

# The New York NICHIBEI

"Community Service Since 1945"

Volume XXXII, No. 2102

27 Park Place, New York, N.Y. 10007

Thursday, January 15, 1987

## San Francisco— Former Internees Meet In Support Of Yasui v. U.S.

Last Wed, Jan 7, former internees from all ten of the WWII concentration camps in the US gathered at the San Francisco Press Club to urge that the court challenge to the internment filed by Minoru Yasui be heard, despite his death of cancer two months ago. Legal briefs were also filed on the same day by the attorneys for Yasui in the Federal Court of Appeals to keep the case alive.

The internees present at the press conference all wore tags resembling the ones they were forced to wear when they were relocated in commemoration of Yasui's fight. The tags, which were demeaning and dehumanizing to the internees, symbolize a period when Americans were deprived of their freedom and property, and branded as disloyal by virtue of their race.

For these supporters, Yasui symbolized all of those incarcerated who wish they could have resisted to a greater degree than they were able to at the time.

Yasui's case is on appeal from a Federal Court ruling in Portland which threw out his conviction for violating a racial curfew order, but made no judicial opinion on whether the Government engaged in lies and misconduct. Secret documents discovered under the Freedom of Information Act in 1982 disclosed that Government Security agencies, including the FBI, Army Intelligence, and the Navy, had concluded that Americans of Japanese ancestry were no more a threat than Americans of Italian or German ancestry, and that the mass racial internment was unnecessary. This information was never passed on to the Supreme

Court by the Justice Department, which claimed the internment "a military necessity."

The Justice Department claims that the issues raised in Yasui's petition are now moot since he is dead. Peggy Nagae, Yasui's attorney from Oregon, who was also present at the press conference, said that the fact that the Justice Department wrongfully suppressed Navy, Army, FBI, FCC and other documents which said Japanese Americans posed no threat in order for the Supreme Court to permit racial discrimination, is reason enough that the Yasui case be heard by the Court. In essence, Yasui's supporters say that a fraud was committed before the Supreme Court by Government lawyers.

In addition to Yasui's wife, True, his daughter Holly, and his brother Homer, Fred Korematsu, the Bay Area native whose conviction was overturned in 1983, was also present at the press conference.

Throughout the reopening of the Yasui, Korematsu and Hirabayashi cases, and despite recent rulings by Federal District Courts in the Korematsu and Hirabayashi cases declaring that the government had engaged in misconduct, the Government has never admitted wrongdoing. Nagae and Yasui's supporters claim that the Government's move to dismiss the Yasui case amounts to a continuing coverup of issues the public has the right to know about. According to Yasui's daughter, the Yasui case is the "most important unfinished business that he left to Americans of Japanese descent and to all Americans who believe in justice and the rights of American citizens."

## BRIEF NOTES

**UC Berkeley Discriminates Against Asian Americans**—The Asian American Task Force on University Admissions, led by Ken Kawaichi, Alameda County superior court judge, and Lillian Sing, a San Francisco municipal court judge, has charged that UC Berkeley's admissions policies specifically discriminate against Asians. University officials say the new policies are necessary because the campus is flooded with applicants, and that these policies are designed to create a diverse student body. Henry Der, a task force member and executive director of Chinese For Affirmative Action in San Francisco said, "Under the guise of...creating diversity, their effort has the net result of depressing the number of Asians going into the university. Nobody is going to admit that they don't want more Chinese." As a result of these complaints, the Justice Department its own inquiry of UCB and other prominent universities. (From a report by Shannon Hickey in *EastWest*).

**"Japanese Education Today" Report Issued by Dept Of Education**—The 111-page report prepared by a special task force of the Dept of Ed's Office of Educational Research and Improvement portrays a centralized system in which almost 90% of Jpn students graduate from high school, as opposed to about 75% here in the US. While skills are much higher in some areas (such as math) in Jpn high schools, the report criticized Jpn colleges and universities and the college entrance examination system.

