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CROSSCURRENTS

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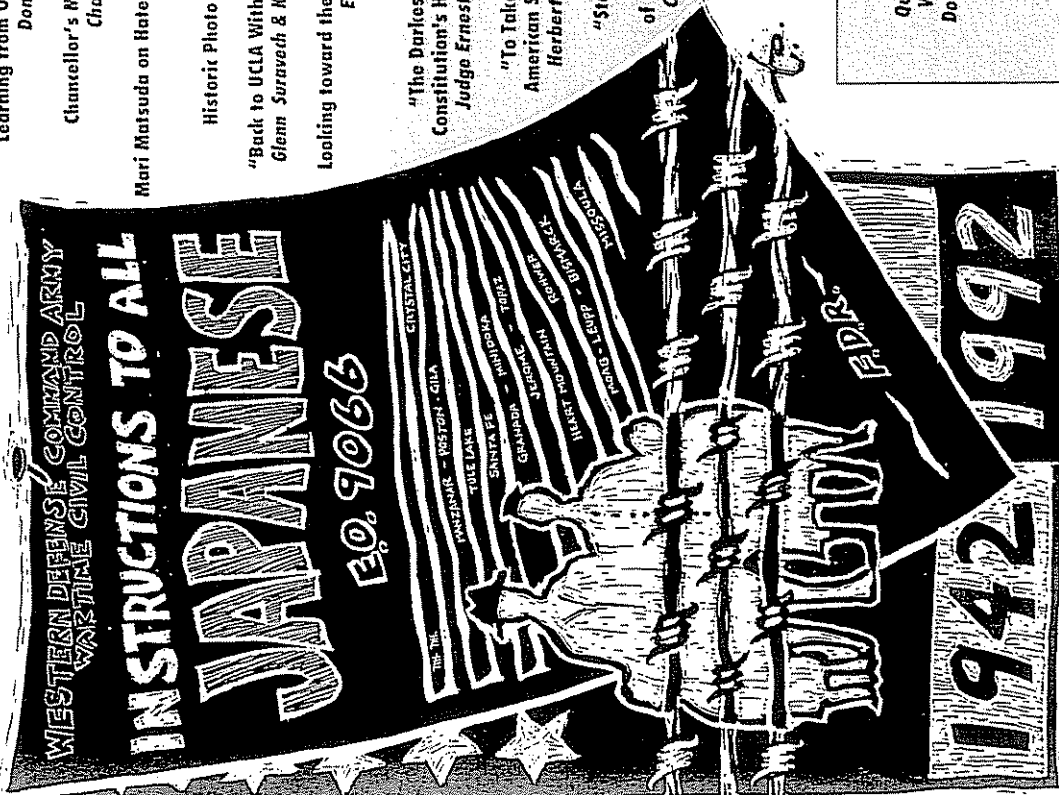
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CROSSCURRENTS

The News magazine of the UCLA Asian American Studies Center

Learning from Our Past

By Don T. Nakanishi

Director, Asian American Studies Center

The Asian American Studies Center invites you to participate in its series of programs in recognition of the 50th-year anniversary of the wartime internment of 120,000 Japanese Americans—175 of whom were UCLA students. We believe that this commemorative benchmark can and should serve to draw significant campus, regional, and national attention to this extraordinary event in American history, so that such a tragedy never happens again.

The February 22 "Opening Ceremony" at Royce Hall featuring U.S. Senator Daniel Inouye, Chancellor Charles Young, Mayor Tom Bradley, Professor Harry Kitano, and Tritia Toyota will launch one of our Center's most ambitious academic projects. Through activities ranging from a national civil rights conference on March 7 to the first-ever major exhibition of paintings and other artwork created by Japanese Americans during their wartime incarceration in Fall 1992, we hope to provide multiple opportunities to learn about and to learn from the singularly most important and disastrous episode in Japanese American history. We hope these programs will serve to not only enhance our understanding of what happened to Japanese Americans, but also reveal their many different responses to the Internment over the years, be it through legal challenges or artistic expressions. By doing so, we hope to demonstrate both the timeless and timely significance of their experience.

No other university in the nation will engage in such an extensive schedule of events from so many different fields of learning and vantage points of experience. Indeed, there are few other colleges that have such a wealth of scholarly and artistic talents and resources to organize a project of this scale. For example, the archival materials of the Japanese American Research Project (JARP) Collection in UCLA's Special Collections provide indispensable treasures for several of our exhibits. In existence for over twenty-five years, the JARP Collection is without question the most significant and largest archive on Japanese Americans in the world.

The faculty, staff, and students of our Center acknowledge the genuine commitment to these commemorative activities by UCLA's very highest ranking administrative and academic leaders. We are particularly grateful for being selected as this year's recipient of the \$100,000 UCLA Chancellor's Challenge Grant in the Arts and Humanities to undertake these academic programs. We also would like to pay special tribute to the many organizations and institutions at UCLA and in the Japanese American and Asian American communities that have collaborated with us in organizing these major educational programs. Finally, we would like to extend our sincerest gratitude to the alumni, friends, and campus staff who worked tirelessly for many months in planning these very powerful and moving programs.

We look forward to your participation in these 50th anniversary events, and in other activities of the UCLA Asian American Studies Center.

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CROSSCURRENTS, the newsmagazine of the Asian American Studies Center, keeps readers abreast of new and current developments in Center programs, including graduate and undergraduate programs, research projects, publications, faculty activities, relevant university and community issues, and programs not sponsored by the Center but in the province of Asian American Studies.

The staff welcomes suggestions and criticism. Please submit written materials and inquiries to **CROSSCURRENTS**, UCLA Asian American Studies Center, 3232 Campbell Hall, 405 Hilgard Avenue, Los Angeles, CA 90024-1546; phone, (310) 825-3415.

Promoting Tolerance and Understanding

By Chancellor Charles E. Young

UCLA is proud to organize these educational programs commemorating the World War II internment of Japanese Americans. We believe it is an important opportunity for our campus, the Southern California community and the nation to engage in critical self-examination on one of the darkest periods in history. By acknowledging and exploring the injustices and constitutional violations committed against Japanese Americans because of wartime hysteria and racism, it is our hope that we will all learn to be more tolerant and understanding, and less quick to judge others. These themes are as important and relevant for the UCLA community and our society today as they were fifty years ago.

During the "Opening Ceremony" on February 22, we will pay special tribute to the 175 Japanese American students who were forced to leave UCLA during the early months of 1942 as a result of Executive Order 9066, and to join 120,000 other Japanese Ameri-

cans in internment camps. They, along with over 10,000 Japanese Americans who have attended UCLA before and after World War II, represent our university's direct linkage to this national tragedy.

As an institution of higher learning, UCLA is dedicated to enhancing society's knowledge and understanding of significant events in history and the people and cultures of the world. We believe the array of 50th anniversary events that are being organized by our Asian American Studies Center, in collaboration with many campus and community groups, will serve to illuminate important lessons from this tragic past so that they are never repeated in the future.

We are also confident that these activities will showcase the enormous contributions of Japanese Americans to our society, and the achievements of our many UCLA scholars and students specializing in Japanese American and Asian American Studies.

