iPods, Walgreens' 24 hour services, and flies all have in common? They are everywhere. Apple iPod's vibrant billboards

are in every major city while their commercials permeate the digital airwaves to dominate commercial times. Walgreens has expanded to emulate the "neighborhood pharmacy feel" while remaining a large corporation. Flies? That is self-explanatory. The three also have incredible ease of access — Walgreens thrives on being convenient. The three have aesthetically pleasing designs. Look closely at a fly's wings and you will see nature's work. Consequently, it is not surprising that all three are very successful in the modern world when they have excellent publicity, product placement, and product design. The same ideas can be applied to the Japanese American Citizens League (JACL) through a multifaceted, technology-based program to promote relevancy to and increase involvement of the younger generation of Americans."

Shigeki 'Shake' Ushio
Memorial Leadership
Scholarship

Justin Kiyoto Batcheller
Diablo Valley Chapter
Brown University

"Change is the trendy mantra of the day. JACL needs to embrace this challenge, by encouraging students with small grants to start clubs on their campuses to raise awareness of social injustices, and have the students give back to their community by doing service projects together. I think giving students an opportunity to serve others instead of their own self-interests is vital to developing one's character. My favorite quote is from 'To Kill a Mockingbird,' when Atticus Finch tells Scout, 'If you just learn a single trick, Scout, you'll get along a lot better with all kinds of folks. You never really understand a person until you consider things from his point of view ... Until you climb inside of his skin and walk around in it.' JACL can offer students the chance to engage in activities together, not just understanding Asian Americans, but people of all races and their cultures."



Justin Batcheller (center) balanced academics with football at Campolindo High.

Deni & June Uejima
Memorial Scholarship

Kristina Megumi Kihara Hart
Sacramento Chapter
University of California, Berkeley

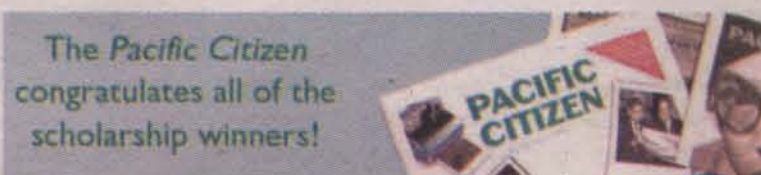
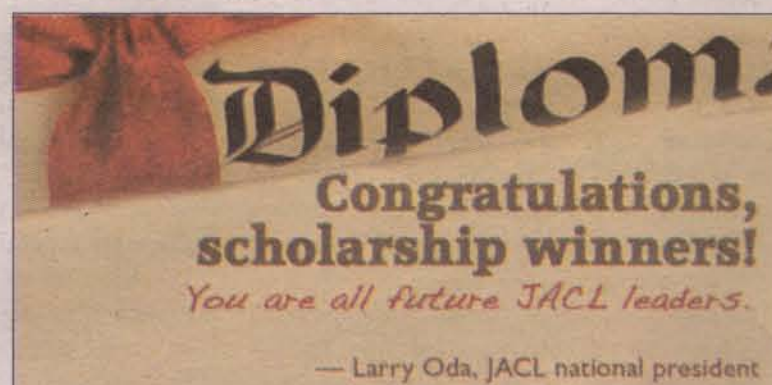
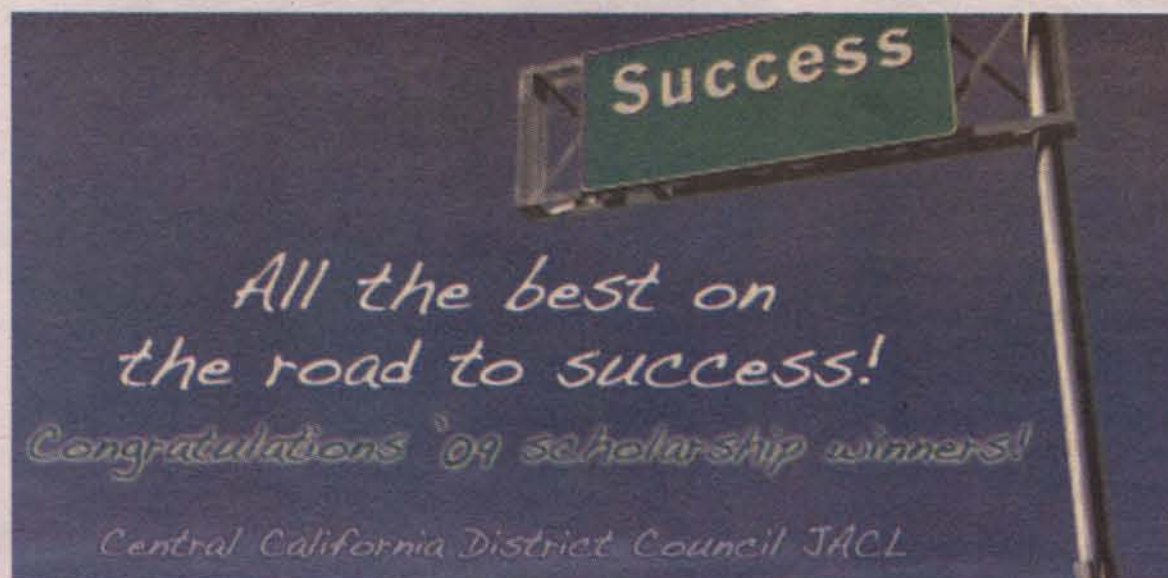
"But my generation today cannot only rely on family stories to stay identified with its Asian heritage. So, in order to continue to preserve Japanese cultural heritage in my generation of Asian Americans, JACL must be promoted in a way that appeals to those my age. Today is a completely media driven society, and most of the younger generation heavily relies on this source to communicate, stay informed, and interact with the world. One of the most accessible sources of media is the internet; JACL could use sites such as YouTube.com, Facebook.com, and Twitter.com as conduits to promote its mission and get information to the younger generation directly. Asian musical artists such as Kina Grannis, Marié Digby, and David Choi have all gained a huge following of Asian youth by using these Web sites to promote their music. JACL could greatly promote itself by following suit. If

possible, JACL could become even more relevant if it got Asian internet "celebrities," such as YouTube phenomenon Kevjumba to promote JACL's mission and Asian heritage. By sparking the interest of the large Asian community on YouTube and other websites, JACL could gain relevancy in my generation exponentially."

