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Language rights bill moves on —page 5

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Friday, April 24, 1992



Photo: ALVINA LEW

MEET THE PRESS—Newly named L.A. police chief Willie Williams (right) is introduced at City Hall. With him is Michael Yamaki (center), member of the Police Commission, and Mayor Tom Bradley.

Nikkeis urged to make presence known to new L.A. police chief

Police Commission member Yamaki assesses Williams appointment

By GWEN MURANAKA
Assistant editor

LOS ANGELES—The April 16 announcement of Willie L. Williams as L.A. police chief-designate, brings new hope for reform of the troubled L.A. police department and at the same time questions if the former Philadelphia police commissioner can make the LAPD more responsive to the city's diverse ethnic population.

Michael Yamaki, a member of the Police Commission which chose Williams, said, "I expect Mr. Williams is someone who brings to the city

integrity. The city itself really needs to have a leader who can bring together community concerns and police concerns."

Discussing why the Commission chose Williams over the five other candidates, all of whom were from within the LAPD, Yamaki said, "The advantage Williams had is he's currently running the Philadelphia department. They were never in a position to make all the decisions themselves. They weren't heads of a department, whereas Williams has functioned as that."

Yamaki, an attorney specializing in criminal

See CHIEF/page 5

Japan woman wins harassment suit

In a landmark decision against sexual harassment in Japan, a judge April 16 in the Fukuoka District Court awarded the equivalent of \$12,400 to a woman who filed suit alleging verbal sexual harassment at the workplace.

The ruling is the first time that verbal sexual harassment has been recognized as illegal in a case widely believed to be the first sexual harassment suit in Japan. According to the *Los Angeles Times*, the plaintiff issued a statement saying, "Today's judgment opens a new path for women throughout the country who are suffering the same kind of sexual harassment."

Hiroshi Kashiwagi, research director of the Japan Pacific Resource Network (JPRN), hailed the decision saying, "I hope this decision will become a good opportunity to teach both men and women to have a better work environment in Japan, and I hope Japanese managers coming here (to America) will become more sensitive."

In 1990, JPRN, a non-profit organization fo-

cus on civil rights issues with offices in the United States and Japan, conducted an awareness campaign about sexual harassment, meeting with the plaintiff in the case. The plaintiff, a 34-year old woman, filed the suit in 1988 charging that while she was an editor for a publishing company, the senior editor told co-workers that she was promiscuous and when she complained,

See SUIT/page 5

Check-bouncing politician plays up Japan-bashing

Special to the Pacific Citizen

DALLAS — Rep. Charles Wilson (D-Texas, 2nd) got a far warmer reception by taking his Japan-bashing to the stump at the recent Redbud Festival in East Texas than jokes about his bounced checks at the now-defunct House bank. (The April 16 list from the House Ethics Committee shows Wilson with 81 overdrafts. An Annapolis Navy graduate, he was among the 17 of 27 representatives from Texas on the list.)

See POLITICIAN/page 5

Suspects reinvestigated in Arizona murders

PHOENIX—The evidence against four men arrested and then released in connection with the slayings of nine at a Buddhist temple is being reexamined, according to a recent article in the *Phoenix Gazette*.

Maricopa County Sheriff Tom Agnos is reviewing the evidence in hopes of connecting the four men to the crime. "The murders were so gross and the public outcry so great that perhaps no one had the opportunity to look at everything that's been compiled, and that's what we're doing now," said Agnos.

Michael McGraw, Mark Nuñez, Leo Bruce and Dante Parker, initially confessed involvement in the Aug. 10 shootings. But they were later released saying their confessions had been coerced.

In other recent developments reported in the *Gazette*, Sheriff's investigators kept materials found in defendant Jonathan Doody's cell over protests from his attorney. Police searched Doody's cell and found a letter from co-defendant Alessandro "Alex" Garcia detailing a "previous pact" and "code of honor." Sheriff's investigators believe that the evidence taken from Doody's cell will be important in their continuing investigation.