Major Activities Planned at UCLA to Observe 50th Anniversary of Wartime Internment

By Olivia Cervantes

On February 19, 1942, ten weeks after the Pearl Harbor attack, President Franklin D. Roosevelt signed Executive Order 9066. In 1942, wartime hysteria and racism resulted in the internment of Japanese Americans in concentration camps.

Fifty years later, the Asian American Studies Center in collaboration with various organizations in the Japanese American community will commemorate this important anniversary by sponsoring various events on campus and in the Los Angeles area.

In 1942, 175 UCLA students were removed from the campus and interned at various camps during the war.

Hitoshi "Mo" Yonemura was one of the many UCLA Bruins whose college education was interrupted by the war. Yonemura was captain of the UCLA yell leaders and a student body officer when he left the campus in 1942. He ultimately enlisted in the U.S. Army from an internment camp and was killed in action while serving the United States in the special 442nd Regimental Combat Team in Italy.

Harry Kitano, Professor of Social Welfare and Sociology and holder of the first-ever endowed chair in Japanese American Studies at UCLA, was a teenager at the time of the internment. Kitano and his family were sent to a camp in Utah called Topaz. He spent 1942-44 in the camp and graduated valedictorian of his high school class.

Beginning February 22, the Asian American Studies Center will embark on a significant and exciting educational and research endeavor. Commemoration activities will be clustered into three time periods: the Winter, Spring and Fall academic quarters of 1992.

Launching the first cluster activities will be a major public ceremony at Royce Hall featuring Hawaii's senior U.S. Senator, Daniel Inouye, who served in the 442nd Regimental Battalion during World War II. The public ceremony will include addresses by Chancellor Charles E. Young, Los Angeles Mayor Tom Bradley, Professor Harry Kitano, and Tritia Toyota. A special tribute will be paid to the 175 Japanese American students who had to leave campus to go into the internment camps.

Other major events include the February 29 Nikkei Student Union annual Cultural Night at Wadsworth Theater, a play recounting the internment experience from current students' perspectives.

On March 7, a major civil rights conference—co-sponsored by the UCLA School of Law, the Asian American Studies Center, and several community groups and legal organizations in Southern California—will focus on the broader constitutional and civil rights issues raised by the internment and the more recent redress and reparations movement.

Also during the first cluster of activities, beginning February 15 and continuing through March 1, the Wight Art Gallery, in cooperation with the Center, will present two photographic exhibitions. One will feature Ansel Adams' photographs taken at the Manzanar camp. The other exhibit was curated by the California Historical Society approximately twenty years ago and draws from the vast array of photos of the camps that are part of the National Archives.

The second cluster of activities in Spring Quarter includes an innovative curriculum integration project. UCLA faculty will engage in a seminar to learn more about the internment experience and incorporate this experience into their courses for years to come. Professor Valerie Matsumoto of the History Department will be the facilitator.

A major activity on April 25, under the leadership of the Nikkei Student Union, will take several hundred UCLA students from diverse backgrounds to the annual pilgrimage at Manzanar.

Also planned are a film festival of the camp experience in May 1992,

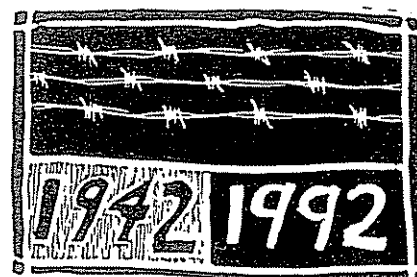
(Olivia Cervantes is a Public Information Representative for UCLA)



and a lecture series involving scholars and writers who are undertaking research on the internment experience.

The Fall Quarter of 1992 will bring the final cluster of activities to the forefront. Beginning in October and extending for three months, the Center in cooperation with the University Research Library Special Collections, the Wight Art Gallery, and the Japanese American National Museum, will present a first-ever exhibition of paintings produced by Japanese Americans during the internment.

October 12 will set in motion a series of performances by the East-West Players theater group, with co-sponsorship by the Department of Theatre, presenting Wakako Yamauchi's "12-1-A" production about family life during the internment. A lecture series featuring literary works produced about the camps is scheduled for Fall 1992. Finally, a musical tribute by a renowned jazz group is being planned for late 1992 in Royce Hall.



"L.A. Eight Case"

Anti-Arab Racism Parallels Events of Fifty Years Ago

By Glenn Omatsu

The internment of Japanese Americans is regarded as the civil rights tragedy of the 1940s. Today, a case involving Arab Americans is becoming the civil rights challenge for the 1990s.

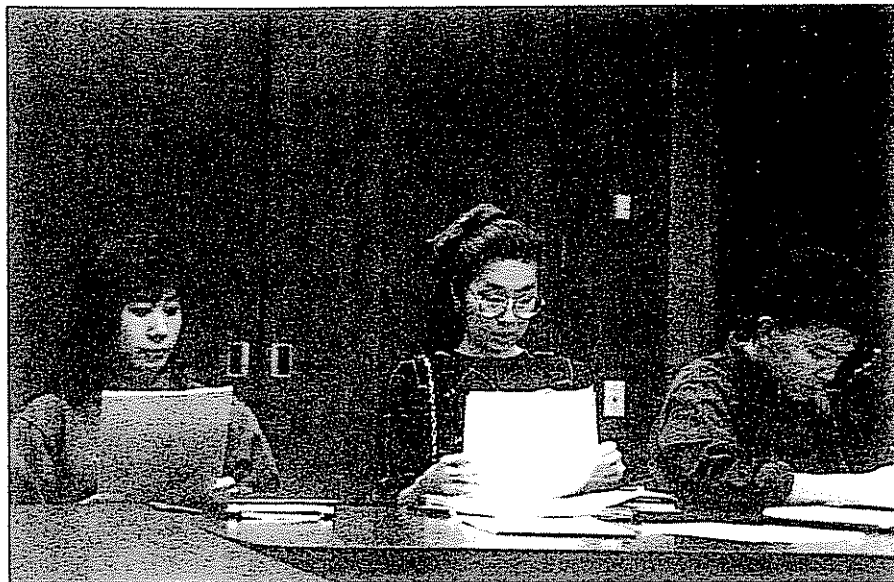
The "L.A. Eight"—seven Palestinians and the Kenyan wife of one man, all active in the Arab American community—were arrested in January 1987 and charged under the McCarran-Walter Act, a piece of legislation from the McCarthy period. Initially, the Eight were accused of "being members or affiliates of an organization advocating world communism." However, in the initial round of courtroom appearances, government agents steadfastly refused to bring forward any evidence to support their accusations, claiming that to do so would endanger "national security." Subsequently, the government dropped some charges against the Eight, but is proceeding with efforts to deport them. Several deportation cases will begin this spring. Meanwhile, government agents have yet to produce any evidence to justify these deportations.

Apparently, the main "crime" of the Eight is being Arab in America and speaking out for peace and justice in the Middle East.

The government's focus on the Eight is not accidental but part of a larger campaign—with chilling implications for Arab Americans. Shortly after the arrest of the Eight in 1987, copies of a secret government plan—drafted by the FBI, Immigration and Naturalization Services (INS), and National Security Council—were leaked to the *Los Angeles Times*. Entitled "Alien Terrorists and Undesirables: A Contingency Plan," the document detailed the rounding up of thousands of Arab immigrants, detaining them in isolated campsites, and deporting them. The plan's authors noted that because Congress would not likely pass a law to carry out this round-up based on nationality, it would be necessary to create a "test case" to establish legal precedent for deportations based "solely on nationality." The government's test case appears to be that involving the "L.A. Eight."