Mitsuyuki Yonemura
Memorial Scholarship

Lisa Doi
Chicago Chapter
University of Pennsylvania

"First, create literature for parents and kids about being Hapa. One of the biggest problems for multiracial children is that even their parents don't understand their identity struggle. Parents need information about what their Hapa children may experience such as how to explain their multiple races or ethnicities and how to balance them. Kids need material about how they can create their own identities. It is important that this material is applicable to many age groups; the younger a child feels comfortable with their mul-



racial identity, the better. Second, promote projects such as Kip Fulbeck's 'Part Asian, 100% Hapa.' This exhibit and book, which I saw at the Japanese American National Museum a few years ago, helps to bring the concept of Hapa into the mainstream. Finally, and most importantly, create forums for Hapa children to get together and discuss what it means to be Hapa. This forum could be at a national or local level, but it brings a wonderful feeling of 'normalcy' when you see other multiracial children for the first time. This gathering can foster discussion of what it means to be Hapa and where we fit in the Japanese/Asian American community and outside of it."

Sam S. Kuwahara Memorial Scholarship



David Fukunaga
Portland Chapter
Willamette University

"I'm not really sure what I would do to make the JACL more relevant to Asian American youth. However, one thing that really stands out to me is the name, 'Japanese American Citizens League.' The name implies ethnic exclusiveness, even though this is not a requirement. Also, this prompt asks about Asian American

youth. Therefore, the first problem lies in the name. America prides itself on being a diverse melting pot, so it seems as though an organization that advocates for the civil rights of all Americans should make that explicitly clear. The name 'Japanese American Citizens League' confuses the reader."

Mas & Majiu Uyesugi Memorial Scholarship



Alisha T. Green
Portland Chapter
Willamette University

"For the past two years, I have been a member of a JACL youth group called Unite People. We are a group of high school students from all over the Portland area, who are all interested in not only fighting social injustice directed toward Japanese Americans, but to all social and ethnic groups throughout Oregon. As it says in our group's mission statement, we strive to "secure and uphold civil and human rights for all people and we frequently participate in the development of understanding between all social and ethnic groups." As a group, we take part in various Asian American events held throughout Oregon where we educate others on the discrimination Asian Americans have faced; we frequently vol-

unteer in the Asian American community; we are involved in a larger youth group that brings together youth of different ethnic groups; and we study about Japanese American civil rights issues, specifically during the time of the Second World War. Through our group's work, we have helped to fight discrimination against all ethnic and social groups and little by little are working to help make our community a better place to live."

Hanayagi Rokumie Memorial Cultural Scholarship



Caroline Shizuko Chao
Berkeley Chapter
University of Pennsylvania

"Community service is required by most high schools, and many students enjoy giving back to their community. In order to create bonds between each other and the JACL mission, the JACL could organize group trips to volunteer at various Asian non-profit organizations such as Nihonmachi Legal Outreach, Kimochi, and the Japanese Cultural & Community Center of Northern California. Also, the JACL could organize students to volunteer to work on the campaigns of Asian American candidates or elected

officials. With the recent election of President Obama, many youth, including many Asian Americans, have a renewed interest in politics, and if they knew more about Asian American candidates and issues that affect the Asian American community, they may be more likely to get involved in JACL."

Patricia & Gail Ishimoto Memorial Scholarship



Sydney M. Shiroyama
Sequoia Chapter
University of California, Los Angeles

"Being a member of the Palo Alto Buddhist Temple, I am often surrounded by older Japanese Americans. I love to attend Sunday services mostly because of the people there. I believe that JACL can achieve youth involvement in a similar way that our temple has — by finding a balance between educational opportunities, and fun activities with friends, such as game nights or socials, and opportunities to learn, such as multi-generational activities where children bond with the senior citizens and become comfortable enough to share stories and learn from each other."

Congratulations ...



... to all the scholarship recipients AND applicants. Your accomplishments are considerable and admirable. Your successful efforts reflect well on you, your families and your communities. Best wishes in all your future endeavors.

DAVID KAWAMOTO, National JACL Vice President for Planning & Development

CAROL KAWAMOTO, National JACL Scholarship Committee Chair

Congratulations,
Caroline!

We are so proud
of you.

Love,
Mom, Dad &
Stephen



Congratulations to the 2009 JACL Scholarship recipients!

The Pacific Citizen Editorial Board

Margie Yamamoto, Chair
Judith Aono, NCWNPDC
Lisa Hanasono, MDC
Kathy Ishimoto, CCDC
Jeff Itami, IDC
Justine Kondo, PNWDC
Ted Namba, PSWDC
Paul Niwa, EDC
Naomi Oren, Youth



Congratulations to Caroline Chao and her family
From: Berkeley JACL Board of Directors
and its Scholarship Committee



*Serving the
Berkeley / Albany
/ Oakland
Communities*

UNDERGRADUATE AWARDS

Henry & Chiyo Kuwahara Memorial Undergraduate Scholarship



Matthew Teshima
Chicago Chapter
University of Notre Dame

"I recognize the recruitment of young, active members as necessary for the organization's survival. Though young, this generation of Asian Americans should be given all the resources necessary to carry out the JACL mission, with the hope that this results in an increase in life-long members. That being said, we need to begin with an assessment of our current membership base and youth programs and resources, implement the necessary changes, and assess the impact of the changes we've imposed. Currently the JACL has a number of excellent youth programs in place, such as Bridging Communities, and the many scholarships and fellowships provide excellent opportunities for our youth. However, we lack some statistical information on the number of people

being impacted. I would like to see more detailed membership reports, with a breakdown on age brackets, including a breakdown by each member covered under family memberships. This is a crucial time for an advocacy group such as JACL to be capturing the interest of potential or current members who are eager to become more active in special interest groups and are often leaving their home area. Therefore, college campuses would seem an ideal place to begin implementing JACL programs. The JACL needs to provide more programming designed to reach out to students in a way that is somewhat distinct from the average chapter. The success of these efforts needs to be closely monitored in order to assure that they are operating efficiently. The transitional phases from youth to college and on to adulthood should be closely monitored. The mission of the JACL does not need to change, but the allocation of resources and overall structure of membership needs to be tapered in order to make the JACL more appealing to the younger generation of Asian Americans."

Kenji Kajiwaru Memorial Undergraduate Scholarship

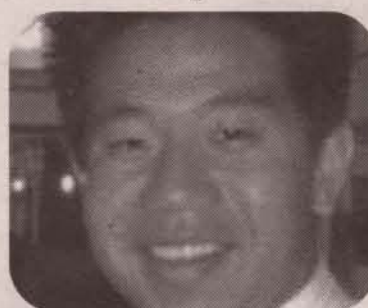


Natsuma Imai
Venice-Culver Chapter

University of California, Los Angeles

"Upon the completion of my studies at UCLA, I intend to pursue a career in architecture and urban design. Drawing upon my studies in Japanese and Asian American Studies, and my experience within the Nikkei Student Union, I am interested in using my skills to serve the Japanese American community, specifically Little Tokyo in Los Angeles. As a fourth generation Japanese American, I am also eager to reconnect with my heritage. I am also interested in studying and practicing traditional and contemporary Japanese architecture. I would love the opportunity to bridge the architectural worlds of Japan and the United States. Beyond architecture I also intend to remain committed to the Japanese American community."

