



Pacific Citizen

National Publication of the Japanese American Citizens League

The March goes on —page 5

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'User friendly' census changes are in the works

The U.S. Census Bureau in Washington, D.C., announced Aug. 10 the most sweeping changes ever for its 2000 Census with "user friendly" approaches that Rep. Norman Mineta had strongly testified were needed to eliminate the notable undercounts that occurred in the 1990 among Latinos, Asians and African Americans.

The next census will probably have fewer questions, according to census official Jim Dinwiddie. The intention is to gather data federal agencies need to fulfill their legislative mandates.

Questionnaires will be available at local markets and shopping malls. Bilingual forms in neighborhoods known to have high numbers of Latinos are contemplated if the test plan this fall works. The homeless will be counted during daylight hours rather than all in one night as was done in 1990.

But the bureau is giving up its historically stated mission of actually counting every head in the country as of the first of April. The bureau also announced it will conduct surveys in areas where the responses have been poor.

Looking at the alternatives in 2000

The Census Bureau is currently considering 14 design alternatives for the 2000 Census to make it the most accurate and cost-efficient survey possible, according to Henry Der of "Census 2000 Alert," and executive director of Chinese for Affirmative Action.

The best features and options will be tested in 1995 with focus of primary options, such as: more simple mail-in questionnaires, face-to-face vs. telephone queries, walk-in assistance centers, language aids and electronic modes.



Leading the labor cause

Frank Atonio (left), one of the original plaintiffs in the employment discrimination case of *Wards Cove v. Antonio* is honored at the Aug. 20 Asian Pacific American Labor Alliance (APALA) convention in Los Angeles by Richard Gurtiza, a former cannery worker and member of the International Longshoremen's and Warehousemen's Union. The group held its national gathering of Asian American union members and passed resolutions supporting civil and economic rights. Honored were Fred Korematsu, who challenged the internment of Japanese Americans; Yuri Kochiyama, a well known community and peace activist from New York; David Trask, a labor leader from Hawaii; and Antonio. Rev. Jesse Jackson gave the keynote address, pledging to work with APALA for justice and equality.

Sharon Maeda appointed deputy assistant HUD secretary

Sharon Maeda, 48, who was a Girls Nation delegate in 1962 from Seattle's Highline High and sat briefly as director of the National Park Service, has returned to Washington, D.C., to be deputy assistant secretary of the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development.

Maeda would be the ranking Asian American at HUD. She has been president of a management consultant firm in promotions and public relations, Spectra Communications, Inc., Seattle.



SHARON MAEDA
Top spot in government

According to *Seattle Times*, Maeda's name was offered by Seattle councilwomen Martha Choe and Sue Donaldson. Had she known of the recommendations, Maeda would have told them she wasn't inter-

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PIONEERS—From left, Ena Okonogi, George Abe and Fred Hirasuna pose for photo at Fresno Chapter celebration.

Fresno Chapter's 70th dedicated to Hirasuna

Story and photo:

HARRY K. HONDA, Editor emeritus

FRESNO—In front of 200 friends and family, Fred Hirasuna, 85, spoke of the highlights of his 64 years with the Fresno American Loyalty League (ALL) and JACL as the chapter celebrated its 70th anniversary Aug. 28. In summation, he proposed a JACL motto with a greater challenge: "Better America for All Americans."

Anniversary committee chair Ken Yokota, dinner emcee Peggy S. Liggett, national JACL Vice President Neal Taniguchi, chapter President Robert Ishikawa and other Sansei admitted their first impressions of Hirasuna were of inspiration and leadership.

Fred was Fresno chapter president in 1931 after attending the first National JACL Convention held in Seattle the previous year. He was a last-minute substitution for Dr. Tom Yatabe, founder of the Fresno ALL in 1923, whose wife Mary was expecting their first child.

Fred again was president in 1948, the year of reactivation after WWII and Evacuation.

See FRESNO/page 3

Cleveland tri-district conference

Midwest District Council

Taking care of business . . .

By SHERRY SHIMAMOTO PRATT

CLEVELAND—David Hayashi, president of the Twin Cities Chapter, JACL, was elected the new governor of the Midwest District at the tri-district conference here Aug. 21. Re-elected were Kathy Akiya Vaughn, first vice governor, and Irma Yokota, second vice governor. Carol Yoshino of the Chicago Chapter, Joanne Kumagai of the Twin Cities Chapter, Jim Miyasaki of the Wisconsin Chapter, and Daryl Sakada of the Dayton Chapter, comprised the nomination committee.

In other business, the Midwest District Council approved chapter donations to the Salvation Army for flood relief. MDC will donate the money on behalf of the nine chapters. Donations from each chapter will be collected by Oct. 1.

