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Law group discusses racism—p.5

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Friday, November 6, 1992

'Phoenix Team': Why restructure JACL?

Editor's note: Perhaps the most talked-about and controversial issue within JACL today is the proposal to restructure the organization. The following position on the Select Committee's plan comes from Pacific Southwest members who call themselves the Phoenix Team. Here are their views:

One of the results of the 32nd JACL Biennial Convention was to revisit the Select Committee's Report on Restructuring by inviting comments from chapters using a similar approach that was used when JACL wanted to institute a National Plan

for Action.

The Select Committee began this process by appointing members of the three districts that had no input on the original report to serve on the committee. Sharon Kumagai was chosen as PSW's representative.

With two months remaining in 1992, we felt that it was important to let as many members know what the PSW district has done to address the restructuring question and what we will be doing in the near future.

Immediately after the convention, Sharon

organized the first meeting of the PSW Restructuring Committee. This committee, which was later named the "Phoenix Team," started to draft a time-line to be followed in order to achieve what the team felt was the main objective. That objective was to inform every chapter about what the restructuring was about and to invite their comments regarding the Select Committee's changes or any changes they felt JACL needed. With that in mind, the team began to plan a chapter outreach program.

The Phoenix Team also realized that this process could not be run without the sup-

port of the PSW Executive Committee. At the following PSW Executive Committee meeting, it was arranged that the PSW Executive Committee would assist us with the outreach program.

We then divided the PSW chapters into geographical areas with members of both the Phoenix Team and the PSW Executive Committee contacting the various chapters they are responsible for. Sharon mailed out a questionnaire to each chapter to assist them in discussing the restructuring process and show them the necessity of

See PHOENIX/page 5

D.C. memorial to JA WW II heroism becomes law

President George Bush recently signed H.J.Res 271, which authorizes the construction of a memorial to Japanese American heroism during World War II in Washington, D.C.

Unanimously passed by both houses of Congress, the memorial, according to Rep. Norman Mineta's office, will use no federal funds in its construction.

Mineta commenting on the bill's passage said, "This memorial will be a reminder to all of us that Americans are not defined by their race or national origin. We are defined by our shared commitment to the principles of equality and justice embodied in our great Constitution."

"Fifty years ago, this nation forgot that truth in the rush of wartime hysteria. Our hope is that this memorial will serve to remind all Americans of the price that was paid, and the need for eternal vigilance in safeguarding the rights of all Americans," said Mineta.

May now officially APA Heritage Month

May of each year is permanently designated Asian Pacific American Heritage Month, following the signing of H.R. 5572 by President George Bush Oct. 23.

"This is truly a victory for Asian Pacific Americans," said Rep. Mineta, who wrote the law along with Rep. Frank Horton (R-NY). "The observance of Asian Pacific American Heritage Month in our communities each year gives Asian Pacific Americans the chance to reflect on our history in the United States, and to educate our fellow Americans about the contributions we have made and continue to make to American society."

H.R. 5572 is the last step in a process which began in 1979, with the introduction by Rep. Horton of a resolution declaring the first week of May as Asian Pacific American Heritage week. Heritage week was also authorized annually until 1989, when it was expanded to a month-long observance. No further authorization will be needed by Congress.



On the road

The jazz group Hiroshima has followed up on past successes with a new album and performance tour. From left, top row, are Danny Yamamoto, Dean Cortez, and Kimo Cornwell. From left, bottom row, are June Kuramoto, Johnny Mori, Dan Kuramoto, and Jeannette Klinger. See story on page 4.

TV producer says cartoon character is not a stereotype

By GWEN MURANAKA
Assistant editor

LOS ANGELES—Responding to complaints about the Super Dave cartoon, Robby London, executive producer of Super Dave, speaking to *Pacific Citizen* said that the character "Fuji" is not a stereotype. "We're very concerned, these sorts of complaints are not something we take lightly," said London.

London, who is also senior vice president of creative affairs at DIC Enterprises, said that "Fuji" is a representation of the same character played by Japanese Canadian actor Art Irizawa on the live action "Super Dave Show." "The same actor (Irizawa) supplies the voice of

See PRODUCER/page 5

'Fuji' disturbs JACL; protest issued

JACL has written the Fox network to protest what it believes to be a stereotyped character on the "Super Dave" cartoon show (Oct 30 PC issue).

Dennis Hayashi, JACL national director, wrote: "... we are writing to express our serious concern about Fox's cartoon *Super Dave*. Specifically, we are deeply disturbed by the Asian character, "Fuji."

See JACL/page 5

ORA says redress nearly finished

The Department of Justice announced Oct. 26 that 74,600 Japanese Americans have been paid \$20,000 each under the redress program and that an additional 5,000 persons will receive payments in fiscal 1994, which begins Oct. 1, 1993.

Paul Suddes, administrator of the Office of Redress Administration, said, "We have paid 96 percent of the estimated 80,000 individuals who will receive redress payments by the close of the program. Therefore, effective Oct. 30, the ORA toll-free Help Line will cease operation. The efforts of our toll-free Help Line staff will now be directed toward processing the remaining cases as quickly as possible."

Japanese Americans interned during World War II or their surviving heirs born through Dec. 31, 1943, are eligible for \$20,000 redress payments. Beginning November 2, 1992, eligible individuals who have not yet received their redress payment may call ORA at (202) 219-6900. The Telephone Device for the Deaf (TDD) phone number is (202) 219-4710. Japanese-speaking callers will be directed to Japanese speaking members of the ORA staff in Washington, D.C.

