

# THE PACIFIC CITIZEN

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## MEET 'CPL. JOE KASHIKOI YO':

### Asian American Enlists into Mort Walker's GI Joe Comics

HONOLULU—This past week (Sept. 6), Cpl. Joe Kashikoi Yo, an Asian American character, was introduced by Mort Walker to his "Beetle Bailey" comic strip because he said the number of Asian Americans in the U.S. has grown 30% in the last 10 years.

Walker said he will stimulate new ideas—and perhaps attract the non-comic reading Asian Americans as well.

The ethnic roll call at Camp Swampy includes Beetle himself—he's Irish; Sgt. Snorkel is German, Plato is Greek, Rocky is Italian, Miss Buxley is Swedish, Gen. Halftrack is English and Lt. Flap is black.

Zero is just the farm hick, and no ethnic group in the world would lay claim to him, according to Beetle creator Mort Walker.

Kashikoi is Japanese for wise, intelligent, clever and essentially sums up the new character. "I've been drawing this strip for 40 years and introducing a new guy gives you some stimuli for new ideas," Walker explained. "I need a lot of stimuli." Yo was originally named Yokoi but shortened to have it sound more "cartoony," explained Walker.

He has also drawn flak in the past for taking a humorous approach to sexism. The Army newspaper, *Stars and Stripes*, dropped the strip a couple of times because the paper was afraid the black character might start the black servicemen to riot when they read it.

According to *Honolulu Star Bulletin* writer Burl Burlingame, Walker carefully sought opinions of a dozen or so Asian Americans before proceeding, including a woman in charge of Asian affairs at the *L.A. Times* and the Asia House in New York. He was on the verge of dropping the character after consulting with some Japanese Americans he talked to—"they were very sensitive to stereotyped images of take-charge, buy-everything Japanese. I was told it was OK to have a Japanese character, but he had to stay in the shadows, not say anything, and nor do anything. Therefore, no one would be offended."

But the cartoonist really wanted to install "a quick and smart and ambitious" character into the laid-back atmosphere of Camp Swampy, so he went ahead and Cpl. Yo such a person.

Japanese American cartoonist Dennis Fujitake shrugged when he looked at strips featuring Cpl. Yo. "I guess it's a stereotype to most Americans, but then everyone in 'Beetle Bailey' is a stereotype.

"The jokes aren't from Cpl. Yo's point of view, they're from Walker's," Fujitake pointed out. "Which probably means Yo won't get any more depth to him than you see here."

Walker said: "All I'm trying to do is to get people to laugh. Beetle Bailey is a family strip, a general satire of corporate life—it's not really about the Army, after all."



JIM TOKESHI

### Tokeshi Named PSW Regional Director

SAN FRANCISCO—Jimmy Tokeshi was named as Regional Director for the JACL Pacific Southwest Office at Los Angeles. In selecting Tokeshi, national director Bill Yoshino stated,

"Jimmy has a strong background in the organization. The Pacific Southwest District is very important to the national organization and it will be a great challenge for Jimmy to work in the district as a member of the staff to implement the programs of the national JACL."

A graduate of California State University Los Angeles, Tokeshi had served in a variety of roles for the JACL. These included national youth chair, PSW JACL youth representative and board member of the Downtown Los Angeles chapter.

In accepting the position, Tokeshi referred to the motto of the National Association of Colored Women's Club which stated "Lift As We Climb," stating that "the spirit of those words have stayed with me and the work I hope to do as well as accomplish with JACL is in the spirit of that motto... I hope to serve the membership of this organization, the Asian American community and society as a whole with the inspiration held in those words."

Tokeshi began his duties in the PSW Regional Office on Aug. 30. Carol Saito continues to assist as the office secretary.

## 'L.A. TIMES' EDITORIAL TURNS TIDE:

### Little Tokyo Veterans Memorial Dispute at Compromise Stage

LOS ANGELES—Col. Young O. Kim, president of the 100th/442nd MIS World War II Memorial Foundation, declared that the Foundation board, at its meeting on Sept. 5, had reaffirmed its concurrence with the compromise program offered by Michael D. Barker of the Barker-Patrinely Group, Inc., to the Nisei Veterans Coordinating Council (NVCC).

A letter dated July 17, 1990, was sent by Barker to Jim Mita, President of NVCC, requesting a response to his compromise program which included eight resolutions: (1) Memorial location, (2) Memorial design competition, (3) inclusion of the 13,649 member names of the 100th, 442nd and MIS groups of World War II, (4) special section for KIAs (killed in action) of other wars, (5) responsibility of identifying and funding the additional names of the special section by NVCC, (6) special plaque in recognition of all Japanese American veterans of World War II, (7) language for special plaque, and (8) funding for other than items 4 and 5 by the Memorial Foundation.

According to the 100/442/MIS World War II Memorial Foundation statement, NVCC was also requested to respond and confirm: (1) NVCC's approval of the compromise program based on the council member organizations' completing their respective review and ratification process, and (2) the extent of the council member or-

ganizations' commitment and fundraising capabilities.

The 100th/442nd/MIS World War II Veterans Memorial Monument was to include names of all 13,639 Japanese American—living and dead—who served in the 100th Battalion, 442nd Regimental Combat Team, and the Military Intelligence Service during wartime period.

The monument is to be permanently located in the main plaza of First Street Plaza, a \$240 million development project which includes the north side of East First Street in the heart of Little Tokyo.

Spokesperson for the 100th/442nd/MIS Veterans Memorial Committee, George Nishinaka, had said in an interview in February. "We want to make special recognition of the 100th/442nd and the MIS for their accomplishments during World War II. We're trying to immortalize the unit, as a team. The whole team contributed, a very special team."

Responding to critics who opposed the concept of immortalizing the living as well as the dead veterans, Nishinaka said in February. "You don't have to be dead to be immortalized. We're just trying to tell the story of a special group of Japanese Americans in segregated units who made history."

#### Criticism in the Wake

Critics such as Dr. Hayato Kihara, Dr. Harold Harada and Robert Hayamizu, all World War II veterans, opposed the inclusion of living veterans on the memorial—"We view it as a vision of supreme grandeur by living leaders of that group who espouse such an immodest concept of martyrdom and immortality for themselves."

And the NVCC also wanted to include other World War II veterans as well as veterans of other wars—from the Spanish American War to the Grenada military action—on the monument. Exclusion of other World War II veterans, said Kihara, "would make those other vets second class citizens."

Dr. Harada said, in the February story, it would be "terrible" to omit three Congressional Medal of Honor recipients—Hiroshi Miyamura in the Korean War; Terry Kawamura and Rodney Yano, both awarded posthumously for bravery in the Vietnam War.

The Barker compromise program comes after the *Los Angeles Times* editorial, "Local Watch," introduced a compromise concept the day after an article on the veterans monument controversy, entitled "Battle Zone," written by Times staff writer Gary Libman, appeared on June 28, prominently on the front page of its View Section.

In the editorial, Bill Watanabe, executive director of the Little Tokyo Service Center, was quoted, "I would say why don't they compromise?"

"The answer now rests with the  
*Continued on Page 10*



Courtesy Honolulu Star-Bulletin

'BEETLE BAILEY'—A nation-wide comic strip created by Mort Walker this week adds Cpl. Joe "Kashikoi" Yo—seen above in a dialogue with a farm hick, Private Zero.

## JACL SCHOLARSHIP AWARDS (Pages 6 - 9)

### JACL Scholarships Totalling \$72,200 Awarded to 40 Graduates, Freshmen

The National JACL Scholarship and Awards Program enjoyed another successful year in 1990. According to National Director Bill Yoshino, the JACL awarded 40 scholarships totaling \$72,200 to entering freshmen, undergraduates and graduate students. In addition, scholarships were awarded in the field of law, the performing arts, and in financial aid categories.

(A complete profile with photographs of the awardees appear inside this issue starting on page 6.)

The national scholarship committee, chaired by Teresa Maebori of Philadelphia JACL, reviewed 279 applications. Of these, 122 were freshmen

candidates who had been prescreened by their chapters. The pool of applicants included National Merit Scholars, class valedictorians and students who had graduated magna cum laude. In selecting the recipients, the committee utilized a criteria that included academic achievement, proven leadership and dedication to campus and community work.

Changes in the 1990 Scholarship Program included:

The awarding of the Henry and Chiyo Kuwahara scholarships in the amount of \$5,000 to two entering freshmen.

In the financial aid category, students were asked to submit proof of financial need and these students were also made eligible for the general selection process which resulted in awards of \$17,500.

In commenting on the 1990 recipients, Yoshino observed, "It is important to note from the biographies, the personal essays and the letters of recommendation that the 1990 recipients have a deep interest in community involvement and a strong appreciation for their identity as Japanese Americans. The JACL has a commitment to provide for leadership development and the challenge for all of our youth is to be a part of that leadership in the future."

### L.A. County Hate Crimes Hit Record Levels for 1990

LOS ANGELES—Racially and religiously motivated crimes in Los Angeles County reached record levels during the first half of 1990, according to the Sept. 6 mid-year report from the county Commission on Human Relations.