## People

The first general meeting of the JAA for 1987 was held at the Nippon Club for the first time on Sat, Jan 10; Robert K. Emy, M.D. is the new president of JAA, Haruhisa Ishizuka and Toshio Kiso are newly appointed v-ps, and Yoshi Imai is the newly appointed executive secretary... Julie Azuma is among the newly appointed directors of JAA... A record estimate of 83 mil people visited shrines and temples in Japan

during the first 4 days of the new year according to a report by the National Police Agency of Japan; Meiji Shrine alone attracted 4.23 mil visitors... Nakasone has started on his trip for Finland, East Germany, Yugoslavia and Poland, marking the first time that a Japanese leader has ever made state visits to those countries... 20 trade-union leaders joined to denounce racism and the recent attacks in Howard Beach and support the strategies chosen by the

continued on page 2

## "Update on Howard Beach Attacks"—

### CAAAV Announces Conference: "Organizing Against Racist Violence in NYC"

The Coalition Against Anti-Asian Violence (CAAAV) has announced that they are sponsoring a conference/discussion on the recent racial attacks at Howard Beach on Tue, Jan 27.

CAAAV states, "The recent racist attacks and murder of Michael Griffith by a white gang in Howard Beach has been a bitter reminder of the murder of Vincent Chin by two white Detroit autoworkers armed with baseball bats. Chin's murderers are free. And now, the murder charges in the Michael Griffith case have been dropped. Court and government inactions in these and similar incidents has set the stage for the recent upsurge in racist violence against Asians, Blacks and Latinos."

Presenting an update on the legal and community response to the murder of Michael Griffith will be C.

Vernon Mason, Esq., the noted human rights attorney presently representing Timothy Grimes, a victim of the Howard Beach attacks. Mr. Mason, 40, is a graduate of the Columbia University Law School.

Three years ago, Mr. Mason represented Reverend Lee Johnson, a Black graduate student at the Union Theological Seminary in Manhattan, who brought charges of police brutality when he was beaten by police officers after they had stopped him for questioning about a traffic violation. Mr. Mason advised the Reverend not to cooperate with the investigators because he had no confidence in them. When a grand jury failed to indict the officers, the Manhattan District Attorney, Robert M. Morgenthau, said it was because Rev. Johnson had not testified. Although the case fell apart, the case stirred so

much controversy that the House Subcommittee on Criminal Justice convened hearings in NY on police brutality against Blacks and later issued a report critical of the police.

Following the update, CAAAV will host a discussion of how Asian Americans can participate in the growing city-wide movement against racism. Mini Liu, co-coordinator of CAAAV and member of Organization of Asian Women (OAW), will be the second speaker for the evening.

The event will be held at the Center for Constitutional Rights, 6th floor conference room, from 7-9pm. The Center is located at 666 Broadway, two blocks north of Houston St. Donation is \$3; for more info call Monona Yin at 212-966-5932 or Mini Liu at 718-857-2849.

## NCJAR Lawsuit Update— Bill Hohri To Speak

On Fri, Jan 23, here in NYC, the National Council for Japanese American Redress (NCJAR) chairperson, Bill Hohri, will give an update on the class action lawsuit brought by Hohri and NCJAR against the US Government (See NY NICHIBEI 11-27-86). The latest in the case is that the Government was granted a 2 week extension to file their papers, and that arguments will

be heard before the Supreme Court, probably in April. NCJAR has invited both Gordon Hirabayashi and Fred Korematsu to be present in the courtroom when the arguments are presented.

Mr. Hohri will give further details at the Japanese American United Church, at 255 7th Ave (between 24th & 25th Sts), from 6-8 pm. This event is being sponsored by the NY Friends of NCJAR. For more info call 718-575-4319.

## Happy Birthday To Martin Luther King Jr!

Martin Luther King Jr was born on Jan 15, 1929. His birthday is observed as a national holiday on the third Monday of January, this year on Mon, Jan 19.

