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Friday, September 29, 1989

California Bill Would Require Differentiation Among Asian Groups

SACRAMENTO, Calif. — Legislation by California Assemblyman Richard E. Floyd (D-Carson) requiring all state agencies to stop classifying all Asian and Pacific Islanders together and to use separate collection categories distinguishing each major cultural group when conducting surveys, cleared its final legislative hurdle and now awaits Gov. Deukmejian's signature.

Floyd's bill (A.B. 814) passed the Senate 31-1 on Sept. 1. Sen. Ralph Dills (D-Gardena) shepherded the bill through the upper house.

Floyd's bill requires separate categories for Chinese, Japanese, Filipino, Korean, Vietnamese, Asian, Indian, Hawaiian, Guamanian, Samoan, Laotian, Cambodian and other groups. Floyd's bill is an outgrowth of collection.

quires separate classification of Filipino the Hyatt Regency Hotel in downtown workers in the state surveys but makes Los Angeles. no similar provisions for any other ethnic group," Floyd commented. "State forms separately count Asian Indians but not Cambodians or Laotians. Our current policy is narrow and absurd and should be changed."

L.A. TV Station Wants Immediate Redress

LOS ANGELES — KSCI-TV Channel 18, a Los Angeles-based television station, is currently broadcasting in English and Japanese an editorial advocating immediate redress payments to eligible Japanese Americans interned during WWII.

The text of the English version of the editorial reads:

"Over a year ago President Reagan signed a law authorizing payments of \$20,000 to each of the Japanese Americans interned during World War II.

"Yet as of today, not one of those internees has received a dollar. And the funds promised by Congress to make the payments have not been appropriated.

"This is wrong. Each month those funds are further delayed, over 200 of the elderly survivors of the camps are dying without compensation.

"We urge Congress to appropriate the full \$500 million dollars a year allowed by law for these payments, and not the \$20 million a year that has been requested by President Bush.

"A promise is a promise. And we feel it is time for the Congress and the

About This Issue

Pacific Citizen readers may have noticed something quite different about this issue. It is only four pages. The reason is because acting editor George Johnston was very ill this week. With general manager of operations Harry Honda on a much-deserved vacation and with no other full-time editorial personnel on hand to assist with the workload, there were only a few options available. One was not having a Pacific Citizen this week. Another was to put out a "bare bones" issue. That's what the decision was and that's why this issue is the way it is.

USC's Fifth **APASG Dinner Slated**

the recent adoption by the U.S. Census LOS ANGELES — The USC Asian of these same categories for their data Pacific American Support Group (USC APASG) will be celebrating its Fifth "Ironically, California law now re- Annual Awards Dinner on Oct. 19, at

> The Support Group will recognize Asian Pacific American leaders of the past, present and future. Individuals to be honored for their lifetime achievements in community service and professional pursuits include Jae Min Chang, publisher/editor, Korea Times Los Angeles; Yoshi Honkawa, vice president for Government and Industry Relations, Cedars-Sinai Medical Center; The Honorable Delbert Wong, retired superior court judge who was recognized as the first American of Chinese descent to serve as a judge in the continental United States; and Joselyn G. Yap, Ph.D., executive director, Sunrise Community Counseling Center, Inc. In addition, scholarships will be awarded to outstanding Asian Pacific American undergraduate and graduate students.

> The USC APASG, a non-profit organization chartered in 1982, is dedicated to assisting and encouraging promising Asian Pacific American students in continuing higher education and pursuing more non-traditional disciplines. Membership in the Support Group is also open to all alumni and friends on an annual basis.

> Tickets to the dinner are \$75 each. Friends and supporters are also invited to place ads in the Dinner program booklet, and to purchase Opportunity Drawing tickets at \$20 per book of 10.

For reservations or information, please contact the USC APASS Department at (213) 743-4999.

Anti-Asian Messages Appear in San Francisco

By Jeannie Look

SAN FRANCISCO — Although there haven't been any violent or overt racist attacks against Asians in the Bay Area in recent memory, a more subtle form of anti-Asian propaganda has surfaced recently in San Francisco neighborhoods and over the telephone.