In 1942, when the government incarcerated 120,000 Japanese Americans, few other Americans came forward to protest the injustice. Few then understood that the justification of "national security" was a cover up for racism and economic greed. Few then

Civil Rights Conference To Be Held March 7 at Ackerman Grand Ballroom



Members of the Civil Rights Conference Planning Committee—Shari Uyeda, Trisha Murakawa (co-chair), and Ken Wada—make final preparations for the March 7 event.

A Civil Rights Conference will be held Saturday, March 7, at the Ackerman Union Grand Ballroom to examine the implications of the Redress and Reparations struggle for civil rights.

The conference is co-chaired by Trisha Murakawa, Chair of the National Youth Council for the Japanese American Citizens League (JACL); and Professor Mari Matsuda of the UCLA Law School.

According to Murakawa, the conference will not focus solely on Japanese American issues. Instead, the goal is to look at the broader issues for all people, and a multiethnic audience is expected.

knew about the role of government officials in suppressing evidence about the loyalty of Japanese Americans from the U.S. Supreme Court deliberations on the constitutionality of the wartime internment. It would take nearly five decades for people to realize the enormity of this injustice, not only for Japanese Americans but for all in America.

Today, a coalition of Civil Rights groups—through the Committee for Justice—has rallied around the "L.A. Eight." Thus, unlike Japanese Americans in 1942, Arab Americans today are not isolated. But shouldn't the numbers of people speaking in support of the Eight be much greater?

This case specifically involves Arab Americans, but its outcome will affect us all. The outcome will either advance or setback the status of civil rights in America.

At stake is a new legal precedent which would allow government agents to round

Workshops include such topics as "Educational Issues: Focus on Student Activism," "Media Images," "Glass Ceiling in the Workplace," "Political Empowerment and Advocacy," "National Security and Civil Rights," "Sexual Harassment," and "Free Speech vs. Hate Speech" debate.

The speakers will include community leaders as well as academics speaking on a large spectrum of civil rights issues.

"We'll be analyzing the Japanese American experience of getting redress... and also looking at how other groups have suffered throughout history," said co-chair Matsuda.

up, detain, and deport people based on nationality.

At stake is a test case which would reduce the rights of all immigrants, especially their rights to due process and freedom of speech.

At stake is a dangerous new definition of "national security" which would adversely affect the Constitutional rights for all in America.

In this time of reflection on the meaning of the internment of Japanese Americans, we now know that the greatest civil rights tragedies occur when a small group is forced to fight injustice in isolation from others. We must not allow the case of the "L.A. Eight" to become the civil rights tragedy of the 1990s.

For more information about the "L.A. Eight" and upcoming court dates, call Ahmed Nassef of the Committee for Justice at (213) 413-2935.

Threat to People of Color

Mari Matsuda on Hate Crimes

By Karen Seki

Ethnic stereotypes. Racial slurs. Burning crosses. Physical violence. The good news: these injustices are being identified as hate crimes. The bad news: they're growing. Everywhere.

Ironically, in the "politically correct" 1990s, hate crimes are mushrooming in communities nationwide, infecting every neighborhood and increasing friction along ethnic fault lines.

"Very few people of color have not experienced discrimination," says Mari Matsuda of the UCLA Law School. The civil rights activist/professor is an authority on the subject of hate speech and hate crimes, due in part to events or movements she herself has witnessed, especially at the university.

"In the '70s, there was a rise of hate groups like the Ku Klux Klan and neo-Nazism. In the '80s, we saw a second resurgence on college campuses," she says. "(Now) I'm getting more reports of increases in (hate group) activity."

Whether during her graduate student years at Harvard and the University of Hawaii, or her duration as a professor at the latter, Stanford, and UCLA, Matsuda has been an active participant in fighting to keep affirmative action alive.

In addition to attracting students of all ethnicities to her courses on civil rights and legal theory and ideology, she has authored articles on race and gender issues. "(I am) using law as a tool of social change," she says.

Hate speech or hate crimes, as defined by Matsuda, can include anything from racist remarks to physical abuse. The problem with this, as she pointed out in the *Buffalo Law Review* is distinguishing it from constitutionally-protected free speech. "We need to reevaluate the concept of rights and the concept of equality to recognize the needs of oppressed communities in our country."

A recent case in Minnesota illustrates the evolution of hate speech law. "There was a cross-burning in which the (targeted) African American family felt severely threatened," she explains. "The issue was whether

to increase the penalty for trespassing (because it was linked) to racist discrimination."

In this instance, Matsuda reveals, the activists won at least a partial victory. "The Minnesota Supreme Court said 'yes.' Now the U.S. Supreme Court is examining the Minnesota court's decision."

But Matsuda also worries. With an increasingly conservative Supreme Court and what she calls "the rise of the right," she fears that all the work of the civil rights movement could be undone in a few years.

"(We've seen) the Reagan-Bush era . . . promoting Japan-bashing, backlash against affirmative action, and using the rhetoric of 'welfare-free-loading,' where they blame the victims for their economic crises," she says.

The "Japan trade war" fever has given Matsuda more reason to fear for the violation of rights of Asian American people. Sadly enough, however, she notes that Asian-bashing never really disappeared in the first place.

"Verbal abuse can be just as assaultive as physical abuse," Matsuda says. "It produces the same effect, the same fear response." In fact, Matsuda's most recent project has been to co-author a book on the subject, *Words that Wound: Critical Race Theorists Consider the Problem of Hate Speech*, published by Westview Press.

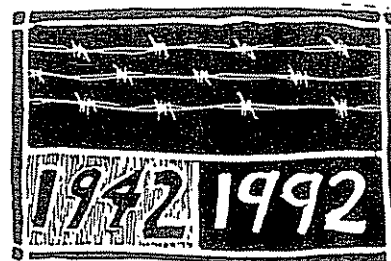
According to Matsuda, several actions must occur in order to halt the hate crime rampages. "We need laws regulating hate speech and hate crimes," she says. "We need to put institutional mechanisms in place to increase the reporting (of injustices) so people will feel like they can get redress. And finally, we need to fight racism and to strengthen civil rights laws. We must keep affirmative action in place and maintain our diversity."

(Karen Seki is a UCLA undergraduate. This article is condensed from a longer version appearing in the *Rafu Shimpo* newspaper.)

Nikkei Student Union Cultural Celebration February 29 at Wadsworth Theatre



Members of the UCLA Nikkei Student Union will hold their Sixth Annual Japanese American Cultural Celebration on Saturday, February 29, at Wadsworth Theatre. Each year, students present an educational and cultural program about Japanese American history and culture. This year, students will present a play, *Walking Against the Wind*, set entirely in the Manzanar concentration camp.

