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Catch up with chapter news —page 5

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RISING CONTROVERSY

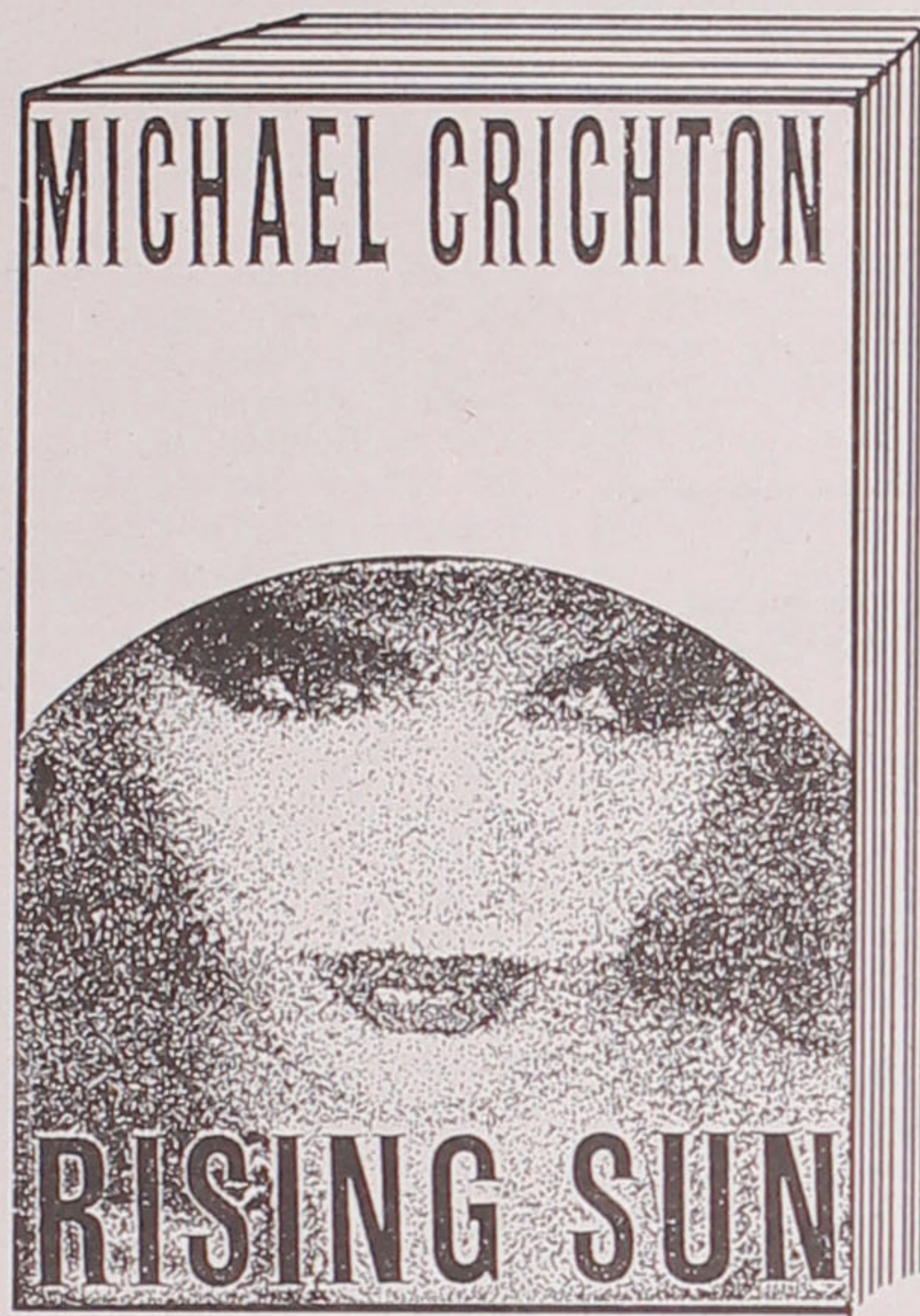
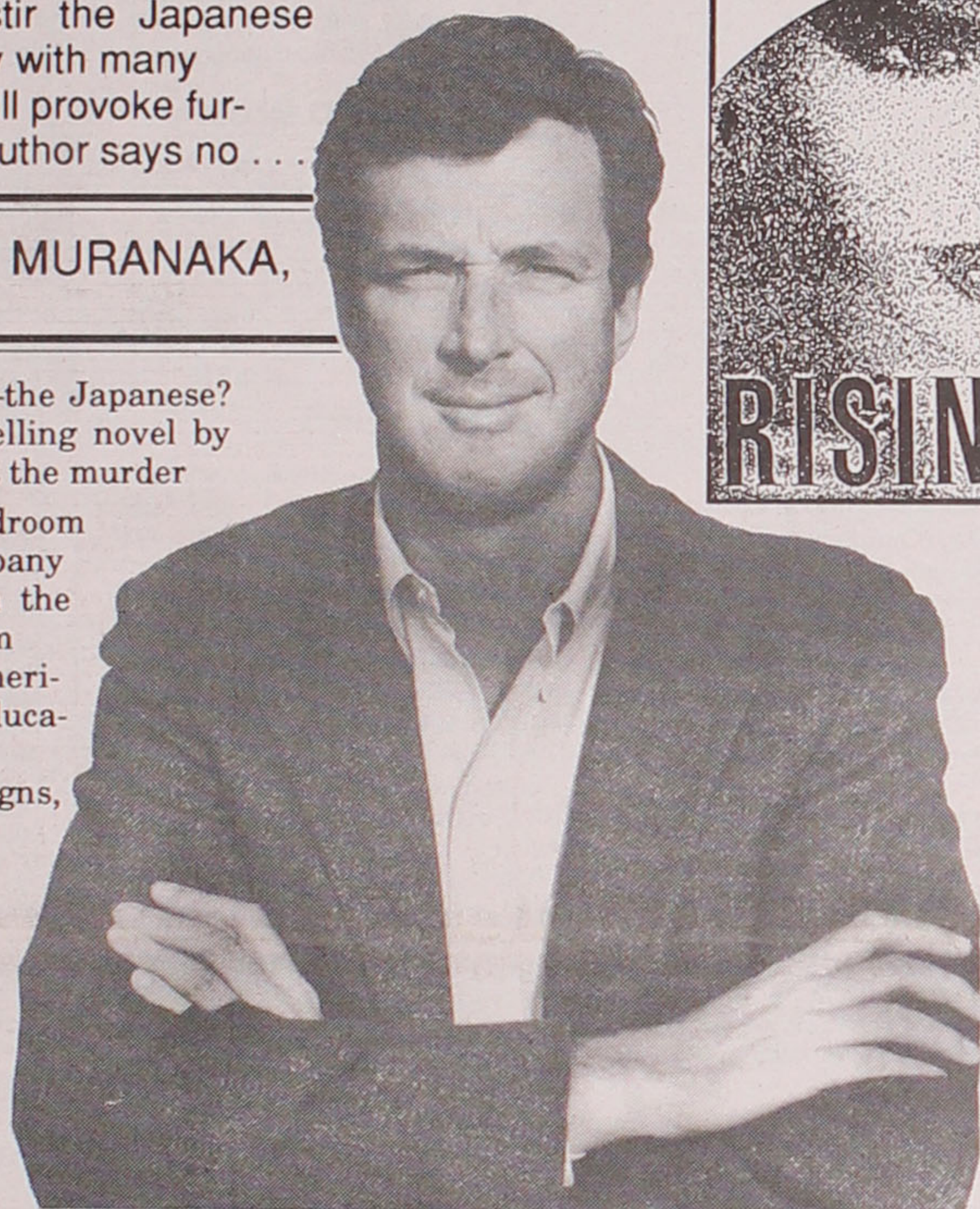
Michael Crichton's best selling 'Rising Sun' continues to stir the Japanese American community with many believing the book will provoke further racism... The author says no...

Stories by GWEN MURANAKA, Assistant editor

Sex, power, murder—the Japanese? *Rising Sun*, the best-selling novel by Michael Crichton, about the murder

of a call girl on the boardroom table of a Japanese company in Los Angeles has been the focus of virulent criticism within the Japanese American community. In its educational workbook on the "Buy American" campaigns, JACL, says the novel is "an exercise in Japan-bashing and it portrays Japan as racist." But is it? In a *Pacific Citizen* interview, Crichton said his novel is not about Japan-bashing, but an examination

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Some reactions to the novel...

How should Japanese Americans react to *Rising Sun*? In this era of political correctness, is it wrong to criticize Japan or is the issue really the stereotyping of an entire culture?

Cressey Nakagawa, JACL national president, said he read *Rising Sun* because he was curious that reviews had mentioned that Crichton went to outside sources to research the book. Nakagawa criticized the book for presenting a one-sided negative view of U.S.-Japan relations.

"Crichton takes the common street understanding of U.S.-Japan relations and creates characters that represent a stereotyped view of U.S.-Japan relations," said Nakagawa.

"Crichton only picks out the negative in the relationship. It's tantamount to racism in a novel that tries to show real people," said Nakagawa. The JACL president complained that Crichton's novel, by only portraying Japanese nationals, doesn't present a rounded perspective on Japanese in America. "From the novel, I don't know how you could make the distinction between Japanese and Japanese Americans," said Nakagawa.

Calling the novel "intellectually dishonest," Nakagawa disagreed with Crichton's definitions of Japanese terms like *keiretsu* and Crichton's assertion that the novel is a discussion of revisionist doctrine. Nakagawa drew the parallel to Frank Capra's propaganda films during World War II. "There is no attempt to qualify criticisms of Japan."