The escalating number of immigrants is a top factor in rising hate crimes, noted Deputy Sheriff Tom Greep of special investigations who noted that increased Asian and Latino populations provide greater numbers of targets.

Acts against Asian rose more than three-fold, from 7 during the first half of 1989 to 23 this year; against Latinos, from 11 to 14.

The increase has been so dramatic that the findings were reported to the Board of Supervisor at this time, rather than in the annual report, said commission executive director Eugene Mornell.

The Asian Pacific American Legal Center said it is beginning programs to teach leaders in the Asian community how to deal with ethnic misconceptions and with members of other races. "It comes down to how do we work and play well together," civil rights attorney Kathy Imahara for APALC commented.

## NEWS IN BRIEF

### Selma Country Club Admits Japanese Member

SELMA, Ala.—The all-white Selma Country Club reversed itself Aug. 24 and extended membership to a Japanese businessman whose application to the golf club had been rejected the previous month. Hiroshi Isogai, 55, manager of Honda All Lock Manufacturing Co. plant in Selma, in an interview after his initial rejection said he just wanted to play golf at the club.



## Minoru Yasui Bronze Bust Dedicated in Sakura Square



**DENVER, AUG. 11**—Family members and dignitaries honored the memory of late Minoru Yasui at the unveiling of a bronze likeness, at Sakura Square. Top—At the unveiling: Mayor Federico Peña, Holly Yasui, True Yasui, Judge Sherman Finesilver, Cressey Nakagawa, Rep. Pat Schroeder, Iris Yasui Moinat and Laurel Yasui Hawkins. Right—Bronze likeness of the late Minoru Yasui; Lower—(From left) Cressey Nakagawa, former Denver Mayor William McNichols, Rocky Mountain News columnist Gene Amole, Rep. Patricia Schroeder (D-Colo.); Chief Judge Sherman Finesilver, U.S. District Court, and emcee Tom Masamori, who spoke at the dedication. Nearly 450 attended, including a contingent of WWII veterans and Go For Broke National Veterans Association members.

Photos by Tom Masamori

### Overview of the Office of Redress Administration:

## Six 'George Matsudas' Apply for Redress; How the ORA Is Able to Distinguish Them Apart

[The third in a series of five articles by and about the Office of Redress Administration.]

WASHINGTON  
**T**O obtain current address information, ORA has engaged in an ongoing public outreach campaign, as instructed in the Civil Liberties Act. Through advertisements, literature, a toll-free telephone line, speaking engagements, radio and television coverage, contacts with representatives of Congress, and the cooperative efforts of groups such as the JACL and others, ORA has been informing and educating the public about redress and collecting current addresses.

In addition, ORA has sought current address information through the records of the Social Security Administration, state vital statistics bureaus, the Motor Vehicle Division of the State of California, the Internal Revenue Service, and from correspondence that was received by the National Archives before ORA was established.

George Matsuda, mentioned earlier, probably didn't know that there were in fact four individuals named George Matsuda who were interned. Or that there were also six individuals named George Matsuda, or that one George Matsuda was actually George Matsuda, but his name was misspelled when he was transferred from one camp to

another, or, that since it is typical for individuals with both American and Japanese names to use them interchangeably, today's George K. Matsuda might be listed in historical records as Kenji G. Masuda, or Matsuda, if his last name were misspelled.

All these things have to be sorted out, and the correct George linked to the correct current address, before ORA can confidently contact George Matsuda.

This is one reason why ORA wanted to see George Matsuda's telephone bill. It didn't necessarily have to be his telephone bill, it could have been any current printed document containing his full name and address, to serve as evidence of current name and address for ORA. This information is vital because ORA does not want to send George Matsuda's redress payment to anyone but the real George Matsuda.

In addition, George Matsuda might have difficulty depositing a check made out to Kenji G. Matsuda.

In October 1990 and again in October 1991, Congress will supply ORA with enough money to make 25,000 redress payments of \$20,000 each, totalling \$500 million.

During the other 11 months of the year, ORA will be busy solving the puzzles presented by the likes of eight Frank Itos, and the nine George Yoshidas, and keeping files up to date as these individuals change address; or, for those that may have passed away from August 10, 1988, keeping track of a spouse or children, who are then eligible to receive payment.

During those other 11 months, as they have been doing since August 1989, Robert Bratt and his ORA staff are busy identifying and locating eligible individuals by linking current names with historical records; and verifying identities and current addresses through those oversized brown government envelopes containing a letter, a form, and two pages of instructions.

(The next article in this series: *The Redress Hotline*)

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### Candidate for Berkeley School Board:

## Asian Task Force Founder to Run

BERKLEY, Calif.—Long-time Asian community leader David Kakishiba is a candidate for the school board in the City of Berkeley. His campaign will kick-off at a reception Sept. 15, 3 p.m., at the China Station Restaurant. Gene Roh, only Asian ever to serve on the Berkeley School Board, will be the main speaker.

A Berkeley JACL member and founder of the Berkeley Asian Task Force, for the past ten years he has served as executive director of the Berkeley Asian Youth Center, providing direct services to Asian youth in Alameda County. As director, he has worked to provide academic instruction, counseling and multilingual social services to over Asian youth and families annually.



DAVID KAKISHIBA

The Berkeley public schools, Kakishiba observed, have suffered major cutbacks in funding which have greatly weakened the quality of public education. The major issues are the two-tiered system of academic performance, declining student enrollment and attendance, a projected \$2-million budget deficit, and a growing lack of public confidence in the Berkeley schools.

Kakishiba was recently appointed to the Asian/Pacific Islander Advisory Committee of the California Department of Alcohol and Drug Programs. He is currently a field representative to the Berkeley School Board.

new drug prevention program for high-risk Asian, Chicano and African American youth. RAP is a collaborative effort among the nine city and community-based agencies and the University of California.

A native of Sacramento, his parents, George and Taeko Kakishiba, still live there; his father is president of the Wakayama Kenjin-kai.

His campaign coordinator Catherine Lew may be reached at (415) 841-4640, 1039 Bancroft Way, Berkeley, CA 94710.

He was awarded a \$297,000 grant from the city council last year to establish RAP—Real Alternatives Project, a

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## EDITORIAL OF THE PACIFIC CITIZEN

### A Scenario for October 1

Consider this scenario. It is late September, a beautiful time of year, but all is not well across the land.

Congress, bogged down by politics, fearful of the prolonged Persian Gulf crisis, wary of recession or even an economic depression, seems paralyzed and unable to agree by the deadline of Oct. 1 on a budget that comes anywhere near trimming the deficit by the target figure of \$64 billion.

Without such cuts the federal government, under the Gramm-Rudman-Hollings directive, must make deep across-the-board spending reductions. Relief and other social service programs will be curtailed, bringing further woe to big cities and depressed areas. Some airports will be closed. Education and health services will face cut-backs. Federal prisoners will be furloughed. Medicaid may be threatened.

No solution is in sight for Middle East problems. It looks as though U.S. forces will be in Saudi Arabia and surrounding waters for a long time. The Pentagon's bills mount by the tens of millions each day. President Bush's advisers now talk openly of the need for stiff increases in taxes on incomes, fuel, airline tickets and other commodities.

Oct. 1 poses another kind of deadline. The Office of Redress Administration in the U.S. Department of Justice, carrying out a Congressional mandate, begins mailing Redress checks to the frail, oldest survivors of a great American tragedy, the mass imprisonment of Japanese Americans during World War II. The checks constitute but token recompense for a terrible injustice for which the U.S. government has apologized, and are long overdue.

Some \$500 million will be distributed the first year, and the total payment will be but \$1.2 billion, a pittance compared to the treasury funds flowing out for other national needs. But government money going directly to some individuals citizens will attract notice, not all of it favorable, at a time when all are being told they must dig deeper to pay the government's bills.

The beginning of Redress payments was to be a time of rejoicing, an opportunity to help Americans understand the cost of injustice, an occasion for pride that the United States was noble enough to admit its mistakes and take measures to assuage them.

Unfortunately the hate and hysteria that led to the evacuation and imprisonment of an ethnic minority in 1942 has only diminished; it has not been eradicated despite the exemplary conduct of Japanese Americans. Extensive publicity for Redress at this particular time in history has the possibility of reviving the bigotry, fanning the hate.

This is not to suggest any change in the course of the Redress program, an entitlement delayed too long. There can be no doubt about that. But second thoughts about how we celebrate our victory for justice may be in order.



## FROM THE FRYING PAN

BILL HOSOKAWA

### Historical Plaza by the Willamette

Without doubt the most impressive part of the Greater Portland Reunion, reported on in this space last week, was the dedication of the Japanese American Historical Plaza on the banks of the Willamette River only a long stone's throw from the heart of the city.

It was a clear, sunny morning and the crowd jammed the Plaza long before the announced time. This was to be a day of rejoicing and significance. In his gentle, understated comments in the commemorative booklet, Henry Sakamoto, president of the Oregon Nikkei Endowment, put it far better than I can:

"Until now, no major U.S. city has created a prominent memorial to honor its Japanese-American citizens, and to acknowledge the tragedy of the wartime internment.

