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Asian American drug/alcohol bill passes/p.3

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941 East 3rd Street, Suite 200, Los Angeles, CA 90013

(213) 626-6936 Friday, September 20, 1991

Making a point



Illinois Gov. Jim Edgar (right) meets with Gov. Kiyoshi Kaneko of Niigata Prefecture, Japan, Illinois' sister state, during the Illinois State Fair recently held in Springfield. Edgar receives a gift from Masao Ogasawara (second front left, pointing his finger), chairman of the Niigata Prefectural Assembly. Looking on is Mayor Nobuo Kumakura (left, background), Nakajo City, Niigata, and Gov. Kiyoshi Kaneko, Niigata Prefecture.

Some Asian American groups oppose Supreme Court nominee

JACL says it will wait for conclusion of hearings to issue statement

As the hearings to confirm Clarence Thomas as a Supreme Court Judge continued last week, Asian American organizations have announced their opposition to the high court appointee.

The National Asian Pacific American Bar Association (NAPABA) opposed the Thomas nomination, saying that the organization was particularly troubled with Thomas' position on natural law and affirmative action, according to William C. Hou, chairman of NAPABA's legislative committee.

The Organization of Chinese Americans said that "should Judge Thomas be elevated to the U.S. Supreme Court, at least one of OCA's five mission goals, 'securing justice, equal treatment and equal opportunity' may be threat-

ened based on Judge Thomas' record as chairman of the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission and his limited tenure as a federal judge and his extra-judicial writings.

Dale Minami, president of the Coalition of Asian Pacific Americans (CAPA), said that "Mr. Thomas' views are far outside the mainstream and represent extremist positions inimical to the interests of Asian Pacific Americans, women and other minority groups."

The Asian American Legal Defense and Education Fund sent testimony to the Senate Judiciary saying expressing its opposition. "The interests of the Asian American community have not been served by his work at the Equal Employment Opportunity Com-

mission and Department of Education, and we have every reason to believe that they will not be served if he ascends to the High Court," said Margaret Fung, executive director of the organization.

Meanwhile, JACL has issued a wait-and-see position on the Thomas nomination.

In a statement, JACL said, "Despite a strong concern over the civil rights record of Judge Thomas, the JACL national board has yet to issue its sense of the Thomas nomination until it has had an opportunity to have full benefit of the hearing process in order to gain a more insightful and substantive grasp of his views under scrutiny by the Senate Judiciary Committee."

The organization also said that See COURT/page 3

L.A. reapportionment fund-raiser set

LOS ANGELES—The Central Los Angeles Coalition of Asian Pacific Americans for Fair Reapportionment has scheduled an event Wednesday, Sept. 25, to raise money to influence reapportionment in California.

Community leaders from the four largest Asian ethnic groups (Korean, Pilipino, Japanese, and Chinese) will speak on their efforts to arouse community interest.

The organization has presented plans to the state of California for State Assembly and Senate redistricting.

A major effort is also being launched to prevent the fragmentation of Asian Pacific American communities in the City Council districts in Los Angeles.

The city of Los Angeles will decide its new districts by July, 1992.

Speakers highlight event

WHO: Central Los Angeles Coalition of Asian Pacific Americans for Fair Reapportionment.

WHAT: To raise money to influence reapportionment in California.

WHEN: Wednesday, Sept. 25, 5:30 p.m.

WHERE: Empress Pavilion, 988 N. Hill St., #201, Los Angeles.

SPEAKERS: March Fong Eu, California secretary of state; Michael Woo, L.A. city councilman; Warren Furutani, president, L.A. Unified School District Board of Education; Joselyn Yap, social service agency director and Pilipino American community

leader; and T.S. Chung, Korean American community leader.

INFORMATION: (213) 748-2022.



WARREN FURUTANI

Five suspects are charged in Thai murders

PHOENIX.—A breakthrough in the Arizona Thai Buddhist murder case, which came last week (Friday, Sept. 13) with the arrest of five suspects, appears to have lightened the horror that the slayings were racially motivated.

Top Arizona political, community and religious leaders were present at a special dinner attended by Thailand Ambassador M.L. Birabhongse Kasemsri as the news broke. Maricopa County Attorney Richard Romley said he would vigorously pursue the prosecution. "The proof is evident and the presumption is great," according to K.C. Skull, chief of the Maricopa County Attorney's major felony bureau.

But the fact that it was not a hate crime "does not change the horror," Madeline Ong-Sakata of the Chinese American Citizens Alliance said. Joyotpaul Chaudhuri, director of Asian Studies Center at Arizona State, noted the lack of evidence insufficient reason for eliminating hate as a motive. Members of the Buddhist community said they were relieved to learn the crime did not appear to be racially motivated.

Five defendants have been

charged with nine counts of murder in the Aug. 10 case plus several counts of armed robbery, conspiracy and first-degree burglary. Meanwhile, authorities continue their search for two and possible three more suspects.

Superior Court Judge Ronald Reinstein ordered the five men be held without bail after their initial appearance Sept. 13 at his court. They are: Michael Lawrence McGraw, 24 (who said in a jailhouse interview that he and four others have been falsely accused); Victor P. Zarate, 28; Mark Felix Nuñez, 19; Dante Parker, 20; and Leo Valdez Bruce, 28.

Information supplied to Tucson authorities by an anonymous caller on Tuesday (Sept. 10) helped cracked the case. The suspects were taken into custody while their homes were searched for valuables, including jewelry, letters, personal effects, as well as equipment, religious articles and coins believed taken from the temple.

Maricopa County Sheriff Tom Agnos theorized that the gang allegedly came to sack the Thai Buddhist temple west of here, which they thought to contain treasures.

Second round of redress assured by ORA official

SEATTLE—Robert K. Bratt of the Office of Redress Administration (ORA) announced at a workshop session here Sept. 14 that the second disbursement of redress payments would begin on or about the first week in October.

Some 22,700 eligible individuals born before Jan. 1, 1928, have been verified for payment by the ORA.

Bratt noted that it is possible that two or more members of the same household who are scheduled to receive redress payments in October may not receive checks

on the same day. He requested individuals to call the Help Line only if they have not received checks by Oct. 21.

Those individuals born before Jan. 1, 1928, who have not received the letter of potential eligibility (pink letter) requesting documentation and have not yet received the green verification letter should also contact the Help Line immediately to ascertain their case status.

ORA changes appearance of letter of apology

Although the ORA was not able to effect any changes to the text of the presidential letter of apology as recommended by the JACL-LEC, the appearance of the document is expected to be more pleasing, according to Cherry Kinoshita, national redress chairwoman.

Kinoshita, who was given a sample copy of the letter at a redress workshop in Seattle, Sept. 14, said the official presidential seal imprinted in gold will now appear on the letter of apology.

The letter has been enlarged to 8 1/2 x 11-inch size on heavier quality paper.

A policy regarding issuance of the new letter to those individuals who have already received the first letter will be announced by the ORA in the near future, and those recipients in the 70 and older age group are asked to withhold their inquiries until such an announcement is made.

