

Bay Area Nikkei seniors mark 10th year of centers

SAN MATEO, Ca.—Over 600 Issei celebrated the New Year and marked 10 years of senior center activities in the Bay Area on March 14 at the College of San Mateo. Nisei, Sansei and Yonsei volunteers pitched in their time and services for the event, which was sponsored by 11 Nikkei senior centers that recently formed an advocacy coalition for senior citizen programs and activities.

Joan Williams, field representative for Rep. Paul McCloskey (R-Ca.) was a featured speaker. Also, Rep. Tom Lantos (R-Ca.) delivered his speech in Japanese.

A highlight of the event was the presentation of an appreciation award to Kay Okamoto, volunteer coordinator of the Hamilton Senior Center by Steve Nakajo, of Kimochi Kai in San Francisco.

The sponsoring organizations included:

Berkeley Nikkei Center, East Bay Japanese for Action, Eden Senior Center, Hamilton Senior Center, Ikoi-no-Tomo, Kimochi Kai, Sakura Kai, Tri-City Senior Citizens, West Valley JACL Senior Club, Yu-Ai Kai and Yu Wakai.

Youth groups, such as the Methodist Youth Fellowship of San Mateo, San Mateo JYO and the Hillsdale High School Asian Student Club and Boy Scout Troop 700 of San Mateo also lent their services.

Calif. women's commission de-funded

SACRAMENTO, Ca.—Irene Hirano, chairperson for California's Commission on the Status of Women, expressed her "shock, disbelief and outrage" at the action by the State Senate Finance subcommittee which deleted from Gov. Brown's proposed 1981-82 budget the money needed to operate the women's commission.

She said that she will try to persuade the full Senate Finance Committee to reinstate the money.

The commission's proposed budget had been \$407,000 before the subcommittee voted 2 to 1 March 19 to delete it.

The full Finance Committee could still vote to put the money back into the governor's proposed budget.

Hirano said, "This move is an insult to every woman in the state." She added that the commission was "the only agency in the state government that is concerned with the special needs of women."

The Assembly has yet to hear testimony on the matter before a Ways and Means subcommittee. If the Assembly acts favorably, the question would go to a Senate Assembly conference committee to resolve the issue.

Asian-Pacific week to be celebrated

OAKLAND, Ca.—Asian Pacific American Heritage Week will be celebrated May 1-3 at the Oakland Museum, sponsored by its Asian Program Committee, which said \$2,000 is being raised to stage the third annual event. Contributions,

Daruma no Gakko to open in summer

EL CERRITO, Ca.—Daruma no Gakko, a Nikkei summer school for grades Kindergarten through sixth, will hold classes June 22-July 16 at the East Bay Free Methodist Church, 5395 Potrero Ave, El Cerrito. School hours are 9 am-12 pm Mon.-Thurs. New elective classes will be offered for grades 4-6: Samurai, Japanese Costume and Textiles, Art Techniques and Writing Traditions. For information call Judy Kono 527-7185, Emiko Katsumoto 236-2880 or Jane Tanamachi 527-5516. #

Black pine planting

SACRAMENTO—A Japanese black pine tree was planted at the Walerga Park, site of the old Walerga Assembly Center, April 5, in tribute to the early Issei.

Join the JACL

Three Generations of Experience ...

FUKUI Mortuary, Inc.

707 E. Temple St.
Los Angeles 90012
626-0441

Soichi Fukui, President
James Nakagawa, Manager
Nobuo Osumi, Counsellor

Shimatsu, Ogata and Kubota Mortuary

911 Venice Blvd.
Los Angeles
749-1449

SEIJI DUKE OGATA
R. YUTAKA KUBOTA

International fashion set for J-Town

SAN FRANCISCO—"Spring Fantasy Fashion" is the theme for a major fashion show-luncheon benefit which will take place in the Japan Center Theater on May 2, with Jan Yanehiro and Richard Hart, hosts of the award-winning KPIX-TV "Evening Magazine", serving as commentators. Exhibited will be designs created by the Kansai Chapter of the renown Nippon Designers Club.