"Today, Portland, Oregon's Japanese American Historical Plaza breaks new ground in opening greater public awareness about the diversity of cultural experiences in America. The Japanese-American experience is one worth knowing about, a unique story that evokes a deep appreciation of the freedoms granted to all Americans by their Constitution's Bill of Rights.

"The Japanese American Historical Plaza tells much of its story in bronze relief and engraved poetry. But in keeping with the Japanese tradition, the landscape itself tells a story. Walk along the south end of the stone wall toward the north, following the flow of the Willamette River, and consider the history of Japanese-Americans from the early Issei immigrants to the new generation today. Then, walk from the bronze columns toward the River, and remember the Bill of Rights and the internment that should never have happened.

"The Japanese American Historical Plaza was designed to speak to its visitors, affirming ideals that are among the highest of the nation. Hopefully, it will in some way speak to you."

At the time Issei pioneers and their young offspring lived in the Burnside area not far from the present Plaza, the Willamette's banks were lined with run-down warehouses and rotting boat landings. Civic pride would not let it remain that way. The land was cleared and reclaimed as the Tom McCall

Waterfront Park, named after the militantly environmentalist governor.

To win a large and desirable section of the park for the Historical Plaza was a coup for Japanese Americans and a tribute to the civic status they have gained since their return from the wartime camps. Bill Naito, finance chairman, and his brother Sam are major real estate developers. George Azumano, whose travel agency is said to be Oregon's largest, has been eminently successful in promoting tourism for the state. Lawson Inada, whose spare, Haiku-style poetry along with that of Hisako Saito and the late Shizue Iwatsuki graces the Plaza, teaches English at Southern Oregon State College. Robert Murase's firm was the landscape architect. Jim Gion created the sculpture towers. Masatoshi Izumi was the stonemason. There are many more.

If Oregonians can look into the past, they also look far ahead. The Oregon Nikkei Endowment, the entity that sponsored the drive for the memorial, is pledged to raise a minimum of \$100,000 to be placed in trust for its perpetual maintenance.



## EAST WIND

BILL MARUTANI

### The Sergeant and the 'Hiki-Agés'

UPON JAPAN'S SUDDEN capitulation in August 1945, its military forces in various parts of the Pacific found themselves isolated. The largest body of such military men were in China, principally in Manchuria which the Japanese had been colonizing since at least the mid-1930's. With the end of the Pacific War, these Japanese colonists, and ultimately the military servicemen, were being repatriated back to Nippon—the hiki-agé-sha's or "repatriates." The Chinese Communists, although competing with the forces of General Chiang Kai-shek, already controlled large segments of China. These Communists were intent upon forging post-war Japan into another Communist satellite; toward this end an overall program of brain-washing the Japanese colonists and Japan's Manchurian forces, had been formulated and was being implemented. We were later to confirm that the Communists had comprehensive plans to establish cells in strategic regions throughout Japan.

To meet this threat, one of the steps taken by American military forces was to set up intelligence screening teams at key entry ports to Japan, namely Sa-

sebo ("Hario") in Kyushu and Maizuru port in Shimane-ken.

TRAINED COMMUNIST agents were being sent through with the hiki-agéshas and the teams' objective was to ferret out such agents and elicit as much secret data as possible. Often British Intelligence was involved with

the Americans in this venture. As the questioning and screening proceeded, bits of information, which initially seemed inconsequential, would ever so slowly begin to give a hint of what the overall Communist organizational

Continued on Page 10

## In The Pacific Citizen 45 Years Ago

WASHINGTON—The Minidoka Relocation Center at Hunt, Idaho, has the highest relocation rate of all WRA centers since the reopening of the West Coast. The center lost 30.1 percent, or 47,972 of its wartime population.

SALT LAKE CITY—Public attitudes towards Japanese Americans are improving rapidly according to Rex Lee, chief of the relocation division of the WRA.

PITTSBURG, Pa.—WRA officials planned preparations to relocate 200 evacuees into this area. Meanwhile, a "250-member citizens committee" in a "disorderly mass meeting" protested against their temporary resettlement.

LOS ANGELES—Believed to be the first Nisei baby born in Los Angeles since evacuation in 1942, a boy, Steven Jin, was born to Toshiko Kawa, wife Taro Kawa.

CAMP KILMER, N.J.—The first three Nisei WACs to be assigned here are now on duty with 533 other women soldiers. They are Pfc. Kay Nishiguchi, Pfc. Miyoko Sadahiro and Pvt. Toshiko Nakasato.

## MONITOR



"As allies, we felt we had to share the burden of America's military commitment. Here's a \$600 rebate coupon for your next Toyota or BMW."

Beattie—Daytona Beach News-Journal

Readers wishing to send items to the Monitor should address their submissions to the P.C. Editor.

## Sumitomo Bank of Calif. Announces Its 1990 \$1,000 Scholarship Winners



Accepting a \$1,000 scholarship is Mrs. Aiko Mikami of Lodi for her son Jason, now at UC Berkeley, from Sumitomo Bank of California officials, Howard Miyashiro (left) vice president and deputy manager, and Takashi Yamamori, vice president and manager of the bank's Sacramento office. (These scholarships by Sumitomo Bank are made annually through the JACL.)



Robyn Kimura, June graduate of La Jolla High, holds \$1,000 scholarship award while her parents, James and Dorothy Kimura (at right) of San Diego, and Tadao Komuro (left), vice president and manager of the bank's San Diego office, look on.



Susan S. Matsui of Los Angeles, graduate student at USC Law Center, receives a \$1,000 scholarship from Clyde Furumoto (left), vice president and general manager of the bank's Los Angeles main office. At right is Frank Omatsu, public relations consultant and among the first Nisei to be employed by the bank after World War II.

### AYA SANSEI

## A Change in Kabuki?

**Editor's Note:** During World War II a writer signing herself Ann Nisei presented the feminine viewpoint from time to time to *Pacific Citizen*. Now her spiritual daughter will be writing occasional columns under the pseudonym Aya Sansei.

I imagine my dilemma. Here I am, an art-loving devotee of the theater and advocate of feminine rights, and a booby trap blows up right in my face.

It happened at the Japanese American Theatre in Li'l Tokyo when the Grand Kabuki troupe staged "Osome Hisamatsu Ukina no Yomiuri." It is a classic kabuki play about faithless love and double suicide in the best of Japanese dramatic tradition.

The star of the play is Nakamura Kotaro V, one of the bright young art-

ists of kabuki. In fact, he is so good that he plays four parts. One of them is Hisamatsu, an apprentice in a pawnshop and, as it turns out, the faithless lover.

Kotaro—kabuki actors are known by their first names—also plays the parts of Omitsu who is Hisamatsu's fiancée, a young woman named Osome, and an evil older woman named Oroku.

By now you should be getting the drift. Kotaro is a male and a very attractive one. It's natural that he plays a male role. But he also plays the parts of not one, not two, but three women. All in a single play. Not farcical comedy roles, but serious dramatic parts. Why should he do this? Why shouldn't

As you may or may not know, the National JACL is currently in the midst of its most critical undertaking since the Redress effort began 12 years ago. We are attempting to create a "legacy" for our children, our grandchildren, and for generations to come.

Our goal is to raise \$10,000,000 over a three-year period, commencing in October, 1990. While this might seem like an unattainable goal to some, much like our chances for success in the Redress effort just five years ago, it really isn't. All you need to do is to break those numbers down. Once you do that, that goal doesn't seem that far away.

For instance, if only 20,000 of the estimated 65,000 recipients contributed on the average of 2.5% or \$500, we would achieve our goal.

On the surface, it seems like a small price to pay for an investment in the future of our children and their children. With an endowment of this significance, we will be able to carry out the mission of the JACL from the earnings alone. This will enable us to eliminate

our need to continually raise our dues in order to fund our growth. It will also enable us to do our forecasting around a stable income flow, which in turn, makes it much easier to implement our program for action.

Just as in Redress effort, there will always be the question of, why? And just like our struggle for justice in that effort, the answer is that we must never let anyone forget! Without our strong national presence, who will be make sure that this will never happen again? Who will continue to the fight against anti-Asian violence? Who will monitor the civil rights arena, so that the rights of not only Japanese Americans are protected, but all Americans? Who will work to assure that our history books accurately reflect the Japanese and Asian American experience?

And finally, who will be on the front-line when the "Japan bashing" begins to impact our communities directly, especially with the 50th anniversary of Pearl Harbor coming up?

It doesn't matter if you're a member of JACL or not. If you're a member of the Nikkei community, you're affected by the work that the JACL does. Even though the JACL membership is only 25,000, over 65,000 people will be affected by the JACL's work over the next three years, as the Redress monies are paid out. And even though many people believe that this is a reality only because of some astute political maneuvering in Congress and elsewhere, the fact remains that we would have never gotten to this point were it not for the hard-working volunteers in the JACL.

So, like it or not, the JACL is out there working for ALL of us, regardless of our membership affiliation. Help to us improve on our service to the Nikkei community by working with us to establish the Legacy Fund.

Remember! The definition of a legacy is "something that is handed down from someone who has gone before." Keep our past alive by perpetuating our future.