## NYC Public Schools Poetry Contest— 8th Grader Irene Jeng Among Winners

Last Thur, Jan 8, Mayor Koch presented trophies at City Hall to the 9 winners of a New York City public school poetry contest on the subject of "racial and ethnic harmony." One of the winners was 8th grader Irene Jeng, a Chinese American girl presently attending PS 56, at 220 Henry St. Her poem "Inside His Darkened Heart" which won her the title of "Grand Champion" in the junior high school division is reprinted here with permission.

According to Bert Shanof of the United Federation of Teachers, the idea of a poetry contest on the theme of racial discrimination began with Sara Ting, an Asian American woman who is a poet and former New Yorker, now living in Boston. Ms. Ting was inspired to write the following poem one day in 1985 which was used in fighting discrimination in Boston. "Are you greater than the sun/That shines on everyone: black/brown, yellow, red and white/The sun does not discriminate."

That poem was brought to the Chinatown Planning Council (CPC) who then brought it to the NY Urban Coalition. The idea to run a poetry contest was put forward and quickly garnered support.

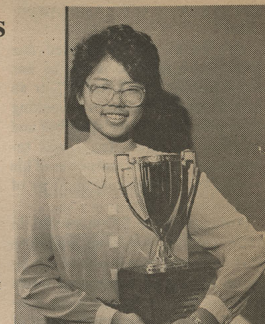
The poetry contest took place during Nov of last year in schools throughout the five boroughs. There

## Inside His Darkened Heart by Irene Jeng

Children are born  
Spirited and free:  
As they grow,  
Society traps them.  
They are no longer free,  
But enslaved in the darkness  
Of society's discrimination.  
They are taught to hate  
People not of their color  
Why is it that man does this to himself?  
Can he not see that men are all the same  
With the same feelings,  
The same senses,  
The same thoughts?  
Can he not change?  
Perhaps he can if he starts  
Way down deep  
At the little child spark  
Left  
Inside his darkened heart.

were three winners each from the elementary, junior high and high schools, making a total of 9 winners who received trophies. In addition to those 9, plaques went to 96 others for the "best of the school district" and another 51 students won "best of the borough" awards. In all, over 1,000 students entered the contest. Every student who entered received a certificate.

Sponsors of the contest were the American Jewish Congress, CPC, the National Conference of Chris-



Irene Jeng, grand champion winner of "Racial and Ethnic Harmony Poetry Contest"—Junior High School division.

tians and Jews, the National Puerto Rican Forum, the NY Urban Coalition, the NY Daily News, the NY Board of Ed, and the United Federation of Teachers (UFT). Funding for the students' awards was provided by the UFT.

—P.F.W.

## Corrections

Sharon Maeda will be campaign manager for Warren Furutani, not William Marutani, as was incorrectly stated by accident in last week's "People Notes."



Thursday, January 15, 1987

THE NEW YORK NICHIBEI

## New Year's Party— JASSI Hosts Issei

A lavish buffet of Japanese foods greeted the 50 persons who attended the New Year's party given for the issei on Jan. 5 by Japanese American Social Services, Inc (JASSI) at the apartment of its president, Midori Shimanouchi Lederer.

The food for the lunch-hour gathering was prepared by a group of volunteers and members of JASSI's staff who also escorted some of the elderly to and from the event.

In an earlier holiday gesture, JASSI delivered boxed *obento* to 23 elderly—some of whom are shut-ins—the day before Christmas, for the second consecutive year. The *obento* were prepared and donated for the occasion by the Matsuya Restaurant.

## People continued from page 1

Black community and Maddox and Mason, the two attorneys for the victims of the Dec 20 attack... **Marcos** and his wife **Imelda** have been subpoenaed by a federal grand jury in Alexandria, VA, and are expected to testify later this month... **Chen Chih-yi**, 35, Houston businessman and a reputed leader of the United Bamboo, was sentenced to 20 yrs in prison and lifetime probation by **Judge Carter** in US District Court in Manhattan; he was among the 11 accused gang members convicted last fall.