In keeping with the wishes of the designers, proceeds will be given to charitable organizations, announced the Nikkei Lions Club and the San Francisco-Osaka Sister City Committee, local sponsors.

The Nippon Designers' Club is the oldest fashion designers club in Japan and its membership includes such famous designers as Chiyo Tanaka, Nobuo Nakamura and Sumiko Kuni-kado who have been appointed as dress designers for the Empress and Crown Princess Michiko.

For this fashion show over 70 creations will be displayed and sold following the show. Proceeds from the event and the sale will be donated to the Lions' Eye Foundation, Kimochi, Inc., Japanese Cultural and Community Center of Northern California, and East Bay Issei Housing.

Tickets (\$15, 20, 25 or 30) are available by calling Kaz Kariya (415-755-6690 or 871-1660) or fashion show-luncheon chair George Kaz Sakai (386-0250).

Convicted murderer Mitose dies of stroke in prison

SAN QUENTIN, Ca.—James Mitose, the self-proclaimed clergyman and health practitioner who was convicted in 1975 for the murder of San Dimas strawberry rancher Frank Namimatsu, suffered a massive stroke and died on March 27 at the state corrections facility where he had been imprisoned.

Mitose, 65, was to have a parole hearing on April 10. Members of the Southern California Japanese American community, along with Dep. District Attorney Louis Ito and former LAPD homicide investigator Earl Nishimura, were set to travel to San Quentin in an attempt to block the early release of Mitose. Members in the Nikkei community had begun petition drives to block Mitose's release.

Mitose had been serving a life sentence for multiple counts of conspiracy to commit murder, solicitation to commit murder, extortion and grand theft. Mitose was convicted for allegedly paying ex-Marine Terry Lee to murder Namimatsu, who was killed at his Los Angeles home on March 20, 1974. His wife, Toshiko, was also badly injured in the attack.

Mitose's wife, Dorothy, was convicted of crimes against the Namimatsus and is now free after serving her sentence at a state women's prison in Frontera. The Mitoses' son, Alvin, was also convicted of crimes against the Namimatsus, but was sentenced to five year's probation and a one-year jail sentence, in which he was to serve on his days off from work. #

Organization

The Japanese Chamber of Commerce of Northern California elected **Sakae Hosaka** as their president on Feb. 26. Hosaka is manager of the Mitsubishi International, USA, branch office in San Francisco. On the Hosaka cabinet are **Nimei Akamatsu**, pres., Sumitomo Bank of Calif., 1st vp; **Yuji Imai** of the Moriwaki-Imai-Fujita Agency, 2nd vp; **Tsunee Fujita**, Sanwa Bank Agency, treas; attorney **Steven Doi**, aud. #

'AJOB' classes

BERKELEY, Ca.—Post-Secondary Educational Program of Asians for Job Opportunities (AJOB) will conduct ESL and Pre-vocational training classes beginning April 21 at 1617 Berkeley Ave. For info: 415-548-6700.

Wakabayashi speaks to San Mateo

SAN MATEO, Ca.—For the 71 people who attended the San Mateo JACL dinner on Feb. 28 at the Shadow's Restaurant, Ron Wakabayashi, the newly appointed National JACL Executive Director, gave them a personal account of his selection and a preview of the direction of the organization under his tenure.

Besides Ron's credentials as an able administrator as the Executive Director of the Asian American Drug Abuse Program in Los Angeles, he possesses the sensitivities to meet the needs of senior citizens and Sansei activists.

In sharing his reasons for pursuing the difficult job of the National JACL Executive Directorship, he stated:

(1) There is a need to preserve a communication network that the National organization possesses that facilitates the flow of information and ideas to the Nikkei living throughout the nation; (2) the position of Japanese Americans is not all that secure and the National organization can help combat negative public trends and backlashes that the Nikkei communities are subjected to when international relationships between Japan and the United States are not good because of economic or political reasons; and (3) Redress is an important issue and direct monetary compensation will be sought.