### Contemplations from a JACLer in Japan:

## On the Meaning of 'Ethnicity' and 'Race'

By William Wetherall

TOKYO

What's in a word like "ethnicity" or "race"? Not a lot, judging from how such terms are being trivialized in academia and media. Even within JACL and the Pacific Citizen.

Take, for example, JACL president Cressey Nakagawa's article in the June 19 issue of PC on the racial violence against two Japanese students in La Crosse, Wisconsin in April.

Nakagawa wrote: "as second, third and fourth generation Japanese Americans, the fact that these victims happened to be of our own ethnicity should serve as chilling reminder."

Of our own ethnicity?

Nakagawa writes as though he believes that there exists a singular and equivalent ancestral ethnic connection between Japanese tourists in the United States and Japanese Americans. Even if this were correct, because Japanese Americans would represent a branching off from the Japanese ethnic tree, the connection would have to be described in the opposite direction: not "these victims happened to be of our own ethnicity," but rather "we happen to be of these victims' ethnicity."

But I question the implication that there is either a singular or an equivalent ethnic connection between Japanese Americans and Japanese. I would argue that Nakagawa has stretched the word "ethnicity" so thin that it has lost all its objective anthropological meanings; and that his usage of the word conveys only superficial racial sentiments that are at best romantic, at worst dangerous.

Let me tell a story that illustrates what I am trying to say.

On Dec. 10, 1988, I was both a speaker and a panelist at a symposium, in Osaka, on International Human Rights and Koreans in Japan, to commemorate the 40th Anniversary of the United Nations Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

The other participants were Japanese in Japan, Koreans in Japan, Koreans from the Republic of Korea, a Korean Chinese citizen of the People's Republic of China, and a Korean scholar from the United States, who compared the treatment of Japanese Americans in the United States with the treatment of Koreans in Japan, with a focus on compensation. Every possible group that claims to have been a victim of

Japanese imperialism and World War II in Asia, from former colonial subjects to Hiroshima and Nagasaki survivors, have deservedly and otherwise been inspired by the redress movement—but this is another story.

The main purpose of the symposium was to illuminate the legal and social problems of Koreans in Japan in the light of the experiences of other witnesses of the Korean "diaspora" (as it has become fashionable to call the worldwide migration of Koreans), and of other minorities in Japan. Indeed, one of the sponsors was a foundation that promotes the study and global networking of overseas Koreans.

My role was to talk in general about Japan's many ethnic groups. But in keeping with my skeptical views of the ethnic minority, I also questioned the unexamined ideological assumptions behind the kinds of ethnic movements that were represented at the symposium.

While everyone else was talking about "the Korean race" this and "Korean ethnicity" that, I wondered aloud what, if anything, a third generation Japanese of Korean ancestry, a third generation Chinese of Korean ancestry, a third generation Korean resident of Japan or Japanese of Korean ancestry, and a Korean from anywhere on the Korean peninsula (just for a starter) have in common that warrants collective (singular and equivalent) ethnic and racial labels. I could think of nothing—not native language, not primary social or communal or cultural experience, not religion or politics—not even, in many cases, genes or surname.

Among Koreans and non-Koreans of Korean descent outside the Korean peninsula, interethnic and interracial marriages are common, just as they are within Japanese American communities, I said.

Also as with Japanese American communities, I added, Koreans in Japan, and Japanese of Korean ancestry, will not survive as "groups" unless they renounce their unattested claim to having a common ethnicity or raciality with their alleged "ancestral" countries, and declare themselves to be both multiethnic and multiracial to both.

Scrutiny of the ethnic and racial diversity of Japan and the two Koreas shows, in any case, that their populations are ethnically and racially "homogeneous" only in myths. The realities of heterogeneity also show that ideologies of homogeneity are main-

tained at the expense of minorities, including those who emigrate and thus contribute to the ethnic and racial variety of their immigrant communities.

Take, for example, Okinawans. "Okinawa demo Nippon demo" [In both Okinawa and Japan] began the headline of an article in the August 8 issue of the Japanese weekly Magazine SPA!. This will interest San Diego JACLer Damon Senaha, whose paternal grandparents migrated from Okinawa to America.

In a letter in the June 15 issue of PC, Senaha objected to the wording in an article in the May 4 issue, in which one woman was said to have been born in "Hiroshima, Japan", another in "Okinawa", and a third in "Fukushima, Japan"—as though Okinawa was not a part of Japan.

"Okinawa and Japan"—is a common example of linguistic exclusion. "America and Hawaii" is another. These are on a par with expressions like "Japanese and blacks" and "Japanese and whites", which racialize "Japanese" and falsely imply that "blacks" and "whites" are not, and cannot be, Japanese.

For what it's worth, there is small print above the characters for "Okinawa" and "Nippon" in the SPA! article headline, showing that the words were meant to read "Uchinaa" and "Yamato". The article was about an Uchinanchu (Okinawa person) singer who wanted Yamatanchu (Yamato person) audiences to appreciate Okinawan music sung in Okinawan.

What this means is that there are some Okinawans who want the world to know that Okinawa became a Yamato colony. As a state, Japan has 47 prefectures, and Okinawa is one of them. But Japan is not only a state; it is also a country whose boundaries are defined by the eye of the beholder. And for some beholders in Okinawa (as well as for some Ainu beholders in Hokkaido and elsewhere), "Japan" may signify the "Yamato" state that they regard with suspicion.

The point is that, the ethnic problems which embroiled Senaha's Okinawan grandparents are still around, and testify to the absurdity of the notion of ethnic uniformity within Japan, to say nothing of Japanese American communities.

At the end of his article, Nakagawa writes: "On behalf of the JACL, my

# The Best and the Brightest of the Class of 1990

By Teresa Maebori  
**JACL Scholarship Committee Chair**

The best and brightest aptly described the 40 winners of the 1990 National JACL Scholarships. The National JACL Scholarship Committee read through 279 applications from mid-May until the end of June.

We were impressed by the high caliber of this year's winners. Several in the incoming freshman class were National Merit Finalists; they were active in their schools as student body presidents, school newspaper editors, captains of their tennis team, exchange students, violinists in their orchestras, volunteer tutors and/or soup kitchen workers, teachers in their churches, active in Asian-American clubs, and knowledgeable about Asian American issues.

At the undergraduate level the winners were multi-faceted. There were those who had double majors and many who were on the Dean's List at their colleges. There was a keen interest in studying Japanese and in attending a university in Japan, in volunteering at hospitals, in tutoring students in local schools and in participating actively in student government.

At the graduate level the students were a

diverse lot. They ranged from aspiring physicians, to professors, to an international business negotiator, to real estate developer, to a biomedical researcher. Impressive about the graduates was their level of participation in the community. Several had served on JACL boards and held offices, others were environmental activists, some had published books or articles on Japanese American history and experience.

### Committee's Criteria

The committee used the criteria of (1) scholastic achievement, (2) school and community activism, (3) the applicant's personal statement and (4) a recommendation to select the final winners. We also were searching for students who not only distinguished themselves scholastically but who demonstrated a commitment to the community.

In many of the winner's essays, they spoke of ethnic pride, of the importance and influence of their families, of helping others, and of elucidating and improving the Japanese American experience. Making the final decision on the winners was often difficult because many

of the applicants were deserving and remarkable—not just in one area—but in several. We on the committee had the privilege of seeing the national spectrum of our youth. We felt proud of these young Japanese Americans and their prospects for success in their chosen fields and as future leaders.

It should be noted that this was a national competition. Thus in addition to the monetary award, foremost was the honor and prestige of being selected among the finest students the Japanese American community had to offer.

### Judging Process

The five members of the committee worked diligently for a month and a half reading all the applications. Each application was reviewed at least three times. The finalists were read by each committee member. We met four times and worked late into the evening. By the end, we were heartened and inspired by the winners.

Often heard from JACL members in different chapters were the questions: Where are our youth and how can we get them involved? In these winners we saw that the level of their involvement was outstanding, that JACL has

a young constituency that is vibrant, distinguished, and thoughtful. We hereby recommend that we ask the winners how JACL can involve them and address their needs better.

When the committee had finished, we realized that the future for Japanese Americans was bright and that many of the ideals instilled in the youth by their families were burning clearly, purposefully, and strongly. We congratulate the winners and look forward to the day when they will lead us.

### The Committee Members

The 1990 National JACL Scholarship Committee members were:

Miiko Horikawa, MSLS, librarian in a private school.

Jane Nogaki, MA, former English teacher, environmental grassroots activist, member of the League of Women Voters and mother of two college-age students.

Herbert Horikawa, Ph.D., director of the counseling center at Temple University.

Hiroshi Uyehara, engineer (retired), 1989 National JACL scholarship committee chair.

Teresa Maebori, MA, teacher, 1990 National JACL scholarship committee chair.

## DENTAL

### Dean Arashiro

#### DR. KIYOSHI SONODA MEMORIAL GRADUATE DENTAL SCHOLARSHIP

Honolulu, Hawaii  
 Chapter: JACL National Associate  
 University of Iowa School of Dentistry

Dean Arashiro wishes to alleviate our fear of going to the dentist. "Visits to the dentists are ranked among the most fearful experiences known.