ORA Help Line

If a recipient has not received a check by Oct. 21, 1991, he or she may contact the ORA at a special Help Line phone number:

1/800/395-4672

A telephone number for the hearing impaired is:

1/800/727-1886.

The phone numbers will be available from Oct. 21-25, from 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. Eastern time.

If a person to whom an ORA letter is addressed has died, or if his or her current address is different from the one on the mailing label, ORA should be contacted immediately at the Help Line number or by writing to: Office of Redress Administration, P.O. Box 66740, Washington, D.C., 20035-6740.

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Calendar

Washington D.C.

Saturday, September 28 through Thursday, October 3—JACL's Washington, D.C. Leadership Seminar, Mayflower Hotel. Tuition: \$800 per person. Information: JACL National Headquarters, 415/921-5225.

Washington

Seattle

Saturday, September 21 through Sunday, September 29—Japan Week, a nine day event of cultural programs, exhibits, demonstrations, and children's workshops and games, Bellevue Square, Monday - Saturday 9:30 am to 9:30 pm, Sunday 11 am to 6 pm. Information: 206/454-2431.

Monday, September 23—Japan America Society's "Otsukini: Celebrating the harvest moon" obento dinner, wine tasting and concert of traditional Japanese music, Snoqualmie Winery, 1000 Winery Rd, Snoqualmie. Cost: \$30 for members, \$35 for non-members. Information: 206/623-7900.

Tuesday, September 24—Japan America Society's seminar, "Housing in Japan: Opportunities and challenges for American firms," Bellevue Concourse, 505 106th Ave. NE, 11:30 am. Speaker: Paul Isaki, Director of Washington State Trade and Economic Development. Cost: luncheon, \$17 for members, \$20 for non-members; luncheon and reception, \$35 for members, \$50 for non-members. Information: 206/623-7900.

Friday, October 4—International District Community Health Center's Annual Dinner, Seattle Trade Center, 2601 Elliot Ave., 5:30 pm. Speaker: Le Ly Hayslip, Vietnamese author. Tickets: \$45. Information: Jodi, 206/286-0589.

Friday, November 1 and Saturday, November 2—"Beyond the Barriers," National Asian Pacific American Bar Association's Third Annual Convention, Stouffer Madison Hotel. Travel arrangements: Eric Hart, Global Express Travel, 206/682-3080. Information: Sharon Sakamoto, 206/682-9932 or Mimi Castillo, 206/624-1913.

Colorado

Denver

Saturday, November 9—Mile-Hi JACL's Election Pot Luck, Nisei Post, 2019 Market St., Denver, 5 pm. Information: 303/892-6003.

December 1991—Mile-Hi JACL Ski Weekend, date and place to be announced. Information: 303/892-6003.

August 3-8, 1992—JACL's 32nd Biennial National Convention, "JACL: Solid as the Rockies," Denver. Information: 303/892-6003.

California

San Francisco area

Saturday, September 21—San Francisco JACL's fund raising fashion show and luncheon, Westin St. Francis Union Square. Feature fashions by "Obiko." Tickets: \$50. Information: Les Hata, 415/653-7012 or Yo Hironaka, 415/751-1267.

Saturday, September 21—San Francisco/Bay Area nikkei Singles' "Whodunit in J-Town?" murder mystery play, dinner and dance, Japanese Cultural and Community Center of Northern California's Community Hall, 1840 Sutter St., San Francisco. Tickets: \$40. Information: 415/567-5505.

Sunday, September 22—Contra Costa JACL's Annual BBQ, Point

Richmond. Information: Natsuko Irei, 415/237-8730.

Saturday, September 28—Tri-Valley JACL's Mixed Doubles Tennis Tournament, Cal State Hayward. Information and application form: 415/846-4165.

Sacramento

Saturday, September 28—Florin JACL's first Women's Day Forum, Sacramento HarborMaster, Broadway and Front Street, 8:45 am to 1:30 pm. Topics: Diabetes, AIDS, Family Mental Health and much more. Tickets: \$5 for members and \$15 for non-members. Includes lunch. Information: Dr. Eileen Namba Otsuji, 916/427-2690 or Carol Hisatomi, 916/444-5827.

San Jose

Saturday, October 12—Yu-Ai Kai's 9 day "Heritage of America" tour. Stops in New York City, Philadelphia, Amish Country, Virginia and Washington, D.C. Cost: \$1349 for twin. Information/brochure: 408/294-2505.

San Benito County

Saturday, September 21—Former San Benito County residents' 1991 annual reunion, Ridgemark Country Club in Hollister, noon to 5 pm. Cost: \$25. Information: Tak Obata, 415/345-5565; Mitsugi Hane, 408/293-7108; Lily Yamashita, 408/722-0282; Hiroshi Wada, 213/321-9761.

Marysville-Yuba City

Friday, Sept. 27 through Sunday, Sept. 29—Third Yuba, Sutter Butte and Colusa Counties' Nikkei Reunion. Newsletter, registration information: Mazie Sasaki, 938 Chestnut St., Yuba City, 95991.

Tule Lake

Friday, Sept. 27, through Sunday, Sept. 29—Tule Lake Pilgrimage. Tour of Tule Lake Campsite, Abalone Hill & Castle Rock tour Workshops. Memorial Service, cultural program. Information: San Francisco: Julie Hana, 415/221-2608, eve.; East Bay: Stephanie Miyahiro, 415/524-2624; San Jose: Tom Izu, 408/292-6938; Sacramento: Diane Tomoda, 916/443-6917.

Los Angeles area

Through Sunday, September 22—Amy Hill's "Tokyo Bound", East West Players, 4424 Santa Monica Blvd., Los Angeles. Showtimes: Thursdays at 8 pm, Fridays and Saturdays at 8 and 10 pm, Sundays at 2 and 7 pm. Tickets: \$10 on Thursday and Sunday, \$12 on Friday and Saturday. Information and reservations: 213/660-0366.

Saturday, September 21—The Chinese Historical Society of Southern California and the Chinese Chamber of Commerce's Chinese Moon Festival 1991, throughout Los Angeles Chinatown, 1 pm to 10 pm. Information: 213/617-0396.

Saturday, September 21—The Great Leap, Inc's fundraising event "It's a Marvelous Night for a Moondance", The Spiral Court, California Plaza, 300 S. Grand Ave., Downtown Los Angeles, 6 pm. Information: 213/392-7937.

Saturday, September 28—Japanese American Historical Society of Southern California's Community Service/Achievement Awards Dinner, Shangri-La Restaurant, 6 pm. Honorees: East West Players, Shiro Nomura and Betty K. Mitson. Tickets: \$35. Information/reservation: Iku Kiriya, 213/326-0608.

Saturday, September 28—SCAN JACL's "Pasta Night", Japanese Institute of Sawtelle, 2110 Corinth Ave., Los Angeles, 6 pm.

Proceeds will go towards the 1992 Scholarship Fund. Information: Jackie, 805/251-3962.