Wakabayashi observed that based on the caliber of the finalists that sought the directorship's job, "it is significant to the organization; that there is a change in how people are viewing JACL and the potential of JACL". He also declared that the Sansei need to be encouraged into the organization.

In her President's message, Mrs. Suzu Kunitani, related some of the local chapter's past year's accomplishments and on-going programs. She called for greater membership participation in the coming year and is soliciting new ideas and suggestions for activities that the Chapter can pursue. #

Chinatown restaurant workers organize

NEW YORK—Restaurant workers at the Silver Palace, one of the largest restaurants here in Chinatown, have signed their first independent union contract.

Organizing efforts of the Silver Palace employees arose in March 1980 after the management fired 16 waiters and busboys who protested the employer's illegal appropriation of employee tips and violation of minimum wage standards.

After a two-week boycott of the restaurant in May by concerned members of the community, the management was forced to reinstate the fired workers.

On Aug. 1, 1980, the Silver Palace Dining Room Independent Union, which is not affiliated with any other union, was certified.



The Mitsubishi Bank

of California Member FDIC

Little Tokyo Office

321 East Second St., Los Angeles, Calif. 90012
(213) 680-2650

For as little as \$100

2 1/2-Year Securities Certificates

You can start earning high interest now on a securities certificate of deposit at California First Bank.

All it takes is a deposit of \$100 or more. Minimum term of certificates is 2 1/2 years and maximum term is 10 years.*

CALIFORNIA



Member FDIC

* Federal regulations require a substantial penalty be imposed for early withdrawal.

© California First Bank, 1979



Say Hello to Japan.

Enter by May 14

Say hello to Pan Am. They will fly the lucky winner of our Grand Prize drawing to Japan for a vacation trip for two. Spend 10 exciting days, 9 nights in 5 cities, including Tokyo and Kyoto.

Enter our drawing before noon, May 14. Free entry coupons and contest rules are available at any of our offices. Japan is just a lucky entry away.



Sumitomo Bank of California
Member FDIC

PETER IMAMURA

Around Town

Here are a few noteworthy items from the local scene, one in particular which should be of interest to the Sansei and Yonsei:

On March 29, the Los Angeles-Nagoya Sister City Affiliation presented the "Clothes Encounter of the Third Generation" fashion show, which featured the creations of Sansei designers Peggy Higuchi, Cheryl Kobayashi, Linda Miyagawa, Vicki Ragasa, Charmaine Yamamoto and Paul Dote. All six designers are based in Los Angeles, and it is hoped that their names become a lot more as familiar locally as "Calvin" and "Gloria" are nationally.

The show was a very impressive array of spring and summer apparel, from sports and leisure wear to formal wedding outfits. The lovely female models, among them a very enchanting Leslie Kawai, graced the stage at the Biltmore Hotel while the male models complimented the women with their dashing and debonair looks. Also, the little Yonsei models charmed the audience with a display of children's wear.

For all the designers and models who took part in the show (a first for this writer, who'll admit he isn't a fashion critic) it was a job well done, and congratulations are certainly extended to them.

Currently, the Los Angeles County Museum of Art is exhibiting "The Great Bronze Age of China" through June 10. The exhibition is a fine display of rare bronze, jade and terracotta artifacts from the People's Republic of China. The discoveries range in age, dating back from the 21st Century B.C. to A.D. 220.

A highlight of the exhibit is the array of life-size clay soldiers and horses, which once stood guard for 22 centuries in China protecting the burial site of Qin Shihuangdi, the first Emperor of China.

Tarnished with age, the bronze wine and food containers on display are distinctively and intricately crafted, while the rare jade ornaments and jewelry attest to the skill of the ancient Chinese craftsmen.