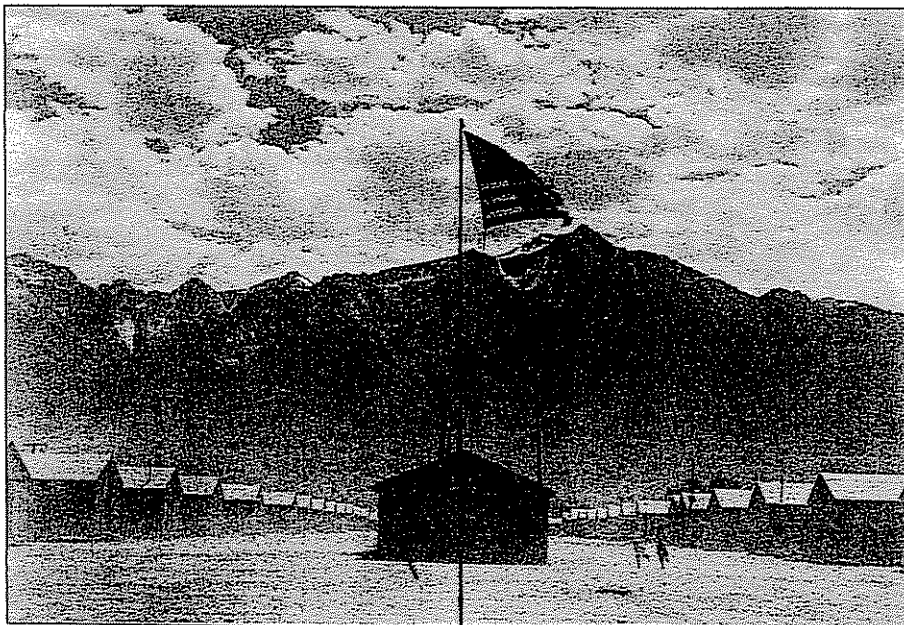


Historic Photo Exhibits at Wight Gallery

February 15 through March 1



"Evacuation Day," March 30, 1942, Bainbridge Island, Washington.



Manzanar concentration camp, July 3, 1942.

The Wight Art Gallery will feature two views of the Japanese American internment: "Executive Order 9066" and "Manzanar: A Selection of Photographs by Ansel Adams." The exhibits will be open from February 15 to March 1.

The exhibits are sponsored by the California Historical Society; History Room, Japanese Cultural and Community Center of Northern California; Japanese American National Museum; UCLA Asian American Studies Center; and UCLA Wight Art Gallery.

"Executive Order 9066" was originally curated by Maisie and Richard Conrat for the California Historical Society in 1972. The sixty-five photographs in this exhibition—many of them by photographer Dorothea Lange—were selected from over 25,000 internment photographs at the National Archives and other collections.

"Executive Order 9066" opened in San Francisco and later went on a national tour in 1972-73. After the tour, the California Historical Society donated the two sets of the exhibit to Japanese American organizations in San Francisco. The exhibit that is on display at the Wight Art Gallery is on loan from the History Room of the Japanese American Cultural and Community Center of Northern California.

"Manzanar: A Selection of Photographs by Ansel Adams" is curated by Elizabeth Shepherd, the Curatorial Director of Wight Art Gallery. This presentation attempts to recreate most of the original exhibit of photographs of the Manzanar, California, internment camp that were taken by the renowned photographer Ansel Adams, and displayed at Manzanar in January 1944. The collection of original photographs was donated to the UCLA University Research Library's Special Collections Department by Ralph Merritt, the second administrator of Manzanar and later a Regent of the University of California.

In contrast to the "Executive Order 9066" exhibit, none of Adams' photographs includes the guard towers with machine guns, military soldiers with rifles, or the barbed wire surrounding the camp. Like other non-government photographers, Adams was forbidden to photograph these aspects of life in an internment camp.

"Executive Order 9066" Catalogue Reprinted

A special limited edition reprint of the catalogue for *Executive Order 9066* is now available. Out-of-print for over a decade, this 120-page catalogue features all of the photographs from the California Historical Society's exhibit.

It also contains the original essays that were written for the 1972 catalogue by Maisie and Richard Conrat, the curators of the exhibit; the late Edison Uno, a major Japanese American civil rights leader; and Supreme Court Justice Tom Clark.

Funds for reprinting were provided by the Ahmanson Foundation and the California Historical Society.

The catalogue is priced at \$12, and is available at the Wight Art Gallery's Gift Shop, or may be ordered through the Asian American Studies Center by including \$1.00 for postage and sending to 405 Hilgard Ave., Los Angeles, CA 90024-1546; California residents should add 7.25%, Los Angeles residents, 8.25%. Checks should be made payable to "UC Regents."



Curator Karin Higa examines a painting created during the wartime internment.

Photo by Mario G. Reyes/Rafu Shimpō

Exhibit of Artwork from Wartime Internment Camps to Open in Fall 1992

By Kariann Yokota

Karin Higa has been making a lot of decisions lately.

As curator and exhibition coordinator of the upcoming "Internment Camp Art Exhibit" at Wight Art Gallery, she must locate and choose a representative sample from the wide variety of artwork created by Japanese American internees.

The show is scheduled to open in October of 1992.

The exhibition will consist of rarely viewed works, the majority of which have never been publicly shown. Thus, the achievements of these artists (many of whom are still living and will participate in the project) will be recognized and acknowledged for the first time.

In addition, the project is intended to present a view of the camp experience as directly communicated through the artistic expression of the Japanese American people. The exhibition will strive to interpret the artistic response to the internment by examining how Japanese Americans represented their own traumatic and dehumanizing experience through the mediums of painting, drawing and sculpture.

Turning these goals into a reality is a big job, however, Higa is well qualified to succeed. She was chosen for the project through a nationwide search conducted by the Japanese American National Museum.

"There are not a lot of Japanese Americans involved in curating," commented Higa, the daughter of a Nisei who teaches art and art history at Los Angeles City College. Part of the reason for this, according to her, is "museums and galleries are often thought of as private or exclusive. A lot of people that go into curating are independently wealthy."

Like many people who become involved in curating, she received her degree in art history. The Culver City native decided to attend Columbia University, which was "the last of the Ivy League schools to go co-ed."

Higa is currently active with Godzilla: Asian American Visual Art Network. According to Higa, the group "tries to advocate for greater inclusion of Asian American contemporary artists."

Her involvement with the forthcoming UCLA exhibit has special meaning to Higa. Because her father was interned in Heart Mountain, Wyoming, Higa commented that "the camps have always been a part of my personal history."

(Kariann Yokota is a UCLA undergraduate. This article is condensed from a story originally appearing in the *Rafu Shimpō* newspaper.)

Calendar of Events for 1992

February 22 — Opening Ceremony, Royce Hall (by invitation only)

February 15 – March 1 — Photo exhibits, "Executive Order 9066" and "Manzanar, by Ansel Adams," Wight Art Gallery

February 29 — Sixth Annual Japanese American Cultural Celebration by Nikkei Student Union, Wadsworth Theatre

March 7 — Civil Rights Conference, Ackerman Union Grand Ballroom

Spring 1992 — Japanese American History Course

April 25 — 23rd Annual Manzanar Pilgrimage

Spring 1992 — Student Dramatic Performance

May 7–16 — Film Festival on the Japanese American Internment

October – December — National Exhibition of Art Produced in the Camps, Wight Art Gallery

Fall 1992 — Wakako Yamauchi's "12-1-A," Wadsworth Theatre

Fall 1992 – Winter 1993 — Internment Literature Lecture Series

For more information, call Gann Matsuda, (310) 206-2169

Film Festival on Internment, May 7 to 16

"Framed in Celluloid: Film Festival on the Japanese American Internment" will be held from May 7 to 16 at UCLA.