Saturday, September 28—50th Anniversary celebration, Theodore Roosevelt Senior High School, L.A., Classes of '41, '42, Marriott Hotel, L.A. International Airport. Information: 800/244-6106 or write to Madeline Levine, 9603 Beverlywood St., L.A. 90034.

Saturday, September 28—Asian American Voters Coalition's Workshop, CACA Meeting Hall, 415 Bamboo Lane, Chinatown, Los Angeles, 8:15 am. Topics: Redistricting and apportionment, career in politics, political awareness, voters education, and elective political opportunities. Information: Irvin Lai, 213/735-1331.

Sunday, September 29—Orange County Sansei Singles' annual picnic, Cerritos Park East, 10 am to 4:30 pm. Cost: \$6 for members, \$4 for children, and \$9 non-members. Reservations by Sept. 23. Information: 213/715-6839, 213/649-5293, 714/891-4215, or 818/571-5571.

Thursday, October 17—Asian Pacific American Legal Center's 6th Annual Awards Dinner, Biltmore Hotel, Los Angeles. Honorees: Hitachi Ltd., Congressman Howard Berman, Frederick Hong, Maria Hsia, John Huang and Gloria Ochoa. Information/tickets: Stewart Kwoh or Faith Chen, 213/748-2022.

Thursday, October 24 through Saturday, October 26—The Asia Society's National Symposium "The Asian American Experience: Looking Ahead," the Biltmore Hotel in Los Angeles. Explore the critical issues facing Asian Americans in the 1990s and the importance of these issues to American society at large. Information: 213/624-0945.

Calendar items must be submitted at least THREE WEEKS in advance of the day of event. Include day or night phone numbers for further information.

Reminders

● Workshop sponsored by the Asian American Voters Coalition, Los Angeles Chapter, Saturday, Sept. 28, CACA Meeting Hall, Chinatown, 415 Bamboo Lane, Los Angeles. Topics: Redistricting and Apportionment; career in politics; political awareness; voters education; elective political opportunities. Speakers: Gloria Ochoa, J.D. Hokoyama, Stuart Kwoh, Mike Eng, Judy Chu, Jay Kim, Marissa Castro, David Lang. Registration, 8:15 a.m.; workshop, 9 a.m. Information: Irvin Lai, 213/735-1331.

● Author/poet David Mura gives a reading from his book "Turning Japanese: Memoirs of a Sansei," Saturday, Sept. 28, 2 p.m., Japanese American Cultural and Community Center (JACCC) as part of the Japanese American National Museum's "Afternoon with the Museum" series. Event is free and open to the public. Information: 213/625-0414.

● 50th anniversary celebration of the West Los Angeles Chapter, JACL, Sunday, Nov. 10, noon, Holiday Inn Bay View Plaza, Santa Monica, Calif., in conjunction with installation of new officers for 1992. Keynote speaker: Cressey Nakagawa, JACL national president. Information: V. Tominaga, 213/820-3365 or T. Kanegai, 213/820-3592.

Legislation

Asian American drug/alcohol bill passes California Legislature

SACRAMENTO—The California State Assembly and Senate approved legislation Sept. 13 aimed at preserving Asian Pacific American drug and alcohol prevention programs.

Assembly Bill 1955, authored by Assemblyman Xavier Becerra (D-Monterey Park), is now pending before Gov. Pete Wilson. If enacted, the measure would require the director of the Department of Alcohol and Drug Programs to keep track of Asian Pacific Islander alcohol and drug abuse demonstration programs and certify those that successfully meet the needs of the Asian Pacific population.

Becerra's proposal also calls on counties in which successful federally-funded demonstration programs exist to continue funding those programs.

"The fact that AB 1955 passed through both houses reflects, in my mind, the growing impact of the Asian Pacific Islander community," Becerra said. "Through this effort, community activists were able to send a clear message to the legislature. The Asian Pacific Islander community is becoming an integral part of the overall landscape, and the increas-

ing substance abuse problems accompanying this growth cannot be ignored by policymakers."

Becerra also noted that the bill received bipartisan support in both the Senate and Assembly. "I am hopeful that this factor, combined with solid community support throughout the state, will lead the governor to look favorably upon my bill and sign it into law," he said.

AB 1955 has been endorsed by numerous organizations, including the Asian Pacific Planning Council, Asian American Drug Abuse Program, Asian Youth Center, Chinatown Service Center, Korean Youth Center, Little Tokyo Service Center, National Asian Pacific American Families Against Substance Abuse, United Cambodian Community, Visual Communications, Search To Involve Filipino Americans, National Federation of Indian American Associations, Berkeley Asian Youth Center, Japanese Community Youth Council, Asian Youth Substance Abuse Project, Asian American Recovery Services, Union of Pan Asian Communities, United Cambodian Community, Vietnamese Youth Development Center, and others.

Illinois passes redress protection

An Illinois law that would exempt redress payments in determining eligibility for public assistance and offer protection from legal judgment, attachment or distress for rent was signed into law Sept. 17 by Gov. Jim Edgar.

Senate Bill 442 amends the Illinois Public Aid Code and Code of Civil Procedure.

"Protecting eligibility for general assistance and aid to the medically indigent does not affect many people, but this law is not only a symbolic gesture, it is im-

portant that nobody suffer because of compensation for a wrong done to them," said David Igasaki, president of JACL's Chicago Chapter, director of the Asian American Bar Association of the Greater Chicago Area, and principal advocate of the bill.

"We are especially pleased that the law also places the redress payments under the state exemption law, which protects people from fearing garnishment or attachment by creditors. This could potentially affect every recipient," Igasaki said.

Biz notes

JETRO to assist American access to Japan market

LOS ANGELES—The Japanese External Trade Organization (JETRO) has scheduled its 8th annual Import Fair "Leisure & Recreation '92" event in Tokyo, March 11-14, 1992.

The organization's event is designed to help Americans establish business relationships with Japanese. American manufacturers of leisure and recreation items will display products directly to Japanese buyers at the fair.

With more than 120 million consumers in Japan, "Leisure and Recreation '92" is targeted to manufacturers of camping, wilderness living, motor sports, aircraft, boating, scuba diving, sports fishing, fitness, and other related items.

Registration deadline is Oct. 11, 1991. Information: Harumi Kamekawa or Nancy Carls, 213/624-8833.

COURT

(Continued from page 1)

is concerned over portions of the career record of Thomas and over positions he has articulated relating to civil rights issues, as well as his position on affirmative action.

JACL said it will wait until the full Senate hearing process is completed before making a recommendation on Thomas as a Supreme Court judge.

NAPABA said that it was disturbed by Thomas' belief that Asian Pacific Americans are not a minority group whose accomplishments prove that affirmative action is not needed as a remedy for discrimination.

Hou added that Thomas has characterized the Asian Pacific community as "overrepresented" in areas such as employment opportunities.