In other action, the MDC approved allowing the new MDC Board to resolve among themselves who will provide secretarial duties.

canceling the fall MDC meeting in Twin Cities to allow the MDC executive committee to meet at their discretion. The committee will create a budget and disseminate information to the chapters.

reimbursing MDC Gov. Allan Hida for the inscribed Parker pen presented to Pete Hironaka on behalf of MDC. The district chose to honor Hironaka for his contributions to JACL in the past 40 years.

holding the Spring MDC meeting Feb. 18-20 in Indianapolis. The meeting will coincide with the "Children of the Detention Camps 1942-'46" photo exhibition and related activities.

In chapter news:

Chicago will host the sixth annual National Singles Convention. Cincinnati will use a Legacy Fund grant to defray costs of a 50th anniversary celebration of the Japanese Americans leaving the camps and coming to Cincinnati.

Cleveland will nominate Hank Tanaka for a Ruby Pin. The chapter will pass the nomination to the Awards and Recognition Committee.

Dayton raised \$2,500 through its international festival this summer and completed a chapter brochure.

Twin Cities announced it will present a workshop for teachers during the Regional Social Studies conference this fall. The chapter recently topped 100 percent of its Legacy Fund goal and has increased membership from 116 members to 216 in two years.

MDC Legacy Fund chair Henry Tanaka reported as of April 30, MDC had reached 77.2 percent of its goal of \$700,000.

MDC Youth Representative Emily Durham reported she will expand the youth group on the MDC level. She will link universities that have Asian American organizations with local chapters to create programs including hosting workshops on anti-Asian violence and larger campus programs about discrimination and hate crimes.

Shimamoto Pratt is a member of the PC board of directors and the St. Louis Chapter, JACL.

A look at women's issues in the workplace

CLEVELAND—Karen Suzuki-Okabe, a human resources specialist, talked about the changing workforce and how to deal with women's issues in the labor market at the Aug. 21 tri-district conference here.

In a topic titled "Asian American Women in the Workplace," Okabe said, "We're moving toward a society that's more culturally diverse. Aging workers, women and immigrants will increasingly comprise a broader-based workforce." More women are becoming managers, she noted, and are using a participatory style of management. "Employers will become more sensitive to family issues."

Asian American women share issues of upward mobility, cultural stereotyping, harassment, discrimination and equal pay. The "glass ceiling," or seeing the "top" of the corporate ladder but being unable to get there, exists today, she said.

Suzuki-Okabe said women sometimes hinder their own progress by discounting themselves. She urged women to be

prepared to take advantage of opportunity. Fear of success and lack of confidence are obstacles they must overcome. She also advised understanding office politics and keeping things in perspective.

The speaker related a story of a working woman who, in order to attend an important meeting, worried about and rearranged family schedules, only to find the meeting was adjourned early so her co-workers could play golf.

"The 'good-old-boy network' could be a 'good-old-girl network' if there were enough women in the workplace who could capitalize on the benefits of networking," she said.

Suzuki-Okabe has a master's degree in public relations from Brigham Young University and has taught at that university as well as the University of Utah. She is executive director of the State of Utah Department of Human Resource Management. She is also a member of the JACL National Personnel committee.

—SSP

JACL's role is up to members, says journalist Hosokawa

By HARRY K. HONDA
Editor emeritus

FRESNO—A journalist all his life, Bill Hosokawa came to Fresno Aug. 28 to cascade the Japanese American story and fold in the relevance of the Japanese American Citizens League as the local chapter was observing its 70th anniversary. He left two questions: "Is there still a role for JACL?" and "What should it be?"

His answer to the first question was easy—"yes," but for the second question, he said he had no answer. "It must be provided by you, (the) dues-paying members. Surely in our heritage, in the cultural baggage of our forefathers, there will be wisdom to make the right decisions."

An incident which Fred Hirasuna, the evening's honoree, had forgotten was related in closing. "It is timely and pertinent to my message," Hosokawa said, citing National JACL President Lillian Kimura's participation in the 30th anniversary March on Washington.

Six National Board members had met in Omaha, and at the urging of Mike Masaoka, voted to contribute \$2,000 to the (first) March of Washington. "Because of the time factor, those in Omaha had decided to act first and get approval later (of the rest of the board) by mail," Hosokawa noted. The violation of rules upset Hirasuna because JACL's constitution specified "that such appropriations require the unanimous approval of the National Board."

Hirasuna wrote a letter to the *Pacific Citizen* (Aug. 16, 1963), which had some JACL leaders angry for bringing the matter into the open. Hirasuna said he had no quarrel with the decision to support the civil rights movement, but "by golly, JACL ought to abide

by its constitution," as Hosokawa phrased the point of Hirasuna's letter.