Inquiries on case status or payments also may be sent directly to the Office of Redress Administration, P.O. Box 66260, Washington, D.C., 20035-6260.

Short takes

Minorities do well in sheriff's recruitment day

A recent one-day-only sign-up for deputy sheriffs in San Francisco revealed a high number of minorities participating.

Sheriff Michael Hennessey reported Sept. 13 that 3,800 people applied for positions at a May 21 recruiting event. Of that figure, 1,421 qualified, of which 82 percent were women and minorities; 34% (453) were Asian candidates.

Those passing the Civil Service exams will be placed on a two-year list and hired as needed during that time.

Japanese interest in U.S. declines

The Pacific Rim, especially Hong Kong and Taiwan, still has deep pools of investment money for American developers, according to finance expert Jack Rodman at Kenneth Levant & Co. of Los Angeles.

While Japanese capital has virtually dried up, Rodman said an analysis by his firm shows 70 to 80 percent of the largest Japanese real estate investments in the U.S. are going through some form of restructuring, such as buy-outs of U.S. partners and transferring troubled loans to banks in Japan.

More Short takes on page 3

Shattering the glass: EEOC leader calls for corporate awareness of minorities

Breaking the glass ceiling is possible by increasing boardroom awareness of minorities said Dr. Joy Cherian, commissioner on the U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission Oct. 24 in Dallas.

At the Asian American Voters Coalition meeting, Cherian said, "Corporate leaders who would like to break the glass ceiling should encourage the se-

lection of boards of directors with sensitivity to issues affecting women and minorities."

Cherian said that merely appointing more minorities and women will not be enough to get rid of the glass ceiling. "Every director selected should have appropriate education, relevant experience, and genuine sensitivity to issues related to the so-called 'glass ceiling' which ob-

structs the advancement of women and minorities in the American workplace.

"Equal opportunity can be achieved in the American workplace only through sincere cooperation and honest efforts by community groups, corporate leaders, and government officials who are truly committed to the American vision of equality and justice."

Holiday Issue hotline

JACL chapters and members should be proceeding with their holiday greeting ads for *Pacific Citizen's* year-end issue.

Chapter are also invited to submit editorial material.

If you have any questions or need assistance, call:

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Calendar

Pennsylvania Philadelphia

Ongoing—National Archives-Mid Atlantic Region's "The Internment of Japanese Americans, Photographs by Dorothea Lange," Lobby William Penn Post Office Annex, 9th and Market Streets, Mon.-Sat., 8 a.m.-6 p.m. Information: 215/ 597-3000.

Nevada Reno

Sunday, Nov. 22—Reno Chapter, JACL's potluck and mochi making, Knights of Pythias Hall, 980 Nevada St., Reno, noon. Items to bring: 3 lbs. mochi gome (soaked overnight and drained with cold water); corn starch and wax paper; and rags, mop, and broom. Information: Jone Sun, 702/857- 3388.

Washington Bellevue

Friday, Nov. 13—Lake Washington Chapter, JACL's art sale for scholarship fund, Bellevue Conference Center, Exhibition North, Main Level, 505 106th Ave., N.E., 6 p.m. Artists include: Hisashi Otsuka, Caroline Young and Tatsuo Ito. Information: Shox or Elsie Tokita, 206/ 641-6512; James or Rose Nohara, 206/ 455-8379; and Jason or Ellen Mochizuki, 206/ 747-6361.

Seattle

Through Sun., Nov. 22—Seattle Art Museum's "Views from a Paper Window: Japanese Art of the Edo and Meiji Periods," 100 University St., Tues.-Sat., 11 a.m.-5 p.m.; Thurs. till 9 p.m.; Sun., noon to 5 p.m. Information: 206/ 654-3100.

Idaho Lewiston

Through Wed., Nov 25— "An Artists View of the Japanese American Internment," by Kenjiro Nomura, Lewis-Clark Center for Arts & History. Exhibit or catalog information: June McKivor, Nomura project director; museum information: Leslie Esselburn, 208/799-2243.

California Sacramento

Friday, Nov. 20—Sacramento Chapter, JACL, honors Jerry Enomoto, Hoi Sing Restaurant, 7007 S. Land Park Dr., 5 p.m. Cost: \$20. Information: Sacramento Chapter, JACL, 916/ 447-0231.

San Francisco Area

Friday, Nov. 20—Actor Lane Nishikawa's one-man show, "I'm on a Mission from Buddha," Julia Morgan Theater, 2640 College Ave., Berkeley. Tickets: \$15, including \$5 donation to Berkeley Chapter Scholarship Fund. Information: Ken or Ann Yabusaki, 510-524-4008.

Saturday, Nov. 21—The California Japanese American Alumni Association's (CJAAA) biennial Big Game Night, Top O' the Inn, Holiday Inn, Emeryville, 6 p.m. Reservations: \$30. Information: Elsie Nakamura, 415/ 647-4273.

Sunday, Nov. 22—University of San Francisco's Marco Polo Concert and Symphony, USF's Presentation Campus at Turk and Masonic, 8 p.m. Conductor: Simon Andrews. Cost: \$5. Information: 415/ 666-6357.