Nobuko R. Kodama Fong Memorial Undergraduate Scholarship



Peter Yamamura
Lake Washington Chapter
University of Washington, Seattle

"As a member of the younger generation of Asian Americans, I am grateful for the opportunities always presented in front of me. Growing up I kept busy playing four sports a year, going to piano lessons, attending church events, and of course, working hard in school. Filling in the rest of my time with

friends created a really hectic schedule. But after passing through early adolescence and maturing into my teenage years, a lot of these activities that kept me busy quickly faded away. I had to focus on certain activities in hopes of not spreading myself too thin. A theme I have continued to live by is best summed up by the word 'fun.' In the case of JACL, make it fun and they will come! I am going to focus on three principles to help make JACL 'fun.' The first principle we must implement is leadership. Students must strive to become better leaders in the Japanese American community as well as in their other respective communities, and JACL programs must play a contributing role in helping youth become better leaders. The second principle we must implement is community. A main reason why I joined JACL was to find a Japanese American community. Students who are Japanese American will be interested in their Japanese American community if they see activities and programs they enjoy. The third principle we must implement is social. Youth need an outlet to relieve stress and have a good time. JACL should function to provide this for its youth. Tie these all together, and I think we would have a 'fun' and more relevant JACL. Lastly, it is important to recognize that for the youth programs to be successful, the current JACL leaders must believe in the youth and be willing to strive for these principles."

Alice Yuriko Endo Memorial Undergraduate Scholarship



**Congratulations
2009 national
scholarship
winners!**

— Intermountain District
Council JACL



Congratulations
to all 2009 scholarship winners!

Northern California, Western Nevada, Pacific District Council

www.jacl-ncwnp.org



**Nate has always been a
Pacific Citizen**

We wish to
express our
appreciation
to the JACL

Jane
Randall
and
Nate Imai



Mallory Matsumoto
Stockton Chapter
Cornell University

"In order to draw more young people to the organization, the JACL should undertake a program of education that is focused on raising awareness among youth of the continued discrimination that many Americans face. There exists among the younger generation the misguided assumption that the fight for the preservation of civil rights is no longer pertinent in the current United States: schools have been formally desegregated for decades, the concentration camps created by Executive Order 9066 have been long closed, and even the upsurge of discrimination against Muslims and Sikhs following the events of September 11, 2001, seems to have died down. However, instances of bigotry and bias, many of which unfortunately go unreported,

still occur daily across the country in response to an individual's religious, ethnic, cultural, or gender background. Drawing attention to this current issue will heighten interest among younger Asian Americans in the JACL and its mission, once they realize that the organization is a very important voice within the American community."

Saburo Kido Memorial Undergraduate Scholarship



Mariko Newton

Portland Chapter
Pacific University

"My professional goal is to become a doctor, possibly specializing in family and general practice, and I have an interest in integrating my Japanese language skills with my career. Speaking two languages, Japanese and English, and engaging in community activities through JACL has given me a broader sense of the world and appreciation for diversity — an attribute that has further strengthened my passion for medicine. In such a diverse country like America, doctors must be culturally competent and be able to relate to patients coming from different cultural and ethnic backgrounds. With the skill set that I have built on and will continue to develop in the years to come, I hope to provide the type of care that best addresses each patient's cultural needs. I want to be a doctor who truly understands the values and perspective of patients."

Sam S. Kuwahara Memorial Undergraduate Scholarship



Christine Fukushima
San Fernando Valley Chapter
University of California, Berkeley

"The world is rapidly becoming smaller, and it is now easier than ever to peer over borders and into the lives of those halfway around the world. However, I think that journalists have a responsibility to peer without letting their natural bias distort their view. For example, right now I am taking a class on colonial and neo-colonial Africa, and the headlines in western newspapers clearly reflect the biased viewpoint that has been indoctrinated in

the minds of Westerners from a young age. Practically every headline speaks of war, corruption, and poverty, as if they are the only things that Africa can manufacture. This is why I chose to double major in development studies, an interdisciplinary major that teaches me about a particular third-world region while advocating opening up a dialogue instead of trying to impose Western ideology, and media studies, with an emphasis on journalism. I plan on pursuing a career as an international journalist because I think that much of the coverage, which places like Africa receive today, is biased and unfair. Journalists hold the power to determine what news is, and that is not something that should be taken lightly. The average U.S. citizen acquires much of their knowledge about the rest of the world through the media and thusly, through the endeavors of journalists. Journalists have a responsibility to inform people of what's going on around the world because in today's age, everything affects everyone. Through the combination of media studies and development studies, I hope to cultivate an understanding of the places that I want to write about in order to report as an unbiased and ethically responsible journalist."

GRADUATE AWARDS

Henry & Chiyo Kuwahara Memorial Graduate Scholarship



Monica Brase
New England Chapter

University of Hartford,
Connecticut

"My interest in the public and social service sector is in education. For the past eight years, I have been working as a teacher in the Hartford Public School District in Connecticut. Prior to teaching, I worked at the Institute for Community Research's National Teen Action Research Center, training youth in community-based action research projects in order to address issues in their communities. Hartford has one of the highest poverty rates in the U.S. and highest drop out rates. I am committed to working in urban settings, and through my role as an educator, I am involved in many activities around the United States — Japan relations and human/civil rights. As an educator, the students are very aware of my pride in Japanese culture and in being Japanese American. I try to use my experiences in Japan to provide opportunities for students in Connecticut to learn about Japanese culture. I also hope that as an educator, I am always raising awareness about human and civil rights, engaging students in activities and developing the skills and knowledge they need to advocate for issues of concern to them."

Minoru Yasui Memorial Graduate Scholarship



Erin Hashimoto-Martell
New England Chapter
Boston College

"I was first involved with my local JACL chapter (Eden Township, CA) as a child. I grew up playing basketball, participating in the annual Christmas program, doing *mochitsuki* in December, and running track in the

PSW JACL DISTRICT COUNCIL congratulates

Natsuma Imai,
Venice-Culver Chapter

Christine Fukushima,
San Fernando Valley Chapter

**Congrats to the
2009 JACL
scholarship
winners!**



WWW.JACLPWSW.ORG

PORTLAND JACL SUPPORTS OUR YOUTH

We're so proud of our National JACL scholarship winners!

MICHAEL LOY

Henry & Chiyo Kuwahara Memorial Scholarship

JUSTIN OTANI

Thomas T. Hayashi Memorial Scholarship

ALISHA GREEN

Mas & Majiu Uyesugi Memorial Scholarship

DAVID FUKUNAGA

Sam S. Kuwahara Memorial Scholarship

MARIKO NEWTON

Saburo Kido Memorial Scholarship



Congratulations & best of luck!