(Since a specific question was asked, the P.C. secured and printed following the letter the answer from Mas Satow, national director, who explained the contribution was in the Washington Office program budget. He took full responsibility in which the appropriation was handled.)

"In time the requirement for a unanimous vote was eliminated," Hosokawa said. "This is an excellent example of democracy working to correct a situation that needed correction."

Speaking of challenges facing JACL, Hosokawa hoisted some red

"And should JACL take a position on the continuing Japanese-American trade imbalance issue and U.S. demands for a level economic playing field?"

"Do we believe U.S. and Japan can or should co-exist, and if the answer to both questions is in the affirmative, as I believe it is, what if anything should we do to promote co-existence?"

Another red flag: human rights issues.

"If JACL is indeed a mature, credible human rights organization, then perhaps it ought to take positions on these critical issues," Hosokawa posed. "But if these waters are too deep to navigate, would it be more prudent for JACL



AUTOGRAPHING—Journalist Bill Hosokawa signs one of his books at Fresno anniversary event. Next to him is his wife Alice.

warning flags: the first one—friction between U.S. and Japan.

"Should JACL make its voice heard to protest Japan's continued oppression of its Korean minority and the Burakumin untouchables? Now, that the new political coalition governing Japan has admitted wrongdoing in World War II, should it be JACL's place to demand redress for victims of its military aggression?"

to confine itself to parochial matters?"

Hosokawa noted that the leadership has taken positions in recent weeks "but their response has been, to say the least, confusing."

The issues involved homosexuals in the military, the woman baseball executive who allegedly made some offensive racial re-

See ROLE/page 4

FRESNO

(Continued from page 1)

He was elected Central California district governor in 1960. It was a time when on the national level JACL had acquired evacuation claims, citizenship for Issei and had the alien land laws repealed. Additionally, the organization was launching its history project, program for aging and banking on the youth and Junior JACL.

While Fred sidestepped any foray into a national office, he was the voice of Central California on the national convention floor, out where the crucial policies are hammered. He has attended every national JACL convention as delegate since the first one in 1930. He intends to attend the next one in Salt Lake City next year.

His touch has been constant, often as an editor, with chapter newsletters since they started 30 years ago. His presence at chapter board meetings since 1930 is well known. His political contacts won commitment of the first California Republicans in Congress, Sen. Pete Wilson and Rep. Charles Pashayan, to support the redress campaign.

In response to the commemorative gifts from the chapter, including a walnut bowl created by Ray Arifuku with the two kanji, "Hirasuna," carved on top, Fred paid tribute to his heroes in JACL: Tom Yatabe, Saburo Kido, Jimmie Sakamoto, Tokie Slocum, Suma Sugi, Mike Masaoka, Min Yasui,

Tom Shimasaki and other Central California district governors. He also wanted JACLers to remember the role the Nisei war record played, as another hero of his was Tom Kawano of Company K, 442nd, which participated in the rescue of the Lost Battalion.

Earlier, presentations were made by VFW Sierra Nisei Post of the colors with commander Hiro Isogawa leading in the Pledge of Allegiance, invocation by Rev. Keizo Norimoto of the Fresno Buddhist Church, official welcome from recently elected Mayor Jim Patterson and state legislature resolution from Assemblymen Cruz Bustamente and Jim Costa.