The festival is co-sponsored annually by the UCLA Film and Television Archives, Visual Communications, and Asian American Studies Center.

This year's festival will feature two symposiums: one on "Media & War," and a second on "Redress & Future Directions."



Alumni Come "Back to UCLA With Pride"

Remembering the Past

By Glenn Suravech and Kariann Yokota

U.S.-Japan relations and its effect on Japanese Americans was the ongoing theme of "Back to UCLA With Pride," held November 24, 1991, at the James West Alumni Center.

The reception was held in honor of Japanese Americans who lost their lives while serving in the U.S. military during World War II. More than 200 participants gathered to hear testimonies from Nisei graduates of the university. The event paid special tribute to three UCLA graduates who were killed in action during World War II—2nd Lt. Kei Tanahashi, Class of '39; 2nd Lt. Hitoshi "Mo" Yonemura, Class of '42 and Cpl. Yoshiharu N. Aoyama, Class of '42.

"(We are here) today to pay tribute to those who served in the armed forces," said the Rev. Canon John H. M. Yamazaki, who is a 1939 UCLA graduate. "... (we also pay tribute) to the Japanese American students who spoke boldly (during the outbreak of WW II) ... the students and UCLA are inseparable."

Focusing on the issue of U.S.-Japan relations was keynote speaker, Dr. Toshio "Tusky" Tsukahira, who earned his bachelor's and master's degrees in history from UCLA in 1939 and 1941 respectively. He later went on to earn his Ph.D. in history and far eastern languages from Harvard University in 1951.

Tsukahira, who taught history at Harvard University and the University of California at Berkeley, explained that he believes that the U.S.-Japan relationship is the most important in the world and that Japanese Americans play an important role in that relationship.

"The Nisei grew up in an era of rapidly deteriorating relations

between the United States and Japan," Tsukahira added. "... the attitude toward Japan was reflected on us."

But he emphasized not only the danger the Nisei were subjected to but also the opportunities that arose from the crisis that Japanese Americans faced during World War II.

"We had the opportunity to prove that we were loyal, worthy Americans," Tsukahira said. "The Nisei who offered their services to the U.S. armed forces performed heroically."

Continuing, he emphasized the need to remember the sacrifices the Nisei made to enable the community "to get on with their lives after the war." He applauded Japanese Americans involved in government, education, business, law and the arts. Despite these strides these individuals have made in American society, they are still affected by their Japanese ancestry.

"When Japan and U.S. relations are strained the Japanese Americans are affected to a greater degree than any other ethnic group. Despite what redress achieved, there's still a need for facts to be aired. I believe the 50th anniversary commemoration will do much to fill this need."

Other speakers at the event included Herbert Kawahara, UCLA Class of 1951 and chairman of the UCLA Nikkei Bruin Committee. He concluded the event by thanking Harold Harada, the program chairman of the Special Reception Committee.

(This is a condensed version of a story appearing in the Rafu Shimpō newspaper.)

First Class Planned on Contemporary Japanese American Experience

Looking toward the Future

By Emi Gusukuma

For the media, and much of America, it is the bombing of Pearl Harbor. For older Japanese Americans, it is the internment of 120,000 loyal citizens in camp. Everyone, it seems, remembers a different aspect of World War II.

Then there are those of us who are thinking of the future and wish to move on.

This year will be significant for those of us who wish to move on. It will mark the first-ever UCLA class on Japanese Americans that will focus on the postwar period to the present-day.

The idea for the class started as a midterm project last year for Traci Endo, a third-year communications studies major who is coordinating the class.

The class syllabus includes topics such as redefining the community, anti-Asian violence and Japan bashing, politics and political empowerment, Asian Pacific Americans and higher education, model minority myth, assimilation and culture, and women's issues.

One of those believing that the community needs to be redefined is Naomi Hirahara, English editor of the *Rafu Shimpō*. She believes that the preservation of culture in a community that is now dominated by fourth and fifth generation Japanese Americans is important. "The Nisei are mostly in their seventies. As they pass on, what are we as the Sansei doing? The Nisei set up hospitals and

credit unions. What are we working towards?"

Trisha Murakawa, Chair of the National Youth Council for the Japanese American Citizens League (JACL), paints a grim picture. She sees apathy as the main issue. "The community is too complacent. Too many of us are buying into the model minority myth and worrying only about buying a new Mercedes or going on that skiing vacation. People need to inform themselves and participate."

Darren Kameya, a senior majoring in political science and a former undergrad second vice president at UCLA, offers a solution. "In the long-term sense, if people realize they're Japanese American, then they'll feel an affiliation. If they don't feel like they are part of the community, they're not going to care what happens to it."

Anti-Asian sentiment has found expression in forms as subtle as admissions policies in academia to the blatant desecration of a Japanese American community center. The media has portrayed the enemy of fifty years past as the enemy of today by likening Japan's wartime aggression to its current economic activities.

This time warp must end. Perhaps this class will start us on the path toward the future. I hope to see fifty years down the road not a centennial of the bombing of Pearl Harbor or the internment of Japanese Americans, but a fiftieth year remembrance of the birth of a new era, one committed to the future of our community.

(Emi Gusukuma is a UCLA undergraduate. This is a condensed version of an article published in the Rafu Shimpō newspaper.)

"The Darkest Days of Our Constitution's History"

By Judge Ernest M. Hiroshige, Class of 1967
Los Angeles County Superior Court
Past President, Asian Pacific Alumni - UCLA

As an alumnus of UCLA, I was very proud to learn that a \$100,000 Chancellor's Challenge Grant in the Arts and Humanities was awarded to the Asian American Studies Center to carry out commemorative activities for the 50th year anniversary of the forced removal of Japanese Americans to what has been referred to as "America's Concentration Camps."

I still have vivid memories of attending my Constitutional Law course as a second-year law student twenty-four years ago and having the professor lecture about the U.S. Supreme Court cases that upheld the power of the President to order mass "evacuation" of an entire group of citizens due to their racial heritage. The professor began with the statement: "Today class, we will be discussing the cases decided by the Supreme Court that represent the darkest days of our Constitution's history."

This statement was particularly poignant for me because it marked the first time in my eighteen years of formal education that an instructor presented a discussion of the internment and its impact, in a substantial and realistic manner. The subject had not really been men-



tioned in either my secondary or college-level U.S. history courses. Thus, several generations of Americans had been "educated" by our schools to be unaware of the historical significance of the relocation camps.

It has been my privilege to have served as the Chair of the Opening Ceremony that will inaugurate this year-long series of activities at UCLA. It is my hope that the 50th year commemoration will lead to an ongoing program to preserve the history of the relocation camps and their aftermath, so that the lessons about the mass deprivation of Constitution rights will never be repeated again.

"To Take Our Place in American Society"

By Herbert G. Kawahara, Class of 1951
Chair, UCLA Nikkei Bruin Committee

What the internment meant to me and my family was extreme financial hardship and sudden separation from familiar surroundings. By the same token, it meant learning to overcome adversity at a young age and being dispersed from an ethnic ghetto to undergo assimilation into the greater society.