Members of the White Aryan Resistance (WAR), a White supremacist group started by former California Ku Klux Klan Grand Dragon Tom Metzger, have cranked up their propaganda machine and covered neighborhoods with racist literature attacking Asians, Blacks, Hispanics and Jews.

Doris Owyang, an administrative assistant, found a flyer on the windshield of her car when it was parked at the corner of Washington and Larkin Sts.

The flyer had the headline: "A Challenge to White People." It asked, "Are you tired of . . . 'Affirmative action' quotas that discriminate against Whites in hiring, promotion, and admission to colleges and graduate schools? Immigrants who refuse to learn our language and demand that we pay for education and even ballots in theirs?"

California.

themes are as follows:

cause, "I don't know who they are."

The group has also taken an unconventional approach to spreading its hate messages by luring unsuspecting people to call their hotline.

The San Francisco Newspaper Agency which overseas the operation of the San Francisco Chronicle and the San Francisco Examiner is looking into taking legal action against the person who took out an ad that appeared recently in the Sunday Examiner-Chronicle. The ad listed an apartment for rent in the Sunset District at an incredibly low rate. But the phone number listed was the WAR hotline.

The messages on the recording have included derogatory statements about minorities and usually end with the phone numbers and addresses of the people targeted in the recording.

A recent recording was filled with unsavory verbal attacks against Asians and accused the S.F.-based Center for Southeast Asian Resettlement and its director Vu-Duc Vuong with "flooding San Francisco and Southern California with 550,000 Vietnamese." The message asked listeners to call or visit Vu-Duc at the center to voice their complaints.

Vu-Duc said he listened to the recording after someone informed him of

the recording last week. He said he got the gist of the message after a short time and hung up.

"We (at the center) did get some nasty calls the last few days," he said. "I'm not really so much concerned as much as I am annoyed that something like this exists, that someone blatantly hates Asians so much."

He said that in the short run, the verbal attack has created fear and suspicion among his staff, but in the long run hate is being spread to others.

"This kind of message reinforces stereotypes and causes people to blame Asians for their problems and vent their anger out on them," Vu-Duc said.

Henry Der at Chinese for Affirmative Action said that the anti-Asian flyers, posters and recorded messages have been around for the past several

"But as Asians increase in an area like the Bay Area, the messages are that much more visible," Der said the number of members in the groups such as WAR has not increased. "They prey on people's apprehension. As our numbers grow, people get fearful because they don't know enough about us."

Articles such as the one which appeared recently in the San Francisco Examiner which called attention to the rising political influence of wealthy Asian business people in S.F. politics cause sometimes reactionary responses, said Der. The story was referred to in a recent WAR recording.

The Examiner article in itself was not inflammatory, Der said, but only shows one end of the spectrum of Asian American. "Not everybody has that much money," he said. "There are still many Asians who want jobs, who want education."

He said the solution is not to prevent publication of stories, but to increase the coverage of Asian Americans in order to give people a broader understanding of the community.

"How do Asian Americans convey a consistent picture that it has its ups and downs and that they care about America and are trying to make a living like everyone else? It's hard. It's not a sexy message."

Hate crimes have been on the rise, according to Richard Hirschhaut, executive director of the Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith. ADL monitors race related crimes, acts as a liaison with law enforcement agencies and puts on educational forums for schools and community groups.

The harassment of people based on their race or religion, said Hirschlaut, 'must be rejected by all people of all backgrounds. This type of action is poisonous to the well-being of the community."

He said it's dangerous to think that because no one is hurt physically that such relatively silent anti-Asian activity is innocuous. "A hateful message today could lead to a violent act tomorrow," Hirschhaut said.

Correction

A paragraph was inadvertently deleted in last week's story, "JACL-LEC Members Add Support to Inouye's Entitlement." The deleted portion, which would have been the second paragraph, reads, "In this," Grant Ujifusa said, "we are, I feel, in line with the sentiments of the Nikkei members of Congress, and appreciate the bold action taken by Sen. Inouye."