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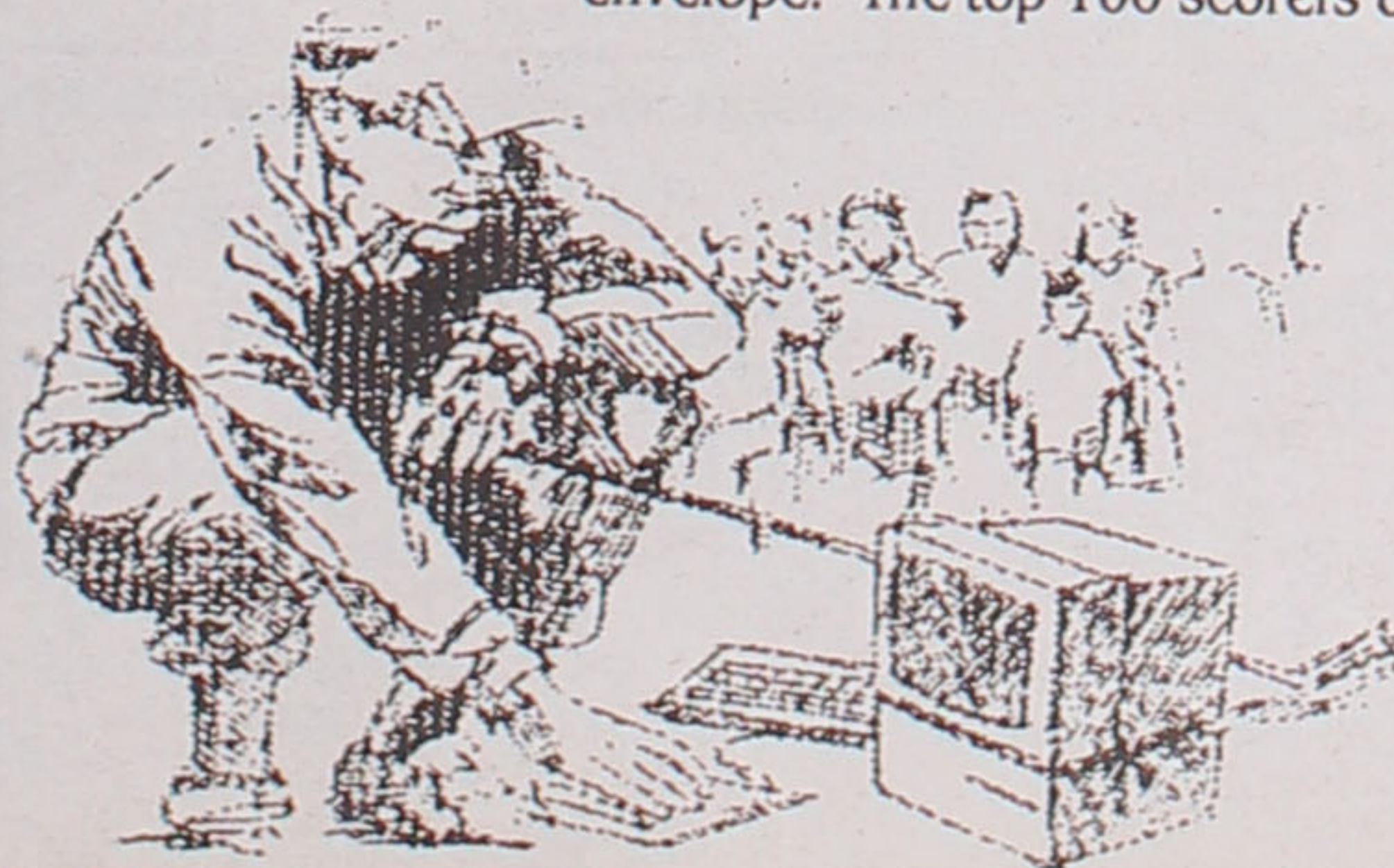
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UCLA cleared of discrimination charges against Asian Americans

In a reversal of an earlier ruling, the Office for Civil Rights in the U.S. Department of Education has concluded that UCLA complied with federal law in its admission of Asian American graduate school applicants in the university's Department of Mathematics.

The Office for Civil Rights found the UCLA Department of Mathematics in compliance with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act, following the university's appeal of one finding in a 1990 general review of admissions to graduate programs at UCLA. In that review, 91 of the 100 graduate programs were found in complete compliance with federal law (eight other programs were asked to continue to provide supplemental records). However, the Office for Civil Rights indicated that it believed there were statistical disparities in graduate admissions to the De-

partment of Mathematics for fall 1987 and 1988 — a decision appealed by the university. After nearly three years of additional review, the Office for Civil Rights reversed its decision and reported to UCLA that the university's graduate admissions in the Department of Mathematics complied with federal law.

"It is important to note that no individual filed a complaint against the university at any time during this review," said UCLA Chancellor Charles E. Young. "We have cooperated fully with the Office for Civil Rights, and are in full support of continuing efforts to ensure compliance under Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964. "As part of university oversight of graduate admissions, UCLA will continue to provide specific records about the Department of Mathematics to the Office for Civil

Rights, including admissions criteria for the 1994 academic year and other enrollment information about graduate applicants to the department.

"The fact that we originally appealed the review by the Office for Civil Rights does not dismiss our appreciation for the Asian community's legitimate concerns about discrimination anywhere in society," said Claudia Mitchell-Kernan, vice chancellor of graduate programs. "We would act quickly to address and correct any valid findings of discrimination."

In the past 10 years, the proportion of Asian-American graduate students at UCLA has risen from 10.8 percent in 1982 to 17.3 percent in the 1992-'93 academic year. The total of foreign Asian students and Asian-American students combined was 23.1 percent in 1992-'93.

ALC calls for investigation of killing of Japanese student

The Asian Law Caucus (ALC) has joined the Japanese American Citizens League and others who have expressed concern that the recent killing of Masakazu Kuriyama, a Japanese exchange student shot near the Concord BART station, could be a racially-motivated hate crime. The San Francisco-based ALC urged local authorities to pursue this issue in their investigation and wrote to the victim's family to offer support.