At the emotional level, it meant for our generation the ultimate rejection by our own country and the realization that we had been placed in the position of having to fight for acceptance. The extraordinary record of military valor established by those serving our country at the same time that their families were interned was an important aspect of this fight.

Fifty years later, my thoughts are that for the most part, we have come through these terrible experiences quite well. We have moved on to take our places in American society. We have been, for the most part, quite successful in our battle for acceptance.

UCLA's 50th anniversary events give us an opportunity to tell the story of our experience, not only to those outside the Japanese American community, but to our children and grandchildren.

These events also come at a time

when there is a disquieting growth in anti-Japanese sentiment. Conditions are dramatically different today from fifty years ago, but public attitude toward Japanese Americans still is influenced by the direction of U.S.-Japan relations.

Because the internment was the result of the breakdown in U.S.-Japan relations and the hysteria that accompanied it, we must work for restraint, understanding, and reasoned attitudes. An effective way to influence public attitudes is by becoming an active member of the community. Japanese American alumni and friends can achieve this through involvement with UCLA.



Photo by Gary A. Conner

"Standing on the Shoulders of Giants"

By Claire Kohatsu, President, Nikkei Student Union



Sir Isaac Newton credited his work to all scientists who paved the way for his discoveries. "If I have seen further...it is by standing upon the shoulders of Giants." As a Yonsei (fourth generation Japanese American), I feel that I am a product of my ancestors, especially my parents and grandparents. I am able to enjoy many opportunities in life that were unavailable to them. The 50th anniversary of Executive Order 9066 reminds the world of the political and social injustices committed against Japanese Americans during WWII and also acknowledges the struggle,

pain, and hardship endured by those interned.

What did it feel like to be packed up and carted away to a desolate desert location? To be denied freedom? To be questioned about loyalty? To be the target of prejudice? What did it feel like? As a member of the younger generation, I can only imagine and empathize. The 50th anniversary commemoration will hopefully make it easier for parents and grandparents to talk about their experiences so that we may obtain a greater appreciation of their accomplishments despite the obstacles fac-

ing them. The internment story must be told and retold so that future generations of Japanese Americans will remember the sacrifice their ancestors had made for them and also to ensure that it will never happen to anyone of any color again.

Each day as I approach the top of Bruin Walk and am able to see beyond the "Westwood valley," I am reminded that I am standing upon the shoulders of truly remarkable Giants.



1492-1992: The Quincentennial

What Meaning Does It Have for Asian Pacific Americans?

"We do not have to be ancestors of the indigenous peoples of the Americas to feel outrage . . ."

By Julie Ha

Five hundred years ago I was not alive. I did not witness Columbus "sailing the ocean blue in 1492." I did not see first hand the exploitation of the indigenous people of the Americas by Europeans. These are not part of my personal past, but I do feel something, some link that wants to make this memory a part of the my present and future.

Admittedly, the quincentennial held little meaning for me at first. I never celebrated Columbus Day anyway, and now, I thought, I had good reasons for not having done so. After all, who can hold a parade in honor of an event that led to the enslavement and extermination of a race of people?

Furthermore, one theory holds that Columbus was looking for Asia for the purpose of acquiring slave labor, but ended up in the "New World" instead. What does this tell me as an Asian American? It tells me that it could

have been our ancestors who were enslaved and exploited. It could have been we Asian American college students raising hell about the celebration of Columbus Day.

But you know what? In a sense, it was—it is—us. We do not have to be ancestors of the indigenous peoples of the Americas to feel outrage at the celebration of this man. Columbus represents all that people of color fight to overcome—racism, Eurocentrism, fear of all that is foreign, and imperialism.

It is too easy for me to fall into the trap of ethnocentrism and say that the struggle of Native Americans need not concern me because I am Asian and have enough battles to fight. They are not "they"; they are we—their struggle is ours. The sooner we realize this, perhaps, the sooner we will be celebrating the 500th anniversary of the empowerment of women and men of all colors.

The year 1992 represents not only the 50th anniversary of the intenment of Japanese Americans, but also the 500th anniversary of the "discovery" of the Americas by Columbus. In the accompanying essays, four UCLA students speak about the meaning of the Quincentennial for Asian Pacific Americans.

Editor

*"As an Asian American—
from both North and
South America—I have
mixed emotions . . ."*

By Kathryn Cho

The month of October will mark America's quincentennial.

Personally, the story of Columbus always has a special place in my heart. As a child, I remember the excitement I felt whenever the story was told. With the conviction that the world was round, he defied the odds and set sail, believing in himself to follow his heart.

Thus, as I grew up, I had the funny notion that the good old U.S. of A. was the land of Christopher Columbus. A place where anything could happen, if a person only believed in himself or herself.

But today, as a college student, my understanding of the story of Columbus has changed.

My first education about Columbus occurred in a Brazilian classroom. In Brazil, miscegenation took place with the coming of Europeans.

But in North America, genocide ensued with this European migration.

It is due to this difference in the treatment of native peoples by settlers in North and South America that I now have different feelings about the quincentennial.

How can I celebrate the beginning of atrocities which took place in North America?

But then also, how can I not feel excited about the beginnings of Brazil's unique culture?

As an Asian American—from both North and South America—I have mixed emotions about the coming of Columbus to these continents.

*"... in 1992, what exactly
are we commemorating?"*

By Namju Cho

Who deserves more respect in America than the original inhabitants of America?

Celebrating the quincentennial would be celebrating the terrorism inflicted upon Native Americans. It should be a time for the U.S. government to acknowledge the harm done to these people. It's not rhetoric that I request but real action.

Give back their lands so that they can at least have a decent dwelling and space to breathe. Don't use Indians as mascots for sports teams. Don't dump toxic wastes near their reservations. Don't use those "authentic ethnic American-Indian" labels to sell phony jewelry and other props.

As a Korean, I cannot say that I understand all the suffering the Native Americans have endured. But this I can say. We, Koreans and Native Americans, have each been victims of colonialism by western nations. So I can sympathize with Native Americans, and believe the quincentennial should be a time for the U.S. Government to stop ignoring their concerns.

By David Kim

Columbus "discovered" America in 1492. But in 1992, what exactly are we commemorating?

I remember there being an exhibit at Powell Library—maps and the Columbian Encounter. I remember the stories told to me as a child. Stories of how Columbus, a great man, discovered the New World. Of how the Native Americans were "uncivilized and savage," and that it was a great thing that Columbus brought European civilization to them.

My impression of the Columbus discovery of America? I don't have one. I don't care to have one.

Columbus didn't discover America.

And I don't feel guilty for not familiarizing myself more with a history told strictly from a Eurocentric point of view.

I do, however, feel guilty for not knowing the Native American account. I would like to learn more about the atrocities committed and lies told about them.

Rockefeller and IAC Fellows

Visiting Scholars Expand Center's Research Horizons

The Asian American Studies Center is currently hosting more than a dozen visiting scholars through its Rockefeller Foundation Fellows "American Generations Program," and the Institute of American Cultures (IAC) Post Doctoral Fellowships for Asian American Studies.