See PERU/page 3

Japan to maintain Peru aid

To Japan, President Alberto Fujimori is still "a favorite son" — commented the *Boston Globe* headline last week (April 15) after Foreign Minister Michio Watanabe said Japan would continue to channel millions of dollars in aid to Peru.

Watanabe defended Fujimori's strong action to divert chaos, adding that the "difference between Peru's situation and other military regimes or coup d'etat is that the president has presented a blueprint for national reconstruction and a timetable for a return to democracy."

In Washington, syndicated columnist Georgie Anne Geyer, a foreign correspondent in Lima in 1964-65, said the U.S. suspending nearly all of its \$236.5 million aid to Peru and the Organization of American States immediately deploring

JACL roundup

May 1 deadline for nominating national officers

SAN FRANCISCO—Nominations for JACL national officers are being accepted for national president; vice president, general operations; vice president, public affairs; vice president, planning and development; vice president, membership services/1000 Club; and secretary treasurer.

Deadline for submission of nomination forms to the National Nominations Committee, c/o JACL national headquarters, is May 1. Candidates for office must attend the JACL national convention, Aug. 3-8, in Denver, Colo.

After May 1, additional nominees will not be considered by the National Nominations Committee. Additional nominations, however, may be taken from the floor at the national convention. Such nominations must include the background information on the nominees as required on the official nomination form and must be submitted to the National Nominations Committee.

See NOMINATIONS/page 2

Convention highlights

Summertime in the Rockies is a great time to hold a convention. The Mile-Hi Chapter, JACL, says the Aug. 3-8 "JACL—Solid as the Rockies" 32nd Biennial National Convention promises plenty of informative sessions and enjoyable activities.

The event will be held at the Sheraton Denver Tech Center. Room rates are \$71 plus tax, per single/double occupancy. The business sessions opens Wednesday, Aug. 5, with the delegate orientation at 3 p.m., and closes with the

See CONVENTION/page 2

Senate may oppose more redress funding

By KAREN NARASAKI
JACL Washington, D.C. Representative

The Civil Liberties Act Amendments that would provide additional funding for redress is expected to face opposition in the Senate.

On April 8, Sen. Daniel Inouye (D-Hawaii) introduced S. 2553, the Senate version of H.R. 4551 and H.R. 4553, "The Civil Liberties Act Amendments of 1992." Sen. Daniel Akaka (D-Hawaii) is a co-sponsor. The Senate bill is currently before the Senate Subcommittee on Federal Services, Post Office and Civil Service chaired by Sen. John Glenn (D-Ohio) and is expected to be before the full Governmental Affairs Committee sometime in May.

The White House supports most of the provisions of S. 2553. However, the President seeks to further amend the act by eliminating the public education component and is contending that the additional redress money should not be considered an entitlement as the original money is currently classified. By

See REDRESS/page 2

Reminders

Deadlines for nominations, resolutions, awards, and credentials for the 1992 JACL national convention are as follows:

May 1

● Awards and recognitions nomination forms submitted to Awards and Recognitions Committee

● Official nomination forms for candidates for national office submitted to Nominations Committee.

June 1

● Resolutions to National Council due to resolutions chairperson.

● Chapter dues, fees and assessments due to National Headquarters

June 15

● Official delegates and proxy authority forms due to national headquarters

● Constitution and bylaw amendments to national director.

All requisite forms are to be sent to national JACL headquarters, 1765 Sutter St., San Francisco, CA, 94115. Information: 415/921-5225.



KAREN NARASAKI

Introducing new Washington rep

Karen Narasaki, the new JACL Washington D.C. representative, said about her new position, "It's been a whirlwind for me, meeting people and learning about groups and substantive issues. We've already begun

See NARASAKI/page 2

Election roundup

Asians win council seats

LOS ANGELES—On tap in the April 14 local primaries in Los Angeles County were four Japanese American, and seven Chinese American candidates. Here is a roundup of election results:

In GARDENA, **Jonathan Kaji**, a candidate for city treasurer, was soundly beaten by the incumbent. City clerk **May Doi** was unopposed, and incumbent **Dr. Paul Tsukahara** retained his seat by a slim margin.