P.C. regrets any confusion the deletion may have caused.

president to honor theirs."

NEWS IN BRIEF

Asian American Dance Collective Golf Tournament

SAN FRANCISCO — The Asian American Dance Collective is sponsoring a "Friends of AADC Tournament," at 10 a.m. on Oct. 13 at Harding Park Golf Course. Proceeds will benefit the Asian American Dance Collective, a non-profit dance organization dedicated to promoting the efforts of Asian American artists through the medium of dance. The entry fee for the tournament is \$60 which includes green fees, cart, box lunch and eligibility for prizes. For more information, contact Alex Kam at (415) 938-8063 or the Asian American Dance Collective at (415) 552-8980.

Latin American Fiesta Coming Up on Oct. 21

GARDENA, Calif. - Miki Yamazaki, member of the Latin America Chapter of the JACL, announced that a "Latin American Fiesta" will take place on Sat., Oct. 21 at the Ken Nakaoka Center, 1700 W. 162nd St., in Gardena. Participants will be able to learn about different Latin American Nikkei communities of countries such as Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Colombia, the Dominican Republic, Mexico, Peru and Uruguay, as well as sample authentic foods and beverages. There will also be dancing to the "rhythm of the Latin beat." The event starts at 6 p.m.; tickets are \$15 before Oct. 7 and \$20 on Oct. 21. For more information, please contact Yamazaki at (818) 285-4044 or (213) 391-1556, or Lizy Moromisato at (213) 733-8628.

East West

Owyang said she was shocked and insulted. People who aspire to this type of racism are threatening, she said, be-

on a theme which will unite the ac-

cerns in relation to generation.

Humanities approaches can include

literary, visual and creative analyses re-

1991-1992—Inter-Generations:

focus on change, conflict and continuity

lated to the above theme.

Offering Residency Fellowships in 1990-1993 LOS ANGELES — The UCLA Asian with ten-month terms will receive American Studies Center is offering stipends between \$25,000 to \$30,000, Residency Fellowships in the Human- while quarterly stipends vary from ities during the period 1990-1993. \$8,000 to \$10,000 per quarter. Fellow-

Sponsored by the Rockefeller Founda- ships are open to academic and indetion, the fellowships will provide both pendent scholars or other experienced scholars and community individuals community individuals who have a demonstrated ability to write and to do working in the humanities an opporturesearch on humanities topics. Applicanity to conduct research at the center. "American Generations: The Asian tions are due by Dec. 31 of each year. Pacific Program" focuses on the con-

UCLA's Asian American Studies Department

For information write Harry Kitano cept of the generation as the key to or Russell Leong at Asian American studying Asian Pacific Americans in Studies Center, Rockefeller Fellows the United States, particularly in Program, 3232 Campbell Hall, University of California, Los Angeles, 90024-Each year of the program will focus 1546, or call (213) 825-2974.

tivities for that year. The specific 17th Annual Aki Matsuri 1990-1991—First Families: Histori- Happening on Oct. 7

WEST COVINA, Calif. - In celebracal and Contemporary Perspectives-Examinations and comparisons of the tion of the end of summer and the beginning of autumn, the East San Gabriel first generational and multi-genera-Valley Japanese Community Center is tional families in Southern California, its 17th Annual Aki Matsuri (Fall Fesincluding family and gender issues, educational, political and cultural con-tival).

This year's festival will be held on Sat. Oct. 7, beginning at noon, and ending at 9 p.m. The public is cordially invited to attend, free of charge. The center is located at 1203 W. Puente Generational Change-Projects which Ave., in West Covina.

The special attraction will be the between generations within an Asian taiko, or Japanese drum, performance by the West Covina Taiko Group at 6 Pacific community, or which cross ethnic and racial group generational p.m. The festival's highlight will be concerns. Contemporary and historical Japanese folk dancing beginning at a studies, social science critiques within p.m. and the audience is welcome to a humanities framework, and literary participate. In the evening, a raffle drawing of valuable prizes will be held. and cultural research are encouraged.