Kuriyama was shot Aug. 19

twice in the head near the Concord, Calif., transit station and died from these wounds. While authorities have suggested that the crime was not racially-motivated and could have been a robbery attempt, the victim still had \$140 in cash, credit cards and a radio on his person following the shooting.

"We are concerned by reports that the police department is assuming that this killing was not a hate crime prior to the completion of the investigation," said Paul

Igasaki, ALC executive director. "Because there has been no suspect apprehended at this time, because the victim's money and property were not taken and because no evidence of any alternative motive has been provided, it is too early to make any such presumption. Certainly in the context of increasing anti-Asian, anti-immigrant and anti-Japanese sentiments, the possibility that this shooting was racially motivated cannot and should not be dismissed."

ROLE

(Continued from page 3)

marks, the *Rising Sun* movie which the JACL condemned as racist while that question has become "whether JACL should protest any creative effort that appears to be racist and furthermore, who should make that determination?"

The "Jap Road" controversy stems from some members wanting to change the name or others wondering whether it is worth

getting agitated over a road that was named without malicious intent many decades ago.

The controversies, Hosokawa continued, illustrates the diversity of thinking in JACL. "The big issues that united large number of Japanese Americans—because they affected us personally and directly—are gone. There is very little left with enough volatile emotional and moral content to inspire a consensus."

Hosokawa had no solutions to these issues, but as JACL looks

ahead, the "questions need to be answered, not by paid staff or a few elected leaders, but by the membership whose responsibility it is to chart the organization's course."

Hosokawa's 40-minute address seemed to be well received by many. Cressey Nakagawa of San Francisco, for example, now back on track in the practice of law after four active years as JACL national president, commented, "He said the things which needed to be said and be repeated."

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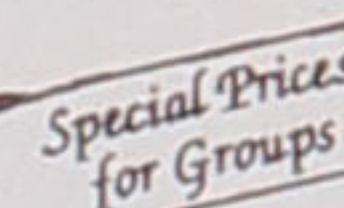
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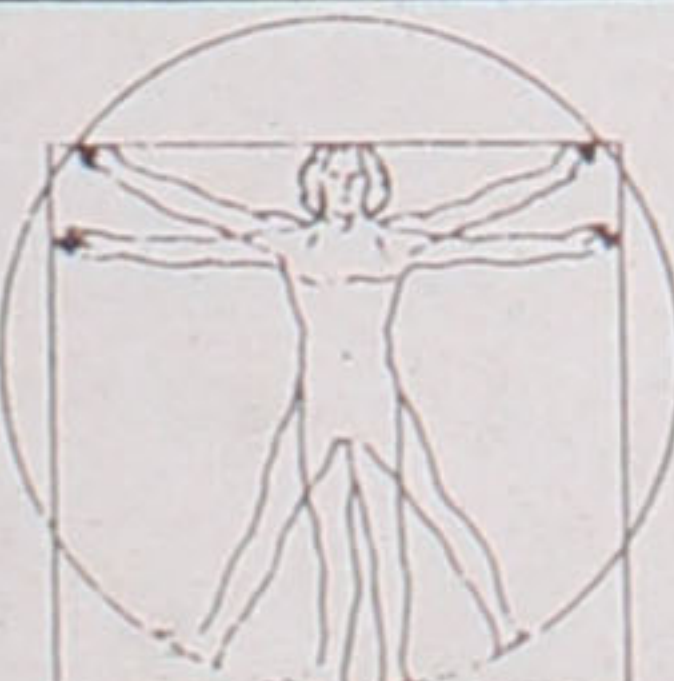
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The March on Washington, D.C.—then and now

Aug. 28, 1963...

By RICHARD SUENAGA
Editor

It was a hot day. Patrick Okura remembers dangling his feet in the reflection pool as he gazed at the mass of humanity there for a common cause.

Along with his colleagues and friends from the Japanese American Citizens League—there among thousands of blacks who were about to make history—Okura felt confident and glad he was there, near the Washington Monument, participating in the March on Washington, D.C., organized by a rising black minister and his followers.

It wasn't easy being there. They were just a handful of Japanese Americans among hundreds of thousands of people from another minority group. The word coalition wasn't in the ethnic vocabulary yet. And most of all, some within the JAACL couldn't see why Okura, then president of the organization, thought it was so important to be present at what some believed to be a foolish spectacle.

"One of my goals was to address the question of civil rights as president of JAACL," Okura said in an interview at the recent Cleveland tri-district conference, Aug. 21. "We had a stated program, a definitive statement, a stand on civil rights. The march was coming up... It was a new attitude but some members opposed that stand."

Calling up and marching the memories across his mind, Okura said that JAACL had been one of the charter members of the Leadership Conference on Civil Rights. "Along with Mike Masaoka, I felt it was our obligation to support the entire civil rights movement."