While actor George Takei agrees that the book may present problems for Japanese Americans, he also believes it shouldn't be summarily dismissed as racist. Calling the novel a "spine-tingling whodunnit," Takei said, "Crichton is talking about a lot of legitimate issues that need to be considered

See REACTION/page 7

The movie

Rising Sun, the movie, is scheduled to begin filming this month with *Right Stuff* director Phillip Kaufman, and starring Sean Connery, Wesley Snipes, and Tia Carrere.

Casting calls for Asian American actors have been advertised in newspapers. Twentieth Century Fox reportedly paid author Michael Crichton \$1 million for the rights to the movie, two-thirds of what he received for his last novel, *Jurassic Park*.

President Bush names 7 Nikkei to Civil Liberties board

WASHINGTON, D.C.— President Bush announced May 20 his intention to nominate the following individuals to be members of the Civil Liberties Public Education Fund Board of Directors. Established by public law in 1988, the purpose of the fund is to increase public understanding of U.S. citizens and permanent resident aliens of Japanese ancestry who were evacuated, relocated or interned without due process of law in 1942. Four of the members of the fund are veterans who volunteered for military service during World War II.

Nominated for a term of two years:

● **Tomio Moriguchi**—A Washington state resident, Moriguchi is president of Uwajimaya, Incorporated, a firm which specializes in the import, manufacturing, distribution and sale of Asian goods. He has served as vice president and chairman

See BOARD/page 6

JACL hopeful about JA appointments to group

WASHINGTON, D.C.— The JACL is hopeful that President Bush's appointment of seven Japanese Americans to the Civil Liberties Public Education Fund Board of Directors signifies a change in the administration's position on this issue.

The education component of the act was recommended in the Commission on War-time Relocation and Internment of Civilians report, *Personal Justice Denied*. The administration recently requested that this component be eliminated from the act. The JACL hopes that the appointment of the board of di-

rectors is an indication that President Bush is now committed to carrying out all aspects of the act.

"Given the President's earlier opposition to funding the education fund, we view these appointments as a signal that the administration is reconsidering its position," said Cressey Nakagawa, JACL national president.

Dennis Hayashi, JACL national director, noted, "The President has announced only seven names for the nine-member board. We hope that women will be considered for appointment to the board to

See JACL/page 6

Mineta angry at Bush; says move is political

WASHINGTON, D.C.— Rep. Norman Y. Mineta, (D-Calif.) lead sponsor of the Civil Liberties Act of 1988, blasted President Bush May 28 for playing election-year politics with redress for Americans of Japanese ancestry interned by the U.S. government during the World War II.

Mineta said that President Bush has named prominent Japanese Americans to a key redress-related advisory board while at the same time working to eliminate the very same advisory board from the federal budget and thereby break a key trust with Japa-

nese Americans.

Mineta was referring to Bush-authorized legislation (HR 4570) that would end redress programs prematurely, and to the President's May 20th nomination of seven members of the Civil Liberties Public Education Fund Board of Directors. Although the board cannot legally begin its work until a year after the November 1992, elections, Mineta said that the President is clearly hoping to gain political advantage by naming board members now, just before the California primary.

See MINETA/page 6

Convention calls

JACL 32nd Biennial National Convention, "JACL: Solid as the Rockies," Aug. 3-8, Denver, Colo. General or registration information: Ruth Yamauchi, 303/237-9747, any time; Emilie Ito, 303/421-1302 (after 6 p.m.)



8 weeks until the Convention

JACL Solid as the Rockies - August 3-8, 1992 - Mile-Hi Chapter - Denver, CO

California civil rights bill passes Assembly

SAN FRANCISCO—A.B. 3825, the California Civil Rights Restoration Act of 1992, was narrowly passed by the State Assembly yesterday by a vote of 41 to 33. The omnibus bill was introduced by Assembly Speaker Willie Brown (D-San Francisco).

"We are very pleased that the Assembly recognized the importance of this bill in addressing injustice and discrimination," said Dennis Hayashi, JACL national director and member of the steering committee which assisted in the formulation of the bill. "This legislation is sorely needed because of the fact that the courts have dismantled and eroded civil rights protections. A.B. 3825 is a step forward."

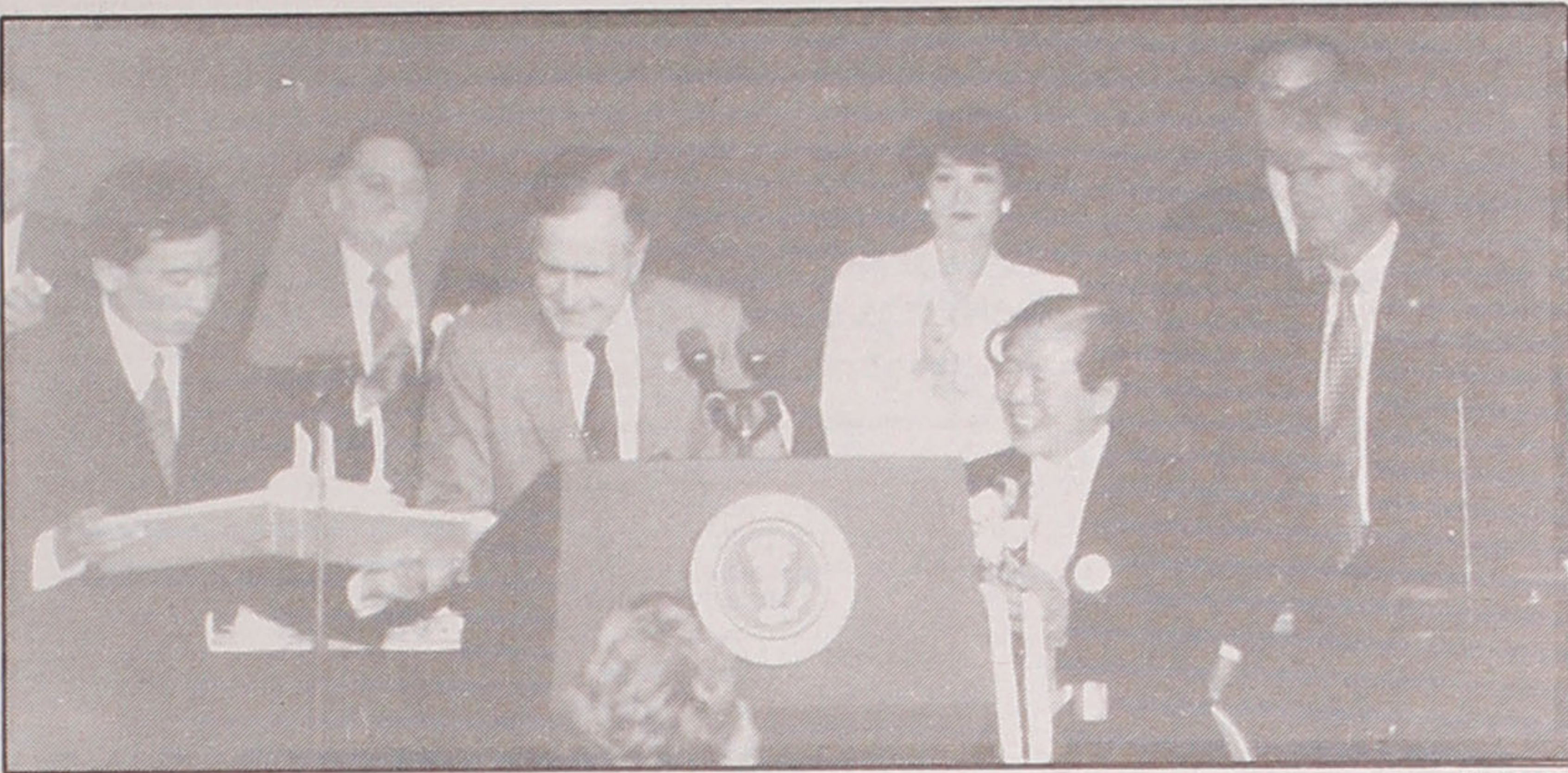
In a recent press conference at the State Capitol and attended by Patty Wada, NCWNP regional director, and Joy Morimoto, JACL public information officer, Brown noted that the act was introduced long before the recent Los Angeles riots, but was a first step in addressing the kinds of injustices which fueled the rage exhibited in Los Angeles and other cities. Supporters spoke of the measure as a nonviolent legal mechanism to redress the injustices of job and housing discrimination and sexual harassment.

The press conference focused primarily on the issue of hate crimes as the most extreme form of racism and discrimination in society. Speaking on behalf of JACL, Morimoto said, "It does not

take a great leap of faith to believe that if people are being assaulted, intimidated, and terrorized today in record numbers simply because of who or what they are, or where they come from, they are also being discriminated against economically, in the workplace or in their place of residence, for those very same reasons."

A.B. 3825 is supported by numerous civil rights and labor groups, including the American Civil Liberties Union, Mexican American Legal Defense and Education Fund, Consumers Union, National Organization of Women, and California Labor Federations AFL-CIO. "It says a great deal that A.B. 3825 enjoys broad support from a diversity of groups," said Hayashi. "Given the tensions between ethnic groups that have captured headlines in recent weeks, this bill serves to unite us."

Among other things, the all in one civil rights bill overturns four recent California Supreme Court decisions which severely restrict the remedies available to victims of sexual harassment, housing, job and arbitrary economic discrimination.