## Inter-Change By Philip Tajitsu Nash

### More Than A Dreamer

If the Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., were alive today, what would he say about the recent Howard Beach racial attacks? About the tragic buildup of nuclear arms and the budgetary cutbacks for needed social services? And what would his special message be for Asian Americans?

One frequently overlooked fact about Dr. King's life is that he was more than a "Black leader" or an activist for "Black issues". Looking back over some of his speeches and writings the other day, I was reminded of the depth and power of his words, and the evolving maturity of his political visions.

Although only 27 years old in 1956, Dr. King was, along with Rosa Parks and others, a leader of the famous boycott of segregated buses that took place in Montgomery, Alabama. Imbued with a deep sense of history even then, he reminded his fellow activists that the protest was not just about buses but about things that "go deep down into the archives of history". And yet Dr. King could have been addressing the recent rally to protest the Howard Beech incident—or an assembly of Asian Americans about violence or redress—when he said, "We have known humiliation, we have known abusive language, we have been plunged into the abyss of oppression. And we decided to raise up only with the weapon of protest. It is one of the greatest glories of America that we have the right to protest.

"If we are arrested every day, if we are exploited every day, if we are trampled over every day, don't ever let anyone pull you so low as to hate them. We must use the weapon of love... (For, as) we stand in life at midnight, we are always on the threshold of a new dawn."

Dr. King was also, at the end of his

## AALDEF— New Year's Dinner

The Asian American Legal Defense and Education Fund's (AALDEF) "Second Annual Lunar New Year Dinner" will be held on Thur, Jan 22. Civil rights activist **William M. Marutani**, Cambodian photojournalist and hero of the film "The Killing Fields," **Dith Pran** and author **Michi Weglyn** will receive AALDEF's "Justice in Action" award at the dinner. **William Hohri**, chairperson of the National Council for Japanese American Redress (NCJAR), will be presenting the awards.

The festive Year of the Rabbit celebration will include a dragon dance, door prizes, and a ten-course New Year's feast. The dinner will be held at the Silver Palace Restaurant, 52 Bowery (near Canal St) in Chinatown, NY. Cocktails begin at 5:30 pm, and dinner will be served at 7pm. Tickets are \$45 per person. RSVP as soon as possible. For more info, call 212-966-5932.

## Nikkei Yankee!

There is good news for all nikkei New York Yankee fans. George Steinbrenner, the club owner, has signed Len Sakata for the 1987 baseball season. Sakata from Hawaii becomes the first nikkei Yankee.

A veteran infielder, he has previously played for the Milwaukee Brewers and the Baltimore Orioles.

—Stanley Kanzaki

## Min Yasui Memorial in NYC

The Min Yasui Memorial will take place Sat, Jan 17, at 2 pm, at the Japanese American United Church located at 255 7th Ave (between 24th & 25th Sts). The memorial is being sponsored by the NY chapter of the Japanese American Citizens League (JACL). The event will be followed by a JACL membership meeting.

## JAA & JAIFA— Activities For Seniors

Under the combined sponsorship of the Japanese American Association and Japanese American Help for the Aging, Inc, two separate activities were enjoyed by the Nikkei senior citizens. The first one was at the end of 1986 and the other at the beginning of 1987.

On Sat, Dec. 21, a group of close to 100 people gathered at the JAA social hall for the annual *bonenkai* party. It started with a grand pot luck of the delicious traditional *oshogatsu* food with varieties too numerous and rare to name individually. There was also the traditional wine toast wishing everyone a very Happy New Year of the Rabbit.

For entertainment, Mr. Shinpei Inoue, a well known flutist from Japan, gave a series of solos and a sing-along of Japanese songs. Especially nostalgic for the issei seniors was the singing of student songs from their youth in Japan. The festivities ended with a raffle in which 17 seniors won prizes and the presentation of three birthday gifts, all contributed by local businesses.