In CARSON, incumbent **Mike Mitoma** was re-elected by a narrow margin to the city council.

Two cities in San Gabriel Valley acquired each its first Asian American on the city council: **Paul Zee**, 41 (2,283 votes), distributor of industrial safety equipment, in SOUTH PASADENA; and restaurant manager **Ben Wong** (4,229 votes) in WEST COVINA.

While Chinese American candidates were the top fund-raisers in all four cities, their efforts also raised negative publicity. "They are not used to banging on doors," campaign consultant Chris Stewart pointed out. Zee, who raised more than \$31,000, told the *Los Angeles Times* that much of the cash came from developers who hope to relax building controls. Old-guard political leaders asserted funds in past campaigns in the general incorporated cities range between \$5,000 and \$20,000.

In MONTEREY PARK (87% Latino-Asian combined), nine ran for two city council seats and there was a possibility of an Asian American majority with four Chinese Americans on the ballot. Incumbent and one-time mayor **Judy Chu** won handily with 3,316 votes. She was the top fund-raiser in the Valley with more than \$46,000 as

of March 28. Rita Valenzuela (2,616 votes) was second. Finishing third was attorney **Bonnie Wai** (1,705 votes), with attorney **Raymond Wu** (525 votes) and businessman **Charles Wu** (305 votes) at the bottom. Neither are related: Charles Wu raised about \$34,000 while Raymond had nearly \$30,000.

Wai told the *San Gabriel Valley Tribune* she crossed some hostile territory in the city which is 56% Asian: "I think people in Monterey Park are not ready to have an Asian American majority on the city council. I sensed a lot of hostility and resentment."

In the SAN MARINO city council race, **Dr. Allan K. Yung**, 51 (1,740 votes), Hong-Kong-born surgeon and chief of staff at Alhambra Community Hospital, finished last in the four-way race for two seats. He injected more than \$37,000 into the campaign, according to campaign records.

Baldwin Park's new mayor F. Arturo Vargasis 23-years-old, San Gabriel Valley's youngest and head of Mexican American Legal Defense and Education Fund's community education and public policy, a Harvard graduate who defeated the longtime incumbent, Bette Lowes. Latino strength was also manifested in El Monte (72% Latino population), Rosemead (50% Latino), Irwindale, San Gabriel and South El Monte.

In Northern California, former Fremont city councilman **Yoshio Fujiwara** is running again for a seat in the city council. Two Filipino Americans, attorney **Carl Lindstrom**, 37, and marketing consultant **Ben Menor**, 41, are contending for the same Berryessa seat on the San Jose city council. Election is scheduled June 2.



California's Eu supports Clinton

California Secretary of State March Fong Eu gave her endorsement of Arkansas Gov. Bill Clinton's bid for the presidency April 15 in Los Angeles. The candidate was in the state in preparation for the June 2 primary election. Eu cited Clinton's interest in the Asian Pacific communities and his stand on the economy, education, and the Pacific Rim.

University to inaugurate Bob Suzuki as president

POMONA, Calif.—Bob H. Suzuki will be inaugurated as president of California State Polytechnic University, Pomona (Cal Poly Pomona) on April 29 at the university gymnasium, 3801 Temple Ave. in Pomona.

Before the appointment, Suzuki was the vice president for academic affairs at California State University, Northridge, and prior to that held administrative positions at California State University, Los Angeles and University of Massachusetts at Amherst. Suzuki received his Ph.D. from Cal Tech and taught aerospace

engineering at USC.

Scheduled to join Suzuki at the inauguration is Bill Cosby, who met Suzuki while they were both going to the University of Massachusetts at Amherst. Cosby will receive an honorary degree from the California State University by CSU Chancellor Barry Munitz.



SUZUKI

PERU

(Continued from page 1)

Fujimori's action had not thought "in terms of greater complexity than these knee-jerk actions."