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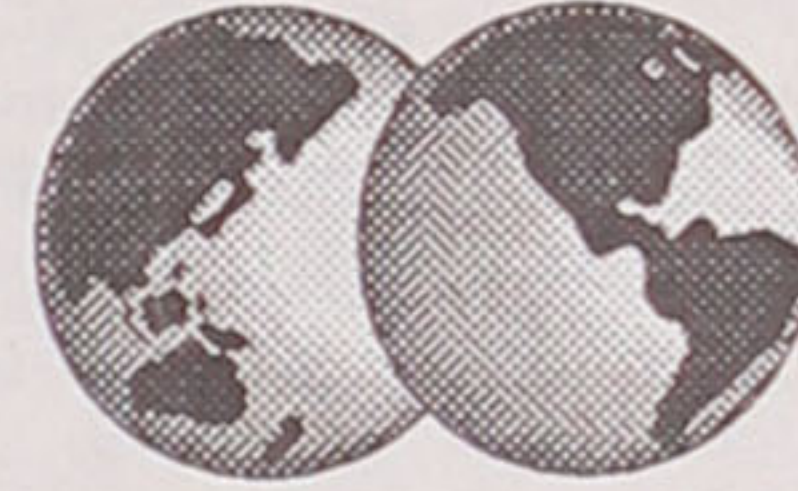
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JACL-Blue Shield of California Group Health Trust
1765 Sutter Street, San Francisco, California 94115

Agenda

Community

• Celebrating the 19th annual Aki Matsuri in West Covina on Saturday, Oct. 5, 1 to 9 p.m., will be the **East San Gabriel Valley Japanese Community Center** organizations (818/960-2566) at its West Covina base at 1203 W. Puente Ave. Leroy Kawai and Ray Takai, co-chair, said proceeds will be benefit center organizations and its general fund. At 6 p.m. the West Covina Taiko Group will perform.

• The annual food festival of the **Buddhist Temple of San Diego** will be held on Sunday, Sept. 29, 11 a.m. to 3 p.m., at the temple (619/239-0896).

• **San Jose Japantown Business Association** (408/298-4303) announced Japantown's postal substation has reopened under new management at 141 Jackson St., open from 9:15 a.m.-4:30 p.m. weekdays, till 1 p.m. Saturday ... Hideo Kamimoto, who specializes in repair of stringed instruments and guitars, is back in Japantown at 609 N. 4th St. with Scott Cao as a partner. A musical instrument apprentice in the U.S. the past decade, Cao also fashions his own instruments, winning an international competition in 1988 for a viola he had made ... **Yu-Ai Kai** planned a mid-day "scavenger hunt for all ages" trailing through San Jose's Nihonmachi and ending at the Wesley Church, where information and food booths and closing ceremony were slated. Special features of the hunt may be obtained from Evelyn Hori at Yu-Ai Kai (408/294-2505). The hunt was scheduled Sept. 21.

• Jo Ann Yamashiro is the 1991-92 president of the **So-Phis of Orange County**, a Nikkei

women's group engaged in philanthropic works. Other officers include Jane Kobayashi, Sumi Yakura, Shiz Okuda, vice-presidents; Mae Nishiie, Masako Matsuo, secretaries; Neiko Okazaki, treasurer; Jeanne Motokane, historian; Linda Honda, parliamentarian, and Patricia Nakata, publicity.

• In San Fernando Valley, the **SFV Japanese American Community Center** announced its annual fund-raising dinner will be held Nov. 2 at Odyssey Restaurant, Granada Hills. Tickets are \$75 per person with RSVP on a first come-first-serve basis, care of the CC office, 12953 Branford St., Pacoima, CA, 91331, (818/899-9092)... Ground-breaking ceremonies for the new **Hongwanji Buddhist Temple**, 9450 Remick Ave., Pacoima, was planned for Sept. 22 after the Ohigan Service. The Rev. Kakuyei Tada is minister ... The **SFV Judo Club**, part of the center since it was established in 1959, has proposed a scholarship program for its members in memory of its founder, the late Sego Murakami. Goal of securing a \$20,000 CD and providing two \$500 awards each year to a full-time college freshmen have been recommended. A supplemental \$200 scholarship for a past recipient is to be allowed if there are no first-time applicants. Certain qualifications apply, according to Tim Whitesell, Judo Club Fukeikai president.

JACL

San Diego

Youth athletics and a "new world record" in the 20-legged 30-

yard "geta" race at the recent San Diego JACL picnic made the September headlines.

Use of a community center has been obtained for resuming the JACL basketball league for teenagers, men and women, and youth, according to chapter president David Kawamoto (619/287-7583) and Susan Shimomaye (720-1854). About 15 years ago, the JACL community league played at the old San Diego High School gym, but Proposition 13 tax cutbacks intervened and the league was terminated. "We are now looking to reactivate the league," Kawamoto said. "JACL also wants to establish a Little League-age baseball team for play against other chapters."

Setting the new record in the "geta" race of 38.64 seconds is the team comprised of Darren Sugioka, Anthony Quon, Tony Gill, Mayko Moncrief, Lorraine McMillan, Can McMillan, Leilani Matsumoto, Jennifer Sugioka, Maurice Hagio and John Harvey. The old record was 45.72 seconds. Other teams intending to break the record may call Robert Ito (619/560-0411) for gear and information.

Contra Costa

In wake of the turn of recent international events, will the target of world hostility turn from the Soviet Union to Japan. If so, what will this mean to the Japanese Americans? Will the "Nikkei Be Scapegoats, Again?"

These are the concerns National JACL President Cressey Nakagawa will address at a Contra Costa JACL 1000 Club luncheon

See AGENDA/page 5

Opinions



From the frying pan

BILL HOSOKAWA

Bill of Rights exhibit silent on evacuation

The 200th anniversary of the ratification of the Bill of Rights—"the heart and soul of our liberty"—is being celebrated this year. In observation of the event the Philip Morris companies are sponsoring a nationwide tour of an exhibit that features one of the 12 known remaining original copies.

I went to see the exhibit when it came to Denver and was both moved and disappointed. Moved, because of the document's significance in the history of civilization. Disappointed because no mention was made of the devastating assault on the Bill of Rights in 1942 which demonstrated what a fragile document it is without the constant vigilance and support of the people.

That vigilance and support vanished in the war hysteria that followed Japan's attack on Pearl Harbor. Ten weeks later the civil rights guaranteed by the Bill of Rights were suspended for 120,000 members of a racial minority—two-thirds citizens by birth—by the signing of a presidential executive order. They were herded into detention camps without being accused of anything other than that they

were of the same racial stock as the Japanese enemy.

Few of their fellow citizens protested. Few realized that when the rights of some are violated, the rights of all are endangered. That is the lesson the Philip Morris exhibit should have underscored, and failed to do. Instead, the exhibit focused simply on reminding citizens what a precious document the Bill of Rights is.

But the reality is that the principles enunciated in the Bill of Rights are meaningless unless the people demand that they be applied. This did not happen in 1942. For example:

The 5th Amendment states that no person shall be "deprived of life, liberty, or property, without due process of law." Soldiers with bayonets, not due process, forced Japanese Americans from their homes and into detention camps.