ALVINA LEW

Campaign trail

George Bush addressed Asian American concerns at the Asian/Pacific American Heritage Presidential Dinner in Los Angeles May 29. Held in conjunction with Asian Pacific American Heritage Month, awards were presented to prominent Asian Americans including: Robert Nakasone, vice chairman and president of Toys "R" Us; David Lee, chairman of Qume Corporation; for their coverage of the L.A. riots, Jang H. Lee of Radio Korea, and a posthumous award to John Fang, founder and publisher of *Asian Week*.

The act would prohibit employers from requiring that only English be spoken in the workplace unless justified by business necessity; ban job discrimination against gays and lesbians; bring California into compliance with the federal Fair Housing Amendments Act and the federal Americans with Disabilities Act; restore

the Unruh Civil Rights Act to what it was prior to a State Supreme Court ruling which makes it more difficult to challenge arbitrary economic discrimination cases against financial institutions and businesses; and restore the authority of the California Fair Employment and Housing Com-

mission to award relief to victims of employment and housing discrimination.

"Now that the Assembly has voted favorably on this legislation and sent the message that discrimination will not be tolerated, we urge the Senate to do likewise," said Hayashi. ☐

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Koreans, blacks get together at symposium

By HARRY K. HONDA
Editor emeritus

LOS ANGELES—Leaders from the local Korean and African American communities explored and pondered together the events that gave Los Angeles world-wide attention when the rioting broke out April 29 in wake of the Rodney King verdict during a two-day symposium held May 22-23 at the Cal State L.A. campus.

CSULA President James Rosser, in welcoming the 100-plus participants, said, "Rebuilding is a constant thing, striving to a higher understanding of the cultural, social and economic infrastructure." That was the charge and framework for the four panels: (1) Roots of the Problem, (2) Similarities and Differences, (3) Current Issues, and (4) Resolutions and Alliance.

In opening remarks, Dr. Eui-Young Yu, director of the Institute for Asian American and Pacific Asian Studies at CSULA, pointed out that the symposium had been planned (and funded by the Korean Cultural Center) "long before the riots," since it was apparent over the previous years that "we need to know each other; now, we need to help rebuild our communities."

The sociology professor, who was on the scene the first day the Korean American businesses and shops were being looted and burned and then managed to raise \$2 million in emergency relief funds, added that as the first symposium of its kind, "Those of us in the ivory tower cannot do it all—

but through dialogue we we can get started and establish this human connection."

George Umezawa, facilitator at the closing panel, said that as a Japanese American Sansei, he learned much about the Korean Americans and their struggles. He felt that the minority can control their destiny through the vote. The symposium was "exciting to behold, for this gathering is now more important in the context of building a true coalition on campus and in the community." He is director of CSULA's Educational Participation in Communities.

Young O. Kim of 100th Infantry fame related the harsh times that the Korean people had known through its own history, in recent times when Japan occupied Korea in 1910 and the anti-Asian racism in the U.S. throughout this 20th century. There being no simple solution, Kim urged, "We need to get our kind in (political) offices," as he stressed the value of an intelligent vote. "(The late councilman) Lindsay spoke out loud ... but didn't serve us," Kim charged.

U.S.-born panelist in the fourth session, Bong Hwan Kim, executive director of the Korean Youth Center and with the Korean-Black Alliance (with support from the L.A. County Commission on Human Relations) stressed its mission to develop leaders to remove the obstacles between the two communities.

The symposium was covered on the scene by writers armed with dictionaries, translating for the Korean language press. **PC**

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PC6592

Agenda

JACL members gather for Topaz remembrance

By YAS TOKITA
Special to the Pacific Citizen
SALT LAKE CITY — Ceremonies marking the 50th anniversary of the signing of Executive Order 9066 at the desert site of the Central Utah (Topaz) War Relocation Authority center were highlighted by remarks of a high school journalism teacher, Jane Beckwith, who recounted the story of the genesis of the memorial erected in 1975 by the three JACL chapters in Utah.



TOPAZ PROJECT—Delta (Utah) High School journalism teacher Jane Beckwith receives Utah Chapter's plaque from Jeff Itami in recognition of her students' project on the Japanese Americans interned at the nearby Topaz WRA Center.

A total of 25 trekked to the site and the pilgrimage ended with an award program before a full house at the Delta council chambers inside the new city hall and a picnic. Delta, a mining, agricultural and power city of 3,000, sits on the edge of the Great Basin, Topaz is northwest of Delta.

The Day of Remembrance, co-sponsored by Mt. Olympus, Salt Lake and Wasatch Front North chapters, was led by Jeff Itami of Salt Lake. Beckwith spoke of Topaz, and how Frank Yoshimura of Mt. Olympus with others established the monument with 80% of the funds flowing in from San Francisco Bay Area Nikkei who were interned at Topaz.

Jane Beckwith's grandfather had settled in central Utah in 1913 and bought the local newspaper. Her father continued the business. So it was natural that she would come to teach journalism and English at the 800-student Delta High School.

In 1982, as a serious class venture, she assigned her journalism students to do a story on the incarceration of Japanese Americans at Topaz. They took to the project with gusto — doing research, taping oral histories, conducting interviews and writing articles. As a result, an information packet was published for high schools and distributed statewide and also became a significant part of the Delta City Museum on the Topaz camp history.

Beckwith also related receiving "unfriendly" mail while reminding Utahns of the truth to the WWII ordeal of Japanese Americans in the camps.

A portion of one camp barrack is being made into a permanent exhibit at the museum. It received a \$1,500 grant to underwrite some

of the restoration.

The three JACL chapters also recognized Utah Governor Norman Bangertter (R) for his strong support of redress in the mid-1980s. He urged the Utah congressional delegation to pass the bills. The governor's father grew up in what is now West Valley City and always expressed his unhappiness about the injustice of EO 9066. His office manager, Dorothy Mooso, a Yonsei from Hilo, accepted the plaque. She remembered some leaders in Hawaii who were suspected by the FBI as being spies were abruptly arrested after EO 9066 and, ironically, to be interned at Topaz. Roy Yaka from Kauai, now residing in Salt Lake County, was one of them. ☐

JACL Chapters

(Chapters wishing to exchange newsletters may contact the chapter president, phone number or address as enclosed by brackets.)

• **ARIZONA:** The 31st annual Sara Hutchings Clardy scholarship awards were presented April 26 at Fountains Suite Resort, with J.D. Hokoyama of Los Angeles as the guest dinner speaker. A past PSWDC governor and onetime acting national JACL director, he is president-executive director of Leadership Education for Asian Pacifics. Students graduating this year, high school and colleges, will be honored, according to Peggy Matsuishi (602)934-3340 and Kathy Inoshita (602)937-5434. . . Dr. Richard Matsuishi was re-elected chapter president. (602)934-3340

• **CINCINNATI:** Lida Fukumura, the 1992 chapter president, succeeds Shiro Tanaka, one of the few Japan-born chapter presidents in the organization. Dr. Tanaka, who hails from Osaka, is a medical officer with the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH). He and his wife Fumiko have three children; his hobbies are wine-making and skiing. Lida, who has taught English, is an associate at the University of Cincinnati Library, with two daughters and has started the family genealogical tree. (513)861-0890

• **CONTRA COSTA:** In honor-

ing the community pioneers and graduates, the recent Contra Costa senior appreciation-scholarship dinner ranked as the outstanding springtime event attended by five generations from Issei to Gosei. Natsuko Irei chaired the potluck of Japanese and Chinese dishes. Classical Japanese dancers Miyuki Endo, Michiko Hazemoto and Emiko Matsunaga were featured. . . A retired tea farmer from Richmond's Sister City, Shimada, Isamu Kato, has been teaching the art of bamboo basketweaving at local senior centers, Richmond Art Center and at schools during his February-March home stay in California.

Addressing a recent panel discussion on the social problems in the East Bay Asian community were Chizu Iiyama, retired Contra Costa College educator; Robert Momono, JACL board member and county probation officer; Shig Sugiyama, past National JACL president and Richmond police commissioner; and Dr. Jere Takahashi, UC Berkeley lecturer in Asian American Studies.

Iiyama urged JACLers to assist in special ed classes, establish scholarships for Southeast Asian students and offer to serve on government or community boards, commissions or panels.

Momono noted the increase of Asian offenders up for probation in the past three years, burglaries being the most common offense. A major problem has been the lack

of certified interpreters between the legal system and parents. Of the estimated 10,000 Southeast Asians in the area, 55% come from Vietnam, Laos and Cambodia.