Many sympathized and understood the discrimination and violence against blacks in the country during the turbulent sixties, but many in JAACL also believed the war and the internment issues were the organization's priorities.

Nonetheless, the plan was in motion. JAACL members were asked to meet in front of the American Red Cross Building, then

proceed to the mall, near the Washington Monument for the noon start of the march. "We took the (JAACL) banner to march with," Okura said. "We only had 50 people—we were expecting about a 100. The D.C. Chapter had 500 members, only 40 showed up, plus another 10 from other places."

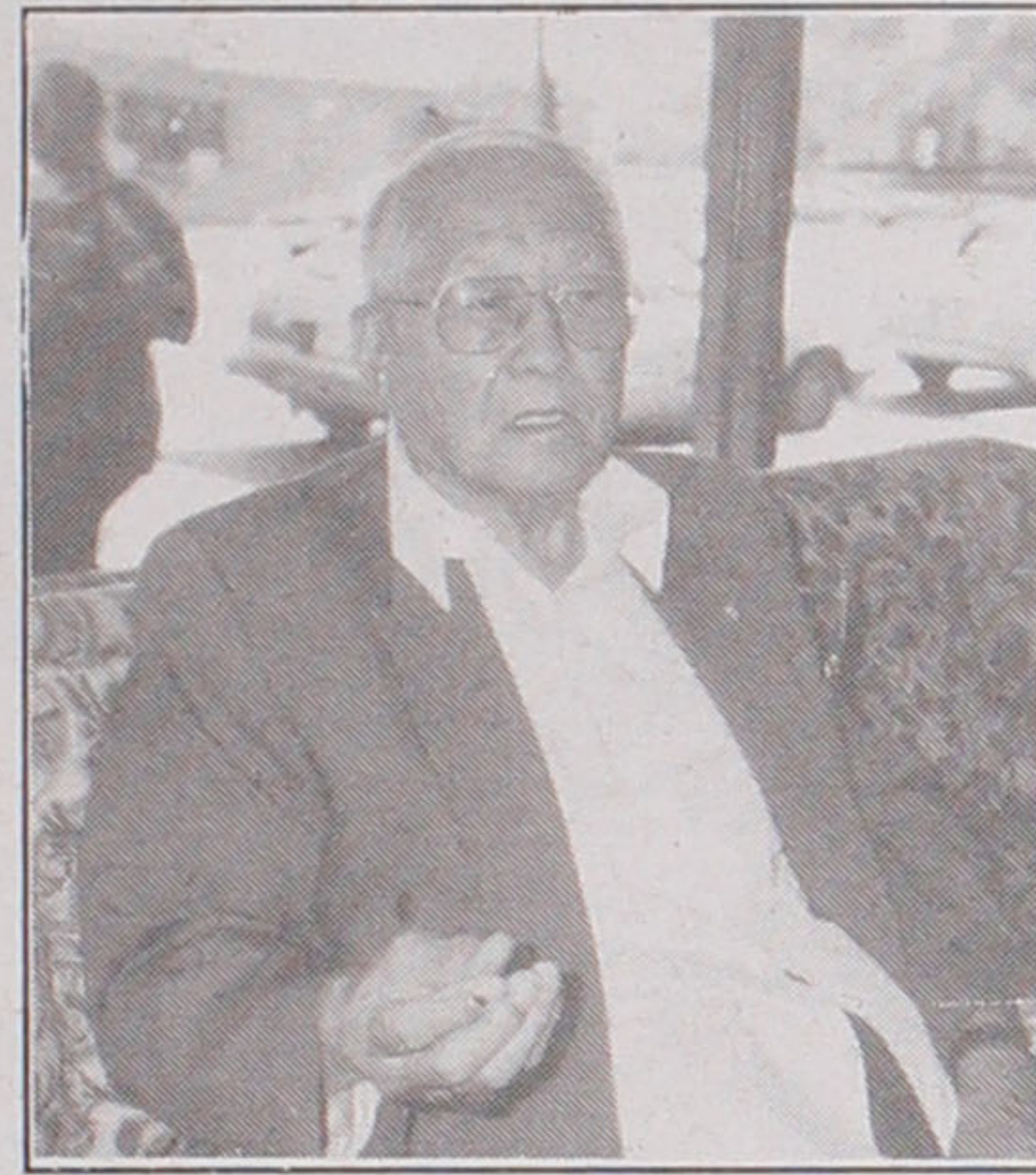
"It was disappointing," he said. "Mike had really urged it—to be at the platform at the Lincoln Monument. We thought it was an opportunity for JAACL to show its true colors, show the rest of the world our civil rights stand, to be recognized, to show support for the civil rights movement."