She commented the situation now facing "pobre Peru" is "so horrendously chaotic that something obviously had to be done."

Geyer pointed to the economic collapse and political paralysis of the 1980s, the drug mafia control in the high Andes and military frustration now "turning to rage ... above all, the country faces a takeover by the murderous Sendero Luminoso guerrillas who now control 25 to 40% of the country, who have killed upwards of 25,000 people and who put into place a Khmer Rouge-type government that would surely match Cambodia's worst horrors." Among her questions about the issue of democracy in the throes of a fanatic national disorder, "Are we to insist that all democrats be killed in order to sustain our pure faith in democracy?"

While President Fujimori moved firmly against narco-traffickers in his country, in Southern California Orange County Superior Court Judge James Gray, speaking as a private citizen interested in a public issue, was calling for the state legislatures and the Congress to legalize drugs, thereby remove the profit motive and violence associated with drug trafficking. With a 50-year record in fighting the drug problem, he said the situation in the U.S. has not improved but would only get worse. Gray voiced his views April 20 on the KPCC-FM Air Talk show.

— Harry K. Honda

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On the fast track



Photo: ALVINA LEW

Hiro Matsuhita (left) of Japan, talking with crew members, finished in the April 12 Long Beach Grand Prix. The race car driver, who has been making his mark in America, was driving a Lola T9200 powered by a Chevy Indy V-8 engine for the Dick Simon Racing Team.

Short takes

Chinese Malaysian seeks unpaid wages

TOKYO — A Malaysian of Chinese descent and others like him, who were recruited by the Japanese army during World War II to help build a railroad connecting Burma and Thailand, are seeking compensation from Tokyo for unpaid wages and hardship. They first petitioned in 1986 and were told the issue had been settled by a 1967 bilateral economic aid agreement.

Group leader Soong Yit Koi was in Japan recently to relate his plight at the invitation of an Osaka citizens' group, the Forum to Ponder on the War Victims in the Asia-Pacific Region and Engrave Them in Our Minds. Soong's group wants ¥2-million per person.

Korean hibakusha feel neglect

TOKYO — An estimated 20,000 survivors of the Hiroshima atomic bomb live in South Korea and about 4,000 belong to the Korea A-Bomb Casualties Association, chaired by Shin Young Soo, according to the *Japan Times*, which has been serializing such stories of the "Victims of War."

Soo, 72, like many others, was brought to Japan as laborers during WWII.

Although he has spoken publicly many times in Japan about the fate of Koreans who found themselves in Hiroshima and Nagasaki at the time of the bombings, he is not sure the message is getting through. "We want sound history taught in Japan. We never want to see a situation in which Japan's armed forces again interfere in Korea, China and Southeast Asian countries," he declared.

According to the Nagasaki Association to Protect the Human Rights of Korean Residents in Japan, it plans to publish a report, "*Genbaku to Chosenjin* (Atomic Bombs and Koreans)," detailing four years of research of the estimated 70,000 Koreans working in the mines and military industry during the war.

Spreading Nihongo language and culture

TOKYO — Japanese teachers selected to teach Japanese language and culture in English at junior and senior high schools overseas are normally those who teach English in Japanese schools for the Regional and Educational Exchanges (REX) mutual understanding program, a joint effort begun in 1990 by the Japanese Education, Home Affairs and Foreign ministries.

The 1991 class of 20 teachers was sent to Australia, Canada, New Zealand, Russia and the United States. The stint is for two years. According to the Education Ministry, about 733,800 people

were studying Japanese abroad in 1988.

Many Koreans use fake names in Japan

OSAKA — Two-thirds of 7,000 Korean students in Osaka's 29 elementary and junior high schools are reluctant to use their Korean names because of bad experiences or were unaccustomed to using it, a recent survey by the Foreigners Education Study Liaison Council revealed. The council also called on the community to stop discriminating against Koreans.