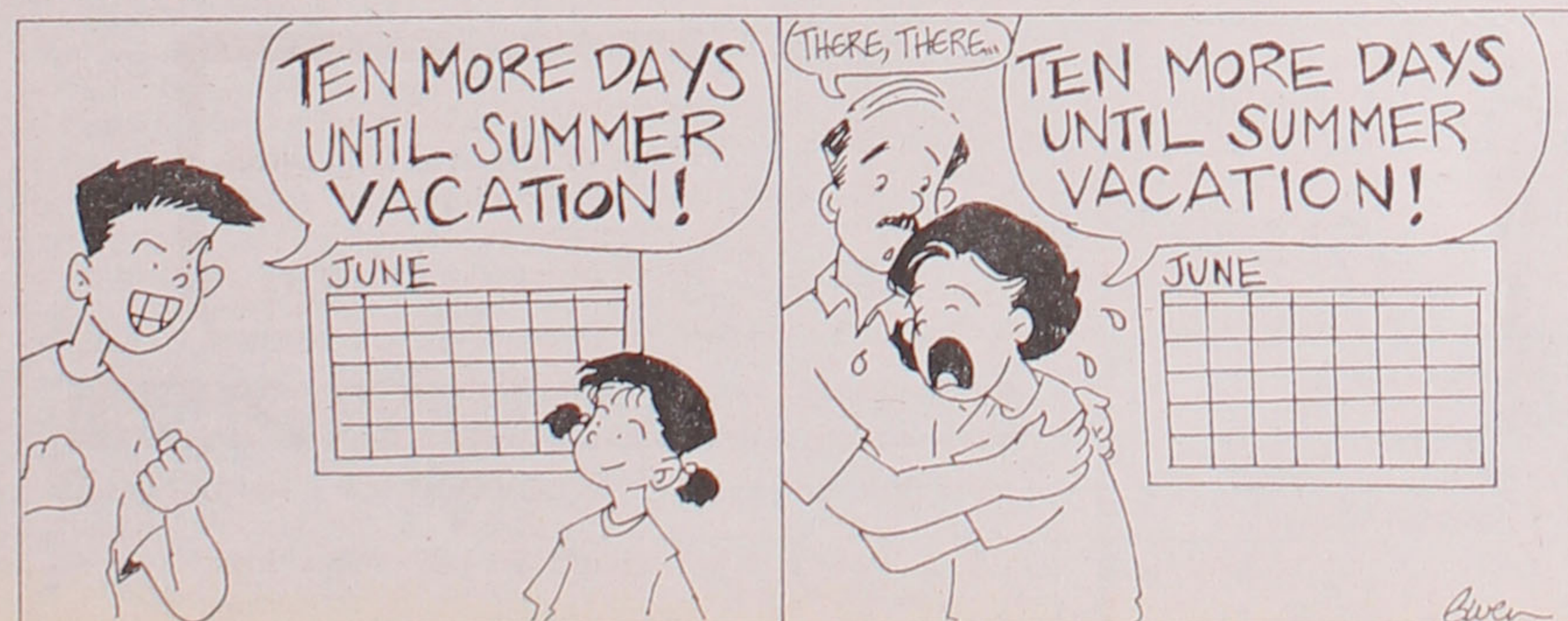
Sugiyama reviewed the cultural and historical differences and similarities in the Asian American communities. Multiplicity of dialects, compounded by historical rivalries and lack of translators, insures against communication, understanding and mutual support.

Dr. Takahashi discussed the two UC Berkeley chancellor's studies recently announced for the Asian American Advisory Committee Institute for Social Change. While the Caucasian student body has dropped from 66% to 41% in the 1980-1990 period and Asians rose from 20% to 30% (by rank: Chinese, Filipino, Korean and Japanese American), the Japanese had dropped from 4.1 to 2.2%. In 1991, more than 50% of the Asian freshmen were foreign-born; overall freshman enrollment — Asian 32%, Caucasian 30%, Latino 20% and African American 7.5%. Racial stereotypes, intimidation and anti-Asian campus climate were uncovered in the survey of some 250 Asian students. [Newsletter Ed: P.O. Box 5482, Richmond, CA 94805.]

• **PUYALLUP VALLEY:** Jeff Hiroo was recently re-elected chapter president and sworn in at the chapter installation potluck

See AGENDA/page 6

Small kid time



Gwen Muranaka

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BOARD
(Continued from page 1)

of Issei Concerns, Incorporated, a non-profit group which administers the Seattle Keiro Nursing Home. Moriguchi was also a treasurer of the JACL. He was interned at Tule Lake Relocation Center.

● **Bruce T. Kaji**—of California. Kaji is the founding president and life trustee of the Japanese American National Museum in Los Angeles. Kaji has served as chairman of the Little Tokyo Redevelopment Association and several other community organizations. He was interned at the Manzanar Relocation Center.

Nominated for a term of three years:

● **George Shoichi Oki, Sr.**—of California. Oki is chairman emeritus of Oki Nursery Company, one of the nation's largest wholesale nurseries in Sacramento, California. Oki is an active member of the Japanese American community and was interned at the Poston Relocation Center in Poston, Arizona.

● **Edwin C. Hiroto**—of California. Hiroto recently retired as chief executive officer of Keiro Services, the largest provider of health care services to the Japanese American community. He formerly served as chairman of the Nisei Veterans' Association. Hiroto was interned at the Poston Relocation Center in Poston, Ari-

zona.
● **Grant Masashi Ujifusa**—of New York. Ujifusa is senior editor of *Reader's Digest*, based in Pleasantville, New York. He is co-author and founding editor of *The Almanac of American Politics* and serves as the voluntary legislative strategy chairman of the JACL redress campaign.

● **S. Stephen Nakashima**—of California. Since 1954, Nakashima has been a partner in the law firm of Nakashima & Boynton. Nakashima was interned at the Poston Relocation Center in Poston, Arizona.

● **William H. Marumoto**—of Virginia. Marumoto is founder and chairman of the board of the Interface Group, Limited, a management consulting firm specializing in executive search. Marumoto was interned at the Gila River Relocation Center in Arizona. (PC)

MINETA
(Continued from page 1)

"President Bush is lying through his teeth, using Japanese Americans and California for election-year politics, and I won't stand for it," Mineta said. "He's holding out one hand to seem like a friend of redress and Japanese Americans by activating the board he's trying to choke to death with the other hand."

"President Bush is lying through his teeth, using Japanese Americans and California for election-year politics, and I won't stand for it," Mineta said. "He's holding out one hand to seem like a friend of redress and Japanese Americans by activating the board, but he's trying to choke to death with the other hand." gress, President Reagan and the American people," said Mineta.

"Fortunately, nominations to the board must be confirmed by the United States Senate—and I will make certain that every senator knows exactly what the President is up to. This issue has nothing to do with the individuals named to the board, but to a point of principle. Congress will be accountable to the wishes of the American people, even if the President thinks he can pull the wool over our eyes," Mineta concluded.

The first priority of the act (Public Law 100-383) is to compensate surviving former internees. The act documented that the Constitutional rights of 120,000 Americans of Japanese ancestry had been summarily usurped by the government, for which Congress apologized. (PC)

JACL
(Continued from page 1)

ensure that their perspective is included in any deliberations."

The Civil Liberties Act of 1988 mandates redress payments to each eligible individual living on the date of the bill's enactment, and provides for a public fund to finance historical research and education about the World War II internment of Japanese Americans. The educational component of the act will not commence until individual payments have been completed, which, at the earliest, would be late 1993. Thus, the appointments are being made well in advance of the date that the board will be required to function under the Civil Liberties Act of 1988.

The Justice Department has projected that there will be a significant shortfall in funds under the act to complete all individual payments. Congressman Richard Gephardt (D-Mo.) has introduced HR 4551 in the House and Sen. Daniel Inouye (D-Hawaii) has introduced S. 2553 in the Senate to provide the additional authorization necessary to fulfill the intent of the act.

While the administration supports the additional authorization to complete individual payments, it has asked Congress to amend the act to eliminate the public education fund. Assistant Attorney General John Dunne had earlier testified on behalf of the Administration that the education fund was unnecessary because "its (educational) functions have been largely undertaken and performed by other entities, including other arms of the federal government." Dunne cited a Smithsonian exhibit and private efforts as examples of this.

The JACL, however, strongly feels that education is an essential part of the original legislation. In earlier testimony before the House Judiciary Subcommittee on Administrative Law and Governmental Relations, Hayashi emphasized, "This country can ill afford to forget the importance of upholding civil liberties during periods of national turmoil. The education fund will help guarantee that our nation does not forget." (PC)

AGENDA
(Continued from page 5)

at the Tacoma Buddhist Temple social hall. PNW Governor Hisami Yoshida swore in the officers. Commenting on the recent events to which he had been invited, Hiroo was elated by the turnout at the Asian Elected Officials reception in Olympia; the outstanding speakers at the Day or Remembrance program Feb. 16-19 at the University of Puget Sound; and Dr. Gordon Yamaguchi presenting the memoirs of his parents, Jack and Dorothy Yamaguchi, to the state of Washington. The memoirs, "This Was Minidoka," is being sold by the Olympia Chapter. For an order form, contact the chapter president [206/848-8970].

● **SNAKE RIVER VALLEY:** It was Japanese American Culture and Education Week in mid-February at the groundbreaking for the Western Treasure Valley (TV) Cultural Center in Ontario, Ore. Labeled a "fantastic success" by the Snake River Valley Chapter, "it was a time that won't be forgotten and the beginning of something special," the chapter newsletter reported. The West Park Plaza at the TV community college featured demonstrations, displays on the EO 9066 remembrance and entertainment. [JACL, P.O. Box 637, Ontario, OR 97914.] (PC)

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In his *East Wind* column (*Pacific Citizen*, Jan. 3-10, 1992 / Vol. 114, No. 1), Bill Marutani describes *The Pacific War and Peace* in this way: "Sure to be a 'collector's item'...this 96 page booklet outlines facets of Nisei service in the Pacific War heretofore unknown or only vaguely known. Illustrated with 40 photographs as well as eight maps, plus a most helpful glossary, the booklet is well organized and written in a readable, straightforward manner..."

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RISING

(Continued from page 1)

of U.S.-Japan relations.

But even if it is about U.S.-Japan relations, Japanese Americans remain nonetheless concerned and wary of the book. "My book is not in my mind critical of Japanese Americans. It doesn't say anything about Japanese Americans," said Crichton.

"Some Japanese Americans have expressed to me concern that this book will create problems for them as a people with the possibility of increased prejudice," said Crichton. "I certainly understand that because I know the concern that I have being called a racist may affect my relations with Japanese people here who may read descriptions of me and not read my book. I am sure that people who read my book will understand what I'm talking about. I personally believe that racism is an offense against God and it's also a distraction from economic questions of importance."