1992-1993—Generational Identity Japanese cultural exhibits will be disand Sensibility-Representatives and played in the gym. In the afternon, deexplorations of generation as expressed monstrations of the martial arts, bonsai, through critical and interpretative and other forms of Japanese culture will analyses of literature, the visual arts, be held. There will be food booths and and drama. Expecially welcomed are game booths in the parking lot, bingo those proposals which can cut across in the Social Hall, a rummage sale in native-born, immigrant, and refugee the front yard-all benefitting the buildgroups, and which incorporate multi- ing/improvement fund.

cultural and multi-literate approaches to For additional information, please call the center office at (818) 960-2566. viewing generation. Fellowship terms range from three or contact chairman Ed Parr at (818) to ten months of residency. Fellows 334-2663.

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EDITORIAL OF THE PACIFIC CITIZEN

It's Come a Long Way, Baby

IN THESE earnest times the Miss America pageant in Atlantic City I may seem to be a piece of irrelevant nonsense harking back to a less sensitive era. It glorifies feminine pulchritude, and the attention to physical comeliness is anathema to many feminists.

Yet there was something significant in the contest for Miss America 1990 when the two finalists—a Black and an Asian American—were chosen over statuesque blondes. And among the ten finalists was a young woman with four names, the third of which is Toshiko the fourth, Marler.

The ultimate winner was Debbye Turner, a veterinary student at the University of Missouri who happens to be Black in the terminology by which races are identified. The runner-up was Virginia Cha of Maryland who could play classical piano as well as smile prettily.

Newspaper accounts noted that Turner was the third Black woman to become Miss America in the pageant's 68-year history. But headlines in much of the press said it was a Missourian, or a Missouri student, without reference to race, who had been crowned.

Total color-blindness in race relations is a goal that has eluded Americans. But little by little, in significant ways, we seem to be making progress.