San Jose

Friday, Nov. 13—Yu-Ai Kai sponsors Dr. Robert Aptekar from the Arthritis and Orthopedic Medical Clinic in Los Gatos, 7:30 p.m., Yu-Ai Kai office, 565 North Fifth St., San Jose, CA, 95112; 408/294-2505.

Friday, Nov. 13—San Jose Chapter, JACL's annual general election meeting, Issei Memorial Building, 565 N. 5th St., 7:30 p.m. Potluck: 6:30 p.m. Last names beginning with A-M, bring a main dish for six people, last names beginning with N-Z, bring a salad for six people. Board members and officers for '93 term will be elected. Information: 408/ 295-1250.

Saturday, Nov. 14—West Valley Chapter, JACL general meeting and election, Saratoga Lane banquet room, 6:30 p.m. Speaker: Tom Shigemasa, deputy chief, San Jose Police Dept. Information: Aiko Nakamura, 408/ 378-8877; or Ed Kawahara, 408/ 241-3489.

Fresno

Through Sunday, Nov. 22—Fresno Metropolitan Museum's "Country Voices: Three Generations of Japanese American Farming," 1555 Van Ness Ave. at Calaveras, Downtown Fresno. Mon.-Sun.: 11 a.m. Admission: adults \$3, seniors \$2. Information: 209/ 441-1444.

Los Angeles Area

Saturday, Nov. 14—San Fernando Valley Chapter, JACL's educational forum, SFVJACC, Pacoima, 7 p.m. Speakers include: Warren Furutani, LAUSD; Cecilia Mansfield, UTLA/AFT; and Arnold Miyamoto, chapter president. Bento reservations (by Nov. 12): Phil Shigekuni, 818/ 893-1581. Information: Nancy Oda, 818/ 786-0914.

Through Sun., Nov. 15—The UCLA Asian American Studies Center presents Wakako Yamauchi's "12-1-A," UCLA's Ralph Freud Playhouse, 8 p.m., Sat. and Sun., 2 p.m. matinees. Tickets: \$13; students, \$9. Information: 310/825-2101.

Sunday, Nov. 15—Downtown L.A. Chapter, JACL presents "Into the Woods," East West Players Theater, 4424 Santa Monica Blvd., 2 p.m. Cost: \$25. Reservations: Kitty Sankey, 213/ 625-6532 (w), or 213/ 838-8553 (h), reservations must be received by Nov. 13. Proceeds go to Ninth Street Elementary School scholarship fund.

See CALENDAR/page 7

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Short takes

Japan to end discriminatory fingerprinting

The Japanese government decided recently to stop fingerprinting of foreign permanent residents effective Jan. 8, 1993, according to an *Associated Press* report.

Under the revised Alien Registration Law, fingerprinting will be replaced by a system using photographs, signatures and official family records. The fingerprinting system has long been seen as a symbol of discrimination against ethnic Koreans born in Japan, many of whom are descendants of laborers forcibly brought to Japan during World War II. Prior to the enactment of the current law, foreign residents, including ethnic Koreans and criminals were the only people forced to be fingerprinted in Japan.

Nikkei profiled at reunion

Seattle's Franklin High School class of 1972 held its 20-year reunion in September at the Arctic Dome with about a third of the 553 graduates attending. Two Sansei grads were profiled by the *Seattle Times*.

Terry B. Mori, a successful owner of a St. Paul, Minn., marketing firm doing business in 15 states and four countries, confided, "It would have been difficult to discover what I wanted to be had I stayed home, because people have a way of deciding who you are and not changing their opinion as you change and grow." When he arrived in Minnesota in 1986, he had hair down to his waist, a backpack, guitar and a tread-worn decade in search of the meaning of life.

Since high school, Patsy Yamada of Rainier Beach shook off her shyness and developed an exuberant personality as a gregarious, active mom. Several nights a week, she sells Tupperware at club meetings, beside helping people out by phone and being engaged with her three children, 6, 9, 11 and their cousins and friends. "I'm less strict than I should be," she says. "I just take everything day by day."

— Report from Ed Suguro

Retiree health facility planned

NEW YORK — A \$3 million retirement complex, the Takahana Inn in the Catskills, was unveiled Oct. 22 by Ken

Kobayashi, chief director of the Kobayashi Cultural Center for Good Life, Inc., as "a self-sustaining bucolic utopia" for 120 people. Facilities, featuring organic-grown food farms, health equipment, traditional remedies and sports, are planned for completion in 1994.

Information: Kobayashi Center, 143 E. 35 St., New York, N.Y., 10016; (212) 685-4325.

Green cards to expire Aug. 1, '93

Resident aliens hold "green cards" (I-151) issued before 1978 are required to replace them before the Aug. 1, 1993, expiration, according to the Justice Department. The new card, good for 10 years, must be acquired before the Aug. 1 expiration date.

Application (INS Form I-90) for the new card bearing photograph, fingerprint and signature can be obtained from the nearest Immigration and Naturalization Service office. There is a \$70 filing fee. Information: 800/755-0777.

SBA opens on-line system

WASHINGTON — Small Business Administration inaugurated its Online (800 / 859-4636 for a 2400-baud modem and 800 / 697-4636 for a 9600-baud modem) the first week of October and earned public acceptance from owners with computers and modems, according to administrator Patricia Saiki. The SBA bulletin board is "one more step in the right direction... this allows us to finally get to the 21st-century," she said. Two SBA analysts spent six months designing the program around an existing software package.