"One thing that surprises me very much is the inability to distinguish between Japanese Americans and Japanese. Japanese Americans are very clear about not being Japanese; when they go to Japan, they are not treated as Japanese," said Crichton, noting the fact that originally he had included a Japanese American character to further emphasize the point but that his editor had deemed it unnecessary.

Told by L.A. police detective Peter Smithin, *Rising Sun*, is a portrait of a Los Angeles where the politicians, business, the news media and law enforcement are corrupt. Where in a Raymond Chandler novel, the villains might have been land developers or oil barons, the villains of this '90s L.A. murder mystery are Japanese and the people in power in the United States who have let the Japanese come in and take over.

Refuting the idea that *Rising Sun* is a Japan bashing novel, Crichton said, "This is a book that's intensely, intensely critical of America, written by an American for Americans. It is very critical of the government and politicians. It says we are in decline, says we are falling apart and says so very strongly."

"I am interested that so many readers chose not to look at (criticism of America), but instead chose to look away and discuss the book only in terms of its criticism of Japan. I trust my readers and I believe that people will understand that there is a problem between the two nations that must be resolved and that the resolution involves change in America,"

said Crichton . . .

Capt. John Connor, the veteran detective and Japan expert serves the readers' primary guide to Japanese business, sees the Japanese exercising greater influence in American society as nothing sinister, but as trying to manage investments which are in trouble because of America's problems. Connor says, "The Japanese have billions of dollars in this peculiar land and they would like a decent return on their investment. And even though the American economy is collapsing—it will soon be third in the world after Japan and Europe—it's still important to try and hold it together."

Crichton says that the criticism of this collapse in American society in the novel is far greater than any criticism of Japan. "Americans always turn away from criticism of American. No one has asked me about that. It's as if everyone agrees. Yes, the politicians are corrupt, yes. It's as if it's not news, but it's important." Of the Americans, the most villainous in the novel are United States senators. Senator Morton, the lascivious, corrupt politician has an affair with the call girl, Cheryl Austin, that sets the stage for her murder. He is talked about in the novel as a possible presidential candidate, but at the same time, he makes jokes about bombing Japan and says, at one point, "We are at war with Japan... Loose lips sink ships." Senator Morton also has sex with (or rapes, this point is vague) Cheryl Austin on the boardroom table of the Nakamoto corporation which Connor notes probably infuriated the Japanese as "disrespectful."

However, the point which has been debated especially in the Japanese American community are the Japanese characters in the novel. *Rising Sun* features several Japanese characters including: Ishigura, the efficient, villainous Nakamoto executive who masterminds the cover-up of the murder; Eddie Sakamura, a free-wheeling sleazy playboy son of a chief Nakamoto rival; and Theresa Asakuma, a beautiful disabled half-African American half-Japanese computer tech who helps Smith solve the murder and provides hints of romantic interest to *Rising Sun*. Ishigura, middle-aged and fluent in English

is portrayed as the quintessential Japanese company man who will do anything for the company. But are his villainous actions a stereotype of "sneaky" Japanese or the actions of a man out of control? Towards the end of the novel, Connor says about Ishigura, "He had much at stake—so much, that he behaved differently from an ordinary Japanese under these cir-

cumstances."

However, the novel is unclear in the concept of "ordinary Japanese." Of the Japanese characters, Asakuma is the most sympathetic, but her experience of Japan is as an conspicuous outsider. She talks of the *burakumin*, the outcasts of Japanese society and her own mixed heritage and disability saying, "I was lower than *burakumin*, because I was deformed. To the Japanese, deformity is shameful. Not sad, or a burden. *Shameful*. It means you have done something wrong."

Crichton says that there are just as many, if not more American villains in his novel as Japanese villains, but that critics have chosen only to focus on the Japanese. "I am interested that people see so many more Japanese villains than American villains. Along with the complaint of Japanese stereotypes there's the complaint that they're hardly (in the novel). But that's because it's a book about America and that's why the emphasis is what it is."

Another theme which may be unsettling to Japanese Americans are statements that the Japanese are racist. Throughout the novel, Crichton describes Japanese politicians and businessmen who call criticism over economic issues as racism to avoid real issues. Connor says at the end of the novel: "They (the Japanese) have real integrity. They are also the most racist people on the planet. That's why they're always accusing everybody else of racism."

On the charge that the Japanese cry racism, Crichton said, "Japanese government spokespeople are very skillful at raising the spectre of racism in many contexts. A change in import tariffs on light trucks in criticized as racist immediately. But it must be possible for the two greatest industrialized nations on earth to arrange their economic policies, to make changes and have disputes without claiming that the basis of these disputes is racist. That is a disservice to the difficulties we face on both sides."

The novelist asserted that the book only "mirrored the mood" of the country and did not propagate U.S.-Japan tensions. "Like Oliver Stone (in *J.F.K.*), my intention is to do something that will produce some reaction. I would be very concerned if my book were taken as an argument in favor of protectionism, isolationism, racism, any of those xenophobic things. I would be very disturbed if it provoked outbreaks of prejudicial behavior," said Crichton.

According to Crichton, the novel is a commentary on the fact that the U.S.-Japan relationship has

changed and that America has not awoken to that fact.

"The real reason I wrote the book, having read the revisionist books, was the questions they raised were very serious ones and demanded a discussion," said Crichton.

The revisionists, many of whom are listed in the bibliography to *Rising Sun*, include scholars and journalists like Clyde Prestowitz, James Fallows of *Atlantic Monthly* and Karel Van Wolferen who have taken a new, harder line towards Japan. In Fallows' 1989 article "Containing Japan," he warns that Japan's trade practices are a threat to America, saying "Merely recognizing that American and Japanese interests do conflict is in itself an essential step. It frees us of the delusion that normal business competition will balance out whatever is unbalanced now."

Similarly, Crichton commented, "We are not being practical and appropriate in our relations with Japan and that's contributing to the decline of America. It's not their fault, it's our fault. That argument is so important that right or wrong, it must be considered. It has been ignored, pushed aside, dismissed as racist and biased—that's not a satisfactory response."

"Everyone in this country has lived for two generations with no discussion of Japan, so when people start to make criticism or Japanese politicians start to make criticisms of America, these criticisms seem very new and surprising. They seem stronger for their newness. But I believe it's necessary for us to enter a time that includes mutual criticism and that's okay."

Crichton says it's time for everyone, including Japanese Americans, to quit looking to the past in defining how they react to criticisms of Japan. As an example, he noted that the Rape of Nanking in 1937 when Japanese soldiers killed thousands of Chinese, isn't a proper way of looking at the Japanese of today. On the fact that the fallout from U.S.-Japan trade tensions has brought back bad memories of Pearl Harbor and World War II, Crichton said, "It's important to remember how long ago that was. We live in a very different world now."

The author said he felt it was time for Japanese Americans to move beyond World War II, although he acknowledged that for those who experienced the camps, it would constantly be part of their lives.

"It's a different world, it's a really different world. Without diminishing or denying anyone's feeling, I think we can suggest that we would all be better off looking forward rather than looking backward." (PC)



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REACTION

(Continued from page 1)

by America." "The international tension between Japan and the United States inevitably affects Asian Americans. This is the part that gives me great concern about the book. However, I think the term 'Japan-bashing' can be chilling to genuine debate as well," said Takei.

About the novel itself and the issues it raises, Takei said, "Crichton simplifies many of the issues, others he intensifies. I think he is critical more of American policies and their failure than the institutional policies of Japan."

"As an artist, I'm concerned about the First Amendment rights. Some people are reluctant to discuss issues that need to be discussed," said Takei.

"I think we need to have a free flow of discussion in a reasoned climate. I take some opposition to *Rising Sun*, but I agree with some of it. I'm a card carrying member of ACLU and I would caution



CLEMONS



NAKAGAWA



TAKEI

people who raise protest to think it through first," said Takei.

Steve Clemons, executive director of the Japan America Society of Southern California, says the book raises important points about U.S.-Japan relations and that Japanese Americans shouldn't react with fear of racism, but as facilitators of discussion. "Japanese Americans should become bridges, being proactive and active rather than trying to block out or end dialogue dealing with important issues."

Clemons, who is acknowledged in the notes to *Rising Sun*, said the book doesn't present Japanese

or Americans in just black and white terms. "The criticism of *Rising Sun* has been very shallow," said Clemons. The executive director said that the American and Japanese characters show both positive and negative characteristics. "The novel is a composite of characters, there's Grant (a LAPD police detective) who is an unmitigated racist. You've got a composite of people that eludes stereotypes. Even Eddie Sakamura, the slippery cardsharp ends up being a good guy. A lot of reviewers missed that, they only focused on 'the typical Americans,' 'the typical Japanese.'"

The executive director said the novel sends a clear messages to America. "The message is, the long term U.S.-Japan relationship cannot be healthy until America get its house in order. An America too dependent on one country will lead to ruin," said Clemons.

Defending Crichton, Clemons said, "Do you give the guy the right to write fiction? This book hit a chord in America. I have a crowd of academic and business friends and the response has been fifty-fifty. Some think it's trash and some are impressed with it."

For Japanese Americans and the JAACL, Clemons says it's time to become involved in U.S.-Japan issues. "The best cure for Japanese Americans is to become very active, not just as an affected community. They have got to get out there. They shouldn't be looking at it just from the racial sense, but also on the broader issues. I think, in general, groups like JAACL need to be more active, not just with racism, but dealing with issues of the day." (PC)

Opinions



From the frying pan

BILL HOSOKAWA

Stalin evacuated Koreans in WWII

Generations ago, poverty-stricken peasants from the provinces of north-eastern Korea made their way across poorly marked borders and settled in the Russian maritime provinces. They were a frugal and hard-working people and the Russians were glad to have them in that sparsely populated region.