PORTLAND JACL
PDXJACL.ORG

JACL MIDWEST DISTRICT COUNCIL congratulates

Brandon Mita, Chicago & Washington, D.C. chapters
winner of the Grace Andow Memorial Scholarship

Lisa Doi, Chicago Chapter

winner of the Mitsuyuki Yonemura Memorial Scholarship

Matthew Teshima, Chicago Chapter

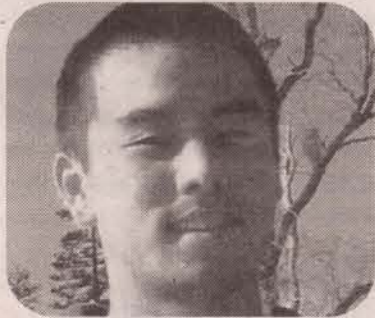
winner of the Henry & Chiyo Kuwahara Memorial Undergraduate Scholarship



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spring. It was a huge part of my growing up and my identity as a Japanese American. When I was in high school, a group of us started, with the help of our parents, a youth group that focused on community service and social opportunities. Our community service included volunteering at the Eden Issei Terrace retirement home, soup kitchens, homeless shelters, Red Cross, and events, such as the 'Bagels and Sushi' event that honored Japanese American World War II veterans and their reunion with Jewish concentration camp survivors. Through my high school times, I continued to be involved in the JACL youth group, acting as president during my senior year (1994-1995). I have always believed in the community building and civil rights mission of the JACL. It has always been a part of who I am as a Japanese American and my responsibility to the community. I look forward to my continued service in the JACL and thinking of how to move the organization forward in its mission."

Reverend H. John Yamashita Memorial Graduate Scholarship



Patrick Tokuyama
San Francisco Chapter
University of California, San Francisco

"I had the privilege of studying abroad in Japan five summers ago, which has been the most transforming experience of my life. It was my first time traveling to Japan without my parents as a means to communicate. The immersion into Japanese society required Japanese to be spoken everywhere, all the time, to communicate, unlike the classroom or with my parents. I greatly improved on my communication skills and picked up some useful slang. By the time I was to return to America, I felt very comfortable exploring Japan independently and became more educated and aware of my ethnic background, which I value much more than I had before I left. I was one of the many people who lost their ethnic identity or chose to ignore it. Being raised in a predominantly white community, going to a university where half the student body was Asian was strange. My trip to Japan helped to strengthen my sense of ethnic identity; this is one of the main reasons I ended up establishing the Japanese American Health Professional Student Association at University of California, San Francisco. I hope to continue some type of international work for the rest of my life, and feel fortunate that I am in the health care field since it will enable me to work face-to-face with people from all over the world and make a positive difference in their lives."

Abe and Esther Hagiwara Student Aid Award

Miki Tomaru
New York Chapter
Ferkau Graduate School of Psychology at Yeshiva University

"My interest is psychology in Japan. More specifically, I am interested in raising awareness of



psychological issues in the Japanese community. Growing up, I believe that I was lacking in resources in terms of mental health. I feel that the Japanese community, as a whole, is not familiar with and does not focus enough on mental health issues. I hope to pursue a career in which my training in school (clinical child psychology) will be applied to both the American and Japanese populations. I believe that my fluency in Japanese and my understanding of the Japanese culture will benefit me while working with a multi-cultural population."

LAW AWARDS

Grace Andow Memorial Scholarship



Brandon Mita
Chicago and Washington, D.C. Chapters

Howard University School of Law

"For me the pertinent caveat to that question is how can I respect the political legacy of the nation's oldest Asian Pacific American human and civil rights organization, and balance that with the need to adapt the organization to a generation that does not feel the need for a political community to achieve its objectives. Asian Pacific Americans, today, have accomplished a great many things and are working their way up the societal ladder in various professional fields with and without the help of organizations, such as JACL. The first way that we need to change the organization to meet the needs of Asian Pacific Americans is by organizing more professional networking and social events. I pose that the best way to attract new members is for the chapter to find one youth member to organize more social-type events. The second way in which JACL can change the face of the organization and attract new members is by engaging in a techno-savvy marketing campaign. JACL needs to hire fellows and staff that are skilled in the latest computer graphic design techniques and have the capability to maneuver through and utilize Web site design programs, and social networking sites like Facebook. By doing so, JACL can capture the younger generations of Asian Pacific Americans through its 'new' look."

Thomas T. Hayashi Memorial Scholarship

Justin Otani
Portland Chapter
Indiana University

"I have developed a strong personal interest in both the language and culture in Japan. I lived



Stay connected.

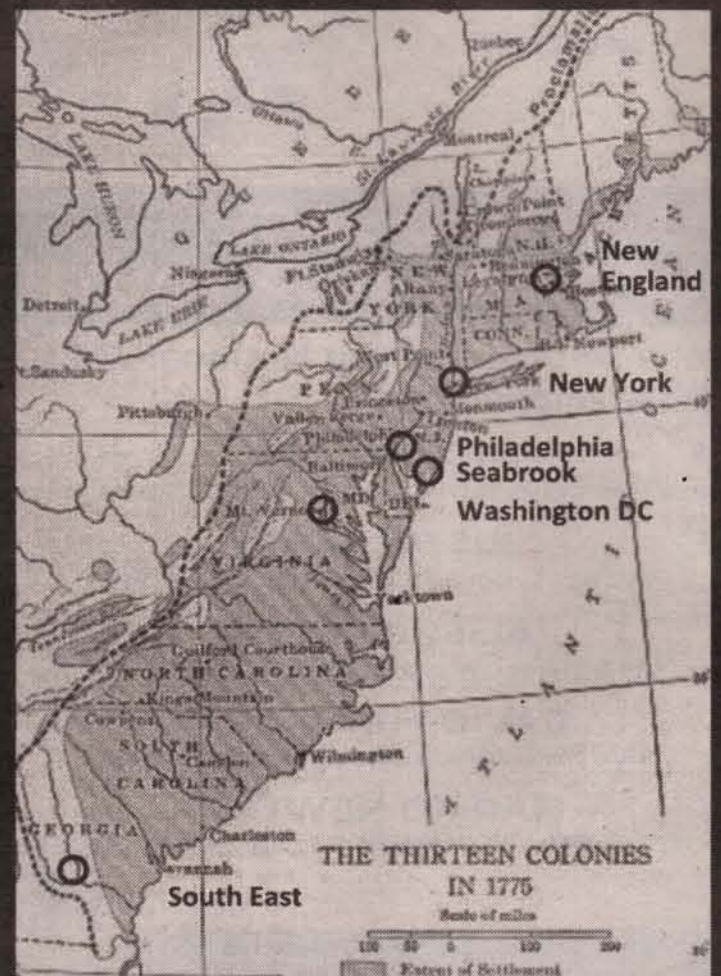
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THE EASTERN DISTRICT COUNCIL EXTENDS CONGRATULATIONS AND A WARM WELCOME TO JACL 2009 NATIONAL SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS STUDYING ON THE HISTORIC EAST COAST