And in Los Angeles, one cannot ignore the Academy Awards, perhaps one of the biggest events in town. The Los Angeles Times reported an item that seems to provide more evidence for the influence motion pictures have on culture, especially the young:

As somewhat of a tradition, many movie fans wait outside of the Dorothy Chandler Pavilion, where the awards ceremony is held, several hours before the program begins in order to get a look at their favorite star entering the theater.

When an administrator for the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences came out and told the crowd that the awards would be postponed because of the attempt on President Reagan's life, most of the fans groaned. Many of the teenagers in the stands said it "wasn't fair" to the public. One fifteen year old boy went as far as to say that it was an injustice to the people because Reagan "didn't die."

A sign of the times.

Gardena Nisei, 72, outstanding senior

GARDENA, Ca.—In recognition of her unselfish community service, the City of Gardena named May Koga, 72, as its Outstanding Senior Citizen for 1981. The award was presented Mar. 10 at the El Camino Kiwanis Club luncheon and that evening presented a plaque from the city council.

She and her husband, Paul, are co-owners of a fruit and produce market.

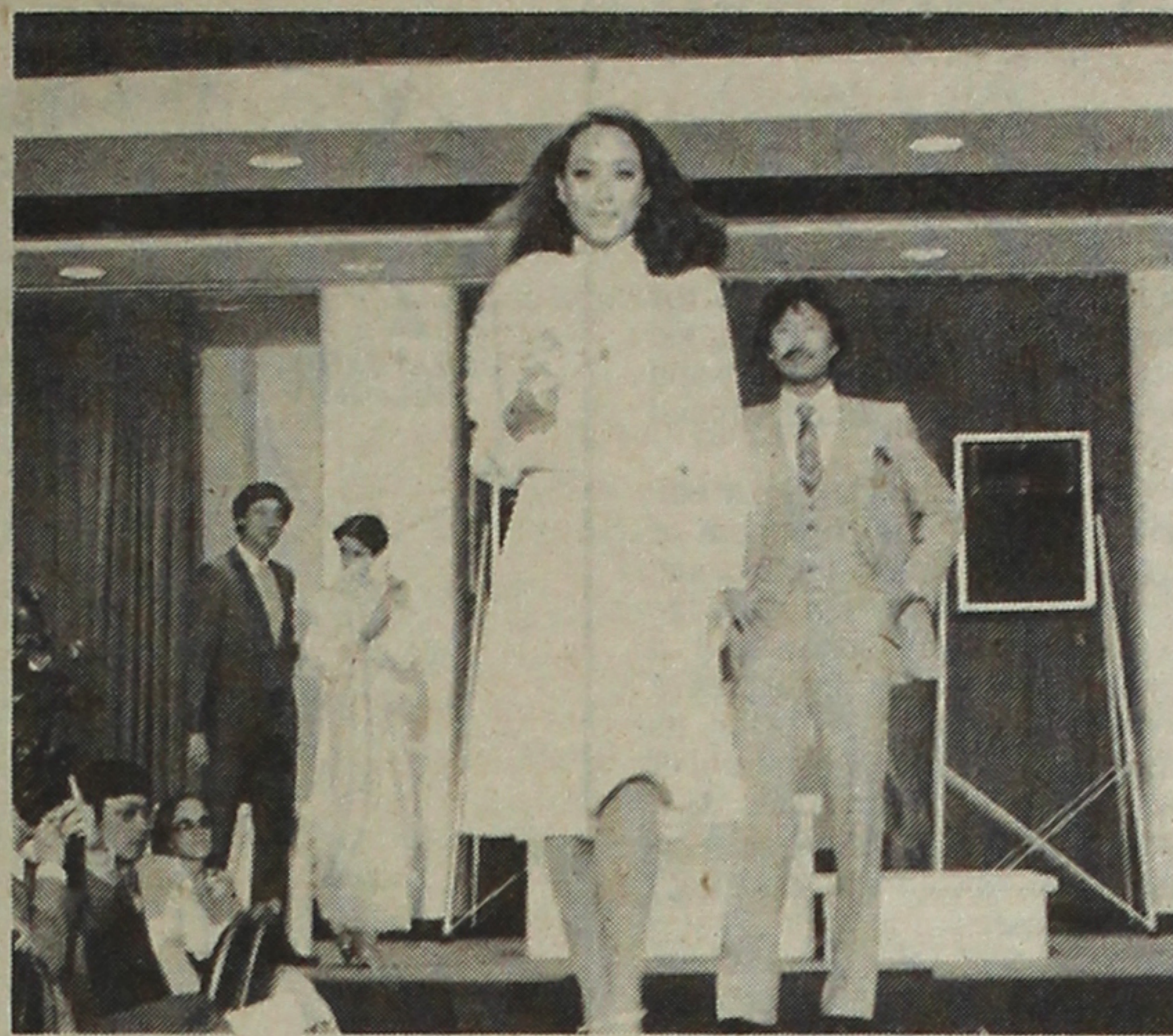
Gardena Buddhists to rebuild temple

GARDENA, Ca.—Destroyed by arsons last July, the Gardena Buddhist Temple will be rebuilt as ground was broken April 5 for the edifice estimated at between \$1.3 and 1.5 million, according to architect Kiyoshi Sawano who drew up the blueprints for reconstruction. (Sawano is the designer of the JACC building in Little Tokyo.)

Two-thirds of the building cost is being recovered by insurance. And during the past three months, \$250,000 has been raised in contributions, it was reported. Completion is expected by summer, 1982. The hand-carved statue of Buddha is to be shipped from Kyoto.

AADAP honoring Ron