"If this country truly aims to internationalize itself, we must protect the efforts of Korean residents to establish their ethnic identity during their children's education and, at the same time, make efforts to solve human rights problems involving Korean residents," said Yoriko Sugitani, secretary general of the council. The survey was requested by the Osaka board of education.

Iwojima relics point to Oceania origins

TOKYO — Discovery of large-scale prehistoric relics last July on North Iwojima island may support the theory that the Japanese people have origins in Oceania, according to the Tokyo board of education, which conducted the excavation. It was indicated the relics are different from those already found in Japan's main islands and suggests the Japanese may have had origins akin to the Maoris of New Zealand.

Japan opens bureau for South Americans

TOKYO — With the number of Japanese workers coming from South America growing rapidly since June, 1990, the Labor Ministry established a special information and employment center in Tokyo last summer to protect the workers from questionable employment brokers.

Hiroshima peace museum reopens

HIROSHIMA — Closed for renovation for 16 months, the Hiroshima Peace Memorial Museum reopened Aug. 1 of last year with some 400 pieces added to the exhibit and replacing the mannequins with wax figures that appear more life-like, according to Yoshitaka Kawamoto, 59, museum director and a lone survivor of his junior high school class that was a half-mile from the hypocenter.

To cope with the increasing number of foreign tourists, Tagalog, Thai and Arabic have been added to the total of 15 languages available on the museum TV monitors.

Language rights bill passes California committee

SACRAMENTO—The Assembly Labor and Employment Committee of the California State Legislature recently approved a measure that prohibits employers from denying their employees, without business justification, the right to speak a language other than English in the workplace.

AB 2440, authored by Assemblyman Xavier Becerra (D-Monterey Park), codifies existing regulations of the Fair Employment and House Commission. These regulations state that an employer may impose a rule requiring that only English be spoken in the workplace if it is justified by business necessity and other specified conditions.

The bill is supported by the American Civil Liberties Union, Asian Pacific American Legal Center of Southern California, the California Teachers Association, the Chinese Chamber of Commerce, the Jewish Public Affairs Committee, the Latino Issues Fo-

Conference to discuss language issues

The Asian Pacific American Legal Center of Southern California (APALC) is hosting its second Language Rights conference May 1-3 at the Holiday Inn Convention Center in Los Angeles.

The two-and-a-half day conference will include workshops on: Native Hawaiian Language Preservation; Chickasaw Language Maintenance; 911 Translation Services; Access to Services; Bilingual Ballots; Voting Rights, Language and Culture; Standardized Testing; Overview of Language Rights in the Workplace; African American English; and Attorney Training to Litigate Lan-

guage Rights Cases.

"This year's conference has been expanded to include topics pertinent to communities of color," said Jill Medina, conference coordinator. "We are very pleased to include topics such as (these). The variety of topics illustrates how overly restrictive language policies affect everyone."

Inquiries and registration information: Jill Medina, Language Rights Project, 213/748-2022. Cost is \$25 in advance, \$10 for students and seniors, and \$30 at the door. Holiday Inn is located at 1020 S. Figueroa St.

rum, and the Mexican American Legal Defense and Educational Fund.

The bill awaits a hearing before the Assembly Ways and Means Committee next month.

CHIEF

(Continued from page 1)

law was named by Mayor Tom Bradley to the Commission in the wake of last year's beating of motorist Rodney King by L.A. police officers. The lawyer stressed the importance of the Asian American community making themselves known to the future police chief.

"We need to educate him that we exist," said Yamaki. He noted that Williams indicated that police programs in Philadelphia dealt primarily with the new Asian immigrant population. Comparing the Philadelphia Asian American community with Los Angeles, Yamaki said, "We're established; three or four generations of Asian Americans who've been acculturated, who have specific problems. We need to bring him up to speed."

"He expressed a willingness to be educated. We have to take the affirmative step of introducing ourselves to him. I hope groups will come up in the next couple of

months and invite him to meet with our community. He's going to have to get an education, there are so many Asian groups in L.A. He's going to have to go to Koreatown, Chinatown. It's going to be a different experience for him," said Yamaki.