Name and Institution	Home/Host Chapters
Justin Batcheller Brown University	Diablo Valley New England
Monica Brase University of Hartford	New England New England
Caroline Chao University of Pennsylvania	Berkeley Philadelphia
Lisa Doi University of Pennsylvania	Chicago Philadelphia
Kristina Hart University of Pennsylvania	Sacramento Philadelphia
Erin Hashimoto Boston College	New England New England
Mallory Matsumoto Cornell University	Stockton New York
Brandon Mita Howard University	Chicago Washington
Monica Sing Juniata College	Sacramento Philadelphia
Miki Tomaru Yeshiva University	New York New York
Hatsumi Yoshida SUNY Geneseo	New York New York





and worked in Japan for four years. During that time, I learned about and experienced many of the cultural differences between mainland Japan, Okinawa and the United States. These experiences have led me to pursue an interest in Japanese and U.S. relations. This summer I plan to continue to develop this interest by spending a few weeks interning at a Japanese law firm in Tokyo that practices in maritime and international business law. I also have an interest in human rights and civil rights work. During my first year in law school, I have been a member of the Protective Order Project. The Protective Order Project helps battered women and other people obtain protective orders. I am also planning to use part of my summer to do a legal internship in Thailand where I will work on a variety of human rights issues."

CREATIVE ARTS AWARD

Henry & Chiyo Kuwahara Creative Arts Scholarship

Hatsumi Yoshida
New York Chapter
State University of New York, Geneseo



"I have been very active in the Asian Club at Preston High School (Bronx, New York), and have used every opportunity to share my Japanese heritage by sharing my talent for origami. I have used origami to make decorations for the National Honor Society induction dinners. I taught origami to the freshmen I mentored as junior ambassador last year and found it a good way to make new friends. I believe the people at my school have a greater respect and appreciation for Japanese arts and culture through my efforts. I have also worked hard to be a good leader by running for office and making positive contributions to the life of the school. Even though Asians are a very small minority at Preston, I want to show that we have something unique and valuable to contribute."

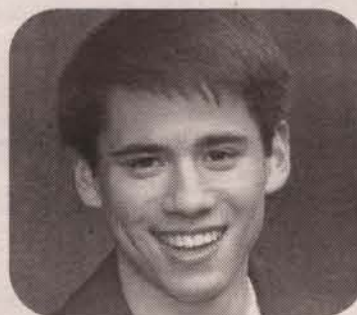
PERFORMING ARTS AWARD

Aiko Susanna Tashiro Hiratsuka Memorial Scholarship

Alexander Honjiyo
Lake Washington Chapter
Georgetown University



Alexander Honjiyo (right) hopes to create more opportunities for youth.



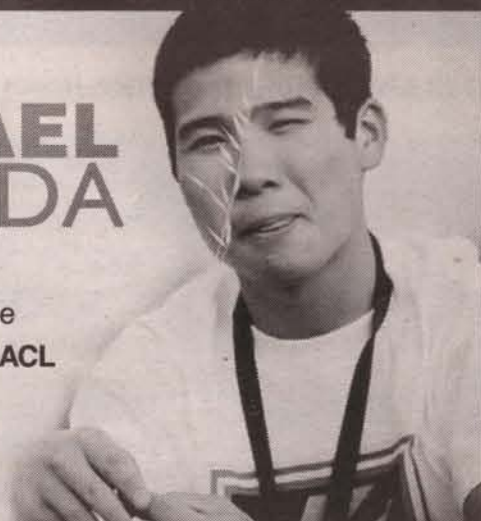
"What I hope to accomplish as a JACL member is to create additional opportunities for youth involvement in the organization while at the same time bringing more people into the League. I see this as vital elements in keeping

the JACL relevant and current in today's changing world. As part of this effort to add interest in the JACL, I would like to help educate students about the Japanese American Citizens League — its vision and mission. Without an understanding about what the JACL is and what it does, there won't be any motivation for the next generation to get involved. So a goal of mine is to use my experience and the knowledge that I've gained from holding leadership positions in other organizations like the National Honor Society, International Thespians, and the Washington Association of Student Councils to make the JACL more attractive to the younger generation." ■

CONGRATULATIONS!

**MICHAEL
NISHIDA**

From the board of the
SAN FERNANDO JACL



**congrats on the scholarship, brandon!
now hurry up and graduate already.
we're waiting for our free legal
advice!**

**love,
mom, dad, scott, and lane**



CONGRATULATIONS!

**MOLLY
SERIZAWA**

From the board of the
SAN FERNANDO JACL



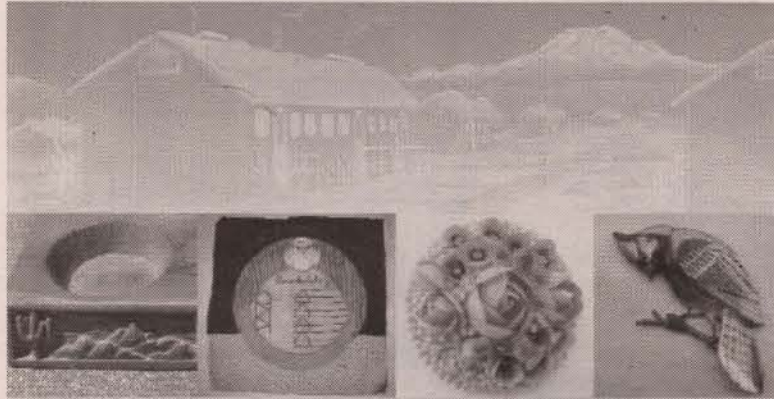
**Hatsumi,
Hats off to you!
We're so proud of you!**

**Love,
Gerri & Peter**



GO SEE DO

A NATIONAL GUIDE TO NOTABLE COMMUNITY EVENTS*



Objects of Memory Community Collection Day

The JACL and the National Japanese American Historical Society will be digitally photographing objects of memory from the internment. Bring your historic documents and photos to these meetings:

Salinas Valley JACL
Sat., Sept 19, 11 a.m.-1 p.m.
Lincoln Avenue Presbyterian Church
536 Lincoln Avenue, Salinas, CA
Contact: Myra Malaga 831/582-9548

Placer Country JACL
Sat., Sept 26, 11 a.m.-2 p.m.
Placer Buddhist Temple
3192 Boyington Road

Pennryn, CA
Contact: David Unruhe
530/582-9548

San Francisco JACL
Sat., Oct. 3, 11 a.m.-2 p.m.
JACL Headquarters
1765 Sutter Street
San Francisco, CA
Contact: Greg Marutani 415/641-1697

East Open Discussion with Kibei Nisei

NEW YORK, NY
Sat., Oct. 3, 1-3 p.m.
The Japanese American Association of New York
15 West 44th St., 11th Floor
New York, NY 10036
The New York JACL will be holding a panel to discuss the experiences of Kibei Nisei.
For info: Contact Aileen Yamaguchi, 212/873-4170, aileen8@aol.com

DO!