Four of the current visiting scholars are N. V. M. Gonzalez of California State University, Hayward, and David Yoo of Yale University—both Rockefeller Fellows—and IAC Post Doctoral Fellows Dana Takagi of UC Santa Cruz, and Steffi San Buenaventura of University of Hawaii.

Renowned Filipino writer N. V. M. Gonzalez is the author of several books of short stories, including *Mindoro and Beyond*. He is researching and compiling a major collection on Filipino literature and fiction while he is at UCLA.

In recent months, he has participated with Asian American writers in the program, "Trading Folk Traditions," and in a UCLA conference, "Multiple Tongues: Centering Discourse by People of Color." He also recently began an acting career, appearing in a commercial for a long-distance phone company.

David Yoo is researching racial and generational identity of Japanese Americans in Los Angeles and San Francisco, 1924–1952.

His book review of Alexander Saxton's *The Rise and Fall of the White Republic: Class Politics and Mass Culture in Nineteenth-century America* will appear in the forthcoming issue of *Amerasia Journal*.

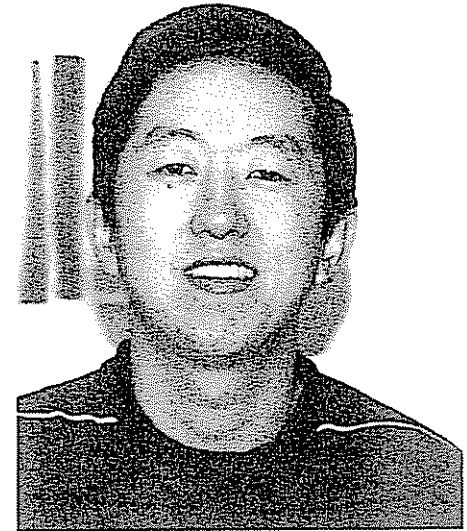
Dana Takagi is working on a book, "The Retreat from Race: Asian Admissions and Racial Politics in Higher Education." Dr. Takagi published a recent article, "From Discrimination to Affirmative Action: Facts in the Asian American Admissions Controversy" in *Social Problems* (November 1990).

Steffi San Buenaventura is working on the history of a major Filipino mutual aid organization in California, the Filipino Federation of America. She recently published an article, "The Master and the Federation: A Filipino-American Social Movement in California and Hawaii," in a special issue of *Social Process in Hawaii* (1991), devoted to research on the Filipino American experience in Hawaii.

The Center's Rockefeller Fellows program is coordinated by Russell C. Leong, editor of *Amerasia Journal*. The IAC Post Doctoral program is administered by Dr. Enrique Delacruz, Assistant Director of the Center.



N. V. M. Gonzalez of California State University, Hayward



David Yoo of Yale University

Academy of American Poets Reading at UCLA On April 23

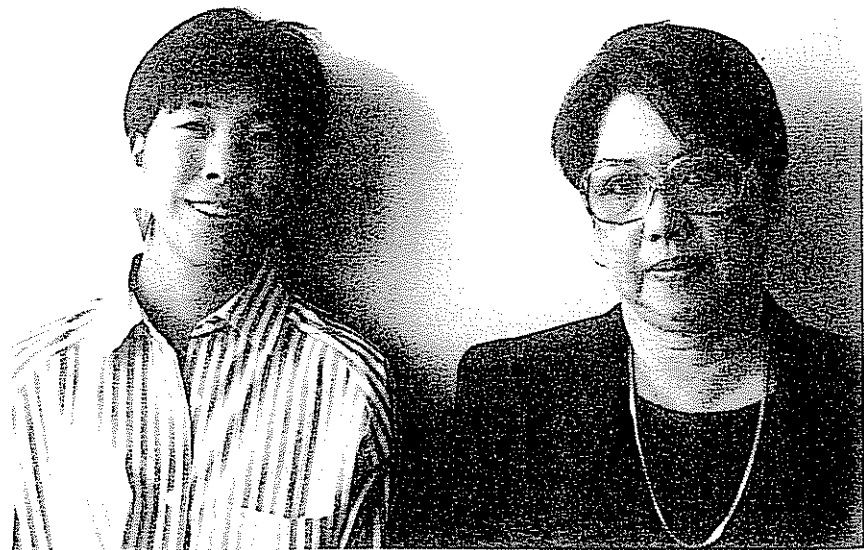
"Questions of Identity: Asian American Writing" is the title of a panel discussion to be held at UCLA on April 23, 8 p.m., by the Asian American Studies Center and the Department of English.

Panelists are Marilyn Chin, Garrett Kaoru Hongo, Cynthia Kadohata, Li-Young Lee, and David Mura.

Professor King-Kok Cheung of the English Department will serve as moderator.

The panel is part of a national symposium on Asian and Asian American Literature sponsored by the Academy of American Poets. Readings will also be held in Berkeley, Seattle, San Francisco, San Jose, and St. Paul.

For information on the location of the UCLA event, call (310) 825-2974.



Dana Takagi of University of California, Santa Cruz; and Steffi San Buenaventura from University of Hawaii

Expanding the Educational Curriculum

Should UCLA Have an Undergraduate Major in Asian American Studies?

By Kathryn Cho

Despite the growing demand for classes in Asian American Studies, UCLA does not offer an undergraduate major.

Absence of a major implies lack of recognition for this discipline as a legitimate field of study. As long as it is not institutionalized, Asian American Studies will be considered an extra-curricular activity.

Besides the issue of legitimacy, there are other problems calling for attention. Without a major, the ability to retain classes is from slim to none. Due to budget cuts at UCLA, classes in U.S.-Korea Relations, Chinese American Experience, and U.S.-Vietnam Relations have been eliminated.

There is also a growing demand for

classes. It is not surprising to find 120 students on the enrollment lists of Stanley Sue's "Asian American Personality and Mental Health" and Arleen de Vera's "Introduction to Asian American Studies."

And we can safely predict that this demand will grow, especially with increasing Asian American students at UCLA. So why are students competing amongst themselves for a seat in classes, or suffering due to the lack of classes being offered?

Until we gain a major in Asian American Studies, I ask myself the following questions: As a new Korean immigrant, do I lack a legitimate history? When will the experiences of Asian Pacific Americans gain a legitimate place in the University?

(Kathryn Cho is a UCLA undergraduate. This article is condensed from a version appearing in the English section of Korea Times newspaper.)

Indian-American Experience Class To Be Offered Spring Quarter

The Asian American Studies Center will offer a class on South Asian Americans during Spring Quarter 1992.

Currently, five undergraduates and three graduate students are working with Professor Snehendu Kar of the School of Public Health to prepare the course syllabus.

The class is titled "The Indian-American Experience" and will focus on "quality of life issues," and topics such as history, identity, politics, health, community institutions, and education.

Undergraduates assisting Professor Kar this quarter are Ameer Mody, Mona Shah, Shital Desai, Bijal Vakil, and Atul Sapra.

Graduate students providing help are Sushila Patil, Vinayak Chaturvedi, and Vandana Venkatesh.

Did You Know . . .