Asian groups awarded grants

The Asian Pacific Community Fund (APCF) of Southern California has made its first grant presentations to human service agencies serving the Asian Pacific community of Los Angeles.

The human service agencies were given a total of \$10,000: Asian American Drug Abuse Program; Asian Health Project/T.H.E. Clinic for Women; Asian Pacific American Legal Center; Asian Pacific Family Center/Pacific Clinics; Asian Rehabilitation Service; Chinatown Service Center; Economic & Employment Development Center; Federation of Filipino American Association; Korean Youth Center; Little Tokyo

Service Center; Pacific Asian Consortium in Employment; Search to Involve Pilipino Americans; and Western Region Asian Pacific Agency.

Information: 213/880-2797.

L.A. museum names chairman

LOS ANGELES — Francis Y. Sogi, senior partner with the law firm of Kelley Drye and Warren, was elected the new chair of the Japanese American National Museum board of trustees. The Kona, Hawaii-born University of Hawaii and MIS graduate and a CIC officer in Hokkaido during the Occupation, he is a graduate of Fordham Law School and Chuo University in Tokyo, passing the bar and practicing in both New York and Tokyo. He succeeds another attorney, Henry Ota, who once worked for Sogi.

Not again—This time it's sushi

Here one of the big question among Japanese media: Does importing U.S.-made and frozen sushi violate the government ban against importing rice?

President Fujio Matsumoto of Sushi-Boy, an Osaka-based restaurant chain, said it plans to combine a slice of tuna or salmon weighing about .4 ounces with .8 ounces of California rice in a factory at Escondido and ship it frozen to its fast-food outlets in Japan, according to a *New York Times* report from Tokyo.

Previously, Japan Food Agency official Koji Maeda had vetoed such proposals in the past but said the agency is carefully weighing its decision since the case had attracted wide public attention.

Firm claims Japanese sub

The California-based Institute of Aeronautical Archeological Research Inc. has petitioned for exclusive rights to a wreckage of what is believed to be a Japanese mini-submarine sunk on Dec. 7th in waters near Pearl Harbor.

The organization, which discovered the vessel July 27, claims that the former owner abandoned the submarine found 1,400 feet below the surface of the entrance to Pearl Harbor. The research firm further stated that their claim was also justified based on the extensive research and recovery operations it conducted.

—Report from Allan Beekman

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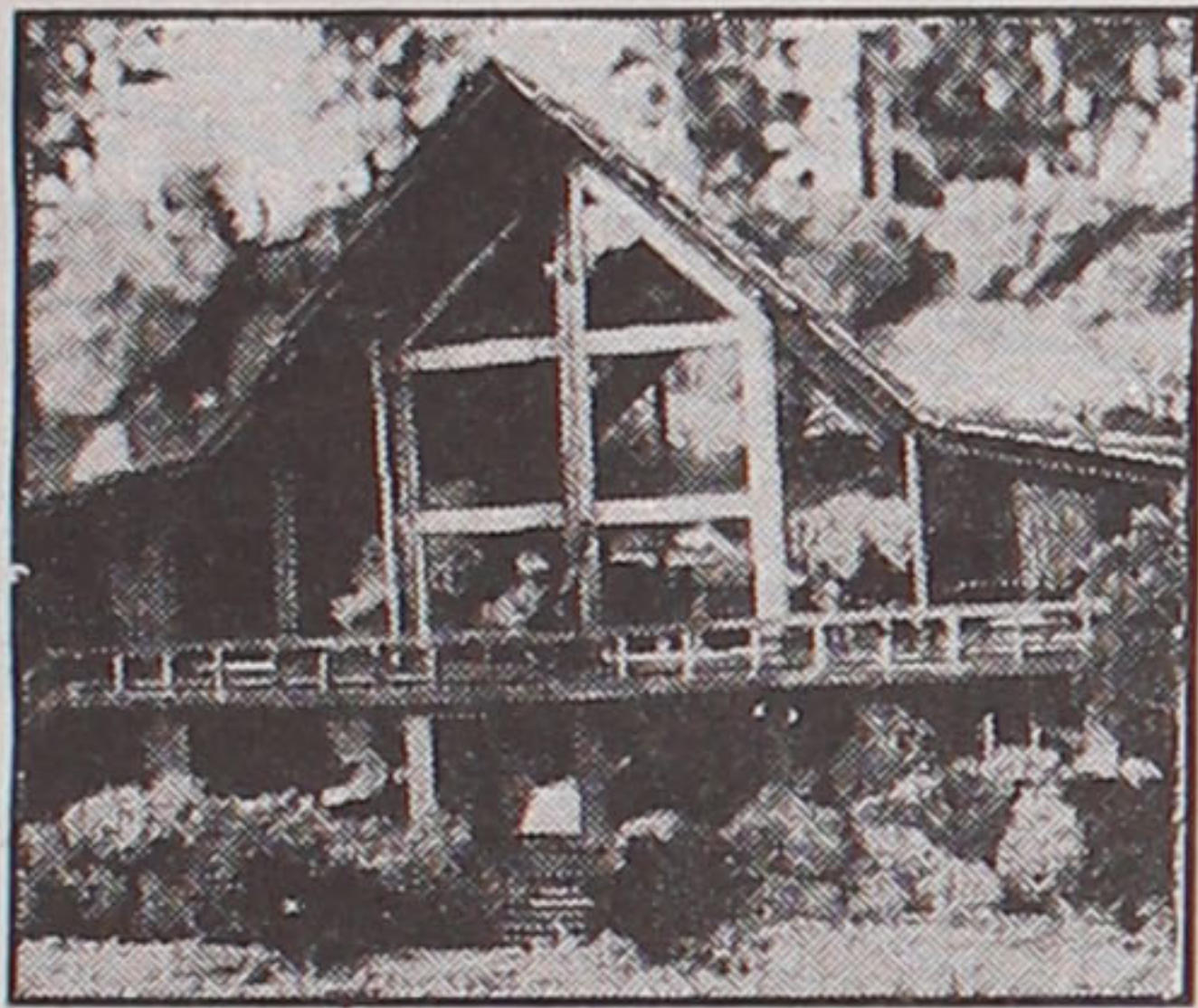
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The arts