Midwest

Screening: 'Most Honorable Son'

MINNESOTA
Oct. 11, 2-4 p.m.
Minnesota History Center
3M Auditorium
The Twin Cities JACL presents a Bill Kubota documentary that details the life of Ben Kuroki, the first JA war hero.

Northern Calif.

Showing: 'White on Rice'

SAN JOSE, CA
Sept. 18-20
Camera 12 Theaters in downtown San Jose
The San Jose JACL is sponsoring the showing of Dave Boyle's latest

SEE!

film. Support the chapter's youth programs by printing out the movie donation coupon online at www.sanjosejaci.org.

Watsonville-Santa Cruz JACL 75th Anniversary

APTOS
Sun., Oct. 4
11:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m.
Seascope Golf Club Banquet Room
610 Clubhouse Dr
Aptos, CA 95003
The Watsonville-Santa Cruz JACL event will include guest speakers and a buffet lunch. \$35 per person.
For info: Bobbi Jo Palmer, 831/840-5436 or Marcia Hashimoto, 831/722-6859, hashi79@sbcglobal.net

GO!

8th Annual Community Recognition Dinner

SAN JOSE, CA
Sat., Oct. 17, 5:30 p.m.
Holiday Inn
1740 North 1st St.
San Jose, 95112
Cost: \$80 per person
"Continuing Commitment to Community" is the theme for the San Jose JACL's Recognition Dinner.
For tickets/info: 408/295-1250, sanjosejaci@sbcglobal.net

Sequoia JACL Forum

PALO ALTO, CA
Sat., 17, 2 p.m.

2751 Louis Rd.,
Palo Alto
Guest speaker will be Jeanne K. Smith of Exit Stage Right, LLC, the topic will be developing an organizational system within one's home.
For info: Mike Kaku: 408/985-2747, Floyd Kumagai: 650/856-9682, Misao Sakamoto: 650/493-5508

Honoring our Founders - 80th Anniversary of JACL

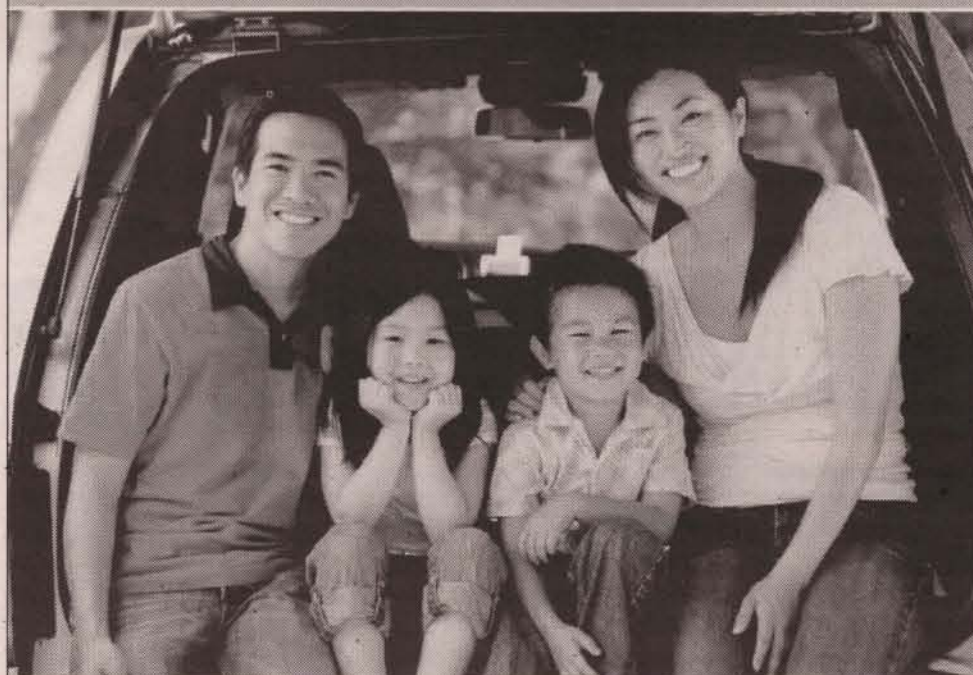
SACRAMENTO, CA
Sat., Oct. 24, 11 a.m.
Doubletree Hotel Sacramento
2001 Point West Way,
Sacramento, CA.
JACL NCWNP District Council will honor the founders of its chapters.
RSVP by Oct. 17
Cost: \$50 per person
To RSVP/info: Thaya Mune Craig, thayajoyce@sbcglobal.net, 916/652-0093 or Sharon Uyeda, SUyeda9356@aol.com, 408/259-3656. ■

*Advertise

'Go•SEE•Do' is a free limited listing for P.C. readers. Not all event submissions are listed. Don't see your event here? Find out how to get a **guaranteed** listing. Contact the P.C.: (800) 966-6157



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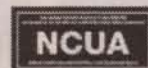
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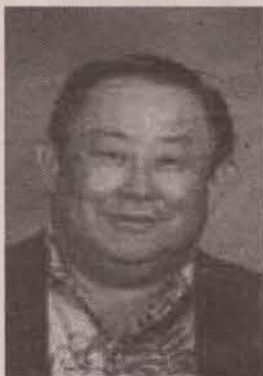


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TRIBUTE

DEAN YOSHIMASA ISHII

May 29, 1933 - August 22, 2009



Dean Y. Ishii, 76, passed away Saturday, August 22, 2009, at Community Hospital of the Monterey Peninsula. He was born on May 29, 1933, in Kapaa, Hawaii to Dean and Masako Ishii. Dean was the oldest of four children in the family. Dean spent his youth growing up in Kapaa and attended Kauai High and Mid-Pacific Institute. He

attended the University of Hawaii for two years and then finished his undergraduate degree at the University of Southern California. He completed dental school at USC and then was drafted into the U.S. Army Dental Corp. where he served for two years in Ft. Ord, CA. During his tour at Ft. Ord, the ocean stimulated his fishing and healthy aspirations which inspired him to begin his career here. While opening his dental practice in Seaside, he also served in the U.S. Army Reserve for four years. He maintained his Seaside dental practice for 40+ years before

becoming the founder and CEO of DYI Properties, Inc.

Known to some friends as "Fishii Ishii", he loved all aspects of fishing from promoting fishing derbies at Lake El Estero to fishing on his boat in the Monterey Bay. If he wasn't fishing, he could usually be found at the "library" aka satellite horse racing at the Monterey Turf Club. He also spent time supporting various local youth sports groups and looked forward to watching the Bronco World Series every summer. He was an active member and past president of the Seaside Rotary club and most proud of his 25+ years of perfect attendance. Also, he was an active member of the Carmel River Steelhead Assn. and Japanese American Citizens League.