I attribute this fear to previous experiences because of the fact that many people just see their dentists when their tooth starts to hurt and therefore it is too late to prevent the problem. I wish to rid people of this fear of going to the dentist by stressing prevention in my practice."

Dean has been described as a conscientious student who is known to show high regard for his patients welfare. He hopes to stress preventative care in his practice. "I plan to educate parents about the importance of the care of their child's teeth before they begin to erupt. By starting the visits early in the child's development it is possible to have the next generation of young children that are caries (cavity) free by the use of preventive dentistry."

## PERFORMING ARTS

### Lisa Lane

#### AIKO SUSANNA TASHIRO HIRATSUKA MEMORIAL PERFORMING ARTS SCHOLARSHIP

Parents: Taeko and Christopher Lane  
 Novato, California  
 Chapter: Fowler

"My entire life has been filled with music and it has been more than just black ink on a music line page. There is a sense of feeling that I had to learn



on my own because it cannot be taught. This ability to express emotions in music and my experience with music has helped develop my mind and spirit as well as influence many aspects of life."

A gifted pianist, Lisa Lane is also known for her musicianship in oboe and percussion. She has played first chair oboe and percussion with the Sonoma County Youth Symphony. She also participates in performances for senior homes in her community.

A straight A student ranked first in her class, she has also distinguished herself as a scholar athlete. In her senior year she played on the varsity basketball team which made the California State quarter finals. Lisa has also been active in her community, working

as a counselor for 4-H camp and serving on the City of Novato Parks and Recreation Commission as commissioner. She will attend Dartmouth University this fall.

## GRADUATE

### Bruce Ito

#### HENRY AND CHIYO KUWAHARA GRADUATE SCHOLARSHIP

Los Angeles, California  
 Family member of Boston JACL Chapter  
 School: University of Southern California

"My personal history has been deeply enriched by my heritage. Achievement does not mean merely academics to an Asian-American, but also achieving a sense of self-worth through the interweaving of culture and American experience, an obligation to the Asian community and the community at large."

Bruce Ito has been actively involved in Asian American student activities during his graduate studies at USC. He has been involved with Asian Pacific Student Services at USC, the Asian American Leadership Development Project and the Asian American Drug Abuse Project. In addition to campus activities, Bruce has also been involved in a large number of community service projects. Utilizing his strong communications skills he has interned with the American Diabetes Association and is currently working to help AIDS patients write their memoirs.

Bruce states that he is deeply committed to achieving two goals at the University of Southern California. "First to help establish an Asian American Studies Department, and secondly, to increase Asian American enrollment in my program of study, communications management at the Annenberg School of Communications at USC. Currently, I am the only Asian American enrolled in a program of over 200 students."

### Leslie Kanda

#### HENRY AND CHIYO KUWAHARA GRADUATE SCHOLARSHIP

Chico, California  
 Northwestern University School of Medicine

This summer Leslie Kanda is working at an orthopedic clinic at Black Lion Hospital in Ethiopia. She is currently assisting Dr. Donald Mangus



perform needed surgeries and also hopes to teach residents and students at the clinic.

Leslie Kanda's goal is to become a physician in a university setting, practicing medicine and participating in the education of residents and medical students. "I aspire to be a role model for females and minorities and would like to be a leader of the health care delivery system of our country."

Presently Leslie attends Northwestern University School of Medicine and serves as Legislative Affairs Director for Northwestern's American Medical Student Association. She is also taking courses at the Northwestern's Graduate School of Management and is considering pursuing a com-

binated M.D. and M.M. (master of management) degree.

### Susan Matsui

#### SUMITOMO BANK OF CALIFORNIA GRADUATE SCHOLARSHIP

Los Angeles, California  
 School: University of Southern California

Susan Matsui is currently working on a Juris Doctor/Master of Business Administration degree at the University of Southern California, concentrating on corporate law and international business. Last summer she worked as an intern at the Asian Pacific American Legal Center of Southern California where she received recognition for her research on the state of the law regarding Chinese students who did not wish to return to the People's Republic of China after the June 4 Tienanmen Square massacre.

Utilizing her Japanese language skills, she also assisted clients with immigration problems and organized an immigration law outreach workshop for the Japanese community.

This summer Susan received a Judicial Externship to work with Federal District Court Judge Ronald Lew. She hopes to pursue a career in international corporate law.

### Paul Matsumoto

#### CHIYOKO AND THOMAS T. SHIMAZAKI MEMORIAL GRADUATE SCHOLARSHIP

Decatur, Georgia  
 Chapter: Washington, D.C.  
 School: Emory University

Paul Matsumoto is currently conducting biomedical research at Emory University's Department of Physiology. He has gained recognition for his



technical skills and intelligent approach to problem solving. "His background and abilities coupled with the new knowledge about molecular biology that his current position provides will produce a powerful combination that should make him a significant contributor to contemporary biomedical science" writes his academic advisor.

Paul is disciplined both academically and physically. A long distance runner who competed in marathons in his home state of Hawaii, he compares his medical research to running a marathon. "Both have positive and negative components... a negative factor of research, as in a marathon, is the frustration prior to achieving a goal." He cites prominent figures such as Miyamoto Musashi, Gordon Hirabayashi and Martin Luther King Jr. as sources of inspiration for overcoming the negative aspects of his work. "All overcame tremendous adversity in pursuit of their goal. These values and personal experiences sustain me in the pursuit of a biomedical research career. I hope to contribute

knowledge in the biomedical sciences and to serve as a role model for others."

### Julie Kaneshiro

#### UNION BANK GRADUATE SCHOLARSHIP

West Los Angeles, CA  
 School: University of Chicago

"As a Japanese American born and raised on the island of Oahu, I never felt unusually different, out of place or awkward in my social surroundings in Hawaii. But, upon my arrival in the Mainland, I immediately noticed that I was part of a minority group. . . . Many of my classmates were curious about my background ethnic and social. From that moment on, I realized that I, along with other Asian-Americans, had a responsibility to educate them; help them understand our culture a little better."

Julie Kaneshiro was actively involved in Asian student organizations throughout her undergraduate years at Loyola Marymount where she received her B.A. in Marketing in 1987. In her senior year she was selected to coordinate Loyola's Asian Pacific Heritage Week. Her strong marketing skills enabled her to make the event a phenomenal success. Julie plans to pursue a MBA in Marketing at the University of Chicago.

### Cynthia Nakashima

#### THE REV. H. JOHN YAMASHITA GRADUATE SCHOLARSHIP

Berkeley, CA  
 School: UC Berkeley

Cynthia Nakashima, a UC Berkeley Ph.D. candidate, writes, "After many Asian American Studies and Ethnic studies courses I know that *gohan* and *shoyu*, chopsticks and *origami*, *daruma* dolls, fans and Hello Kitty are all parts of being Japanese American.

And so are the Meiji Restoration, immigration exclusion laws, picture brides, Alien Land laws, farming and relocation camps."

Cynthia has conducted research, published papers, and lectured on the Japanese American and Asian American experience throughout her undergraduate and graduate studies at UC Berkeley and the University of Santa Clara. In addition, she has shown great interest in Amerasian issues and has been involved in the Amerasian Registry, Multiracial Asian International Network and currently serves on the Board of Directors for the Vietnamese Amerasian Family Association. In August, she traveled to Vietnam to provide assistance to Amerasian families.

Cynthia is currently finishing her second year in the Ethnic Studies Ph.D. program at UC Berkeley under the advisorship of Professor Ronald T. Takaki. She plans to do research, write and remain involved in the Japanese American, Asian American and multiracial American communities. "My dream is to provide for at least a few students what my professors have provided for me."

Profiles of Scholarship Awardees  
 by Cheryl Kagawa







**Jan Morimoto**

**SAM KUWAHARA MEMORIAL FRESHMAN SCHOLARSHIP**  
 Parents: Allen and Faye Morimoto  
 Gardena, California

Jan Morimoto is concerned about a variety of issues including nuclear weapons, apartheid and the rain forests. "I find it extremely difficult not to be concerned with the world around me as well as my own community. I feel that, as an individual, I have undeniable duty to care and learn about things happening on the entire planet."



Jan has been described as a vivacious and enthusiastic student who is capable of strong critical thinking. Highly interested in literature, she feels that reading has enabled her to observe and empathize with different avenues of life. She has worked as reporter and editor of her school's newspaper and has contributed articles to her local newspaper. "As a journalist, I have been given a very important tool and responsibility. I realize this and hope to continue writing in the future." A National Merit Scholar, she will attend UCLA this fall to major in English.

**Nancy Nakada**

**UNION BANK OF CALIFORNIA FRESHMAN SCHOLARSHIP**  
 Parent: Mrs. Mitsue Nakada  
 San Dimas, California  
 Chapter: San Gabriel Valley

Nancy Nakada combines realism and idealism to form her outlook on life. She writes, "Everyday, people must confront issues such as pollution and



oppression, both political and personal. But with some of the changes that have recently taken place, like the Berlin Wall falling, Nelson Mandela's release from prison, and the attention being placed on environmental causes, my idealistic side has great hope for a future of peace, freedom and environmentally conscious living."