But it was more than just a proud statement for those who marched that day, just before Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. would stand before the world and carve his message in the minds of millions for decades to come.

"For those there, it was more of a joyous occasion," Okura said. "It was a fun thing, to be involved. None of us thought of it in terms of making history, but we did want to do our part, to make a difference."

Okura recalls the day vividly. It was a

See OKURApag 7



PATRICK OKURA
Recalling the great moments



IN-SIGHT

By LILLIAN C. KIMURA

Aug. 28, 1993...

As in 1963, it was hot! The temperature/humidity index was reported to be 105 to 115 degrees, depending on which TV weatherman you heard.

Thirty years later, the crowd was smaller but no less enthusiastic; the march route shorter; the marchers more diverse. Labor was out in full force. The veterans of the civil rights movement were there including Rosa Parks who started it all by refusing to give up her seat on the bus. They came from all over in chartered buses, trains, cars, and Rev. Cecil Williams of Glide Church in San Francisco brought a plane-load of people.

Leading the march were Coretta Scott King and her children; Rev. Joseph Lowery who succeeded Dr. King as leader of the SCLC; Jesse Jackson of the Rainbow Coalition; Lane Kirkland of the AFL-CIO; the first woman attorney general, Janet Reno; the first African American woman Senator Carol Mosley-Braun; Sen. Harris Wofford of Pennsylvania; Patricia Ireland of NOW; and Owen Beiber of the UAW.

Also in the front of the line were Jose Velez of LULAC, Native American Sharon Harjo and me, being crushed by the mob. We made it to the stage in front of the Lincoln Memorial and were joined by Henry Cisneros of HUD, former Mayor Andy Young of Atlanta, Dr. Benjamin Chavis of NAACP, Lani Guinier and another group of firsts—Gov. Douglas Wilder of Virginia; Mayor Sharon Pratt Kelley of D.C.; Mayor David

Dinkins of New York; and Eleanor Holmes Norton, D.C.'s representative to the House.

In contrast to 1963 when 13 people spoke, the 1993 program listed 50 speakers. At a briefing prior to the march, William Fautroy, 30th Anniversary March executive director, William Lucey of AFSCME, program chair, admonished the speakers to keep within the time limit to complete the program at 5 p.m. Naturally, Jesse Jackson, Ben Chavis and some others did not keep to the time so some of us at the end were not able to speak. Included among these were Ginny Gong of OCA and Kent Wong of APALA. I came on fairly early in the program (Jesse Jackson followed ME!) and was able to "pass the torch" to Eumi Lee, a Korean American representing the young Asian Americans.

Dorothy Height, president of the National Council of Negro Women and a former colleague of mine at the National YWCA, reminded the crowd that in 1963 no woman spoke, so we have come a long way.

To march as a unit, Karen Narasaki and others arranged for the Asian America/Pacific Islander marchers to rally at the Capitol Hilton. Long time activist Yuri Kochiyama was the keynote speaker. Among JAACLers who marched were Pat Okura, Etsu Masaoka and granddaughter Michelle Amano

See IN-SIGHT/page 7

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Opinions



From the frying pan

BILL HOSOKAWA

Evacuees hollered in 1954

Dave Yamaguchi is a Sansei scientist who has spent a lot of time the last few years high in the Rockies studying trees—what climate does to trees and what you can learn about our environment by studying tree rings.

In a few weeks he will be moving to Sapporo on the northern Japanese island of Hokkaido to go to work for the Forestry and Forest Products Research Institute. In cleaning out his apartment in Boulder, Colo., he found a tattered, dog-eared book filled with information in very small type. He sent it to me with a note that said "this is the kind of thing that should be passed on rather than thrown away."

He's right. It was a copy of the hearings by the Committee on the Judiciary of the U.S. House of Representatives having to do with amending the Japanese American evacuation claims act of 1948. The hearings were held in San Francisco and Los Angeles in the late summer of 1954. That would be nearly 40 years ago.

Let me refresh you memory. The Evacuation took a cruel financial toll on Japanese Americans. JACL pointed this out to Congress which in 1948 passed a bill to com-

pensate evacuees for their losses in a small way. A very small way. But something was better than nothing when people were short of cash, and besides the government admitted wrong-doing, so the claims bill was hailed as a triumph.

As it turned out, the bureaucrats took over. In 1949 only 21 claims were adjudicated. In 1950 211 cases were heard and 73 were rejected. And because of the red tape it was costing the government something like \$1,300 to \$1,500 on an average to pay a claim of \$450. That was preposterous. Something had to be done and the hearings were an attempt to find a better way.