In 1932 Japan seized Manchuria and the Russians began to worry about possible Japanese designs on adjoining parts of Siberia. Five years later Japanese armies moved into North China and Stalin became even more worried.

Among his worries were the Koreans who had settled in eastern Siberia. Might they not be a Fifth Column which would turn on the Soviets if Japan decided to invade Russian territory? Stalin did what any self-respecting dictator would do. He ordered a round-up of Koreans in Siberia and had them sent off to concentration camps in the vast interior of the Soviet landmass.

Some 450,000 men, women and children were swept up in this Asian version of the

Evacuation. Gradually the Koreans were released from the camps and integrated into Soviet society. Apparently there was nothing for them to go back to in their former homes.

A descendant of some of these Asian evacuees told me the story recently. His name is Boris Kim. The family name reflects his ancestry, the first name the society in which he grew up. He was born in Guriev in Kazakhstan, which almost no one in the western world had heard of until the Soviet Empire disintegrated.

Boris Kim is of undiluted Korean blood although he is a citizen of Russia. He holds a doctorate and he is an associate professor in the Moscow Institute of Oil and Gas. After three years of trying he was permitted by Soviet authorities to go to the University of Wyoming where he is a visiting research professor in the department of petroleum engineering. His handsome wife, Elvira, describes herself as a Tartar which my dictionary defines as a person of Mongolic or Turkic origin.

Perhaps it was fitting that Dr. Kim and I

should meet in Casper, Wyo., a green oasis in the Wyoming desert, portions of which bear a striking resemblance to central Asia where his forebears were banished. A couple of hundred miles to the north is a place called Heart Mountain where once there was an American concentration camp.

"Like you," he said, "my people have been in concentration camps."

We laughed, but without much mirth. There was little comfort in learning that Japanese Americans were not the only ones slapped into cold storage during war because their ethnic ties had stirred distrust. Nor in the thought that the government of the United States of America had resorted in the name of national security to the same sort of action that the ruthless dictator Joseph Stalin had taken.

* * *

Incidentally, Boris Kim is searching desperately for a job so that U.S. Immigration and Naturalization Service will permit him to remain in America after the end of his fellowship at the University of Wyoming. PC

JACL views

Why Wards Cove?

By **KAREN NARASAKI**
Washington,
D.C., rep



Working in Washington, D.C., it is easy to be seduced by the cynicism that pervades this city. Lobbying can

become a performance, a war of words and abstract principles. Then something happens that makes the abstract principles concrete.

Last week, Nemesio Domingo came to town to advocate on behalf of the Wards Cove cannery workers. In his talks, he reminded us that justice and fairness are not only abstract principles to the 2,000 Asian Pacific Americans and Native Alaskans affected by their exclusion from the Civil Rights Act of 1991. During the final days leading up to the passage of the act last fall, the Wards Cove Cannery Company was able to slip in a special interest provision to exempt itself from accountability to the Civil Rights Act of 1991.

Daphne Kwok, executive director of the Organization of Chinese Americans (OCA), and I accompanied Domingo on three days of intense lobbying of the Senate. Domingo was the named plaintiff of the original lawsuit against several Alaskan cannery companies, including Wards Cove. His case was split into three cases. Two of them ended in multi-million dollar judgments against the cannery companies. The third case, known as *Antonio v. Wards Cove Packing Co.* went to the Supreme Court and was one of the cases necessitating the Civil Rights Act of 1991.

Domingo was 17 when he and his brother began to ask innocent questions about why their bunkhouse was different from the bunkhouse designated for the white workers, why they had to eat different food in segregated mess halls, and why they did not get the chance to advance to higher paying jobs within the canneries. They talked to their father who had worked in the canneries more than 30 years before them. They found out that their bunkhouse, known as the Filipino or "monkey house," had not changed since their father's time. It was still the same rickety barrack-style building, leaning to one side, unpainted and barely heated. But the bunkhouses for white workers were relatively new, well-heated, comprised of small rooms housing only three to four workers. The segregation and discrimination was so pervasive that even the bed sheets were kept segregated.

Domingo has been fighting for fair and equal treatment for the cannery workers at the Wards Cove-owned canneries for almost 20 years. When asked by Senate staffers why this case continues to be so important to him, he answered simply: Asian Pacific Americans along with Native Alaskans have been the backbone of the fish canning industry for generations. They deserve to have an equal chance at jobs they have proven themselves to be capable of doing.

He spoke eloquently of the contributions that Asian Pacific Americans have made to the fish canning industry in Alaska. The Chinese first worked in the canneries at the turn of the century. One of the machines that mechanized some of the hardest work is named after them, "The Iron Chink." Domingo carried from Senate office to Senate office a heavy brass plaque emblazoned with that racist name that had been removed from one of these machines. It signified beyond words the history and depth of discrimination against Asian Pacific Americans in the cannery industry.

Japanese Americans also worked in the canneries until they were interned during the war. Then the Filipinos were recruited to provide cheap labor. Today it is the Southeast Asian immigrants who toil at the canneries. Whereas conditions have improved at the cannery companies which lost the two other companion cases, not much has changed at the canneries owned by Wards Cove, a company that purportedly has spent more than \$2,000,000 defending their right to discriminate. The bunkhouses are no longer segregated, but the better jobs are still withheld from the

See WARDS/page 12

East Wind



BILL MARUTANI

Culture: Sumo and Yakuza

AMONG BOOKS sitting on my shelf waiting to be read are ones on *sumo* and the *yakuza*, both being intriguing subjects. The former because it has an indefinable fascination even while I don't understand the fine points of the contest. As those of you who have watched the matches know, it's replete with ceremony, posturing that apparently has meaning, tossing of salt onto the arena, and so on. When one does not appreciate the meanings of the ceremony or the art involved in the bout, the essence is lost. Like the proverbial "pearl before swines." (And I'm hardly the "pearl" in that proverb.)

By the time this column appears on these pages, it will have been determined whether "Konishiki,"—Hawaiian-American Salevaa Atisanoe—has emerged as the winner of the current tournament being held in Tokyo. Konishiki has attained *ozeki* (champion) ranking by virtue of his record (13-2), but the bestowal of the rank of "grand champion" (*yokozuna*) has eluded him thus far. Some commentators assert that Konishiki needs to attain *hinkaku* (dignity), a rather indefinable, and thus elusive, whatever.

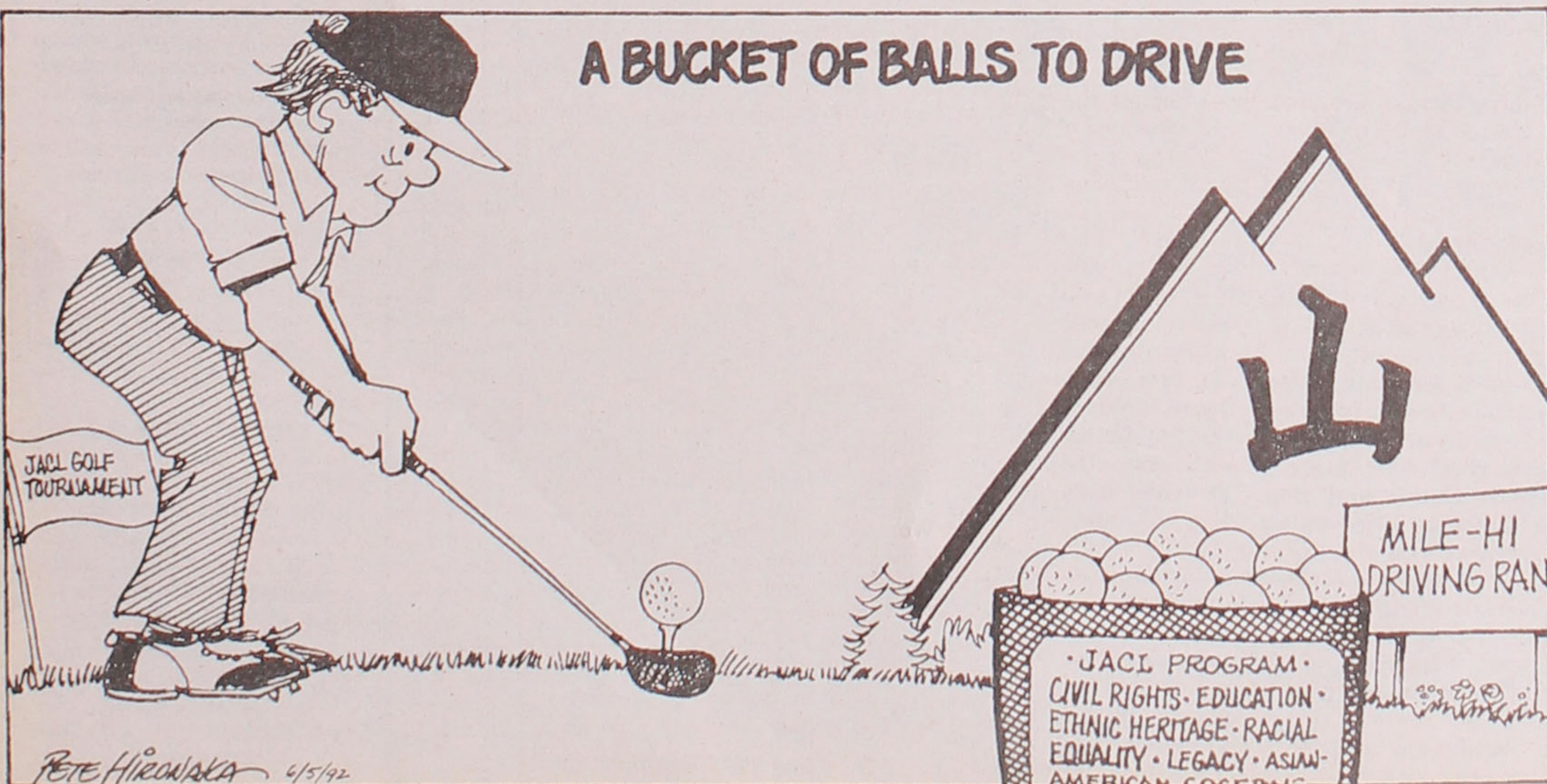
AS FOR "YAKUZA," I started to read a book by that title written by a David Kaplan. Between my ignorance of the Japanese mobsters with author Kaplan's cultural generalizations that resulted in distortions, I put the book aside with the intent of returning to it one of these days. In the meanwhile, I see from the newspapers that the mobsters are trying to go, or at least appear, "legit" by changing their names, establishing dummy corporations with concomitant change of titles—*oya-bun* ("boss") now becomes *sha-cho* ("president"). This is reputedly prompted by yet another recent Japanese law purporting to crack down on these mobsters. The Yamaguchi-gumi has long been reported as the largest gang in Japan with no less than a membership of 30,000 in 117 affiliates throughout Nippon. That's reportedly about one-third of all gangs in Japan. Total estimated income or "take" per year: \$8 billion. That comes to about \$90,000 per thug.