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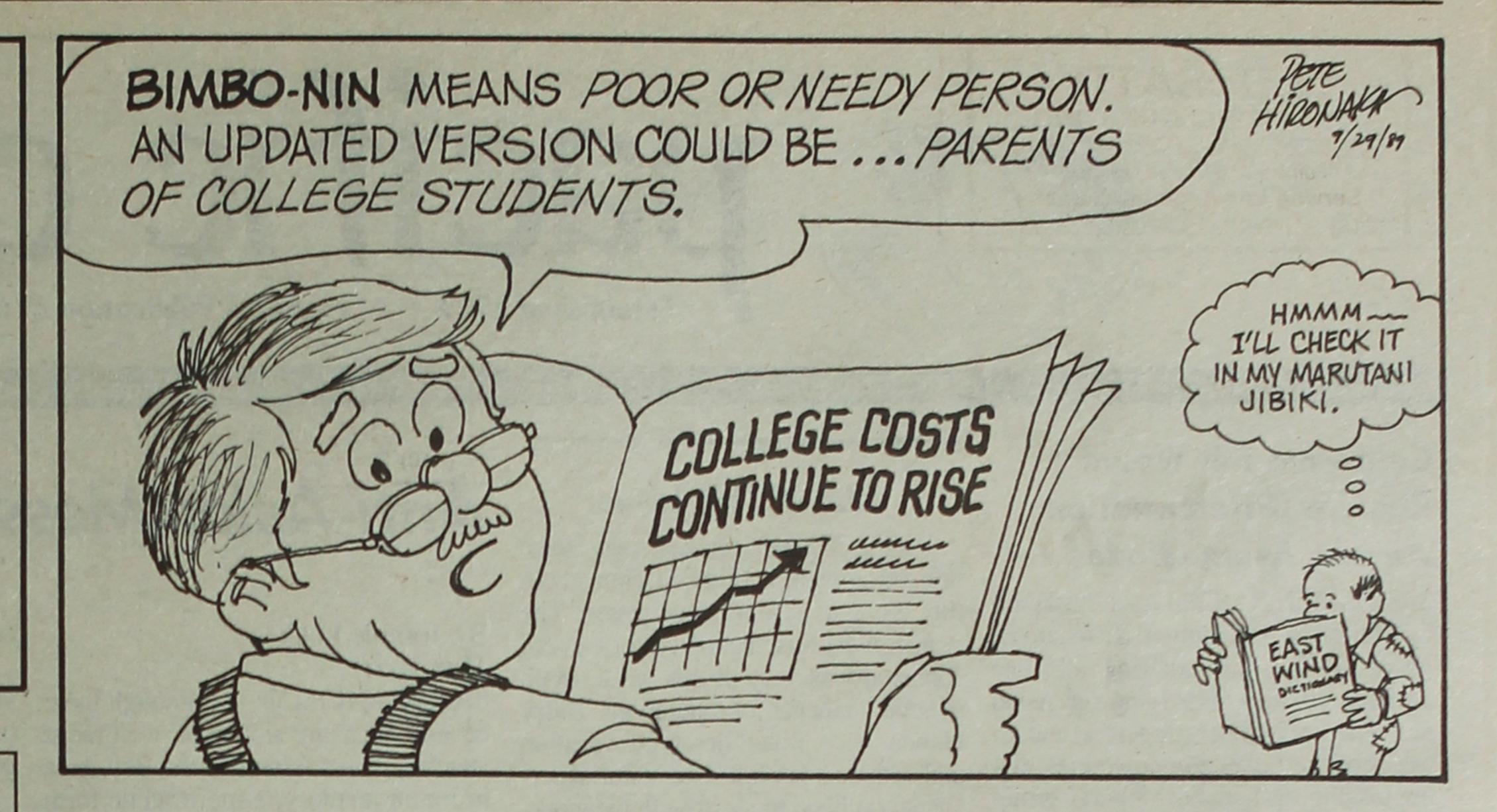
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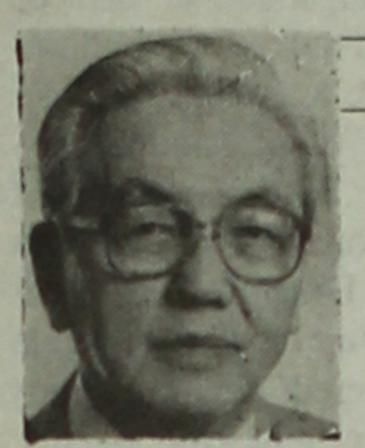
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FROM THE FRYING PAN

BILL HOSOKAWA

Barbed Wire a Barbaric Souvenir

At the recent Heart Mountain WRA camp reunion in Reno, Nev., 8-inchlong segments of barbed wire were offered as souvenirs. They had been cut from what remains of the fence that once confined American citizens inside an American detention camp in what was then a Wyoming desert.

The area is no longer a desert. The water that the detainees brought to the land enabled homesteaders after the war to convert it into prosperous farmland. The barbed wire in the area is now used only to control livestock, but there is enough of the old fence to salvage as keepsakes.

The wire is rusted but still sturdy. They are cruel barbs, still sharp, twisted into the wire at four-inch intervals. They are a grim reminder of what once was. I picked up a piece to take home. The next day I went by the table where the wire was being offered and discovered a large number of pieces still left although they were being given away without charge.

The barbed wire is not pretty. It is distasteful, both in looks and what it symbolizes, a prison camp. I can understand why the ex-inmates of the Heart

Mountain camp, who had gathered for a happy reunion, would not want to be watchtowers "are contrary to your statereminded of the grim side of their experience.

Oddly enough, the fence around Heart Mountain camp was not erected until after it was fully settled. I have a vague recollection that the War Relocation Authority, the civilian agency assigned to run the camps, did not intend to fence the campsite by was overruled by the military.

Not quite so vague is memory of the resentment that followed construction of the fence. The camp population was just a bit more that 10,000 men, women and children, and more than 3,000 adults signed a petition demanding the fence and watchtowers be removed.

The Heart Mountain Sentinel, the camp newspaper which has been accused by some latter-day observers as "accomodationist," ran a banner line across the top of page one which said: Protest Petition Sent to WRA Director. The story about the petition said the fence and watchtowers were unnecessary and would lead to ill feeling since the residents were not prisoners of war.