The 6th Amendment provides that "in all criminal prosecutions, the accused shall enjoy the right to a speedy and public trial . . . and to be informed of the nature and cause of the accusation . . ."

It can be argued that "criminal prosecution" was not involved in the imprison-

ment of Japanese Americans. True, they were not charged with any crime. They were simply accused, en masse, of being a potential danger to the national security because of race. They were imprisoned without trial in an effort to thwart that potential danger, but at what violence to the Bill of Rights?

The 14th Amendment repeats the 5th Amendment's provision for "due process" and further provides that no person shall be denied "the equal protection of the laws." The laws were not applied equally to an American minority that simply had a physical resemblance to the hated enemy.

Some contend that guaranteed freedoms may have to be suspended temporarily in a national emergency, such as war, but the argument rings hollow when the suspension is applied selectively on a racial basis as it was in 1942.

The freedoms embraced by the Bill of Rights are basic concepts but they are not simple. They are strongly idealistic but at the same time, frail without public understanding and determination to preserve them.

See HOSOKAWA/page 5

Very truly yours

By HARRY HONDA
Senior editor

As Warren went in '50s, so goes Thomas today

The hue and cry over Clarence Thomas to the U.S. Supreme Court is reminiscent of time President Dwight Eisenhower nominated Gov. Earl Warren to be chief justice of the high court in 1953. Chief Justice Fred Vinson had died a month before the court's 1953-54 term was to open and Warren was sworn into office when the court opened the first Monday in October. There was repercussion over the appointment.

To provide background to the times, *Pacific Citizen* ran stories about Sgt. Hiroshi Miyamura being released from the North Korean POW camp and being named for the Congressional Medal of Honor; Issei being naturalized around the country; and national JACL headquarters returning to San Francisco after a wartime decade in Salt Lake City. Erstwhile *P.C.* editor Larry Tajiri ("Vagaries" column of Sept. 18, 1953) was the first Nisei to recall Warren's public record, especially the early years when he made "all the noises of a professional Jap-baiter" as Alameda County district attorney (1925-1939), as California attorney general (1939-1943) and as governor (1943-1951) until the end of War II. Tajiri richly describes the early period of anti-Japanese racism in California, the "yellow peril" and local politics that culminated in the demand for the mass evacuation and continued exclusion of persons of Japanese ancestry from the West Coast. Warren was a politician of this school.

"There was a time when a suggestion that Earl Warren be appointed Chief Justice of the U.S. Supreme Court would have been greeted with consternation by the Nisei," Tajiri commented. Mike Masaoka, in his "Washington Newsletter," soon after Warren was sworn to the bench, similarly noted that "the Nisei must have experienced mixed emotions. (Warren's) record, as it relates to the Japanese, ran the gamut as a public official: from one who was probably most responsible for influencing General John DeWitt's order for the arbitrary evacuation of all citizen and alien Japanese from the West Coast in 1942 to (being) the first governor to appoint a Nisei to the bench in 1953. (He was the late Judge John Aiso, who was named to a Los Angeles municipal court and retired in 1973 as an appellate court justice.)"

Masaoka hoped the appointment of Aiso represented "the maturing of a once expedient politician into a statesman worthy of the chief justiceship. All signs indicate that."

In Tajiri's eye, the governor had abandoned his racist fervor in 1945 when the Army reopened the West Coast to evacuees. "It is also possible that Gov. Warren's change-of-mind was forced by the forthright demonstration of loyalty on the part of the Nisei, particularly the well-publicized exploits of Nisei fighting men."

"Whatever the reason, Gov. Warren's conduct in complying with the Army's decision to reopen the West Coast was statesmanship. He supported moves of former evacuees of the state to regain their seniority and he has also signed other remedial legislation which benefited the evacuee group. The governor's visit to Japan two years ago and his cordial reception of visiting Japanese are other evidence of change."

"Gov. Warren's qualifications, though lacking a judicial background, are far better than some of the appointments to the recent court, including those of Justices Burton, Minton and Clark."

The *Pacific Citizen*, in its Oct. 9, 1953, editorial, first noted Warren was born in 1891 in what soon became Little Tokyo, where Dai Ichi Gakuen stood through the prewar years. The *P.C.* reminded that neither Eisenhower been elected to a political office nor Warren sat on the bench although he was experienced in administration with a wide knowledge of the law. "In this day and age of specialist, one is led to think specialist or technicians are the only ones capable of handling a situation. As complex as society has become, we still cannot forget that we are human. At times we feel the age has become cluttered with specialists and technicians. They are so narrow in thinking that they forget the wider horizon of humanity."

"The appointment of Earl Warren . . . recalls the days of the Founding Fathers who were imbued with the spirit that all men are created equal and endowed by their Creator with certain inalienable rights." That was the extent of the JACL record when Warren became chief justice.



East Wind

BILL MARUTANI

'Illegal' workers in Japan

ABOUT SIXTEEN MONTHS ago, Japan tightened its Immigration Control Law to clamp down on illegal aliens employed in Nippon. Among other things, the revised law subjected employers to three years imprisonment or a fine up to ¥2 million (about \$13,500 U.S.) if convicted of hiring illegal aliens. Also some 20,000 illegal workers, mostly Bangladeshis and Pakistanis, fearing harsh deportation measures, surrendered to Japanese immigration authorities and were deported to their native lands. Today, sixteen months later, both the various foreign embassies as well as the Japanese immigration authorities estimate that there are some 100,000 illegals in Japan. With world-wide recession and the displacements caused by the Gulf War, the influx of illegal workers into Japan continues.

CONSIDERING FILIPINO NATIONALS alone, the estimate by the Philippine Embassy in Tokyo is 80-85,000 Philippine nationals in Japan, which includes illegals. The Japanese Ministry of

Justice's official figure for 1990 for Filipinos is about half of that figure, at 43,374. Women illegals from the Philippines and Thailand reportedly often end up working in so-called "massage parlors" or as "entertainers."