On Sat, Jan 3, two groups in cars started early for pickup and delivery of the traditional Japanese New Year *gochiso* in *bento* boxes for the issei shut-ins residing in the various boroughs. In the first car were volunteers Joe Imai, Atsuko Maruyama and Ei Suzuki. Their visits were to the Methodist Home for the Aged and the DeWitt Nursing Home. Mrs. Maruyama, through her generosity, prepared and contributed the *gochiso* and wine, for the entire Home staff.

The second car consisted of volunteers George Yuzawa, Tooru Nemoto and Stanley Kanzaki for delivery to senior homes and private residences throughout the city. In addition to the over 20 *bentos*, potted flowers were also presented.

George Yuzawa, JAIFA chair and JAA board officer, described the visits as "very successful and enjoyable especially in conversing with the shut-ins and the smiles of both parties." He continued, "We ended 1986 and began 1987 in joyful service and plan for more and better events." He encouraged all nikkei seniors who are not on the mailing list to call in for newsletters. He also called for volunteers from the nikkei community to come forward and "contribute their talents, skills and ideas for future programs." The persons to call are Fumiko Takami of JAIFA at (212) 840-6899 and Toshi Miyazaki of JAA at (212) 840-6942. Both organizations are located at 7 West 44th St. (6th fl), New York, NY 10036.

—Stanley Kanzaki



Anyone interested in the key to the New Year's Crossword Puzzle? The answers will appear in next week's issue.—Ed.

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I would like to extend warm thanks to all those who helped with last week's issue, and with the *NY Nichibei* in general, while I was away. In particular, I'd like to thank Monona Yin, Janice Ng, Teru Kanazawa and, of course, the Kida's.

—Ed.

## Japan Society— Soh Daiko To Perform With Kodo

In the latest edition of the NY Buddhist Church's bulletin, Merle Okada wrote of Soh Daiko, "We took a brief vacation from taiko practice, but we're starting off the new year with a bang!"

Banging away in practice they are indeed, for in February Soh Daiko will be performing at two major events. The first is at Florida's Morikami Museum on Feb 21 and 22 at their annual Hatsumae Fair. The second is here in NYC, at the Japan Society on Tue, Feb 24 and Thur, Feb 26.

The concert at the Japan Society will be very special and memorable because the world-famous drum and dance group of Sado island in Japan, Kodo, will also perform, with Soh

Daiko, on those two nights. These two concerts will mark the first time that Kodo has ever performed with an American taiko group in formal concert. (Kodo's former name was Ondekoza, just in case Kodo doesn't sound familiar).

If you remember, the last time Soh Daiko performed at the Japan Society, all the tickets were sold out three weeks before the performances. Because of Kodo's special appearance in New York, tickets to the two February concerts will go very quickly, so hurry, hurry, purchase your tickets now! Both nights are sure to be smashing hits.

Call the Japan Society at 212-832-1155 for further info regarding tickets.

## Obituaries

**Kikue Tanaka**, of 35 East 29th St, suddenly passed away at age 86 on the afternoon of Sat, Jan 10. Mrs Tanaka was born in the 33rd year of Meiji (1900) in Kumamoto prefecture, Japan. She came to the US by boat in 1919, as the wife of Mr. Tomoichi Kodama who later died in 1939. She was later remarried to Mr. Kaijiro Tanaka, the owner of Tanakaya, a Japanese store that used to exist on Amsterdam Ave. Mr Tanaka passed away in 1958.

Mrs Tanaka is most famous for being the former owner of Suehiro Restaurant, one of the first Japanese restaurants in New York, which she and her husband, Mr Kodama, started. She retired from 58 years of managing the restaurant in 1977.

In 1973, Mrs Tanaka received the Emperor's "Kunsho" award. She was extremely active with the Japanese American Association of NY (JAA) from the very beginning of the organization, as well as being active with the Japanese American United Church. She is survived by her brother, Ben Moribe, her son Tomoharu Kodama of Washington, and her daughters Teruko Kurokawa and Misayo Tsuji, and her seven grandchildren.