LOS ANGELES—Asian American Drug Abuse Program, Inc., will honor its former executive director Ron Wakabayashi, newly appointed JAACL national director, at an appreciation dinner Saturday, April 18, 6:30 p.m. at Golden Palace Restaurants. Reservations by April 13 are urged through AADAP, 293-6284.

'Godspell' on tap
LOS ANGELES—East West Players will perform Stephen Schwartz' musical, "Godspell", May 14-June 21, with Mako and Shizuko Hoshi as directors.



Peter Imamura photo

FAN-TASTIC—Statuesque Leslie Kawai charmed the stage as did many other attractive models at the "Clothes Encounters of the Third Generation" fashion show March 29, sponsored by the Los Angeles-Nagoya Sister City Affiliation.

Nisei Relays to repeat June 7

SANTA ANA, Ca.—The 1981 JAACL-PSWDC Nisei Relays will be staged on Sunday, June 7, again at Santa Ana College, it was announced by Russell Hiroto (East L.A.) and Carrie Okamura (Orange County), Relays co-chair. A larger turnout is expected this year at the 40th annual Relays than the 300-plus who participated in the '80 Relays.

Entry forms are now available at the JAACL regional office and from committee members: Hiroto (264-3498), Okamura (714-894-9092), Jim Akioka (Venice-Culver: 827-3153); Dick Sakamoto (Pasadena: 351-8300); Norm Hata (Gardena: 635-5924, 538-3995); Roy Kawamoto (San Fernando Valley: 886-2851), and Shig Takeshita (West L.A.: 473-0629). Applications should be returned by May 22.

The relays booklet committee, headed by Ruth Watanabe (West L.A.: 472-8362), is soliciting advertising for Relays program to help defray travel expenses of top placers qualifying for the fourth annual JAACL state track & field championship June 28 at Chabot College, Hayward.

South Bay Keiro to kickoff fund drive

GARDENA, Ca.—A kickoff free luncheon for the general gifts campaign for the 98-bed South Bay Keiro Nursing Home is scheduled Sunday, April 12, 12:30 p.m. at the Ken Nakaoka Memorial Community Center, 1700 W. 162nd St. Keiro Home has already received over \$115,000 in contributions and pledges. The campaign goal of \$1 million will go towards a \$1.3 million mortgage for the purchase of an existing home at 15115 S. Vermont.