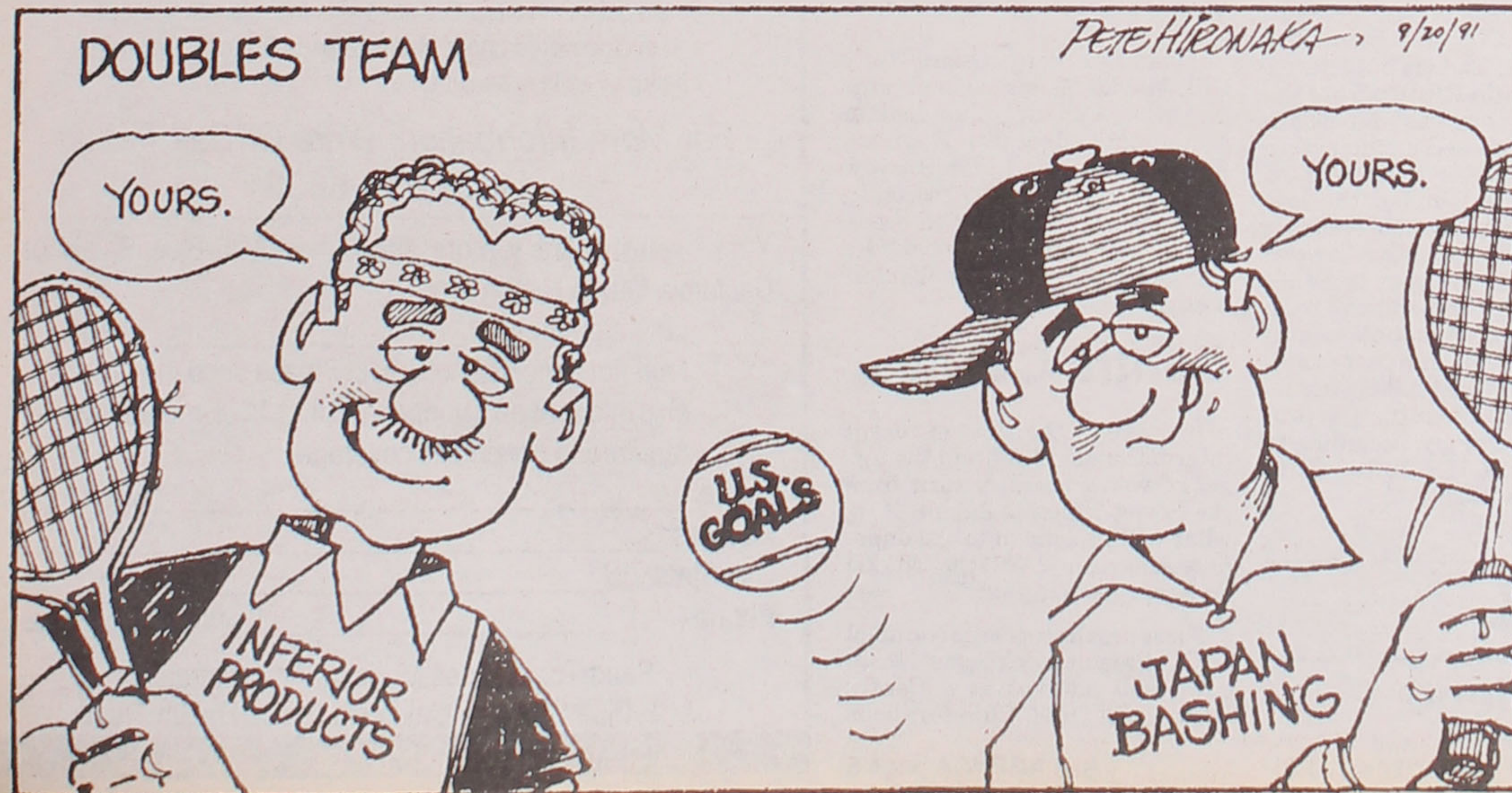
OTHER ESTIMATES for illegals in Japan: some 10,000 Iranians; Pakistanis 6,000 (official figure: 1,909). Some 30-50,000 Latin Americans of Japanese ancestry are also in Japan, but as legal entrants—indeed, on a preferential basis, one might say. For Japanese Latinos are granted long-term residency status. One such Latino who was a lieutenant in the police in Peru earns in Japan ten times what he earned back home. Many such Latinos reportedly work in auto manufacturing. Then there are foreign students who, under Japanese laws, are permitted to work up to 20 hours per week; not unexpectedly many work more hours than the 20 hour maximum.

THE AVERAGE STAY of these illegals is about three years and most work in small factories, restaurants and in con-

struction, earning about ¥1,000 an hour. Many live in extremely crowded conditions, as many as ten to an eight-tatami room. According to some prevailing custom in Japan of having to pay the landlord a "gift" for leasing accommodations, as much as ¥100,000 may be charged (that's about \$ 700 U.S.) which is deducted from the illegal's pay. And because of the illegal's precarious status, (s)he is hardly in a position to register a complaint with any of the authorities. Indeed, fearful of being discovered, it is said that the illegals do not send savings to their homeland through banking facilities or even the mails; instead, they entrust monies to friends returning to their native country.

It is reported that many of these folks feel quite isolated. As one Iranian woman, fluent in both English and Japanese, expressed it: "The Japanese live to close physically and so far apart mentally." Also it is reported that some Japanese doctors refuse to treat these Asians.

IF SOME OF THIS sounds a bit familiar, it should.



Music review

B.B., the beat, and the blues . . .

By Martha Nakagawa
Staff writer

Photos: Special to the
Pacific Citizen



"My parents won't think I am legitimate until my name gets in the P.C."

—B.B. Chung King

Credits

What: Bud Dry Concert Series.
Who: B.B. Chung King and the Screaming Buddah Heads.
When: Saturday, Sept. 28, 1991, 10 p.m.
Where: The Sunset, 322 W. Sierra Madre Blvd., Sierra Madre, Calif.
Information: 818/906-9723.

With a name like B.B. Chung King and the Screaming Buddah Heads, you may wonder just what sort of music this band plays. This is not your mediocre wannabe Guns and Roses band—These musicians have talent.

The band combines the blues, a predominately black music form, with hard rock, a format dominated mostly by white musicians. It is headed by Alan Mirikitani (B.B. Chung King), a Japanese American, who can play the guitar with an intensity and passion rarely seen on the Sunset Strip these days. He is joined by guitarist Bobby Schneck with whom B.B. harmonizes very well. Mike Stover is on bass, Ray Hernandez, on drums, and Kellie Rucker, on harmonica. Rucker, the 90 pound newest addition to the band, can blast her lungs out on the harmonica, and has added a new dimension to the band's sound.

This summer, when B.B. played at the Lotus Festival, an Asian American celebration, audience response was so positive that they were called back out for an encore—the only band to do so during this two-day event. B.B. explained that the band got its name because one of B.B.'s role models happens to be B.B. King, and although "buddah heads" is a term of endearment used mostly among Japanese Americans, he considered his non-Asian band members buddah heads too.

Among the bands repertoire was the song entitled "442" in remembrance of the most decorated unit in the United States army. He dedicated "Movin' Mountains" to his father, who had encouraged him to pursue his musical career, despite what others had said. B.B. explained that in third grade his teacher had asked the class what they wanted to be when they grew



The Screaming Buddah Heads (from left to right): Mike Stover, Bobby Schneck, Ray Hernandez, and Kellie Rucker.

up. B.B. answered that he wanted to be like Elvis Presley, and the whole class had laughed at him. During break, another kid came up to him and told him that "You can never be like Elvis Presley because you're a Jap." Later, B.B. asked his father if he could ever be like Elvis Presley although he wasn't white. His father replied, "Son, you can move mountains. You can move them out to the sea. You can be what the hell you want to be."