Dean is survived by his mother, Masako Ishii, wife, Masami Ishii, children, Dean Ishii (Carolyn) of Mead, WA, Linden Ishii (Janice) of Salinas, CA, Galen Ishii (Sylvia) of Monterey, CA, and Joy Ishii of San Diego, CA; grandchildren Derek & Marissa, Kristy & Brian, Sean & Grace; sister Pauline Yanagisawa (Rudy) of Kailua, HI, brothers Lloyd Ishii (Linda) of Seaside, CA, and Robert Ishii (Diane) of El Segundo, CA.

A memorial service to celebrate the life of Dean was held on Saturday, August 29, 2009, at El Estero Presbyterian Church in Monterey.

TRIBUTE

HATSUKO (ABE) TAKECHI

December 17, 1910 - August 24, 2009

Mrs. Hatsuko (Abe) Takechi passed away on August 24 at age 98. A Nisei born in Stockton, CA, she lived most of her life on Bacon Island. Memorial services will be held on Sat., Sept. 26, 2:00 p.m. at Calvary Presbyterian Church in Stockton.

IN MEMORIAM

All locations are in California except as noted.

Arakawa, Wally "Barney", 82

July 29, Ewa Beach, Oahu, HI. Born in Haiku, Maui, HI. Retired owner of Barney's Burger House & Catering.

Hayakawa, Donald T., 76

Sept. 5, Winter Park, FL. An Army veteran. He is survived by his daughters, Donna (Ken) Brokop, Karen Fisher; stepson Milton (Bonnie) Reidhead, grandchildren.

Inouye, Robert Kazuo, 77

Aug. 18, Honolulu, HI. A retired executive for Continental Insurance Agency of Hawaii and Atlas Insurance Agency. Younger brother of U.S. Sen. Daniel K. Inouye, D-Hawaii. He is survived by his wife, brothers, children, grandchildren.

Kanda, Samuel, I., 92

Sept. 8, Keenesburg, CO. A WWII veteran. Survived by wife, Rose, son, Richard (Dianne) Kanda, daughter Kathryn Sue (Lawrence) Williams, 2 gc, 2 ggc.

Kaneko, Jack Takaharu, 84

Sept. 6, Keaau, HI. A machine shop owner and Army veteran. Born in Kona, HI. Survived by brothers

Danny, Larry, Mike, Gilbert, Richard; sisters Doris Arakaki, Helen Uejo.

Kawagoe, Gilbert Sueo, 64

Aug. 21, Millani, HI. Retired Local 625 ironworker and Army veteran. Survived by his wife, Doris L., brother Jerry G., sisters Eleanor S. Kim, Shirley F. Kurosu.

Konda, Roy J., D.D.S., 90

Aug. 21, Malone, WI. Practiced dentistry in Ontario, OR for 48 years. Was interned at Tule Lake, CA during WWII.

Kuwahara, Kenneth Kenji, 84

Aug. 27, Honolulu, HI. Retired photographer and Army veteran. Survived by wife, Carol, brother Takashi, sisters Alice Shimogawa, Dorothy Sakai, Kimiko Okutani

Matsumoto, Takashi, 88

Sept. 10, La Mirada, CA. He is survived by his wife, Yaye, daughters Gale (Lloyd) Kurosaki, Anne (Terry) Komatsu, Jean (John) Schulz; 7 gc, 2 ggc.

Mishima, Tom E., 87

Sept. 5, Lake Mills, WI. Survived by his children, Ron, Stanley, Iris, Jean,

'In Memoriam' appears on a limited, space-available basis at no cost.

'Tributes,' which appear in a timely manner at the request of the family or funeral director, are published at the rate of \$20 per column inch. Text is reworded as necessary.

For info: busmgr@pacificcitizen.org.

Ted; grandchildren Manuel, Gram, Christopher, Jason, Amy, Matthew, Grace, Charles, Dara.

Muramatsu, Joichi, 89

Sept. 3, Hilo, HI. U.S. Postal supervisor, Army veteran. Survived by wife, Kathrine, son, Miles, daughters Joyce Doi, Alma Matsushima.

Morikawa, Noriko, 95

Sept. 7, Ontario, OR. Born Noriko Nakao in Ammon, ID, married Harry Morikawa and moved to the Oregon Slope where they farmed and raised their family. She was a member of the Snake Valley JACL chapter.

Otake, Richard Mitsuo, 88

Aug. 26, Honolulu, HI. Retired Amfac Construction Materials Hawaii sales rep. and Army veteran. Served in 442nd RCT. Survived by wife, Lillian, daughter Sharon Ishida; sisters Aiko Nakahara, Shirley Uesugi, Florence Yamauchi; 2 gc.

Uchida, Isamu "Sam", 89

Sept 5, Ontario, OR. Worked on a "row crop" farm in Chinook, Montana during WWII. Was a lifelong member and a former VP of the Snake River JACL chapter. ■

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Peggy Mikuni

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Sharon Seto

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Yamato European Christmas Markets of Europe Tour - 10 days/8 nights visiting Prague, Rothenburg, Romantic Road from Dinkelsbuehl to Ulm, Neuschwanstein, Garmisch-Partenkirchen, Salzburg, Vienna.

Philippe Theriault

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WONG FU

(Continued from page 4)

try to do is always have some sense of story in our videos. We feel like that makes it more memorable and meaningful to the audience. Wes really likes Michel Gondry's music video work. Philip has been a fan of Hype Williams.

Do you guys have day jobs? Do you ever think you'll be making films/music as a full-time gig? — Jason Yu, 25, Philadelphia, PA

WFP: Wong Fu Productions is our full-time job. We also have a successful T-shirt brand that we run ourselves (www.oneyouaniceguy.com). We're invited to speak and screen our films at universities around the country — over 50 in the past three years — and we're preparing to start our next feature-length film. Planning, producing, writing and editing short films and other online content add up to far more than 40 hours a week. It's our lives.

If you could work with any actor or actress for one of your future projects, who would it be and why? — Stacy Iwata, 22, San Diego JACL

WFP: For some reason we've always thought Natalie Portman was just awesome and would be so fun to work with. But really, we're not even at that point yet to think about which Hollywood actors to use. We're still often using our friends, but that's sometimes

the most fun. Recently we've had David Choi, Happyslip, and KevJumba in our projects, who to us, are the A-listers of the online world, so we've been extremely honored to work with them.