Her adviser writes, "She is invaluable on club councils, not only because of her good ideas, but because she can be counted on to share in the work load as well as have the ideas." A 4.0 student, she has been active in her school's academic decathlon team, American Heritage Club, Junior Statesmen of America, Literary Honor Society, Physics Club and Ecology Club. In addition, she has also worked as a tutor for other high school students.

She is also a member of the Okinawa Kenjin Kai and a member of the Kin Cho Club.

Nancy will attend UCLA this fall and major in economics and business. She plans on pursuing a career in corporate law.

**Miwa Nakagawa**

**MR. AND MRS. TAKASHI MORIUCHI FRESHMAN SCHOLARSHIP**  
 Parents: George and Hiroko Nakagawa  
 Gardena, California  
 Chapter: Gardena Valley JACL

Byron Shinyama describes Miwa Nakagawa as "a definite leader and positive role model not only to her peers but to the entire community."



For the past two and a half years Miwa has been an active member of the High School Task Force, a volunteer group which serves to promote awareness of drug abuse to elementary school students. She is also an active member of the Asian Youth Group, a group whose main focus is to promote understanding and tolerance between different ethnic groups by creating a network among Asian/Pacific youth in the Gardena area.

Attending an ethnically diverse high school, Miwa is well aware of the tensions that can exist between ethnic groups. "Recent disputes between Korean Americans and Japanese Americans at Gardena High School, I believe, is a result of a lack of understanding; not personal hatred." Miwa has been an active participant in meetings designed to create dialogue between various ethnic groups and

has been instrumental in creating cultural exchanges. "By sharing cultural superstitions, traditions and beliefs, and personal goals and anticipations, the members have bonded together, seeing similarities between one another while accepting the differences in culture."

A top ranked student, she possesses a near-perfect SAT in Mathematics. Miwa has spent this summer in Japan through the Youth for Understanding scholarship program and plans to attend UC Berkeley this fall to major in the Humanities.

**Keith Nitta**

**SOUTHPARK JAPANESE COMMUNITY FRESHMAN SCHOLARSHIP**  
 Parents: Steven and Mitsuko Nitta  
 Arvada, Colorado  
 Chapter: Mile-Hi

Although he had enough material to have written solely about his outstanding academic achievements, Keith Nitta chose to share his personal experiences



as a Japanese American student, most notably about his struggle to overcome the model minority stereotype.

He writes of noticing what he describes as "the real difference" when he was seven. "Suddenly, the teacher expected me to know all the right answers, and was obviously disappointed when I did not. . . I longed to be like my classmates, not to get the disappointed look when I was not right." This expectation led him to strive for unrealistic perfection. "Since I was expected to succeed, I saw missing just one problem as a failure."

As he grew older, he realized that he held an incorrect view of failure. "With help from my family, especially my parents who, I realized, had also matured, I learned that failures are not ends in themselves, but merely a means to an end, a way to help me grow as a person."

He has been described as both as serious, this is reflected in his 4.0 GPA and easy going and flexible. As editor-in-chief of the yearbook, he was known for maintaining a sense of humor even while working under the stress of a deadline. Keith has received school honors in History, Biology, Math and Social Studies and has served in leadership positions with student council, Model UN, Boy's State and the Tri-State Young Buddhist League. He will attend Colorado College this fall as a History major.

**Cherry Ogata**

**HENRY AND CHIYO KUWAHARA MEMORIAL FRESHMAN SCHOLARSHIP**  
 Parents: Miorihei and Michiyo Ogata  
 Campbell, CA  
 Chapter: San Jose

Cherry Ogata wants to build a computer, not an ordinary computer but a "thinking," perhaps "User-Impolite" computer. "I want to build a thinking



computer that will talk back to me with all the biting sarcasm (perhaps not) only a human can impart. So come next September, I'm off to M.I.T. to fight my way to a doctorate degree in Brain and Cognitive Science."

For the past six years Cherry has won first place in Physics at the Santa Clara Valley (a.k.a. "Silicon Valley") Science and Engineering Fair and in 1989 she received the Grand Prize for her work in vortices and fluid mechanics. She has competed nationally in science competitions and was one of three finalists to have had work published in the science abstract "SuperQuest." She has received awards and honors from Westinghouse, Hewlett-Packard, The Society of Women Engineers and The American Aeronautics and Astronautics Assn. In 1989, she won the Syntex Award which enabled her to travel to the International Science and Engineering Fair where she received the 3rd Grand Award in Physics and national publication of her work in the ISEF scientific abstract. Not surprisingly, Cherry received early admission to the Massachusetts Institute of Technology.

Cherry maintained a perfect academic record during her years at Westmont High School. She excels in other areas besides the sciences and has received recognition and honors for her work in art, music, speech and debate and creative writing. During her junior and senior years she was editor-in-chief of her school paper. She is also one of the top foreign language students in the nation, placing fifth in the 1989 National Competition of French.

Cherry has been described as possessing a "wonderful sense of humor" and "an infectious love of life." In her impressive and lengthy application, she closes her personal essay by sharing some of her thoughts and personal goals. She states that in addition to accomplishing Möbius technology and building the world's first "User Impolite" terminal, she would like to become the proud owner of "an intensely blue convertible VW bug."

**Jeffrey Ota**

**MASAO AND SUMAKO ITANO FRESHMAN SCHOLARSHIP**  
 Parents: Terry and Shirley Ota  
 San Jose, California  
 Chapter: San Jose

In his personal essay, Jeffrey Ota fondly reminisces about his Issei grandmother in Sacramento. "Although there was a language barrier, she was



still my favorite person in the world. . . As I grow older, I constantly remember the courage of my grandmother and realize a growing sense of responsibility that I have as both an American citizen and a person of Japanese ancestry."

Jeffrey credits his positive family experiences as his major source of inspiration for creating a ten minute video with his friend Kevin Kishimura about the internment camps during World War II. This project won both state and national honors in the National History Day competition and Congressman Norman Mineta asked Jeffrey to show his video at a Redress fundraiser in Sacramento. Subsequently, Jeffrey became involved with the Nihonmachi Outreach Committee and wrote numerous letters to encourage the passage of redress legislation.

"His character is one built on many values instilled in him by his parents," writes his counselor. "Jeff has a high respect for people and a strong sense of decency." Jeffrey Ota is an effective student leader who uses his potential to the maximum. He has served as an officer in student government, worked as editor-in-chief of the school newspaper and for the past two years he has co-captained the varsity basketball team.

In the community, Jeff is active with the San Jose Zebra Basketball Organization and for the past four years he has worked as a coach for a 6th grade basketball team for the JCYC. He is also very active with the Young Buddhists Association and has been a member of the Jr. YBA cabinet for four years.

Academically, Jeffrey excels in various areas. He has taken every honors course at his high school and has completed several calculus courses at the university level. He will attend Stanford University this year and plans to major in Engineering and minor in Communications.

**Miwako Takano**

**GIICHI AOKI MEMORIAL FRESHMAN SCHOLARSHIP**  
 Parents: Masaharu and Hiroko Takano  
 St. Louis, Missouri  
 Chapter: St. Louis JACL

Many JACL members are already familiar with Miwa Takano. MDC District members may be familiar with her work as the St. Louis JAYS



president. Others may be more familiar with her for work at the JACL National Convention where she represented MDC as both the District Youth Representative and High School Speech Finalist.

Perhaps what many of us are not familiar with is her activities outside of JACL. Miwa Takano is a talented musician, varsity cross country runner and an exceptional student who possesses an unheard of 4.4 GPA.

Miwa has played in the first violin section of the St. Louis Youth Orchestra and has served as the Concertmistress for her school's orchestra. In addition to running cross country, Miwa has participated for several years in her school's soccer program.

A National Merit Finalist, Miwa has received honors in math and biology and as well as recognition from her teachers for her essays in her advanced placement English classes. She served as president of Mu Alpha Theta, the national Math honor society and has competed in competitions at the state and national levels.

Her teachers describe her as an extremely hard worker and an alert individual. "She seems to be conscious of everything that goes on around her. . . she is not satisfied with half-answers or unclear explanations." Miwa plans to study biochemistry at UC Berkeley this fall with the hope of pursuing a career in medical research and genetics.

**Todd Sasaki**

**GONGORO NAKAMURA MEMORIAL FRESHMAN SCHOLARSHIP**  
 Parents: Akira and Carole Sasaki  
 Los Angeles, California

In his junior year Todd Sasaki was hospitalized for a collapsed lung. At first, his main concern was regaining his starting position on the basketball



team. However, reflecting upon the experience, he now feels that it helped to sensitize him towards community work. "I was able to see and experience first hand how much community work means to those who really need and look forward to it. Instead of a task to be carried out, it is now a service I provide willingly."

Todd has worked with underprivileged children, served lunch for the homeless, packed food boxes and worked on a picnic for families of Everywomen's Shelter. He is the president of Youth Fellowship for the Centenary United Methodist Church and has been active with the Japanese Cultural Community Center and Little Tokyo Service Center.

