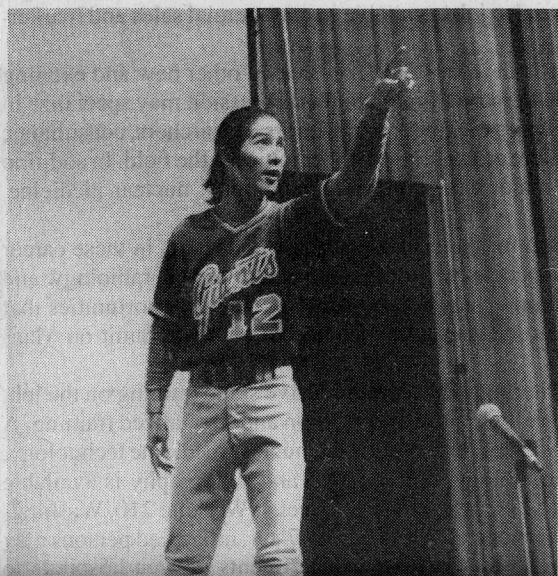


# BEYOND REDRESS

On Oct. 20, the National Coalition for Redress/Reparations held its 10th anniversary conference at California State University, Long Beach (CSULB) to assess critical issues affecting the Japanese American community. (Left) Alan Nishio, NCRR Los Angeles co-chair and director of Educational Equity Services at CSULB, addresses the audience during the closing session. (Below) Children were able to participate in various craft and storytelling workshops.

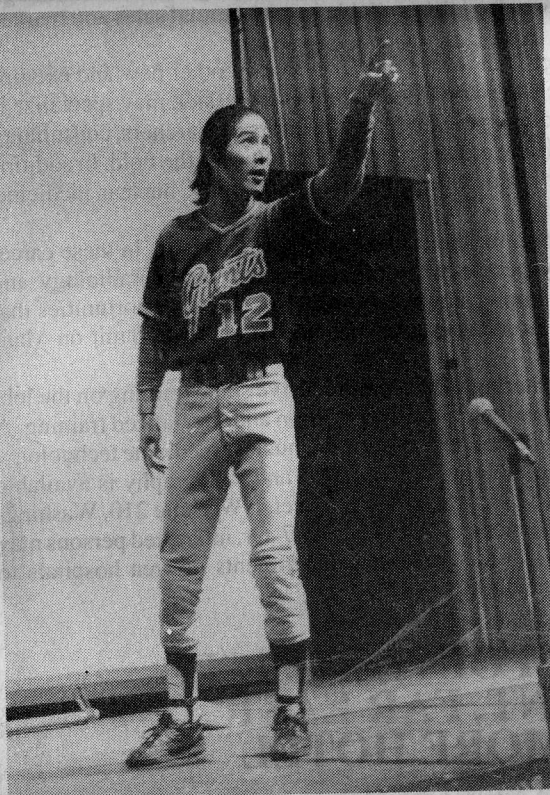
—Photos by MILES HAMADA and EDNA IKEDA



(Left) Dan Kwong, one of the artists at the conference, performs a piece from his one-man show. (Below) Miya Iwataki, one of the members of the Cultural Program Committee. (Lower right) Participants in one of the workshops.







(Left) Dan Kwong, one of the artists at the conference, performs a piece from his one-man show. (Below) Miya Iwataki, one of the members of the Cultural Program Committee. (Lower right) Participants in one of the workshops.



## NCRR LOOKS TOWARDS THE FUTURE AT 10TH ANNIVERSARY CONFERENCE

By EDNA IKEDA

Nearly four hundred people attended the workshops and evening cultural program for the 10th anniversary conference of the National Coalition for Redress/Reparations at California State University, Long Beach (CSULB) on Oct. 20. The conference, "Our Victory! Our Challenges! Our Future!" examined the role of the organization after redress and critical issues facing the Japanese American community.

The all-day event featured thirteen workshops, ranging from "Redress Eligibility Update" to storytelling and crafts sessions for children. Topping off the day's activities was a cultural night, with headline performers such as Kaz and Keiko Matsui.

The opening session included keynote speaker Bert Nakano, NCRR national spokesperson; a message from Congressman Norman Mineta, who was unable to

be present at the conference because of budget legislation; and a tribute to the late Congressman Spark Matsui, led by Ben Tagami of the 100th/442nd Veterans Association and NCRR's Guy Aoki.

The two most popular conference workshops were on the topics, "Internment and the Constitution; Can the Camps Happen Again?" and "Doing the Right Thing: Strengthening Ties with Other People of Color."

Evelyn Yoshimura, moderator for "Doing the Right Thing," noted, "People were very concerned with relationships with other communities—a real critical issue in California."

Yoshimura was pleased to see the number of students at the conference. "The future of NCRR is in the younger people," she said. "I was also impressed by the Nisei, who even after redress passed, said they wanted to stay involved; it's very exciting."

The "Veterans and Draft Resisters Forum" brought together the different viewpoints of panelists Rudy Tokiwa, 442nd veteran; Frank Emi, Fairplay Committee; and Mitsuru Koshiyama, Heart Mountain resister. NCRR member June Hibino felt that the workshop was educational and also a "good attempt at building mutual understanding."

"Nikkei Art—the Community's Heart" featured artists Nobuko Miyamoto, Great Leap; Johnny Mori, Hiroshima; and John Esaki and Amy Kato, Visual Communications. "Community mass-based organizations like NCRR can help to promote art and culture by doing activities such as mochizuki." Monkawa felt art and culture was an important part of the fight for identity and community empowerment.

The workshop, "Understanding and Coping with the Psychological Impact of the Camps" included

panelists Dr. Mary Oda, commission hearing testifier, and Lloyd Inui, vice chair of CSULB Asian American Studies.

"The Japanese American community has come a long way," said moderator Guy Aoki, "in reaffirming their rights and identity since the therapeutic 1981 commission hearings. This is an encouraging sign of how much further we can go."

Dean Toji, panelist for "Maintaining and Developing the Japanese American Community" also voiced the community's concern with the identity issue. "I think there are a lot of changes going on in the community emotionally and in other parts life," he said. Since the passage of redress, Toji noted, "People feel freer to talk about a lot of things."

Bernadette Nishimura of the Japanese American Community Pioneer Center, said, "The overall conference was excellent. It re-

flected the hard work that was put into it." Even the food—provided by Feast from the East and Classic Caterers—helped to "make this a memorable conference," said NCRR member and food coordinator Suzie Katsuda.

In the closing session, Bob Bratt of the Office of Redress Administration, and Congressman Mervyn Dymally were recognized for their contributions to the Japanese American community. Alan Nishio, NCRR Los Angeles co-chair, ended the session by thanking all the participants.

The evening cultural program included a piano/shakuhachi piece by Keiko and Kazu Matsui; a comedy performance, "Secrets of the Samurai Centerfielder" by Danny Kwong; an autobiographical song/dance performance by Nobuko Miyamoto; and an energetic shamisen/piano performance by NCRR members Lillian Nakano and Glenn Horiuchi.