Assessing the police chief-designate, Yamaki said, "I think the (Asian American) community is faced with a person who has a clean slate as far as a track record is concerned. Other than the fact that he's unfamiliar with our community, he at least comes in with the intent of community based policing."

On what happens from here in the LAPD, Yamaki said, "We're trying to organize as many different activities as we can to familiarize Williams with the communities. Williams is going to have to go through his own process of learning. We may have to go through a totally different reorganization period. We have a wonderful opportunity to open the door for access to people who don't have

access."

"The stereotype of Asians is they'll take care of their own problem, so less resources are spent taking care of problems in the Asian American community—so we get shortchanged. We have the opportunity of someone coming through with an open mind," said Yamaki.

Yamaki said that there needs to be more bilingual police officers and more Asian Americans in top level positions within the department. One of his goals as member of the Police Commission is to bring more diversity and understanding into the LAPD. "One of my functions is to try to educate the department, at least while I'm sitting here and I have a voice in the department. I think you can see in terms that Asian Americans are generally successful in their endeavor, but we've only had one Asian American lieutenant (in the LAPD). I'm looking to at least have an Asian American captain before I leave. They serve as role models and that is very important."

SUIT

(Continued from page 1)

she was reprimanded and asked to quit.

"The company says she resigned, but according to the plaintiff and the attorney, the manager started rumors that she (was promiscuous) with men in the company," said Kashiwagi.

Kashiwagi, the author of a paper entitled, "Employment discrimination suits at Japanese trading companies in America," has studied sexual harassment cases involving Japanese in both Japan

and the United States. Noting the initial confusion to the concept of sexual harassment when the suit was first filed, Kashiwagi said, "Two years ago, shortly after the sexual harassment lawsuits were filed, people all of a sudden heard the term sexual harassment and they didn't understand. There are no laws that prohibit sexual harassment, unlike here."

"Sexual discrimination is too common (in Japan), so people don't consider it discrimination. Women are expected to retire after thirty, so if they still work they are sub-

ject to harassment," said Kashiwagi. The researcher said that JPRN met with female members of the Japanese Diet to encourage legislative action prohibiting sexual discrimination, citing such legislation as the U.S. Fair Employment and Housing Act as models.

"Women should have equal access and fair opportunity to work. I think this decision is a pretty important one. I hope it leads Japanese society to more accessibility to both women and men," said Kashiwagi.

byproduct, he said, letting Japan buy them could only help people like him. "Geez, we got trees coming out our ears over here," he said. "Why is it always so bad to sell to foreigners?" There was no reply.

"If it was Finland instead of Japan, or it was Turkey, all of this controversy would not have arisen," remarked timber owner John Bryan of Jasper, a great nephew of William Jennings Bryan, who favors opening markets for raw materials. He noted

the irony that Japan gets bashed even when it tries to "Buy American." Turkey buys tons of logs through Beaumont with little notice. Since 1988, the U.S. sale of hardwood chips to Japan has tripled, almost all from Eastern and Gulf Coast states. Japan is already a top U.S. customer for paper and U.S. sells seven times more paper to Japan than it buys, according to the American Forest Council. Still the U.S. holds only 1.7% of Japan's \$27 billion market.

POLITICIAN

(Continued from page 1)

But not all his constituents in the district were impressed, according to the *Dallas Morning News* reporter Todd Gillman covering the on-going debate of Japan's entry into the hardwood market.

One edger operator who makes \$300 a week at a Louisiana Pacific sawmill at Kountze (near Beaumont) angrily confronted Wilson. Because chips are only a

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Gwen Muranaka

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Opinions



From the frying pan

BILL HOSOKAWA

The Hiroshima countryside today

My Japanese cousin, Michizume Fukeda, lives in his ancestral farmhouse in a narrow winding valley on the outskirts of Hiroshima. The valley at the spot where his home is located is about a quarter of a mile across, maybe less. A row of hills stands between the valley and the city of Hiroshima. That is what saved the area from the atomic blast in 1945, although the glass was shattered in Michizume's home and the roof jarred askew.