Noguchi speaks on types of bullets

LOS ANGELES—County coroner Dr. Thomas Noguchi found no compelling reason last week (Apr. 1) for police or sheriffs to switch from round-nosed to hollow-nosed bullets, which experts say are harder-hitting but less likely to pass through the body and injure bystanders.

Noguchi produced data on both types of bullets but said the decision to switch should be made on more than just medical information. His two-year study offered no proof that one was more lethal than the other. Hollow points, he said, expand on impact and impart more energy plus generally resulting in shorter survival time.

than the others. Hollow points, he said, expand on impact and impart more energy plus generally resulting in shorter survival time.

More crime strikes Little Tokyo shops

LOS ANGELES—A leather goods designer and retailer is the latest victim of a burglary in the Little Tokyo area.

Larry Nishiguchi, proprietor of Leather by Nishiguchi, reported the loss of some \$30,000 in merchandise from his Little Tokyo store.

Nishiguchi discovered the steel gate at the store entrance open and the glass door broken by the thief

or thieves who simply cut off the padlock.

This past week (Mar. 31), the supposedly burglar-proof second-story suite of offices in the new Honda Plaza at E. 2nd and Central was burglarized, the entry being made by prying the doors open. Victim-tenants included Royal Jelly, Willy Kai's Kokusai Travel, Nippon Carbon, JTC Co. and Hisao Nishida, CPA.

Commodore Perry's.



Bunny Brunch for the Whole Bunch.

Celebrate Easter Sunday, April 19, in the delightful setting of Commodore Perry's with a Sunday Brunch that won't quit. At least until 7:00 P.M.

There will be tantalizing cocktails, a tempting selection of salads and specially prepared entrees like roast leg of lamb, chicken dijon, an assortment of pastries and fresh fruit. Plus a surprise visit from the Easter Bunny with eggs for kids and flowers for the ladies. So hop on down, over or up. It's our Bunny Brunch for your whole bunch.

Adults: \$12.00. Under 12: \$7.25. From 12:00-7:00 P.M. For reservations call 629-1200. Complimentary parking.