The petition, addressed to Dillon S.

Myer, said erection of the fence and ment made at the meeting of the block administrative officers some time ago in that we understand that we are to retain our former status with respect to citizenship, freedom of movement and speech."

The petition went: "The fence and the towers are ridiculous in every respect, an insult to any free human being, a barrier to full understanding between the administration and the residents.

Of course the fence and the watchtowers did not come down. But soon after the petition was delivered the camp administration announced the "project area"—thousands of acres of wild unoccupied government land outside the fence-would be open to recreational use from sunrise to sunset. So it was that many inmates went exploring, searching for arrowheads and odd geological formations, gnarled chunks of sagebrush to be polished.

Still, the fence remained as a hated reminder of confinement. And the lengths of wire are a reminder of the fence.



EAST WIND

BILL MARUTANI

The Top Ten

VER WONDER what kind of a (bumpers, braking, crashworthiness), kuruma (automobile) a Japanese executive, earning \$60 to \$130 thousand, acquires? Well, I saw just such a survey and was curious; I figured it ought to be a pretty good guidesomething like the old saw about selecting a roadside diner by the number of semi's parked in the lot. Anyway, if you share my curiosity, stick around.

The findings may, or may not, be surprising. Depends on what preconceptions you may have.

THE CRITERIA considered important by the 1,000 executives surveyed were (limiting them to the first top ten); styling-appearance (almost 50%), sense of luxury, engine performance maker, interior, ease of driving, image-name, maneuverability, price, and finally fuel efficiency. The last two were on about a par with each other, and both were about half of the next nearest criterion of "maneuverability." (Are you still with me?) Looking at this list, some of them would be included in my listing, but a few are missing, such as 'repair record" (i.e. dependability), safety

U.S. buyers also appear to place a premium on who the (perceived) maker is. Out in California, G.M.C. and Toyota produce the same vehicle from the same assembly line: one is called the Chevrolet Nova and the other. Toyota Corolla. Sales of the former have been disappointing, but not so with the Corolla.

O.K. SO what about the rankings? Again, taking the top ten-four were Nissan Motor products, four were Toyota products, and two were Honda's. Starting from the top (with the Japanese model names)(: 1. Nissan Cima, 2. Toyota Mark II, 3. Toyota Crown. 4. Honda Legend, 5. Nissan Skyline, 6. Toyota Soarer, 7. Nissan Cefiro. 8. Honda Prelude, 9. Nissan Laurel, and 10. Toyota Cresta. So, there you have it.

CPEAKING OF NAMES, number 10 is not the "Cressida" that we know in the U.S. The Japanese "Mark II," I believe, is the U.S. Cressida. Wondering how in the world the Japa-

nese come up with these novel names. looked up "Cressida." Definition: "Trojan woman or medieval legend who pledges herself to Troilus [whoever he is] but while a captive of the Greeks gives herself to Diomedes [ditto]."

Now, just how that commends her to have a (fine) vehicle named after her, is beyond me.

SOME DISAPPOINTED hopefuls who didn't make the top ten are reported to be the Mitsubishi 'Gallant.' Subaru's "Legacy," and Mazda's "Persona," all high-style vehicles. Particularly missed was Nissan's "Silvia" which took honors last year as the Carof-the-Year in Japan.

A NEW VOGUE in Nippon is said to be vintage autos, the U.S. gasguzzlers of the '60s. I don't have the listing, but certain Chevrolet models would qualify. While youthful sons of wealthy seek such vehicles, it is also reported that yakuza prize a big, black high-powered chariot—as a mark of distinction.