His teacher writes that even through he missed weeks of classes he kept up with the work and "continued to blow the competition out of the water when he returned to school." A National Merit Finalist, he will attend Swarthmore College this fall to major in Political Science and History.

**Brian Yamasaki**

**COL. WALTER T. TSUKAMOTO MEMORIAL FRESHMAN SCHOLARSHIP**  
 Parents: Yukio and Yoshiko Yamasaki  
 Gardena, California

"I take pride in being a Japanese American. Because I am a member of two cultures, I see the world in multiple perspective. From the Japanese



culture, I have learned about patience, diligence and the importance of having a tightly knit family. From the American culture, I have learned how to assert my opinions, beliefs, and values."

Brian Yamasaki prides himself in being open minded. He credits his experiences in Boy Scouts, church and his community's Asian

Youth Group for challenging him to try new ideas. A 4.0 student, CSF president, editor of the school paper, leading member of the Gardena Citizen Bee Team and Eagle Scout, Brian Yamasaki is known for setting the standards that other students strive to meet.

Brian plans to major in political science and pursue a career in government work. He plans on attending Harvard University.

**Derek Yokota**

**MITSUYUKI YONEMURA MEMORIAL FRESHMAN SCHOLARSHIP**  
 Parents: James and Gladys Yokota  
 Torrance, California  
 Chapter: Gardena Valley Chapter (parents)  
 Student member of the South Bay chapter

"As a Youth Volunteer at the Little Company of Mary Hospital, one of my most interesting responsibilities was discharging mothers of newborn



babies. I realize that not all patients recover and are able to go home, but each time I see someone who has been helped, such as these mothers, I feel better about myself."

Brian Yokota hopes to utilize his strong science background to pursue a career in medicine. A 4.0 student, Brian scored a perfect 800 on his SAT.

On campus, he has been active in his school's academic decathlon team, Japanese Club, CSF and Ski Club.

Brian is an Eagle Scout and has been very active with his school's community service club. Over the past five years he has worked on numerous projects in the community, repairing and repainting playgrounds and schools. In addition, he has also helped to maintain Hopkins Wilderness Park in Redondo Beach.

## EAST WIND

Continued from Page 4

scheme and strategy for Japan might be. Early on, the name "Doki, Tsuyoshi" cropped up with regular frequency and a dossier on the name was assembled. One of these days, he was due to come through on a hikiage boat. But when? Where?

THE INTEROGEES were hardly talkative, so hard data was hard to come by. Efforts were made to be courteous, including toward the military hikiages. (Often, the ranking officer, not infrequently a couple of generals, would remain in the background while some field grade officer or even a lieutenant, would step forward to speak for the military contingent; the spokesman would be directed to step aside and the request made to have the highest-ranking officer to forthrightly step forward.) Our prime tactic and weapon was having just enough information to be able to detect an interrogee who was providing misleading information. But that was slow-going, and that's where Sergeant Fujio "Wymo" Takaki, an MIS veteran from Hawaii, was able, so to speak, "to break the code."

TO FULLY UNDERSTAND how it all came about, one has to know Wymo, the kind of person he is, his acute sense of humor and timing, his alertness to a situation which may hold little or no meaning to you or me. Anyway, Wymo quickly established a relationship with this particular military hikiage from Manchuria to the extent that he put the hiki-age in his jeep, drove him to our military quarters, let him take a hot shower, provided him with a clean set of (Wymo's own) khakis, and fed him—white rice. (White rice was still not easy to obtain for the ordinary Japanese, and certainly that hiki-sha had not had any for quite some time.) With all this totally unexpected kindness from a member of the *johobu* (military intelligence), coupled with Wymo's winning ways—the fellow broke down and completely cleansed himself of all information, including a key document which had been sewn in his clothing (in the fly of his trousers). From then on, the American intelligence team held the proverbial "ace-in-the-hole" which we never revealed but continually employed—much to the consternation of the Communist agents that were seeking to slip through with a straight face. (Oh, yes; Mr. Doki was discovered coming through; I remember the gentleman as well. I think I recall reading that he was elected to the Japanese Diet.

AS FOR WYMO, he continued to be an invaluable member of the team. On one occasion, he volunteered to become an incognito member of a Japanese fishing boat to go on an intelligence mission. My recollection is that it was an information-gathering trip to Tsushima, an island between Korea and Japan. Risky business casting his well-being to an unknown crew aboard a wooden boat that had seen better days. Since leaving Japan in 1947, I'd often wondered what ever happened to that sergeant.

The other day, a Nisei vet telephoned me from California with information of Wymo's whereabouts. A flood of memories returned. By the time you're reading these words, I will have written him to re-establish old connections.

### Handicapped People

With exception of school buses for the handicapped in Japan, there are no public buses in Tokyo equipped with a wheelchair lift.—*Asahi Shimbun*

## An Obon Tribute Honors the Tokita Family Matriarch



Photo by Scott Hashimoto

**IN MATCHING YUKATAS, EIGHT OF THE 22 Tokita Family members and close friends pictured are (from left): Sheri Hashimoto, Lori Hoffman, Denise Tsuji, Janette Tsuji, Allison Namba, Kara Tokita, Julie Namba and Bruce Hashimoto. All performed in memory of Ann H. Tokita (1907-1990) at the recent Seattle Buddhist Church obon festival. Mrs. Tokita, a Seattle Issei pioneer, operated the New Lucky Hotel in prewar Nihonmachi (623 1/2 Weller St.) and managed to send her eight children through college.**

## AYA SANSEI

Continued from Page 5

women be allowed to be women on the kabuki stage?

Yes, I know. Kabuki has traditions that reach back to a time when women were not permitted on the stage, traditions that say men must be both villain and villainess, hero and heroine.

I am fascinated by kabuki as a dramatic art form, colorful, vibrant, vigorous with the actors projecting unlikely old

story plots both by overstatement and understatement. I respect the traditions that have remained virtually unchanged over the centuries.

But traditions are falling all around us. As I left the theater, the thunder of applause still echoing in my ears, I couldn't help but wonder if the time hadn't come to permit women to play themselves on the kabuki stage.

Some day I would like to sit down with Mr. Kotaro and ask him about

that. Not demand, as some of my more militant sisters might want to do, but ask. Gently. In the feminine way. Like Mr. Kotaro playing the part of the spurned and heartbroken fiancée. I think he might understand.

## COMPROMISE

Continued from Front Page

NVCC and its council member organizations," the Memorial Monument Foundation stated.

Text of the *Los Angeles Times* editorial (June 29, 1990) follows:

### Local Watch

#### Veterans At War

It's sad. Once soldiers side by side. Now veterans warring among themselves.

Who should be listed on a proposed L.A. monument to American soldiers of Japanese ancestry? The question threatens a community project designed to honor those who served in three segregated World War II units.

One group wants the privately funded monument in Little Tokyo to list the names of all 12,000 members—living and dead—of the Army's all-Japanese-American 100th Battalion and 442nd Infantry Regimental Combat Team, which served in Europe, and the Military Intelligence Service in the Pacific. An opposing group wants to honor only the 700 killed during World War II, but to include the names of 325 Japanese Americans who died during the Spanish-American War, World War I and the Korean and Vietnam conflicts.

The debate is muddling the intent of the monument. To make a special acknowledgement of the blood, sweat and tears of those Japanese-American soldiers who fought hard to prove their loyalty to the United States so their families, unjustly interned in U.S. concentration camps during the war, would be more readily accepted by other Americans.

They were tested as few others were. They deserve an enduring testimonial—one designed with the names of all the Japanese-Americans who served in World War II as the centerpiece of the monument. The design also could incorporate secondarily the names of others who died in combat.

They don't deserve to be fought over like this.

## WETHERALL

Continued from Page 5

sincere concern goes out to the two young [Japanese] students. I ask you not to assume that all Americans bear such hate and anger against those of our race."

Not . . . all Americans . . . hate . . . those of our race?

There is something very subtly discriminatory about this grammar. The contrast of "all Americans" with "our race" suggests two thoughts, both disturbing, the first undoubtedly unintended, the second obviously implied: (1) Japanese Americans are not Americans (if Nakagawa's heart of linguistic hearts thought otherwise, he would have written "not all non-Asian Americans" or "not all non-Japanese Americans"); (2) Japanese and Japanese Americans are members of the same (alleged) "Asian race", or they constitute the same (putative) "Japanese race".

Ironically, the Monitor box was right next to Nakagawa's column. I found myself laughing at the joke it reported about the Japanese government offering an American city to every child that's born, as an incentive to boost the country's falling birthrate. Such "takeover" jokes are funny compared to Nakagawa's well-meant but tellingly worded praise of courage, and plea for understanding and justice, in the wake of the racial violence at La Crosse.

This is only one example of how JACL representatives unwittingly help raise and maintain the barriers to understanding. Another example in the same issue of PC is the headline "Minorities Still Locked Out of Editorial Jobs in

U.S. Newspapers, ANPA Finds".