Hiroshima: record tracks and tours

By GWEN MURANAKA
Assistant editor

Watch out East Coast, Hiroshima is coming your way. Currently on tour, taiko drummer Johnny Mori says that Hiroshima's new album "Providence" is definitely not about the city in Rhode Island.

"Providence," which includes tracks by Hiroshima band members as well as a cover of "Ribbon in the Sky" by Stevie Wonder, is the band's first album in three years. "This one is basically a follow to 'East,'" said Mori. "The 'East' concept was the immigrant story—the Issei coming to the United States. 'Providence' is based on the multicultural society that we now live in."

Long known for their own multicultural blending of jazz and traditional Japanese sounds, Hiroshima was in studio in Los Angeles recording "Providence" in April when the L.A. riots broke out. Mori says the last song "One of Us," deals with some of their impressions of the unrest.

"It's written by Diane Louie and is based on her story and her work with children. What it says is that we're all different elements of society and we need to relate to each other," said Mori.

Mori said their audience can't

be pigeonholed into one category since it depends greatly on which radiostation is playing them. "Our audience is pretty mixed," said Mori. "For example, in Chicago if we play the South Side, it's mostly black, but if we play the North Side, it's predominantly white. Overall, however, our audience is pretty mixed—real multicultural." As for the Japanese Americans and other Asian Americans who turn out to the concerts, Mori says Hiroshima's music reminds them of their roots.

"Culturally, music is something they can hold on to. Some parts of

our cultural identity leave us first, but other things we hold on to like music and food. We still need our gohan," said Mori. The percussionist said that when the band first started touring, they used to bring rice cookers with them knowing they couldn't get rice on the road.

Hiroshima's uniqueness, while appreciated by their fans, has not always been understood by radio stations and record executives, according to Mori. Noting the lack of a broad marketing campaign,

See MUSIC/page 5

Hitting the road with Hiroshima

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ABA panel explores racism in U.S.

The American Bar Association's recent annual convention in San Francisco discussed the state of racism in the U.S. and the role law could play in its reduction. Asian Law Caucus executive director Paul Igasaki was one of the six panelists airing this lively topic that ran for almost three hours.

It was sparked by panelist Harvard professor Derrick Bell's contention that it is impossible to eliminate American racism and that laws and strategies should begin by accepting that reality.

Assistant NAACP Legal Defense Fund director Elaine Jones, Judge John Goldbold of the U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals, and former California Supreme Court Justice Cruz Reynoso acknowledged how difficult eliminating racism would be. They felt that

too pessimistic a view of racial progress might cause an acceptance of prejudice as an inevitable fact of American life that cannot be struggled against.

Igasaki agreed that the fight against racism is long-term: "We will not eliminate it in the lifetime of anyone in this room. But that should not be surprising with the all the racism and stereotyping in our society. It is impossible for anyone to avoid it becoming part of their reality."

"At the same time, we must acknowledge that we have made progress," the onetime Washington JACL representative continued. "There have been victories as well as setbacks. We have to look not to the distant goal of elimination, but to the journey that this struggle represents. Struggling

against racism because it is wrong is an end in itself."

Igasaki said that even the Civil Rights Act of 1991 provides only a very limited means for fighting prejudice. "We fought for three years before political realities brought the White House to the table and then all we won was a restoration of some basic legal tools for challenging employment discrimination."

"On top of all that, the senators from Alaska inserted a deal that exempted the plaintiffs in the Wards Cove case, and only those plaintiffs, from coverage by the Act. Wards Cove was the only case involving predominantly Asian American and Alaskan workers and is an indication of how seriously my community's rights are taken in Washington."

PRODUCER

(Continued from page 1)

Fuji. He had a lot of input on the creation of the character and is an active member of the Japanese Canadian community." London further noted that Irizawa is on the board of directors of the Japanese Canadian Cultural Center and a member of the Canada Japan Society.

Answering one of the charges by the Media Action Network for Asian Americans (MANAA) that "Fuji" has stereotyped buckteeth, London said, "We specifically didn't do buck teeth."

"This is a very caricatured style of show. Characters have oversized jaws, wear oversized hats. We caricatured (Fuji) the way we did Super Dave or any other character," said London. On the point that Fuji's large glasses are another stereotype, London noted that glasses are often drawn oversized, regardless of the ethnicity of the cartoon character citing Hammer

in the "Hammerman" cartoon and Sherman of Jay Ward's "Sherman and Peabody."