IT'LL BE INTERESTING to see if the Japanese authorities truly mean it this time or are just going through a charade to placate the citizenry. Japanese gangsters

have been so ensconced in Japanese society that in many quarters they are secretly admired as proponents and preservers of some of the "old ways." Indeed, individual gangs have their logos with members proudly wearing pins bearing the mob logo as well as carrying calling cards setting forth their affiliation and rank. Apparently, it has not been uncommon to hire *yakuza* goons to "keep order" at some corporate shareholder meetings, particularly where management anticipates dissident voices. At the same time, however, these *yakuza* elements also engage in corporate shake-downs in return for not disrupting otherwise peaceful shareholder meetings. They "take" either way.

IN A PREVIOUS column I mentioned what I understood to be the derivation of the term "yakuza." In a Japanese card game (don't ask me which one; I don't know) the hand of "eight, nine, three" ("ya-ku-za" being the abbreviation for these three numerals) is a losing hand. So *yakuza* membership purportedly consists of "losers" in the social competition.

At \$90,000 per year per member. PC



Perspectives

Redress work not over

By **JERRY ENOMOTO**
National Chair
JACL/LEC
Board



Like all important battles for high stakes, the redress campaign has been one of ups and downs, joy and sorrow. All of us who hoped for a timely ending to this difficult saga were once again confronted with a crisis, when the number of eligibles for payment were found to exceed the funds allocated. You all know by now that the Civil Liberties Act Amendments of 1992, HR

4551 and S 2553, are in the legislative process, and must be passed in order for the necessary additional \$320 million to be authorized. Thus we must once again enter the lobbying arena in order to insure that the justice finally accorded two-thirds of the victims of internment, will not be denied those yet to receive redress. During the recent Tule Lake Reunion in Sacramento, attended by a record breaking crowd of over 1,000 (1,100 at the Sayonara Banquet), we were able to mail 1,000 letters to President Bush and various Congressional members, paying for postage and stationery with still remaining LEC funds.

The idea was LEC Board member Mollie Fujioka's. The immediate responsiveness of Sacramento JACLers Toko Fujii, President Mike Sawamura, and Florin JACLer Mary Tsukamoto, was key to the last minute project's success. We are also indebted to Washington D.C., Rep. Karen Narasaki and NCWNP DC Regional Director Patty Wada,

for their assistance in drafting and sending out the letters. Of course those who assisted us in actually getting the letters signed are also due our thanks.

In this last lobbying effort, Cherry Kinoshita, vice chair of operations for LEC, will be the key person in coordinating with the National JACL the effort to reactivate the LEC networks around the country. Our messages to the President and your senators and congresspersons should stress the need to continue redress funding under an entitlement, and not change it to direct spending, which would place redress in direct competition with many worthy causes and reduce the prospects of funding. The retention of the education component of the redress fund should also be urged. On another note, it is a pleasure to note that the Tule Lake Reunion banquet provided the opportunity to pay tribute to Bob Bratt, former executive director of the Office of Redress Administration. It is not often that

we find a public servant with a personal commitment to an assignment, and redress was more than a job to Bob. His leadership made a difference in expediting the delivery of the checks.

In concluding this piece, I must report on a meeting with Bob Matsui, where he told of what was going on behind the scenes, and that we do have a serious problem in concluding redress in a timely and successful manner. Bob, Norman Mineta, and Sen. Daniel Inouye are still on the line for the Japanese American community. It reminds me that, although redress was certainly a bi-partisan effort, without them and the late Sen. Spark Matsunaga, we wouldn't have gotten to first base.

Incidentally, I was pleased to be in attendance on May 26, when the Anti-Defamation League presented Bob Matsui with its Distinguished Public Service Award.

Finally, back to the bottom line—let's get those letters to Washington!

Guest editorials

Trade protectionism will hurt Californians

By **LANCE T. IZUMI**

"We need to keep out foreign goods to save American jobs." That is the refrain which is now being repeated by big business, big labor and various presidential candidates. And unfortunately, with the domestic economy stagnating, the siren's song of protectionism has become increasingly difficult to resist.

But does trade protectionism really save jobs? On the one hand, if, for example, we refuse to allow Japanese and other foreign cars into the American market, American consumers will be forced to choose domestically built autos for their personal transportation. This obviously means that those jobs in the domestic auto industry that would have been lost due to competition from abroad will be saved.

This outward simplicity is the backbone of the protectionist position. And indeed, if things stopped there, it would be hard to argue against such a policy. The problem, however, is that the protectionists are only telling half the story.

It is important to remember that U.S. trade actions do not occur in a vacuum. After all, if I poke you in the eye, your first instinct would be to do the same to me. Similarly, the real world is not made up of economic Gandhis. U.S. actions will most assuredly trigger foreign reactions such as the erection of retaliatory trade barriers. And these foreign reactions would have one big immediate effect—they would put Americans out of work.

Take California, for instance. In 1990, California exported \$58 billion worth of goods to foreign countries, or nearly 15 percent of the total amount of U.S. exports. Some

of the bigger export items included: industrial and commercial machinery (\$13.5 billion), electronic and electrical equipment (\$11.8 billion), transportation equipment (\$7.9 billion), precision instruments (\$4.4 billion), and food products (\$3.8 billion). The state Commerce Department estimates that roughly 230,000 California jobs result directly from the production of exports. If our trading partners decided to impose retaliatory trade restrictions, many of these jobs would be jeopardized.

Take a specific scenario involving, let's say, agriculture. Over the years, Japan has eased its restrictions on foreign agricultural commodities, which has greatly benefitted the California farmer. Thus, today, in addition to being California's top overall export market, Japan also ranks as the number one customer for California's \$2.8 billion agricultural industry (27,000 jobs in California are directly related to agricultural exports). What would happen then if Washington bowed to pressure from the corporate socialists in Detroit and drastically reduced the number of Japanese cars entering this country, which in turn caused the Japanese to reimpose agricultural import restrictions? Disaster in Detroit? No, the disaster would be in California.

Furthermore, erecting a trade wall around a specific market such as automobiles would raise the price of cars, which would then result in a ripple effect of unemployment in other sectors of the economy. Recall that since 1984, U.S. steel import restrictions have saved 17,000 jobs in the domestic steel industry, but have also increased the price of steel to consumers causing the loss of more than 54,000 jobs in other industries. As the top car-buying state in the

U.S., one can imagine the nightmarish effects of higher car prices on California's already shaky job situation.

The point is, U.S. trade protectionism that begets foreign trade protectionism would throw thousands of Californians into the unemployment lines, and would devastate the state's economy.

The loss of jobs, however, is just one of protectionism's glaring negatives. Even more important is the loss of freedom that will be felt by each and every American consumer. Who is Lee Iacocca to tell the American people that they should not be free to buy a Honda, a Volvo, or a VW? The Detroit corporate socialists admit that they have made horrendous cars over the past years, but now contend that their cars are much improved. Assuming that is true, such improvement is the direct result of Americans' freedom to choose quality foreign-made autos, which created the incentive for Detroit to upgrade its products.

Milton Friedman once wrote that, "The gains to some producers from tariffs and other restrictions are more than offset by the loss to other producers and especially to consumers in general." For those of us in trade-dependent California, we are those "other producers" and "consumers." Therefore, for our own economic well-being, Californians should be leading the fight to open up the markets of the world, and battling those who would seek to close them.

Lance T. Izumi is the director of the Claremont Institute's Golden State Center for Policy Studies. Previously, he served as chief speechwriter and director of writing and research for Gov. George Deukmejian.

Time is running out for war victims

Apologies to the victims of Japanese aggression in Korea, China and Southeast Asia are not enough, argues lawyer Kenichi Takagi. Japan must pay compensation to those it wronged in World War II. Tokyo has long insisted that postwar reparations settled the issue but recently, in response to several lawsuits, Japan has agreed to some payments. Last year, JACL President Cressey Nakagawa was invited to Tokyo to speak about the Japanese American experience with respect to redress. Takagi, however, says that time is running out for other aged victims, and the government must move swiftly to make honorable amends . . .