*Minorities . . . locked out?*  
The article only says that, compared to their percentages in the general population, some minorities are under-represented in editorial jobs. Nothing in its summary of an American Newspaper Publishers Association survey supports the claim that some kind of agent is locking minorities out of such jobs, even metaphorically.

What's in a word? A lot, especially when usage reflects philosophically undigested sentiments about race and ethnicity, and chip-on-the-shoulder preconceptions of minority victimhood.

### Asian Contingent Joins in ELA Chicano Parade

LOS ANGELES—A small but lively Asian American contingent marched behind drums and cymbals on Aug. 25 in East Los Angeles, commemorating the 20th anniversary of the National Chicano Moratorium Committee's peace rally.

Young Koreans in national dress, hoisting a banner reading "One United Korea" and "Self-Determination for the Korean People," were also present. Mo Nishida reported.



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JACL-Blue Shield of California Group Health Trust

1765 Sutter Street, San Francisco, California 94115



**JACL PULSE**

**■ FLORIN**  
Florin JACL sponsors fall talent show Oct. 12 at Sacramento Buddhist Church; dancers, vocalists, pianists, instrumentalists, etc., are encouraged to participate. Info: Pearl Zarilla or Paul Takehara (both 916) at 635-2815 or 363-8800.

**■ POCATELLO-BLACKFOOT**  
50th Anniversary Reunion of JACL members from Rexburg, Idaho Falls and Pocatello, Sat., Nov. 3, at Cactus Pete's in Jackpot, Nevada. Banquet, keynote speakers (including Nat'l Pres. Cresse Nakagawa), renewing old friendships and meeting new friends.

**■ STOCKTON**  
Tomo No Kai Grand Canyon Tour, hosted by Stockton Buddhist Temple, Sept. 18-25, 1990; \$620 per person, double occupancy; additional \$165 supplement added for single accommodations. Info: (209) 982-0939.

**■ TRI-VALLEY**  
Mixed Doubles Tennis Tournament, Cal State Hayward, sponsored by Tri-Valley JACL, Oct. 13. Info and application form: (415) 846-4165

**■ WHITE RIVER VALLEY**  
The White River Valley JACL is commemorating its 60th Anniversary on Sat. Sept. 15, at a pot-luck held at the Senior Center in Auburn, WA from 1-4 p.m. All members 75 years and older will be recognized, and all former presidents will be honored. They will be coming from Tokyo, Ontario, Ore., and Seattle, as well as from the local community. Cherry Kinoshita will be the featured speaker, and Michelle Cullen will be a soloist. The Pacific Northwest chapter and friends in the community are encouraged to attend. Info: Dan and Grace Hironaka (206) 852-5076.

Items publicizing JACL events should be typewritten (double-spaced) or legibly hand-printed and mailed at least THREE WEEKS IN ADVANCE to the P.C. office. Please include contact phone numbers, addresses, etc.

**THE NEWSMAKERS**



DR. CLIFF UEJIO



MICHELLE KAWANO

► Dr. Cliff Uejio has been named instructional dean at Long Beach City College, the post he has held in an interim capacity for the past 18 months. Before assuming his current role, he founded and coordinated the honors program, the oldest continuously operating community college program of its type in the state, offering 27 different courses from 11 departments. In addition, he headed the Center for Learning Assistance Services, overseeing more than 50 full- and part-time instructors, student tutors, and support staff on two campuses. Prior to that, he was an English instructor. He has a bachelor's degree from the University of Hawaii in psychology and philosophy; a master's degree in English from CSU Los Angeles; and a doctorate in English from SUNY-Buffalo. He received a Mellon Fellowship in U.S.-Japanese relations at Stanford University; and a fellowship to study East Asian language and culture at UCLA.

► The Franciscan Health Center sponsored by the Franciscan Sisters of the Sacred Heart, will hold its Community Service Awards Banquet on Sept. 25, 6 p.m. at the Hyatt Wilshire Hotel Grand Ballroom to honor retired police captain Frank Patchett, and Dr. Sakaye Shigekawa. For information and reservation, call (213) 413-1050. Dr. Shigekawa is in her 50th year of medical and volunteer services. During this time, she delivered more than 30,000 babies. Her interest in medicine began when her father had a long illness and hospitalization. She would ride street cars from Long Beach to Los Angeles to visit him at Good Samaritan Hospital. She was inspired with the doctors, and the late Dr. William Norris encouraged her to go to medical school. Dr. Shigekawa received her Bachelor's Degree from USC and her medical degree prewar from Loyola University's School of Medicine in Chicago.

Dr. Shigekawa returned to California to begin her medical practice but was interned at the Santa Anita Assembly Center. She began her practice delivering babies at the Center.

► Michelle Kawano currently based in Columbus, Ohio, is on her new exciting assignment as a Collegiate Development Consultant who will visit 26 campuses across United States during next school year and serve as a problem solver, consultant, motivator, confidant and adviser to the collegiate Delta Gamma Sorority chapters. Of the 129 collegiate sorority chapters of Delta Gamma in America and Canada, 8 Collegiate Development Consultants are selected annually. This year 125 applicants were narrowed down to 16 and all of them were flown to Executive Office of Delta Gamma headquarters at Columbus, where they were interviewed over a three-day period. Michelle was one of the eight selected for the 1990-1991 school year and is the first Asian to have this once-in-a-lifetime opportunity. She is a 1990 graduate of San Jose State University where she earned a Bachelor's degree in Liberal studies. She is the daughter of San Jose JACler Norman and Janice Kawano. An active member of San Jose's Delta Gamma chapter and served as its treasurer and vice-president in charge of pledge education. Her honors in the sorority included the President's award for most outstanding officer and the Barbara Clark Memorial Scholarship. In addition, she was a member of San Jose State's Black Masque Academy Honorary, a women's honor society.

► Jerry C. Chang 67, of Sacramento was reappointed by Governor George Deukmejian as a member of the Health Care Advisory Committee. Chang was a project manager for Sacramento Municipal Utility District and a project engineer for the State Department of Water Resources in 1987.

► The Rev. Roland W. Brammeier was appointed to Centenary United Methodist Church as pastor of the English Section by Bishop Jack Tuell of the California-Hawaii United Methodist Church Annual Conference, announced George Takeyama, Chairman of the Pastor-Parish Relations Committee. Rev. Brammeier was on a leave of absence since July 1, 1989, following four highly successful years as Superintendent of the Los Angeles District when he agreed to fill the vacancy created by the appointment of the Rev. George Nishikawa to a national board on Sept. 1.

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**OBITUARIES**

**Charles J. Ajifu, 64**, Los Angeles, Aug. 21; Honolulu-born, survived by w May, d Charlene (San Francisco), br Richard, sis Dorothy Murakami, Peggy Sakamoto (all 3 of Honolulu).

**Masaru Akiyoshi, 65**, Los Angeles, Aug. 6; Torrance-born, survived by br George, sis Satsuki, Yukiko Miyakawa, Teiko Fukushima, in-law Yoshiko Akiyoshi (Jpn).

**Yukiko Anami, 69**, La Cañada-Flintridge, July 30; survived by h Isei, s Kenneth, dChristine, Maureen, m Minoru Kishi, br Jim Kishi.

**Toshiko Daita, 63**, San Gabriel, July 29; Osaka-born, survived by s Thomas, Ted, d Evelyn, Stella, Abby Castillo, 2gc, br Morio and Yukinobu Sugimura (both Japan).

**Shigeru Fujiwara, 77**, Los Angeles, July 15/Lomita-born, survived by w Mimoko, s Dr.Tadao, 3gc.

**Masayee Mason Hatamiya, 69**, Live Oak, Calif., June 18; survived by h Frank I, s Frank S, 1gc, sis Fumiko Kida (Portland).

**Miji Kanamori, 100**, Oxnard, July 19; Miyagi-born, survived by s Tadashi, Tsugitada, Dr George, Shogo, d Mitsuye Ogata, Mary Sawamura, Yori Kanamori, Yaeko Matsutsumi, Kathy Kanamori, 16gc, 11gc, br Tomomoto Ito (Hokkaido).

**Rose M Komatsubara, 64**, Monterey Park, July 16; Hawaii-born, survived by h Jim K, s Gary J (Simi Valley), 2gc, 3br Yosh, Larry, Frank, 4sis Kiku Fukumoto, Tim Sakai, Ruby Osami, Nancy Inao, in-law sis Ritz Mori.

**Torao J Kusano, 63**, Orange, July 18; Los Angeles-born Korean Conflict veteran, survived by w Emiko, s Mike, d Donna Joiner, Joyce Burch, Shari, 3gc, p Daisuke/Tome Kurmano, br Asao, Shigeo, sis Yuriko Hataye, Julia Maruyama.

**Hatsuno Masuda, 66**, Sacramento, July 10; Sacramento-born, survived by h Hiroshi, s Steve, Dick, Donald, Bob, d Nancy Tanaka, Pauline Sing, 9gc, 2gc, br Tomi Okubo, sis Miyo Okubo.

**Chiyoko M Nakahara, 79**, Tazana, July 18; San Francisco-born, survived by s Roy Hiroshi, Ed Toshio, br Jitsuo Takeda and sis Fujiko Mimoto (both Japan).

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