And B.B. is becoming exactly what he wanted to be. B.B. Chung King and the Screaming Buddah Heads has been playing to standing room only crowds all across Los Angeles, with ever-increasing fans from all ages and ethnic backgrounds. Recently they placed number 1 out of 1,500 contestants to win a Budweiser "Concert Series" sponsorship. Their song, "Miser Blues" (written with Floyd Dixon) has been featured on an episode of *Midnight Caller*, and there are talks of other possible NBC projects in the future.

So why hasn't this band been signed with a major record label? Perhaps the executives in the music industry don't quite know what to do with a band that has a talented lead Japanese American musician who can sing, play, and write music. Or perhaps, as B.B. puts it, "my parents won't think I am legitimate until my name gets in the P.C."

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AGENDA

(Continued from page 3)

on Sunday, Oct. 13, 12:30 p.m. at Spenger's Fish Grotto, 1414-4th St., Berkeley.

Reservations at \$12 (breast of chicken or red snapper) per person will be taken until Oct. 4 by Yoshiro Tokiwa, 2859 Loyola Ave., Richmond, CA 94806. Chapter president Joanne Mukai will be emcee. Information: Tom Arima (510/525-9615).

St. Louis

Despite the cutdown to one weekend and a morning rain Sunday, the 17th annual Japanese

festival at the Missouri Botanical Garden Aug. 3-4 united the JACLers to all pitch in for a common cause—the local chapter, it was noted by chapter president Steve Mitori. Income was expected to down, but complaints were heard.

The festival co-chairpersons, Shawn Tiemeier and Ben Uyesato, who put in long hours before and during the event, "made our fundraiser a success," Mitori added. Also acknowledged in particular were the dedicated volunteers, the Osuwa Taiko group, Central California Kendo Federation, the San Francisco Taiko Dojo, and the traditional festival performers, Daido Gei, from Tokyo.

Onetime NFL referee Ray Sonnenberg was announced as guest speaker for the chapter installation dinner, which has been advanced to Saturday, Oct. 26, at the Creve Coeur Community Center, 300 N. New Ballas Rd.

San Fernando Valley

As a preliminary bout with facing the 50th anniversary of the bombing of Pearl Harbor come Dec. 7, there will be a chapter JACL oral history evening on Saturday, Oct. 19, 7:30 p.m., at the SFV Japanese American Community Center, 12953 Branford St., Pacoima.

Nikkei on the West Coast and Hawaii who remember the disruption and the hardship of the evacuation that followed are expected to share their experiences in six groups: (1) life between Dec. 7 and the evacuation order, (2) life in camp, (3) wartime resettlement after leaving camp, (4) G.I. experiences, (5) redress, and (6) Sansei-Yonsei perceptions. Wartime memorabilia and pictures are being requested for display.

For information, call Phil Shigekuni (818/893-1581).

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One additional point. The 1st Amendment guarantees the right of the people "to petition the government for a redress of grievances." Many years after their imprisonment, Japanese Americans set out in search of redress. Under their prodding Congress in 1988 passed a law calling for restitution and apology to Japanese Americans. It was signed by President Reagan. Less than a year ago President Bush formalized the apology with a renewed "commitment to the ideals of freedom, equality, and justice."

Thus a democracy demonstrated it could correct its errors.

This is the lesson that the Philip Morris exhibit should have brought to Americans. In glorifying the ideals, but ignoring the realities, the project fell short. It was glitzy and shallow, like so much of our civilization these days, and a great opportunity to promote better understanding of our democracy was lost.

Obituaries

Befu, Masuo Robert, 68, Los Angeles, Aug. 11; Arroyo Grande-born WWII veteran, survived by wife Hatsuno, daughters Nancy Arihara, Irene Nakano, 5 grandchildren, brothers Yoshiro, Sammy, Ben and Harumi (Palo Alto), sister Alice Watt, mother Komaki.

Doi, Jerry Noboru, 77, Selma, Aug. 30; Sanger-born, survived by son David, sisters Eleanor and Betty Doi, brothers Toichi, Minoru, grandchildren.

Dote, Kotoe, 88, San Francisco, Aug. 21; Osaka-born, survived by sons Shingo (Jpn), Shinji, daughters Yasuko, Yaeko Yamada, 7 grandchildren, 6 great-grandchildren.

Fujimoto, Tom Masao, 61, Mission Hills, Aug. 19 due to unfortunate auto accident; San Fernando-born Sansei, Korean war veteran, survived by wife Susie, sons Don, Derek, daughters Debbie, Corrine Schneider, 1 grandson, brothers Henry, Kengo, sister Fuji Ogata.

Fukumoto, Frank Toshiyuki, 74, Santa Maria, July 29; Lomita-born WWII veteran, survived by wife Annie, daughters Lily Eakes (Santa Maria), Louise Ramey (Bishop), three grandchildren.

Fukunaga, Tatsumi, 79, Huntington Beach, Aug. 28; Kauai-born, survived by wife Shizue, daughters Keiko Webb, Emiko Dubby (Orlando, Fla.), grandchildren.

Fukuyama, Janet, 54, Los Angeles, Aug. 22; San Martin, Calif.-born, survived by husband Thomas, sons David, Keith, daughter Kris Minakawa, 11 brothers and sisters.

Goto, Takayuki, 71, Montebello, Aug. 21; Santa Ana-born, owner of Unique Flower Shop, survived by daughter Cheryl, Gail Lake (Whittier), son Kelly, brothers Toshi (Las Vegas), Ray (Culver City), sisters Masae Nomura, Michi Naruo, Echo (Los Angeles), 3 grandchildren.

Grace, Nobuko, 70, San Francisco, Aug. 3; Kanazawa-born master instructor of Fujimoto-kai, survived by husband Robert, brothers Ryo, Kohei.

Harano, Masashi, 74, Chicago, July 24; survived by wife Takeko, son Ross, daughter Cathy Anderson, sisters Sue Yamazaki, Tomi Sollen, grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

Miyazaki, Sueko, 79, Gardena, Aug. 22; Kauai-born, survived by daughters Jean Okazaki, Bessie Miyazaki, Susan Yamashiro, 3 grandchildren.

Morimoto, Clarence Y, 88, Los Angeles, Aug. 28; Kauai-born, survived by son Stanley, daughter Gloria Ige, 12 grandchildren, 13 great grandchildren, brother Ben, sisters Yachi Uyenmo, Aiko Ikeda, Yuri Yamaguchi (all of Hawaii).

Morimoto, Hiroshi, 72, Oxnard, Aug. 12; Los Angeles-born, survived by sons Shoji, Kazuhiro, daughters Eriko Nishimori, Hanako, 3 grandchildren, brother and 3 sisters.

Morri, Tokio, 89, Torrance, Aug. 16; Kumamoto-born, survived by son Kunio, daughters Eiko Araki, 4 grandchildren, 4 great-grandchildren.

Murayama, Shoko, 47, Panorama City, July 30; Kumamoto-born, survived by son Kenneth, mother Aiko Watanabe, brother Tetsuro, sisters Chiho Iwamura, Akiko Doo.