The executive producer said a certain amount of caricature is necessary in animation. "The choice would be that the character won't look Asian at all, and he's such a positive character," said London, who noted that the production team took questions of stereotype into consideration when they designed the character. He said that Fuji is a very positive character, who is actually often getting Super Dave out of trouble.

London said while all of this season's episodes are completed, he would welcome an opportunity to discuss the issue with Asian American groups. "I do feel we as a corporate entity try to be very positive in the messages we send out to children," said London.

JACL

(Continued from page 1)

The letter continued: "We be-

lieve that stereotypical characters such as 'Fuji' are deplorable. While Asian American characters are highly underrepresented in the media, these images are very damaging to Asian Americans. Stereotypes like these contribute to the misunderstanding of different cultures. In addition, negative images serve only to exacerbate this nation's existing problem of anti-Asian sentiment and violence.

"As you know, television shows such as *Super Dave* have the power to influence both Asian and non-Asian audiences' perceptions and attitudes towards Asian Americans. Thus, it should be your responsibility as producers and writers to be aware and sensitive, and provide accurate portrayals of Asian Americans.

"We believe that Fox must discontinue distributing the cartoon if this character remains. Please inform me of what steps you will be taking to address this problem."

PHOENIX

(Continued from page 1)

completing this task as soon as possible. Although, we have not physically met with each chapter, we intend to do so by the end of November. So far, most of the meetings have been with the chapter board members. Eventually, the team will compile the chapter comments into a summary format to be submitted to the National Board by the end of this year.

Despite not meeting with all of the National Board by the end of this year, we have discovered a general theme to the responses we have received so far. That

theme would be in the form of the question, "Why are we restructuring JACL?" Some of their concerns include that the restructuring makes the National Board too top heavy or they question the financial impact to JACL if some of the restructuring plans were implemented. Some have used the old adage, "If it ain't broke, why fix it?" The only proposal that all the chapters agree upon is to hire a national youth director.

National President Lillian Kimura reported at the National Board meeting in October that there would be an article from the Select committee in the Holiday Issue of the *Pacific Citizen*.

The Phoenix Team feels that it is important to get all JACL members input to the restructuring plan. We will continue to meet throughout this year and up until the Tri-District Conference in April, 1993. Please contact any of the members of the Phoenix Team if you want more information.

The Phoenix Team
Sharon Kumagai
Gary Mayeda
Shari Uyeda
John Saito
Kim Tachiki
Ruth Mizobe
Doug Urata
Craig Minami

MUSIC

(Continued from page 4)

Mori said, "It's hard for the general media to understand our particular market. (The record promoters) are not pushing it as much as they should."

Mori, sounding pessimistic, said, "I'm not sure what our future is. We may not have a future at Epic/Sony."

"We never lost them money, but the writing is on the wall. This may or may not be the last al-

bum."

Mori said the slow economy has hurt jazz artists. "Jazz does not make money for people," said Mori. "The money is not there. They're putting it into pop and country western like Garth Brooks and that guy who does the 'Achey Breaky Heart.'"

Mori, who has been playing taiko since the late '60s when he went to Senshin Buddhist Temple in Los Angeles, says regardless of Hiroshima's future with Epic/Sony, they will always remain a performing band. "I like performing live the best," said Mori.

"That's where you really get to present your music."

After the East Coast tour, Hiroshima is planning a concert at UCLA next spring in conjunction with Day of Remembrance activities. Mori said it takes the band a little while before they are ready to stage concerts and their current "Providence" tour.

"It takes a little bit to get going. People think we can just get up and play. There are eight people in the band, we have to rehearse, then there's the road crew, lighting—it takes a little bit of time to get in tune," said Mori.