- Out of more than 90 languages taught at UCLA, only three are Asian Pacific languages—Chinese, Japanese, and Korean.
- One out of five people in the world today speaks Hindi.
- Although UCLA does not offer classes in Hindi, Tagalog, Thai and Vietnamese languages, it does offer Afrikaans, the national language of South Africa.
- A UCLA student wanting to learn Tagalog could go to UC Berkeley (413 miles away), University of Wisconsin at Madison (1,942 miles away), or to Manila (7,489 miles away).
- The "California-Pacific Year 2000 Task Force" stated in a recent report that U.S. educational institutions need to undertake a reform in instruction to overcome a "cultural literacy deficit" which impedes understanding of Asia. According to the report, California should look to its own educational institutions to spearhead an effort to add Asian languages and cultures to courses of instructions.

Higher Education Conference to Examine UCLA Students' Language Struggle

By Tooktook Thongthiraj

As our consciousness of multiple oppressions as Asian and Pacific Islander Americans grows, resistance becomes crucial.

Under the theme of "Strengthening Our Voice," APAHE (Asian & Pacific Americans in Higher Education) will address the need for ethnic awareness and resistance in its 1992 conference.

The conference is scheduled for February 27 through 29 at the Sheraton Los Angeles Airport Hotel (formerly Sheraton Plaza La Reina), with a special pre-conference workshop on February 26.

Three focus sessions will address the topics, "Do Numbers Count?," "Status and Prospects of Asian Pacific Americans in the CSU and UC," and "Political Correctness."

Two plenary sessions uncover issues on "Hidden Asian Pacific Americans" and "Forging Coalitions."

Speaking in one of the workshops supplementing the "Hidden Asians" session will be Tooktook Thongthiraj, a UCLA undergraduate in Women's Studies and a member of the Asian Pacific Languages and Cultures Committee.

She will discuss APLCC's efforts to inte-

grate South and Southeast Asian languages and cultures courses into UCLA's curriculum and the relationship of the student-led campaign to gender and class issues and the movement against Eurocentrism.

UCLA students are demanding the addition of classes in four Asian Pacific languages and cultures—Hindi, Tagalog, Thai, and Vietnamese.

Provost Forms Task Force

Provost Raymond Orbach of the UCLA College of Letters and Science has announced the creation of a Task Force to look into issues raised by both faculty and students for new programs in the areas of South and South East Asian languages and cultures. The Task Force will report back to the Provost by June 1, 1992.

In a related action, the UCLA Graduate Students Association voted 49-0-1 to support the Asian Pacific Languages and Culture Committee in its efforts to expand the UCLA language curriculum.

Previously, the Undergraduate Student Activities Council passed a similar resolution of support.

(Tooktook Thongthiraj is a UCLA undergraduate.)

Special UCLA Summer Course on Asian Pacific Americans at University of Hawaii

The Asian American Studies Center is co-sponsoring a special UCLA Summer Session course with the American Studies Department at the University of Hawaii at Manoa entitled "Asian Pacific American Communities in Hawaii: Critical Issues Past and Present."

It will be a fully accredited, eight-unit "Asian American Studies 197" class, which will feature lectures, field trips, and field studies internships in local Honolulu-based Asian Pacific community organizations.

The class will be co-taught by University of Hawaii professors and Professor Jane Takahashi, who teaches our Center's field studies course.

The class will run from June 22 to July 31. The cost of room, board, and tuition for the five-week program (excluding airfare) will be \$1300.

Enrollment is restricted to twenty-five University of California and twenty-five University of Hawaii students—undergraduate or graduate students.

Chinese Historical Society Transfers Oral History Materials to URL

The Chinese Historical Society of Southern California has completed transfer of all materials from its oral history project into the Special Collections of the UCLA University Research Library.

The materials of the project include over 400 hours of audio tapes and eight bound volumes of printed summaries and indices. The project was conceived by the Chinese Historical Society in 1979 in partnership with the Asian American Studies Center. The project provided the basis and inspiration for the book, *Linking Our Lives*, the story of Chinese American women in Los Angeles.

The Chinese Historical Society is undertaking a new oral history focusing on the watershed year of 1938 in Los Angeles Chinatown when the old community was displaced by Union Station.

Six Graduate Students Complete M.A. Theses

Six students completed theses to obtain Master of Arts degrees in Asian American Studies during the past year. They were:

John Armstrong, "The History of Japanese Canadians in Toronto to 1965," 1991.

Jing Qiu Fu, "Chinese Students in America," 1991.

Yukiko Tsuji, "Adjustment to America: Post-war Japanese American Women in Southern California," 1991.

Dunchun Zheng, "Asian American Students' Attitudes toward Education," 1991.

Philip M. Okamoto, "Community in Transition: Gardena, California," 1991.

Michael Soo Hoo, "David Henry Hwang's *M. Butterfly*: Subversive Text or Orientalia for Intelligentsia," 1992.

RESOURCES

Asian American Studies Center Phone Numbers

Main Office, 3230 Campbell
(310) 825-2974 or 825-2975
FAX: (310) 206-9844

Curriculum
(310) 825-2974

Reading Room/Library
(310) 825-5043

Student/Community Projects
(310) 825-1006

Graduate Commons
(310) 206-9638

Asian Pacific Coalition
(310) 825-7184

Amerasia Journal
(310) 206-2892

Book Sales/Distribution
(310) 825-2968

CrossCurrents
(310) 825-3415

Public Policies Project/
Redistricting
(310) 206-8889

50th Year Commemoration
Events
(310) 206-2169

Asian Pacific Alumni Group Seeks Members

By Edward Y. H. Pai, APA Board Member

Three years ago, the Asian Pacific Alumni (APA) of UCLA formed to provide support to the Asian Pacific community at UCLA. From the beginning, APA has been working closely with students, other alumni, the Asian American Studies Center, and administrators to address issues of common concern. These issues have ranged from the hiring and promotion of Asian Pacific faculty, the establishment of scholarship funds for students, providing educational forums on various topics, and sponsoring the annual "Diversity in Education and Careers Conference."

As an official support group of the UCLA Alumni Association, APA also provides networking and social opportunities for the many present and future Asian Pacific alumni. We have nominated a number of UCLA Alumni of the Year winners—including Dr. Robert Watanabe, Jun Mori, and Judy Chu—all members of APA. Our social committee has held several successful events, such as the Harvest Moon Festival, the Magic Castle Extravaganza, and the upcoming Casino Night at Madame Wu's on March 7. These events always feature great food, entertainment, and fun for all.

If this sounds interesting and you'd like to join, please write to APA, c/o Asian American Studies Center (attention Ed Pai), or contact one of our membership committee co-chairs, Nancy Harada at (310) 824-4301, or Vivian Matsushige at (213) 738-2988.

Policy Institute Slated For Our Center

Discussions have begun to establish the first national Asian Pacific American Public Policy Institute at UCLA.

According to Don Nakanishi, the institute is spearheaded by LEAP (Leadership Education for Asian Pacifics).

The public policy institute recently received a substantial start-up grant from the Irvine Foundation.

The research center is expected to be housed in the Asian American Studies Center.

Lecture on Filipino American History Feb. 27

Dr. Steffi San Buenaventura will speak about Filipino American history at the Asian American Studies Colloquium on Thursday, February 27, 3 p.m., at 3232 Campbell Hall.

She will talk on "Nativism, Ethnicity and Empowerment: A Filipino American Social Movement, 1925-1975."

The next colloquium will be held in April with Yuji Ichioka, Adjunct Professor of History, speaking about "The Abiko Papers."