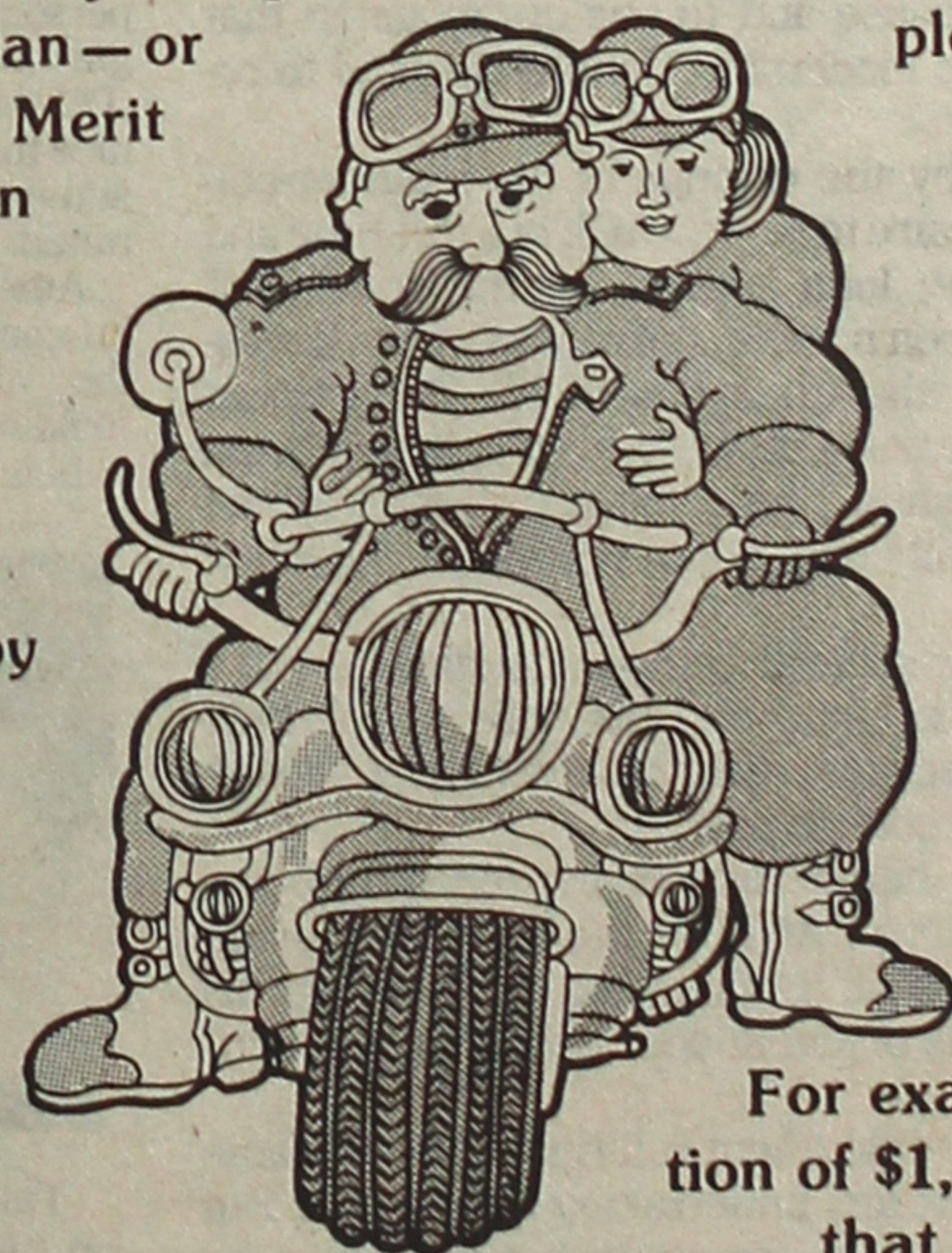
The New Otani
HOTEL & GARDEN
LOS ANGELES

First & Los Angeles Street
Los Angeles, CA 90012 • (213) 629-1200

ATTENTION: YOUNGSTERS AND OLDSTERS

Year End Tax Planning Ira and Keogh Plans for Both Individuals and Self-Employed

If you work for someone and are not covered by a qualified retirement plan — or are self-employed Merit Savings has a plan to help you retire with greater financial independence taking full advantage of tax benefits enjoyed by corporations and other large companies. We are also offering SPOUSES IRA. A SPOUSES IRA is an alternative account which an employed IRA



participant can establish for a non-employed spouse, who has received no wages during the year. Generally, two separate IRA accounts are maintained. The amount contributed should be equally divided between your account and that of your spouse.