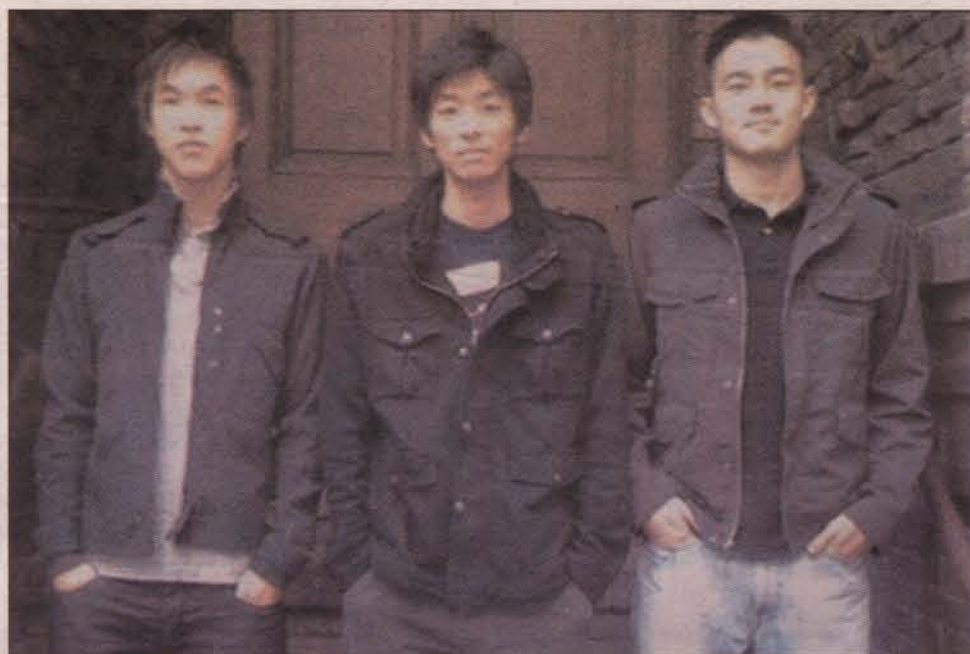
Being at the forefront of APA new media, do you plan to build an APA movement around key community issues (i.e. comprehensive immigration reform, access to health, addressing incidents of hate, building inclusion of the LGBT community)? — Craig Ishii, 24, JACL PSW regional director

WFP: We are fully aware of our influence on the APA community, especially the younger ones. With this in mind, we mainly focus on inspiring and fostering their creative sides, and hopefully without even them knowing, we can empower them to do something grand in this world (without being afraid of racial issues).

More than before though, we are highlighting many APA issues that we feel would fit our brand and image. One could say we're not political enough, but at the same time, we're still developing our own identities and opinions about this world, so we're figuring ourselves out before preaching to others.

How do you think you are representing APAs? Do you think of this while you're making your films, and if so, what APA issues are you thinking about? — Kene Kubo, 25, West Los Angeles JACL

WFP: We definitely think about how our work reflects APAs. It's daunting sometimes



More than before, the guys behind Wong Fu Productions are highlighting APA issues in their projects.

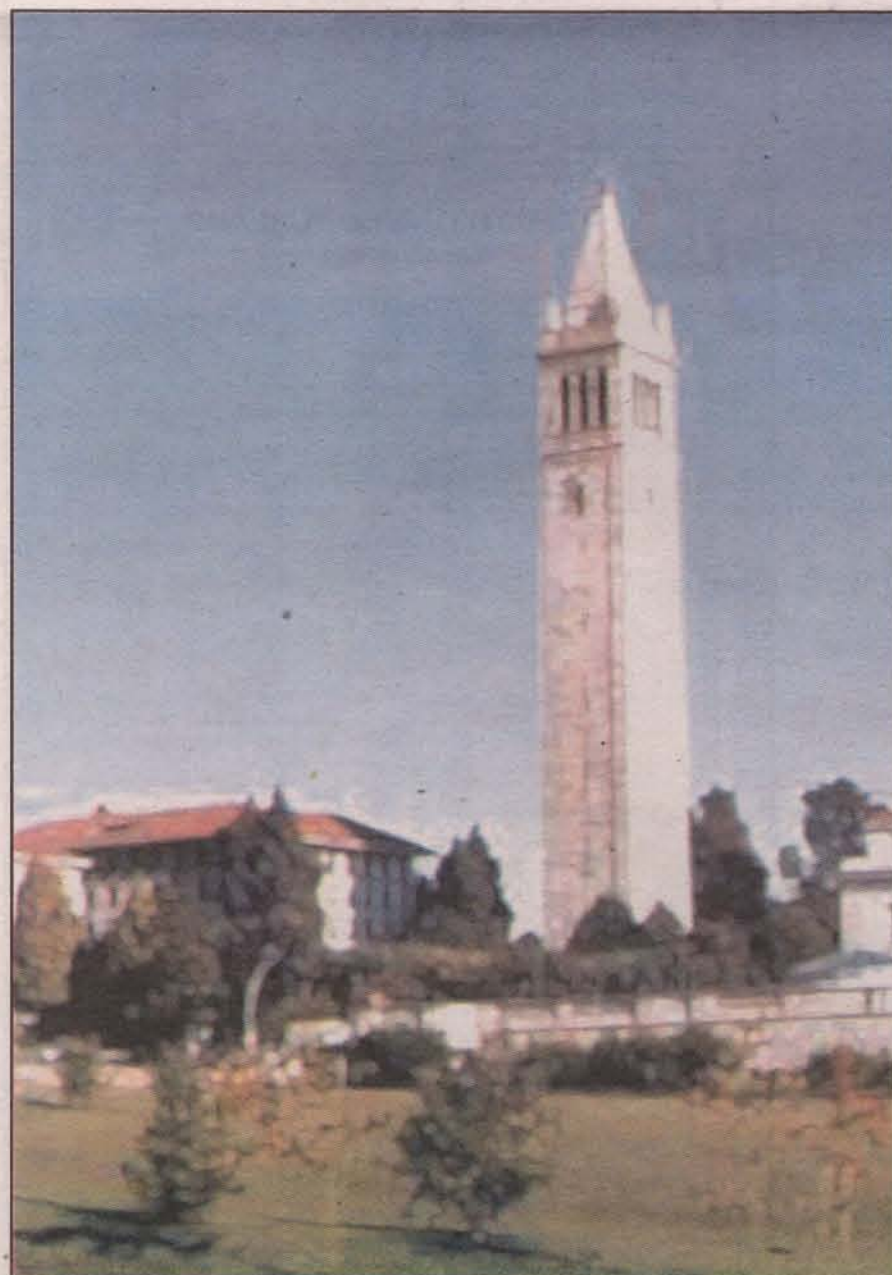
knowing that our work is on this very public and vulnerable pedestal (or chopping block) and it does affect the content we create. We definitely don't feel as "free" as we did before because we know so many people (with so many different opinions) are watching.

While we may not bring up APA issues in our work, we are not afraid to show that we are Asian. This is an issue in itself that we believe we're tackling head on. We want to show that APAs are just normal people, and shouldn't be stereotyped in the media and

should have proper representation. We don't all do martial arts or have accents. We have stories that most everyone can relate to as human beings. We really want to show that our work and voice should and can be seen colorblind. The same way African Americans can now be accepted in the mainstream without a second guess, that's what we hope will someday be the case for APAs. ■

On the Web

www.wongfuproductions.com
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