Funeral services for the family will be held at the Frank Campbell Funeral Chapel at 1076 Madison Ave on Fri, Jan 16, at 10:15 am, after which the body will be cremated. Memorial services held jointly by JAA and the JA United Church will take place on Sat, Jan 17 at 11 am, at the JA United Church, 255 7th Ave (between 24th & 25th). In lieu of flowers, the family has requested that donations be made at the memorial service on Saturday. Contributions will go toward JAA and the JA United Church.

**Peter Zeiler**, 43-year-old renowned criminal defense attorney, civil rights activist, and Board member of the Chinatown Youth Council, passed away suddenly on New Year's Eve in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil.

The tragic loss of his life was felt

by a far-reaching multitude of friends who gathered daily and nightly for 7 days. Among them was Nobuko Miyamoto who flew in from Los Angeles, California for the funeral.

Zeiler, along with his wife, Regina Darby, also a lawyer, have interacted with Asian American communities on the East Coast, West Coast and Hawaii for years. They have attended functions such as the Asian American Heritage celebrations, Bon Festivals, Asian American dance concerts and jazz festivals, Pan Asian Theatre performances, Hiroshima/Nagasaki commemorations, marched with the Asian American contingent in last year's massive anti-apartheid march to Central Park, and continuously displayed strong support for redress/reparation for Japanese Americans.

They have made contributions to AALDEF, housed the Afro-Asian Jazz Band—Warriors of the Rainbow during the 70's, hired Asian American attorney David Chin on their staff, as well as NYU law student Chris Iijima as a temp. They have regularly hosted Sansei Leonard Hoshijo, labor leader from Hawaii. Though having kept a low profile in the Asian American communities, their long-time dedication to Asian American concerns is known.

Zeiler is a prominent figure in the Black, Puerto Rican and Jewish communities, and is considered an outstanding fund-raiser, having raised funds for National Conference of Black Lawyers, Association for Legal Aid Lawyers, Center for Constitutional Rights, and the Homeward Bound Program for the Homeless. He also founded the Steven Biko Collective and the A. Luta Continua Programs for inner-city youths.

Asian Americans who wish to remember Peter Zeiler, may send contributions to the Peter Zeiler Memorial Foundation in care of his wife, Regina Darby—to 394 Broadway, 6th floor, New York, New York 10013.

—Yuri Kochiyama

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(All quotes from Howard Zinn's *The Twentieth Century: A People's History*)



Thursday, January 15, 1987

THE NEW YORK NICHIBEI

## Tooru Nemoto Studies Nikkei Aged

Tooru Nemoto, a student from Japan studying at the New York University Graduate School of Arts and Sciences, is in the midst of research towards his doctorate in community psychology. He is using a questionnaire to find out if nikkeis over 60 living in the greater New York area are receiving social support from relatives and/or friends and, if so, how that affects their well-being both physically and psychologically. It will also examine the norms of a social support system among the nikkeis. If the findings so indicate, it is hoped that a model social support network design can be developed for the age group being studied. Nemoto hopes to complete the research by Aug 1987, at which time the findings will be made public.

The research is financed by the Japanese American Help for the Aging, Inc (JAHFA) and an in-kind grant from the Bank of Tokyo. George Yuzawa, JAHFA chair, stated, "We have in the past sup-

ported projects of this nature concerning the nikkei community, especially in the field of aging and will continue to do so in the future. Knowledge gained from such studies," he concluded, "is very important in serving people."

Nemoto hopes to reach a target sampling of 100 people. A selected mailing has been done, and Nemoto requests all who have received questionnaires to complete them as soon as possible and send them back to him. People who wish to participate should call for a questionnaire.

Nemoto will be available to groups or presentations in both English and Japanese. If necessary, interviews can be conducted via telephone and home visits by prior arrangements. For more info, he can be reached at his NYU office 212-254-6929 or at home 718-499-3562, or by writing to Mr. Tooru Nemoto, NYU Psychology, 60 Washington Place, 2nd Fl, New York, N.Y. 10003.