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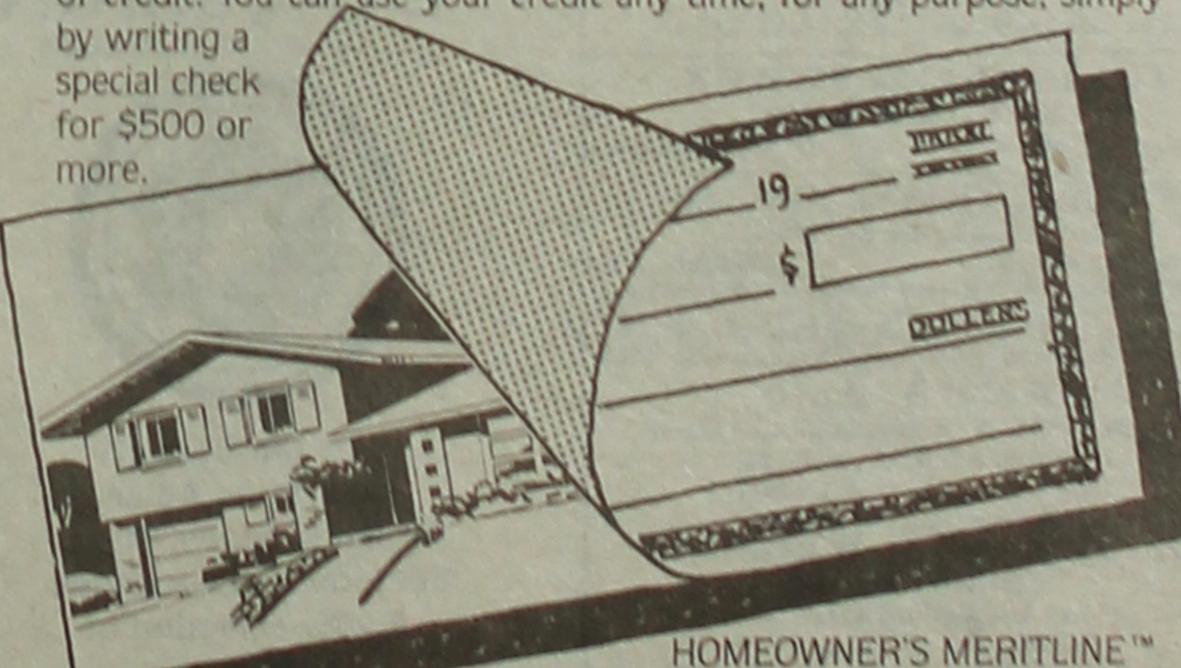
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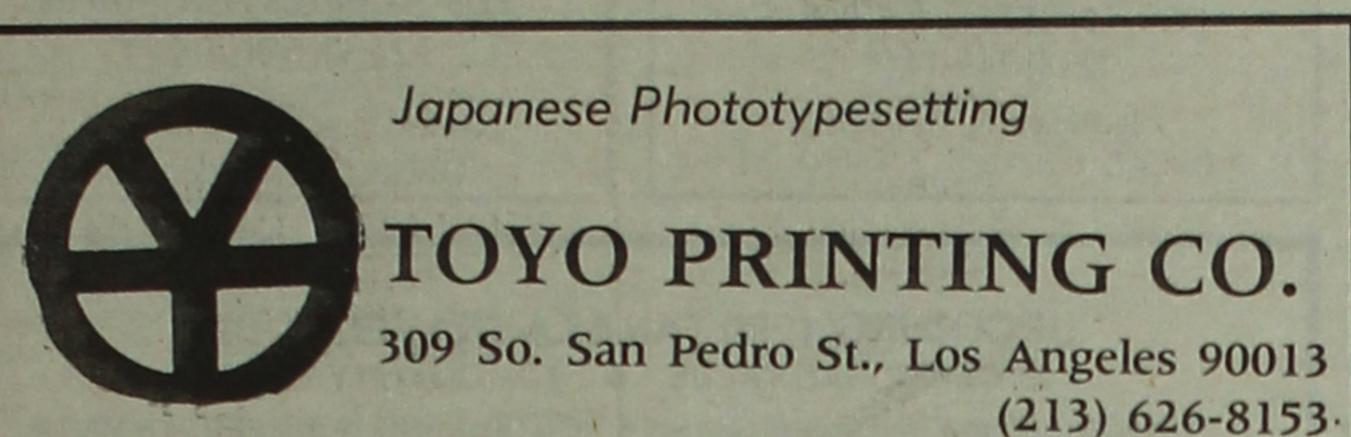