Small kid time

Gwen Muranaka



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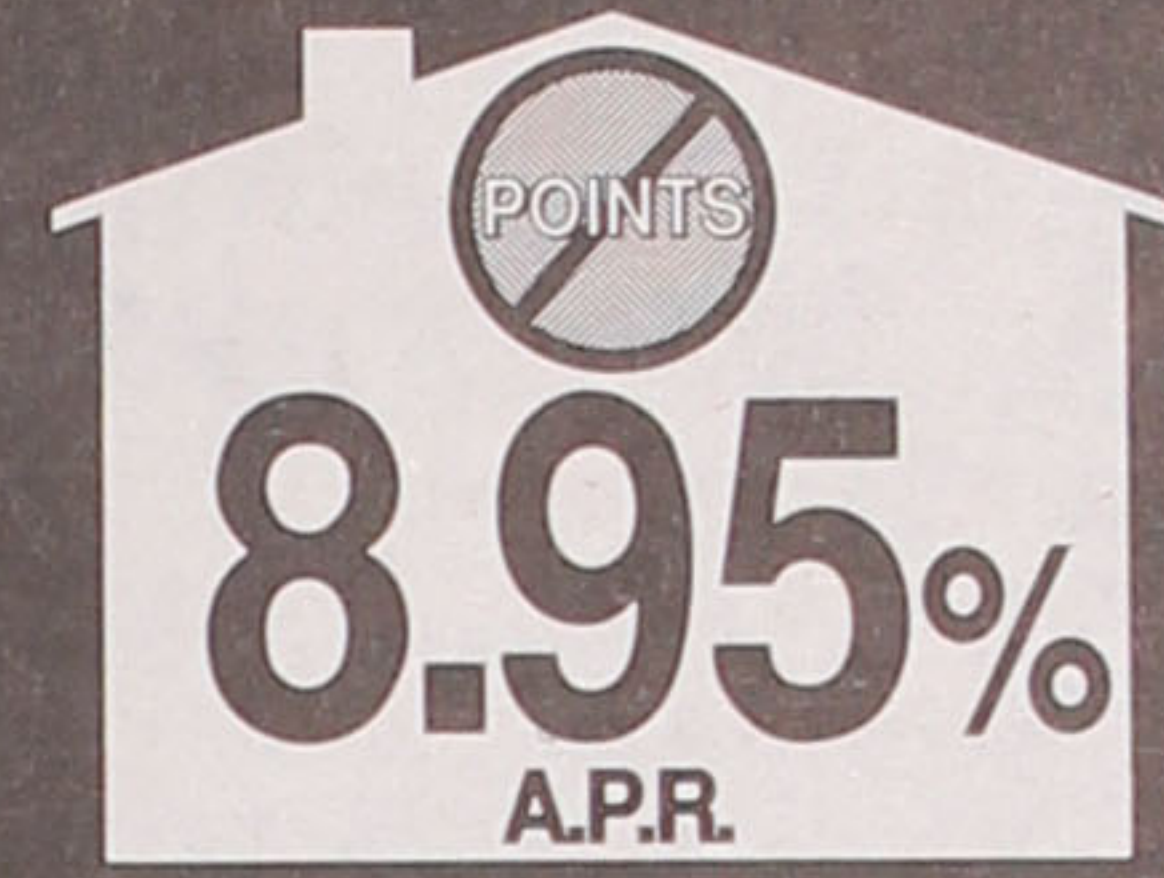
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Opinions



From the frying pan

BILL HOSOKAWA

Still needed, still in demand

On my recent trip to Ontario, Ore., Mamaro Wakasugi took time off from his real estate business to take me to visit some of the local folks. Yes, the first name is spelled the way he uses it. It used to be Mamoru, but people couldn't get it right so he said to heck with it, let it be Mamaro if that's the way they want it.

When Gen. John L. DeWitt asked him to make himself scarce in 1942, Wakasugi abandoned about 125 acres of strawberries just outside of Portland, Ore., and headed inland where his sister was living. He's stayed ever since, giving up farming for real estate a few years ago.

Our first stop was the Ontario Machine Works owned and operated by Hawaii-born Sab Nishimura. He came to Ontario as nursemaid for an ice-making machine and decided to stay.

The Ontario Machine Works looks like just about every other machine shop I've seen, cluttered and grimy and filled with a half million odds and ends along with an engine lathe and drill presses. But it's the kind of place a farming community couldn't get along without.

Over the years farmers have made their way thousands of times to ask Sab to repair something, or make a part for some gadget that would make farming a little easier and more efficient. And chances are that Sab could oblige them without charging an arm and a leg. Folks don't know what they'll do when Sab decides he's had enough of work and closes up shop.

Our next stop was a striking contrast to Nishimura's machine works. It was the spotless, high-tech laboratory of Ozawa R&D Inc. near the airfield where Ken and Max Ozawa, with Jim Nakamura, employ the latest technology to design and build metering pumps.

Do you know what metering pumps are? I didn't, until Ken painstakingly explained. Today, all kinds of chemicals are mixed with water to fertilize crops, kill bugs and weeds, put a wax coat on fruit like apples, treat drinking water, manufacture paper and textiles and plastics. Ideally, very precise amounts of chemicals should be fed into and mixed continuously with the processing stream.

The Ozawas have invented a pump that does the job with great precision and speeds up whatever you're doing. A good example would be spraying a minute amount of insecticide with the irrigation water. You shouldn't use too much nor too little, and the pump will see that—the precise amount is used.

It took more than a little knowledge of electronics and mechanics to produce the pump which weighs about 20 pounds and works for years without requiring maintenance. Max was out of the office but Ken told me he saw the need for his pump while spending an appalling amount of time repairing equipment for a farm chemical firm. He learned about precision while working on National Guard aircraft and Indy type racing cars. In 1984 he and Max built a half dozen prototype pumps in their garage and they've been moving ahead ever since.

In a sense, the Ontario Machine Works and the Ozawa R&D company present a Japanese American metaphor. The old has served faithfully and well, and we are now in the high-tech age. ☐

Very truly yours

By Harry K. Honda



Rauh and redress

One of the ongoing lookouts from my desk has been keeping up with the death and funeral notices in various Japanese American newspapers and compiling them regularly for our obituary section on the back page. It's been the rule to limit entries to Issei and Nisei families, friends of and newsmakers in our community. Except for occasional paid obituary notices, the listings are free and appear on a space-available basis. Wisely, we have not succumbed to the expedience of reducing the type to smaller size to squeeze in more entries.

A rare exception, however, was the recent page 3 news treatment of the death of Washington civil rights pioneer, Joseph L. Rauh Jr., who passed away Sept. 3 (Sept. 18 P.C.) He had been general counsel for more than 40 years of the Leadership Conference on Civil Rights, an association of some 150 civil and human rights, labor, veterans, religious, and minority groups based in the nation's capital. The JAACL angle was missing from the national wires. Hence, our story noted he had accepted the Masaoka Distinguished Public Service Award for the Leadership Conference (LCCR) at the 1972 national JAACL convention. He was also JAACL counsel in the yen deposit case.