Michizume's mother was my father's sister. When I visit Japan I try to see Michizume, but that is not often. He is a good old country boy, unsophisticated, with no desire to see the U.S. and happy with his family in the valley where he was born.

He went abroad once long ago and he didn't like it. That was to North China and Manchuria where he was sent as a draftee in the Imperial Japanese Army. He was called up five months after his marriage and he didn't get to see home or wife for four years.

I had an opportunity to visit Michizume and his family recently. His home, which

was a thatch-roofed place with an attached shed for the family ox when I first dropped by during the Korean war more than 40 years ago, now reflects the rise in the Japanese standard of living.

The thatch was replaced by tile many years ago, and two additions have been added to the main structure. Both the ox and its shed are long gone, replaced by a Honda station wagon. The family has a big color TV, hot and cold running water, a piano and other amenities. The narrow dirt lane that ran by the house has been replaced by an asphalt road over which traffic moves rapidly.

There are many more houses in the valley than there used to be. More and more of the rice paddies are being replaced by neat little homes whose owners commute daily to jobs in Hiroshima. Some of Michizume's land has been sold, but most of it is still in his possession. He and his family grow just enough rice for their needs. His wife plants some vegetables, and he has donated a small plot to be used by his neighbors for a croquet court. The rest he rents out to other farmers.

Across the valley rises a rugged, heavily wooded hill, too steep for carving into rice paddies but a handsome green backdrop that enhances the area's beauty. Michizume's son, Tetsuji, pointed to it and said that when I come back again, the trees would be gone and the hill likely would be covered by houses.

A developer, Tetsuji said, had made an offer that couldn't be refused and the people in the valley who owned the hill had agreed to sell. Michizume didn't want to sell his parcel, but neither did he want to be the only one standing in the way of a handsome cash payment for his neighbors. So he joined them in agreeing to let the developer denude that hill and destroy the valley's beauty.

The same thing is happening in many parts of Japan as a growing population with enough money to flee crowded cities seeks living space.

I said the valley would lose its charm and beauty when houses replaced the trees and that would be a dirty, rotten shame. Tetsuji agreed. "Maybe," he said, "we should have refused to sell." But now it's too late. ☐

From the PC chair

A stewardship report

By
LILLIAN
C. KIMURA
Chair,
Pacific Citizen
Board



Overseeing the management of the Pacific Citizen, according to the National JACL Constitution, is the responsibility of a board, the chair of which is appointed by the national president. The members, one from each district, are appointed by their respective governors.

In August of 1992 I will be completing my second term as chair of the board of the Pacific Citizen. Most of the current board members have also served that long if not longer. We have had an interesting time together trying to set goals for our national weekly.

First, we needed to deal with personnel. We have had a revolving door with editors and, at the time I became chair, were operating with acting editors and part-time staff. With the appointment of Richard Suenaga, an experienced editor and print journalist, we have been able to stabilize the staff situation and there is a crew of committed and interested staff.

Then we wanted to streamline production by the use of computer technology. Board member Greg Marutani's knowledge and experience with computers has helped us make the right hardware/software purchases. We now have the capability of scanning articles submitted by chapters so no retyping is necessary. We can take your disk and use it. This technology has helped us save time and effort and money! It should also be easier for JACL members/chapters, districts/national officers and staff to write for the PC. But these purchases have depleted the small fund that was set aside from Holiday Issue income. The price of progress (sigh).

We said to the editor, "make the paper pretty." Since Richard has assumed the editorship you will notice a vast improvement in the appearance of our weekly. If we could afford to print in color, we could compete with U.S.A. Today!

We said, "make the paper attractive to younger readers." Since we have not taken a poll of our readership, the verdict is still out on this score.

We experimented with "drop shipment" so those of us in the East could receive our paper earlier. (It takes on the average with second class postage two weeks for us to get our copies.) The experiment was a success but too costly to continue. The whole postage situation is a problem as the rates keep rising.