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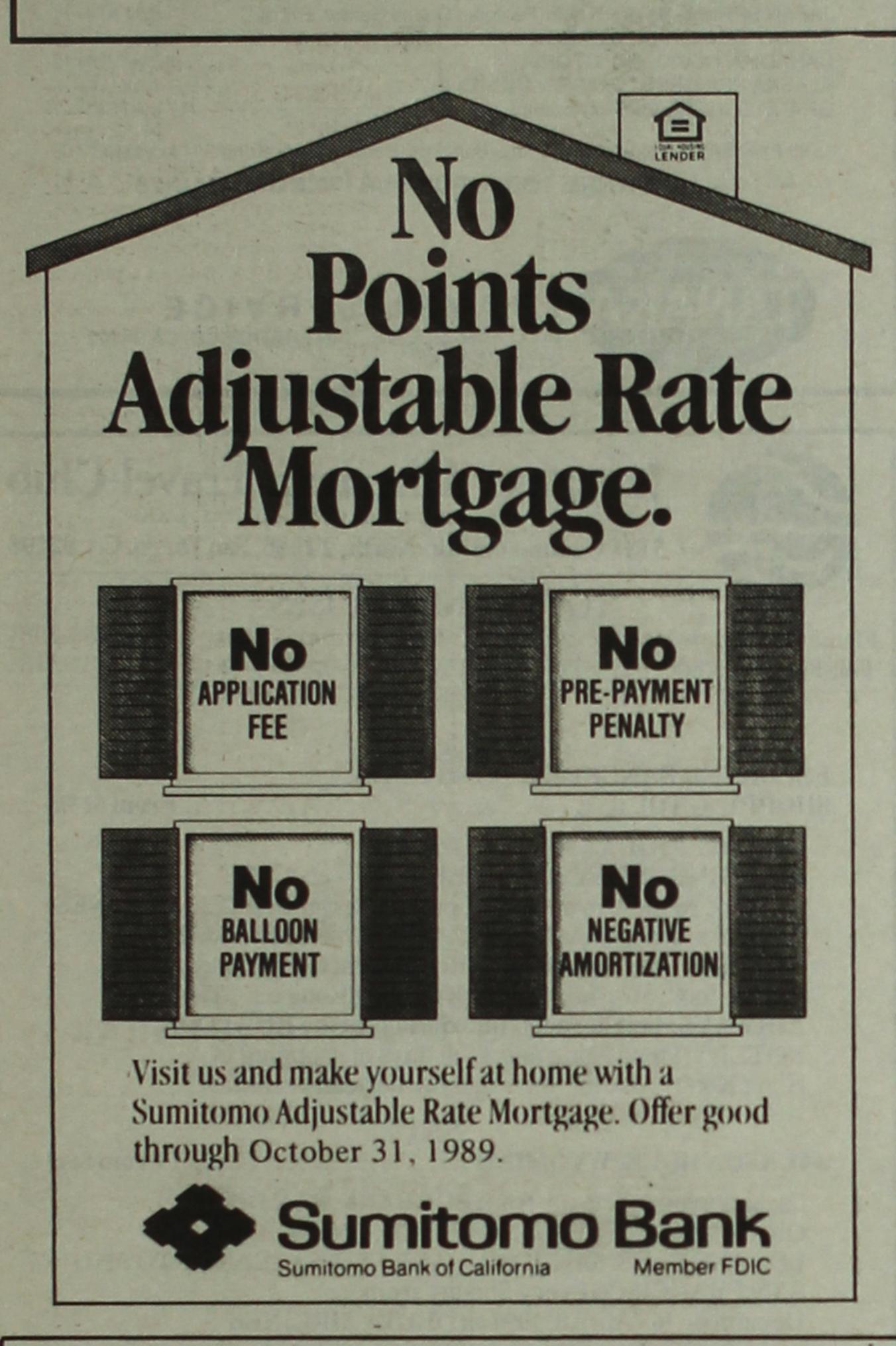


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