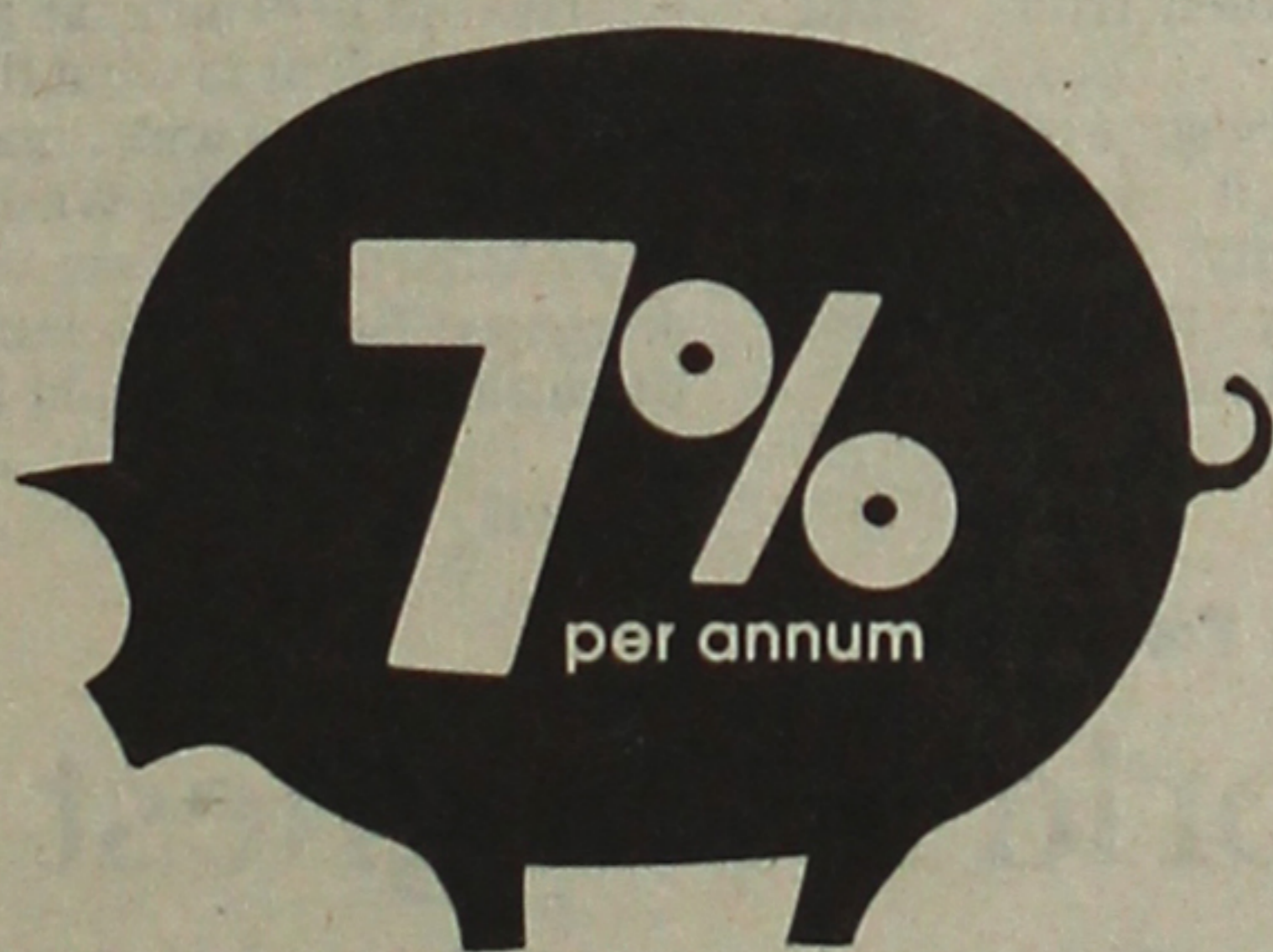
For example, a contribution of \$1,750 would require that \$875 be deposited to each account.

Let us help your plan for tomorrow. Please call Merit Savings Retirement Dept.

MERIT SAVINGS AND LOAN ASSOCIATION

MAIN OFFICE (213) 624-7434 • TORRANCE (213) 327-9301 • MONTEREY PARK (213) 266-3011
IRVINE (714) 552-4751

INSURED SAVINGS



Currently 7% per annum, paid quarterly. Better than banks or savings & loans, and free insurance, too.

NATIONAL JAACL CREDIT UNION

Now over \$4.5 million in assets

Insured Savings* currently 7% per annum

Car Loans low rates on new & used

Signature Loans up to \$3000**

Free Insurance on loans & savings

* UNLIMITED AMOUNT BY USDGC ** TO QUALIFIED BORROWERS
PO 1721 Salt Lake City, Utah 84110 (801) 355-8040