We said, "let's increase revenue" so we can have more pages per issue. We talked about more ads from national corporations (and we had a few—American Airlines and cigarette ads.) We said "let's promote gift subscriptions." Every JACL parent could send Pacific Citizen to their student and adult children if they are not already members of JACL. Our 25,000 circulation could grow by leaps and bounds but we need your cooperation. Give a gift to your library, your congressman, etc.

We said, "Pacific Citizen is JACL's paper and there should be a balance of news about our organization's activities and general news of interest to the JA or AA population." I think we are doing okay on that score but we could use more news from areas outside the Pacific coast.

We said, "our lease will be up. Let's find a place with an elevator." The offices were moved last fall to a site in a newly remodeled building kitty-corner from Yaohan in Little Tokyo/L.A. Another move to larger space on the same floor will be made soon. To help make room, the board agreed that old photographs and collection of historical information should be sent to the Japanese American National Museum on permanent loan. Thus the Pacific Citizen's "treasures" can be kept under proper conditions.

One last thing I would like to see happen before my term is up is to have a column or two written by Sansei/Yonsei writers. It could be on a rotating basis but there are so many young people out there who work for newspapers/magazines or have a flair for



East Wind

BILL MARUTANI

War of words and phrases

MOST OF YOU undoubtedly have seen the NASDAQ (stock listing company) television ad depicting a supposed geisha in stark white make-up from which the somewhat bloodshot eyes peer menacingly at the viewer while some discordant oriental music in the background throbs. The accompanying narrative relates that Japan has a "stranglehold" on electronics, yet when it comes to adopting a stock listing method, it has turned to (crescendo, please) "NASDAQ!" With the not-pleasing oriental woman and the choice of the word "stranglehold," they could be touting Girl Scout cookies, and I for one, wouldn't buy any.

When European nations became prominent in some segments of the world market—be it petroleum, food products, automobiles, etc.—one might hear characterizations such as "dominance," or even "near-monopoly" or "cornering the market."

But "stranglehold"? Come on.

IN TURN, the Japanese, a literate lot who are inveterate readers—in '69 when I

saw my first Japanese "skid row bum" I was taken aback by the anomaly of the scene in that this unwashed, unkempt, unshaven bum was squatting on his haunches on this sunny day, of all things, assiduously reading a newspaper!—that what we in the U.S. are doing does not escape their attention. And some of their reaction is not conducive to promoting harmonious relations between our country and Nippon.

FOR EXAMPLE, I understand that in Nippon's jargon a new term, "busharu," appeared within the past few months. As we've long ago read, Japanese businessmen are given to going to *nomi-ya's* (drinking establishments) after office hours where some proceed to over-imbibe. The following day, somewhat weary but sobered up, they relate, somewhat boastfully (as men will do), that they imbibed so much that they did a "busharu," i.e. "did a Bush"—referring to President Bush's reaction during a state dinner with Prime Minister Miyazawa.

While men will be men, personally I

resented that allusion. President Bush courageously attended a state dinner, ate some unusual foods, all the while suffering from flu.

MORE RECENTLY, antagonistic terms in *nihongo* are being coined which are so new that they cannot be found in Japanese *jiten's* (dictionaries). A couple that came to my attention are "bu-bei" and "ken-bei." Taking the "bei" part first, as many of you correctly surmised, it refers to "America" as in "bei-koku." It's the prefix that has a nasty cut. "Bu" (in "bu-bei") has a *kun-yomi* (Japanese reading) of *anado-ru* ("despise" or "contemptuous"), not a friendly start. Then the prefix "ken" (in "ken-bei") is not much better, for its *kun-yomi* is *kira-u* or *i-ya* (dislike).

On both sides of the Pacific waters, both would do well to cool down the rhetoric before such assumes a life of its own. The two nations are inextricably intertwined commercially, and for their own common good had better focus on these mutual interests—and leave out the "strangleholds," "bu-bei" and "ken-bei's." ☐