When Mike Masaoka opened the JAACL Washington, D.C., office in 1946, one of the first groups JAACL joined was the National Civil Liberties Clearing House (NCCCH), an information-sharing program but unable to lobby. In 1948, with Roy Wilkins of the NAACP as chairman, the NCCCH was made into the more active LCCR to lobby for people's rights.

One of LCCR's massive civil rights projects was to demonstrate with Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. in the summer of 1963. JAACL participated in that "March on Washington" with then national JAACL president Pat Okura of Omaha and several D.C. members parading under the JAACL banner. In the 1980s, LCCR and Rauh were major players before Congress advocating redress.

* * *

Fittingly, the JAACL-LEC leadership tendered a generous contribution to LCCR in memory of Joe Rauh. In late October, JAACL-LEC chair Jerry Enomoto received a copy of Rauh's handwritten letter on his resignation as LCCR general counsel. It was an inspiring and uplifting accompaniment to the acknowledgment signed by Benjamin L. Hooks, LCCR chair, and Ralph G. Neas, executive director, for the donation. Thanks to Jerry, we can sample below Rauh's eloquence, commitment, humor and optimism in his letter dated March 31, 1991, to Ben (Hooks) and Ralph (Neas).

"For four years now, ever since I was so sick in early 1987, I have repeatedly told Ralph he needed to replace this wobbly, super-annuated fellow. Ralph, no doubt out of the personal kindness that is his trademark, and maybe even out of some misplaced gratitude for getting him his back-breaking job, kept telling me how indispensable I was. I must have inhaled some of that nonsense for I'm still here . . .

"I've been the General Counsel of LCCR, *de jure* and *de facto*, for its entire 41 years. It's been a wonderful job and I love it and the people in the constituent organizations . . . I leave with pride and with optimism.

"When our generation, now largely passed from the scene, started on the civil rights road at the end of World War II, the law of the land permitted and even supported discrimination and segregation. Schools were segregated, often by law. Courts enforced restrictive covenants buttressing housing segregation. Roadblocks to black voting and employment abounded. Public accommodating were largely closed to blacks.

"The law mocked both equality and fairness. The Leadership Conference led a legal revolution which turned the law upside down. (His words here are worth putting onto stone!) . . . And what started as a legal revolution in the case of blacks has expanded to Hispanics and other minorities, women, ethnics, the disabled, the aged and,



East Wind

BILL MARUTANI

Treasure mound

THE LADIES of the Takarazuka Revue are due back in New York City for an engagement run sometime in the latter part of next year, just as they did a few years ago. On that occasion I saw their colorful presentation when Vicki suggested that we take in the show. It made it the third time for me, having seen the troupe perform in Japan, twice, at their home base in Takarazuka (*Hyogō-ken*)—once in 1946 while serving in Japan and then some 30 or so years later. On the second visit, the home base was as I had remembered it three decades earlier, including the "tunnel" created by arching *sakura* trees lining the pathway to the hall.

Well, no more. After 68 years, the old Takarazuka (literal translation "treasure mound") theater building is to be torn down at the end of this month.

BUT FRET NOT, folks, adjoining the old structure, a new high-tech structure loaded with all sorts of electronic gimmicks is already up and in place, ready for a super-grand opening on *oshō-gatsu*, Jan. 1, 1993. For example, the theater will have lighting equipment capable of combining

as many as 16 different colors, with a computerized memory coordinating the lighting mix for each scene geared to the actors' movements and the stage-setting requirements. This computer is to have a memory storage capacity of up to 1,000 scenes.

With all this electronic dependence, I hope they'll have trustworthy fuses in the place.

IDON'T REMEMBER what the admission price was on any of those three occasions that I visited the Takarazuka performances, but the first one in '46 must have been comparatively quite modest. (This was even before the exchange rate was ¥360 to \$1.00). As I mentioned in a previous column, during the intermission my Army buddies and I went out to the lobby for a stretch where I inevitably checked the snack counter to find it somewhat sparse. I ended up purchasing a pack of *surume* (dried, processed squid) to snack on, feeling a bit guilty that perhaps I was consuming food that some Japanese needed. On the second visit some 30 years later, things had improved. Appreciably.

THE NEW PRICES for performances in

the new Takarazuka accommodations (based on a \$1 being worth ¥120) will be \$56, and upwards, for the better seating, while "economy" seating will start at \$39. Those starting prices seem reasonable enough, but I don't know about the "and up" prices. My hunch is that some of them can be somewhat stiff; they invariably are—whether it be theater tickets or buying a new automobile. Anyway, don't look for this country boy sitting in the reserved box seats.

BUT I'D LIKE to see the new facilities with its Mediterranean theme. I understand that the number of seats has been cut back by 350 (the theater seating capacity will then be slightly above 2,500—2,527 to be exact) thereby providing a larger stage well as roomier seating for patrons. Apparently the Japanese have discovered that in their wealth with richer foods, their once svelte bodies have been replaced by substantial girth and the old seating no longer can accommodate the behind. I suspect that the lobby will have something more than *surume*.

Anyway, should we be in the Kansai area again, we'll have to check it out. ☐