—Stanley Kanzaki

## Summer Program For Minority Journalists

The Summer Program for Minority Journalists is now accepting applications for its May 31-Aug 15, 1987 program. Sponsored by the Institute for Journalism Education, the program trains individuals to become reporters; program participants report and write for the program newspaper. Deadline, which is distributed throughout the San Francisco Bay Area. The program is not an internship.

Program participants will be placed in a full-time reporting job after successfully completing the program which operates out of the Univ of CA, Berkeley.

Participants will receive free tuition.

room & board, and a modest stipend. Deadline for applications is Feb 1, 1987. For an application and brochure, write to: The Summer Program for Minority Journalists, B-29 North Gate Hall, Graduate School of Journalism, University of California, Berkeley, Berkeley, CA 94720.

## COMMUNITY CALENDAR

"Class Fair '87." At Nippon Club, 145 W. 57th, display of classes offered including traditional Japanese arts and knitting and others, from Thur, Jan 15 to Sat, Jan 31, 11am-7pm, Mon-Fri, call 246-9774 for more info.



## Nisei Bowling League

### Nu Life Increases Lead

Nu Life Dental increased its lead to 5 points by chewing out J.A.C.L. 10 to 0. Your reporter ground out a 500 series and Sue Kubo chipped in with the women's high series, a 455 for Nu Life Dental, while Fae Minabe hung in there for J.A.C.L.

In the big battle for second place, Cherry Restaurant barbecued Japanese American Assn. 8 to 2 in a high scoring match. Kerry Kubo cooked the evening's high series, an excellent 555 series for Cherry Rest. while Jimmy Konno serviced a fine 534 series and the only 200 game of the evening for J.A.A.

Taylor and Taylor remained in 4th place with an 8 to 2 win over Daito. Lou Sumi was the top agent with a 503 series while Daitos seemed to have over indulged in the holiday goodies.

New York Travel Service showed the sights to Yodo Restaurant with an

8 to 2 victory, moving up to the 5th spot. Min Hara was the top guide with a 194 game for N.Y.T.S. while Rudy Davis barbecued a 465 series for Yodo Restaurant.

Tokyo Restaurant moved back to the 6th place with an 8 to 2 win over the mild Typhoons. George Poole was the chef of the match with a 450 series for Tokyo Rest. while Toshi Sakuma blew a 155 game for Typhoons.

Standings After 18 Weeks:	Points
1. Nu Life Dental	123
2. Cherry Restaurant	118
3. Japanese American Assn.	115
4. Taylor and Taylor Ins.	101
5. New York Travel Service	94
6. Tokyo Restaurant	94
7. Yodo Restaurant	93
8. Typhoon	54
9. J.A.C.L.	53
10. Daito	49

—Gene Kubo

## community resource directory

If you want to place your group in the community resource directory, contact the NY Nichibei at 212-964-3461, 27 Park Place, NYC 10007. Rates are \$30.00 for listing in one issue, \$100.00 for the whole year. Please mention the Nichibei when you contact any of the organizations below.

### ORGANIZATIONS

**Asian American Legal Defense and Education Fund**  
99 Hudson St, 12 Fl, NYC 10013. Tel: 212-966-5932. AALDEF does impact litigation, advocacy and community education on immigration, employment, housing, Japanese American redress, and anti-Asian violence. We Welcome Volunteers! Contact: Margaret Fung, Executive Director.

### RESOURCES/SERVICES

**Peter Raith, Advanced Systems Consultants, Inc.** Tel: 718-961-6654. Professional computer management, services, sales and consultation for businesses, agencies and professional offices. We specialize in systems development and "turn-key" systems in micro and mini environments. Call for a free one-hour consultation.

## Letters To The Editor

### AA Bibliography

Dear Editor,

Stan Yogi (graduate student at UC Berkeley) and I are currently compiling an annotated bibliography of Asian American literature for the Modern Language Association of America. The bibliography lists creative works (including children literature) by Americans of Chinese, Japanese, Filipino, Korean, Vietnamese, Hawaiian, and Asian Indian descent as well as critical works on these writers. Could you please kindly send us a list of your publications for your earliest convenience? (If you are a writer, please give us a list of critical works on your writings as well.) We would also appreciate information about forthcoming works by other Asian American writers/critics. Please address all correspondence to:

Professor King-Kok Cheung  
Department of English  
2225 Rolfe Hall  
University of California, Los Angeles  
Los Angeles, CA 90024

Thank you in advance for your cooperation. Please pass this letter along to a friend who is an Asian American writer/critic/scholar.