Nakagawa, Kei, 62, Los Angeles, Aug. 5; Terminal Island-born, survived by brother Dave, sisters Akiko, Kimiko Kitayama.

Nakamura, Jinichi, 90, Fresno, Aug. 31; Hiroshima-born, survived by wife Miyuki, son John, daughters Jane Negoro, Lily Doi, 9 grandchildren, 5 great-grandchildren, brother and two sisters in Japan.

Nakamura, Katsu, San Francisco, Aug. 2; survived by sisters Sami, Shizunami.

Nakanishi, Masahei Sam, 72, White Bear Lake, Minn., Aug. 29; Los Angeles-born WWII veteran, survived by wife Yoneko, son Paul (St. Paul), Fred (Atlanta), Joe (Chicago), 3 grandchildren, brothers Yasuhei (San Gabriel, Calif.), Yohei (Diamond Bar), sisters-in-law Kaoru Suzuki, Chieko Teragawa, Sachiko Endo.

Nakao, Shigeo, 88, San Francisco, Aug. 25; Hawaii-born, survived by wife Shizue, son Richard, daughter May.

Niyama, Shigeru, 55, San Carlos, Aug. 5; Stockton-born, survived by wife Karen, son Ross, daughter Kris, parents Yakuichi and Ayako, brothers Minoru, Masaru, sister Tomiko Tanimasa.

Nishi, Tora, 97, Los Angeles, Aug. 14; Fukuoka-born naturalized U.S. citizen, survived by son Azuma, daughter Machiko Kimoto, 9 grandchildren, 8 great-grandchildren, daughter-in-law Alma Nishi.

Nishimura, Tayo Alice, 92, Mountain View, Aug. 12; survived by son Herbert, grandchildren.

Nishita, Miye, 72, Los Angeles, Aug. 26; Stockton-born, survived by husband Hideo, daughters Mary, Jean

Montgomery, sons Ken, Bill, 4 grandchildren.

Yasuda, Bruce Akiye, 95, Monterey Park, Aug. 6; Fukushima-born naturalized U.S. citizen, survived by daughter Yae Yasuda, 4 grandchildren (all in Japan).

Yasuhiro, Tamotsu, 72, Los Angeles, Aug. 9; Brighton, Colo.-born WWII veteran, member of Al Malaikah Shrine Temple and Royal Order of Jesters, survived by wife Lucy, brothers James Y (El Cerrito), George M, sisters Hatsuko Tsuda (San Mateo), Ruby Kawada (Honolulu).

Yokomi, Itsuto, 81, Los Angeles, Aug. 26; Bowles-born, survived by wife Misako, sons Ted, Richard, daughter Jean Minami, 6 grandchildren, brother George, brother-in-law Masaru Okamoto.

Yorita, Fumio, 68, Seaside, Aug. 26; Fowler-born, survived by wife Tomiko, sons Steven, Ronald, 2 grandchildren, brother Shigeto, sisters Toshie Kurokawa, brother-in-law John Hatakeda.

Yoshizaki, Akiko, 45, Westminster, Aug. 5; Seabrook-born Sansei, survived by husband Tadao, son Scott, daughters Akiko, Chiye, sisters June Igarashi, Judy Matsushima, Helen Ando, sisters-in-law Judy Nakawatase, (San Jose), Elaine Kunihiro (Walnut Creek), brother-in-law Wayne Yoshizaki, parents-in-law Tadashi and Fumi Yoshizaki.

Yumori, Isamu, 71, Culver City, July 31; Imperial Valley-born 5th degree black belt judoist, 53-year amateur radio operator, survived by wife Yukiko, sons Dr. Roy (Hawaii), Dr. Ronald (San Diego), Dr. Randall, 6 grandchildren, mother Shiho, brothers Ben, Osamu, sister Tsuyako Naruse (Utah).

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MAY 5—IBERIA & MOROCCO VISTA

JUN 22—SUMMER HOKKAIDO VISTA

JUL 16—EUROPEAN VISTA - Highlights of Europe

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OCT 12—THE URANIHON VISTA - Fall Foliage Time

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9—Real Estate

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NOTICE ————— Where are you? —————

We are looking, primarily, for alumni from the National Japanese-American Student Relocation Council's program which placed over 3,500 students from relocation camps to various colleges and univer-

sities to consider the proposition outlined in Dr. Kobayashi's letter printed below. We welcome all support for and inquiries about our scholarship program.

For the Board of Directors,

Lafayette Noda, Chairperson, Nisei Student Relocation Commemorative Fund, Inc., 19 Scenic Drive, Portland, CT 06480.

Dear Former Evacuee,

Like you, I will be receiving my redress payment along with 25,000 others starting this October. For many, this money will be welcomed to meet the financial needs that arise with aging. However, for others, this money can be spent as we wish. For those so fortunate, every organization will be campaigning for your support; the JACL, colleges, museums, hospitals - the list can go on and on. As a retired biochemist, I am one of the fortunate ones and I would like to share with you my thoughts on what I have decided to do with my redress money.

Evacuation for me was Tanforan and Topaz. Through the efforts of the National Japanese-American Student Relocation Council (NSRC), I received a scholarship to attend college. They arranged everything—entry into college, a place to live, and, most important, my exit from camp. As it turns out, this group, the NSRC, expedited the departure of all college-bound students from all relocation camps whether on scholarship or not. Without the NSRC's quiet and unselfish effort, I believe the post-WWII history of the JA's would be different. Today, in contrast to pre-war America, Nisei are represented in fields such as government, science, the arts, education, and the corporate world. In my eyes, this is a living testimonial to the contribution made to our society by the wartime NSRC program that helped us leave camp for a campus.

In 1980, a group of former NSRC beneficiaries formed the Nisei Student Relocation Commemorative Fund. This dedicated group felt their current good fortune started with the NSRC's efforts back in the 40's. Now, it was their turn to help needy Asian-Americans get a college education the same way they were supported by the NSRC.

When the redress bill passed, this unexpected event created an opportunity for me to make a significant gesture towards all those who have helped me achieve some measure of success and to repay my debt to society. This redress money has given me the privilege to help unknown students go for their education just as I was helped by those unknown to me at the wartime NSRC. In so doing, I have great satisfaction in supporting a legacy born out of our traumatic wartime experience of evacuation which is a permanent national educational foundation bearing the name, Nisei Student Relocation Commemorative Fund. What better legacy can any of us evacuees leave than this? If you are of like mind, will you consider supporting this effort with a portion of your redress award?

Sincerely,

Yutaka Kobayashi

P.S. If you wish, a named scholarship fund to honor a person of your choosing may be established with a gift of \$2,000 or more.

To: NISEI STUDENT RELOCATION COMMEMORATIVE FUND, INC
19 Scenic Drive, Portland, CT 06480

Donor Name(s) _____
Address _____

Enclosed is a check for \$ _____ (tax deductible) payable to the NSRC Fund, Inc.
A named scholarship fund may be established to honor a person of your choosing with a gift of \$2,000 or more.
Fund name _____