By **KENICHI TAKAGI**, Attorney at Law
(From the *Mainichi Shimbun*)

The past is catching up with Japan as World War II victims throughout East Asia make their voices heard in Tokyo. Their demands for restitution must be met before Japan can win the confidence of the region.

A three-day telephone hotline was recently set up in Tokyo to gather firsthand testimony regarding the tens of thousands of Korean and other Asian women forced to provide sex to Japanese troops during the war. A total of 230 callers, mostly veterans, volunteered their personal recollections of military-run brothels and the "comfort women" who worked there.

This nation has a conscience after all, it seems. One wonders where it has been hiding all these years.

Soul-searching, most people agree, is not a Japanese forte. During the four and a half decades that took this country from

devastation to economic preeminence, the nation has gone about its business as if the Pacific War were just a bad dream, turning its back on the victims of Imperial Japan's colonial rule and military aggression.

The Potsdam Declaration, which outlined surrender terms, called for Japan's withdrawal from all territories acquired through force or coercion and the restoration of Korean independence, in keeping with a new era of peace and justice. When Tokyo surrendered to the Allies on Aug. 15, 1945, it accepted the obligation to right the wrongs committed under militarism and rebuild Japan as a peace-loving, democratic nation.

Nowhere is this lofty commitment more clearly articulated than in the preamble to the 1946 war-renouncing Constitution: "We desire to occupy an honored place in an international society striving for the preservation of peace, and the banishment of tyranny and slavery, oppression and intolerance for all time from

the earth."

Unfortunately, this sentiment is meaningless unless the government of Japan repudiates and provides redress for the belligerent policies of the past. Doubtless every nation has sinned at some time in its history. The crucial test of a country's honor is whether it flees from or faces up to those events.

Germans have courageously accepted responsibility for the Holocaust and other Nazi crimes and have paid out \$100 billion in indemnification. The United States and Canada reaffirmed their democratic principles by compensating citizens of Japanese ancestry who were illegally confined in relocation camps during World War II. And the Soviet Union raised the curtain on a new era by making public and denouncing the crimes of the Stalin years.

In honestly acknowledging its guilt, each of these countries earned the trust and respect of the international community. Why has Japan alone, despite its idealistic Constitution, failed to come to grips with its aggression and cruelty?

One reason is that until fairly recently demands for indemnification were scattered and muted.

After World War II, Tokyo's top policy objective in East Asia was opening the door to Japanese trade and investment. Most countries in the region were desperate for capital to energize their struggling economies, enabling Tokyo to conclude normalization treaties that guaranteed market access for Japanese in-

See VICTIMS/page 12

Higher education and Asian American bashing

By **JOHN P. SCHLEGEL**, S.J.
President, University of San Francisco

As stewards of the future and teachers of the liberal arts—whose legacy is to help make the human person free, universities and schools have a special role to play as an intellectual and moral force in combatting racism. We need to look hard and deep at multicultural American society, to ask questions: "What is America? Who is American?" We must identify avenues to create a truly pluralistic, participatory democracy where people of all color and ethnic heritage are perceived equal and are respected for their diverse contributions to American culture.

Several weeks ago, the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights published a comprehensive report on "Civil Rights Issues Facing Asian Americans in the 1990s." The report concludes that, contrary to popular perception, Asian Americans are currently the victims of discrimination, bigotry, and hate. They face barriers to equal opportunity in educational institutions and workplaces across the country. The study calls anti-Asian violence a "se-

See EDUCATION/page 12

WARDS

(Continued from page 8)

non-white workers.

Sen. Adams (D-Wash.) and Congressman McDermott (D-Wash.), supported by JACL, OCA and the National Asian Pacific American Bar Association, immediately introduced legislation, S. 1962/H.R. 3748 aimed at removing Wards Cove's special exemption from the Civil Rights Act of 1991. The Leadership Conference on Civil Rights and labor groups, such as the International Longshoremen, Warehousemen Union and the AFL-CIO, have made this legislation one of their top priorities this year.

Ironically, the high paid lobbyists for Wards Cove recently urged senators to oppose the passage of S. 1962, on the basis that it is special interest legislation. They argue that the case has no merit, ignoring the fact that the other two companion cases won after being heard under the proper legal standard—the standard ignored by the Supreme Court in the Wards Cove case and restored by Congress when it passed Civil Rights Act of 1991. They argue that it would be unjust to the company to have to go to court one more time, ignoring the fact that it is the cannery company's decision to continue to fight to preserve their right to discriminate.

Thanks to the efforts of Sen. Adams (D-Wash.) and Reps. Matsui (D-Calif.), Mineta (D-Calif.), Mink (D-Hawaii), and McDermott (D-Wash.), the legislation is still alive. However, they need your help to convince Congress and the President to do the right thing. We need to send a message to employers such as Wards Cove Packing Company and congressmen such as the Alaskan senators that Asian Pacific Americans will not silently stand by while their rights are ignored and their lives discounted.

Write your senator today. If you need a sample letter or any other information, please call the Washington, D.C., J.A.C.L. office at 202/223-1240. ☐

VICTIMS

(Continued from page 9)

dustury and effectively closed the books on the reparations issue.

Tokyo had the blessing of Washington, which held the fate of post-war Japan in its hands. With Cold War tensions mounting, the United States needed a reliable East Asian ally to round out its Soviet containment strategy. The Truman administration knew that any serious accounting for the Pacific War would undermine Japan financially and politically.

The Tokyo war crimes trials convicted some of those responsible for the conflict and atrocities. Having punished a handful of Japanese leaders, the U.S. Occupation left the prewar bureaucracy virtually intact and allowed many members of the old ruling elite to assume pivotal positions in the post-war government.

For decades the mass media and intelligentsia, along with the left-wing opposition parties, waged ideological warfare against the conservative Establishment. Yet the progressives were no more eager than their foes to make amends for past injustices.

Having shunned the truth and neglected its moral duty in the single-minded pursuit of economic growth, Japan is now viewed as a shifty, unprincipled temporizer that only veers from the path of narrow self-interest when compelled by outside pressures.

In 1991, Prime Minister Toshiki Kaifu made the first formal apologies for the suffering Japan inflicted on its neighbors. His successor Kiichi Miyazawa has echoed those remarks.

But words are not enough. Tokyo must provide material retribution — and soon.

Finally, their message seems to be getting through. The government agreed to pay about \$15,000 to the family of each Taiwanese who died in the service of the Japanese Imperial Army and to those who were wounded.

Tokyo has also earmarked \$30 million to aid Koreans injured in the atomic bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, many of whom were brought here as forced labor. Those repatriated to Korea after the war never received any of the benefits provided to A-bomb victims in Japan.

Attention has also been focused on the plight of thousands of Korean laborers who were taken to Sakhalin and abandoned to Soviet rule after Japan's surrender. Money has been allocated for a study that could lead to the creation of a fund for Koreans still living on the island.

But many of those entitled to indemnification have already died. These belated moves are all to the good, but unless Tokyo moves swiftly, the chance to make amends will be lost forever.

Certainly we have the means. It remains to be seen whether we have the will. ☐

Translated from the Japanese newspaper Mainichi Shimbun by The Asia Foundation's Translation Service Center.

EDUCATION

(Continued from page 9)

rious national problem."

This report comes at a time when the United States constitutes demographically the most multi-cultural society in any one country. In California there will be no racial majority by the end of this century, and we will be forced to confront—and to change—these inherently divisive attitudes and social structures. As the Civil Rights Commission study indicates, we have further to go than we had perhaps imagined before we become a truly functional and pluralistic multicultural society. It is alarming that Asian newcomers to our shores and Asian Americans who have worked hard to excel and assimilate into our society (and have long been subject to racism and nativist sentiments) are now being viciously attacked in unprecedented numbers.

The fact is, however, that history can and does repeat itself. The resurgence in anti-Asian

American hate crimes resulting in physical attacks and tragic deaths attests to this. If we are to avoid repeating injustices of the past, we must educate everyone, kindergarten through graduate school, the public in general, about cultures different from their own. We must provide the classes, forums and other opportunities (such as cultural exchanges) to examine the facts, myths and stereotypes which historically have led to prejudice, fear, racism and hate crimes.

The internment of Americans of Japanese heritage occurred 50 years ago, but it is not past. We tell ourselves that such acts couldn't happen in the 1990s. After all, the cold war is finally coming to an end and former East-West enemies are becoming friends. President de Klerk and the white population of South Africa overwhelmingly approved a referendum declaring an end to apartheid and vowing to share power with the black majority.

The long-silent victims of Japanese aggression in East Asia are now coming forward. A milestone in their struggle to be heard was the international forum on compensation held in Tokyo last August.

But it is saddening and bitterly ironic that Asian and Asian American bashing is on the rise just as we commemorate nationally the 50th anniversary of Executive Order 9066, internment by government order many Japanese Americans. Their only crime was to be Americans of color in a time of war. Anyone visibly of Asian heritage was indiscriminately labeled a "Jap," equated with the "enemy," and used as a scapegoat for society's ignorance, fears and racial prejudice.

America's strength has historically been based on individualism and diversity. Democracy has embraced openness to different views and values. We must now call upon our enormous vitality to meet the new challenge of combating ethnocentrism. We must simply reject a violent society bred of racial prejudice and cultural misunderstandings. We must meet and answer the challenge of linking our multicultural society with international interdependence. ☐

John P. Schlegel, S.J., 26th president of the University of San Francisco, earned his doctorate in international politics at Oxford University in 1977.

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