King-Kok Cheung  
Assistant Professor  
Dept. of English, UCLA

### Exhibits

**Colorful Chinese papercuts.** By Chen Hwei, well-known artist and scholar from Taiwan, at Asian Arts Institute, 26 Bowery (opposite Confucius Plaza), from Fri, Jan 16 to Tue, Feb 3. Gallery hours: Mon-Fri, 11am-6pm, call 233-2154 for more info.

**"Positively Created Black."** A Black artists show in honor of Martin Luther King, at Food Stamp Gallery 2033 2nd Ave (104th St) from Fri, Jan 9 to Tue, Feb 3. Gallery hours: Mon-Fri, 9-5, call 718-388-9549 for more info.

## CLASSIFIED ADVERTISING

### FOR SALE

Beautiful house, split-level home, 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, well-built, by the water, by the park, close to school. 30-45 minutes from Manhattan. Must be seen. \$275,000. Call GimLee, 516-676-6149.

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To prepare various kinds of Japanese foods according to traditional Japanese recipes such as sashimi, tempura, and teriyaki. 1 yr. exp. in the job req. \$242.67/wk. 35 hrs./wk. 12:00-2:30p.m. & 5:30-10:00p.m. Please contact Mr. Hirahara at (212)759-8897.

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## Juku

Somebody once said that everyone talks about the weather but nobody does anything about it. The same can be said about the examination system in Japanese education. Like the weather it is doubtful anyone can do anything about it.

Among Japanese students the word examination conjurs up visions of terror. It is not, however the final exam given at the end of a course of study which worries them because once enrolled nobody is allowed to fail. It is the entrance exam used to select or weed out applicants to a given grade school, high school or university which is so critical to their future prospects. The root of the problem is that graduation from an elite university is a prerequisite to an elite career in government or business, and unless one attends a first class high school the chances of getting into an elite university are almost nil, and so on down the line. At each step along the way an entrance exam presents a hurdle which if not surmounted successfully can effectively limit the options open to them for the rest of their life. The competition to get on and stay on the elite path is therefore extremely competitive, and it begins with the first grade. It is not for nothing that the word "examination hell" has entered the Japanese vocabulary.

The juku, or private cram school as it is called in English, is a logical outgrowth of this system. The sole purpose of the juku is to teach the students what they need to know to pass an examination. Attendance at a typical juku entails about 2 hours a day, 3-4 days a week and an exam each Sunday, all of which is, of course, over and above their regular

schooling. They are crammed with facts and information, the pace and pressure mounting as the exam date nears. If it is a university entrance exam they are aiming at, their regular school work will also be designed toward passing the exam, however without the supplementary juku training very few can make it. There was an article in the Aug. 31, issue of the Japan Times headlined "Kids Cram in Summer Heat for Exam Hell" which went on to explain that nine hotels in a well known ski resort were rented out to a major juku for their annual summer camp. The attendees, mostly sixth graders were subjected to a solid week of study each day beginning at six in the morning and ending at midnight. There were 2500 of them.

Obviously not all school children attend a juku however it is estimated that in the Tokyo area nearly 70% attend one of one sort or another. It used to be that only high school children faced this grind however in recent years increased competition has resulted in the selection process beginning earlier and now even young children attend jukus. It is little wonder that when parents discuss the lot of their children they so often say kawaiiso (pitiful). The question being asked is what kind of adults will develop from children who have had so little time to play, so little time to explore avenues of their own choice and so little time to dream. There has been much criticism of the system by both parents and educators but there seems to be little which can be done to change it as long as such a premium is placed by society at large on graduation from one of the elite universities.

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