The hearings brought dozens of Nisei witnesses who told heart-rending stories about businesses and property lost in the Evacuation because of fraud, deceit, theft, vandalism and neglect aided and abetted in many cases by false friends, indifferent police work and crooked lawyers. Even today the testimony, delivered under oath, makes for bitter reading.

I was re-reading the proceedings one recent afternoon when a college graduate student called. She was writing a paper on the Evacuation, she told me, and there

were some details she couldn't locate anywhere. I gave her what information I had, and directed her to some recent books.

There have been some assertions that Japanese Americans, for whatever reason, didn't want to talk about their Evacuation experience until fairly recently. That's a lot of bunk. They've been talking eloquently and in detail about the outrage for a long time and a lot of it was in response to Congressional invitation.

This report of the claims hearings includes among other things a moving statement on the Evacuation, its causes and injustices, running nearly 70 pages of small type. The author was Mike Masaoka, then JACL's Washington representative, a prolific writer familiar with every aspect of the Evacuation.

Yes, Dave, the report will be passed on to some repository where future students can consult it. ☐

Hosokawa is the former editorial page editor of the Denver Post. His column appears weekly in the Pacific Citizen.

Letters

Editor's Note: Pacific Citizen has received a number of letters and editorials regarding its handling of the movie *Rising Sun* as well as the broader issue of its role within JACL. To date we have printed every one that has been sent to us, positive or negative. Here are the latest:

Appreciates role of Pacific Citizen

First of all let me tell you that I appreciate the Pacific Citizen's articulation relative to *Rising Sun*. Just as in the case of *Jurassic Park*, the Pacific Citizen has activated a DNA molecule in the League. Though we have never met (the staff) personally, I commend you on your performance. Hang tough.

I admit that having experienced the "division between the Pacific Citizen and National," I was more inclined to support a tighter merger between the two divisions. However, given the most recent dialogue, I was forced to recall the specific instances of my disagreements with the Pacific Citizen and acknowledge that a free Pacific Citizen is the only way to go.

If I might add, your mission with the JACL is a difficult one. It is one that may not appear to get better for a number of years. However, your service to the League is one that is inherent to the mission of the JACL, and without it the traditions and struggles of the Nisei will be lost . . .

The JACL is such a good idea, that if "we" didn't think of it, someone else would. Today, many are, but the one organization that has sustained the test of time is our League. Your courage in meeting the challenges confronting you now will give the membership and Chapters encouragement to express their views and concerns, and this is vital to the progress of the organization.

Again, thank you for your service.

Karl Nobuyuki

San Fernando

(Editor's note: Nobuyuki regularly contributes his column, "Come-on sense," to Pacific Citizen.)

Reader: Rising Sun isn't Japan-bashing

The commentary on *Rising Sun* certainly did stir things up, didn't it. So here comes my opinion too.

I'm a middle-aged Japanese American living in Oklahoma. I saw the film in Waco, Texas, on a hot Friday afternoon one week ago. There were about six people in the theater.

I liked it. My Caucasian middle-aged husband thought it was only okay. I didn't think it was Japan-bashing—he didn't either.

See LETTERS/page 8



Sidebar

By MEI NAKANO

Clearing up the snowflakes

Whoa. The Aug. 20-26 edition of the Pacific Citizen kicked up a storm, didn't it? It put me in mind of that scene-in-a-bottle you see at Christmas time. Shake the bottle, and the "snow flakes" fly every which way, creating a storm. But when the white stuff settles, the scene somehow seems clearer, more serene than before. We're still awaiting that scene.

Several articles appeared in the aforementioned edition, which raised a more long-term question than the immediate ones at hand. In both the main debates—one regarding the *Rising Sun* and the other about the "Jap Road" incident—the question of the function, rights and responsibilities of the Pacific Citizen came front and center. Not for the first time either, nor, in all likelihood, will it be the last.

The problem, it's clear, arises from confusion about how we define the Pacific Citizen. We have a hard time deciding whether we want it to be a newsletter or a for-real newspaper. Aside from the straight news reportage, should it present only those views that are in line with that of the JACL leadership, or should it print other

viewpoints?

A newsletter, by definition, is an instrument by which an organization filters its information and views—largely to its own membership. It seeks to promote its own interests. That is its reason for being. Its boundaries are hence necessarily narrow, parochial. A newsletter doesn't attempt to present balanced coverage, nor does it seek to educate or entertain, necessarily.

In both Dale Shimasaki's op-ed piece and PSWD's criticisms of the Pacific Citizen, the view of the paper, as newsletter, emerges. Speaking to the subject of *Rising Sun*, Shimasaki wonders why the "staff" (meaning the editors of PC) was "debating the issue at all," when "the pros and cons of (it) had already been considered and decided upon by the organization." The national board, in fact, had not decided the status of *Rising Sun*.

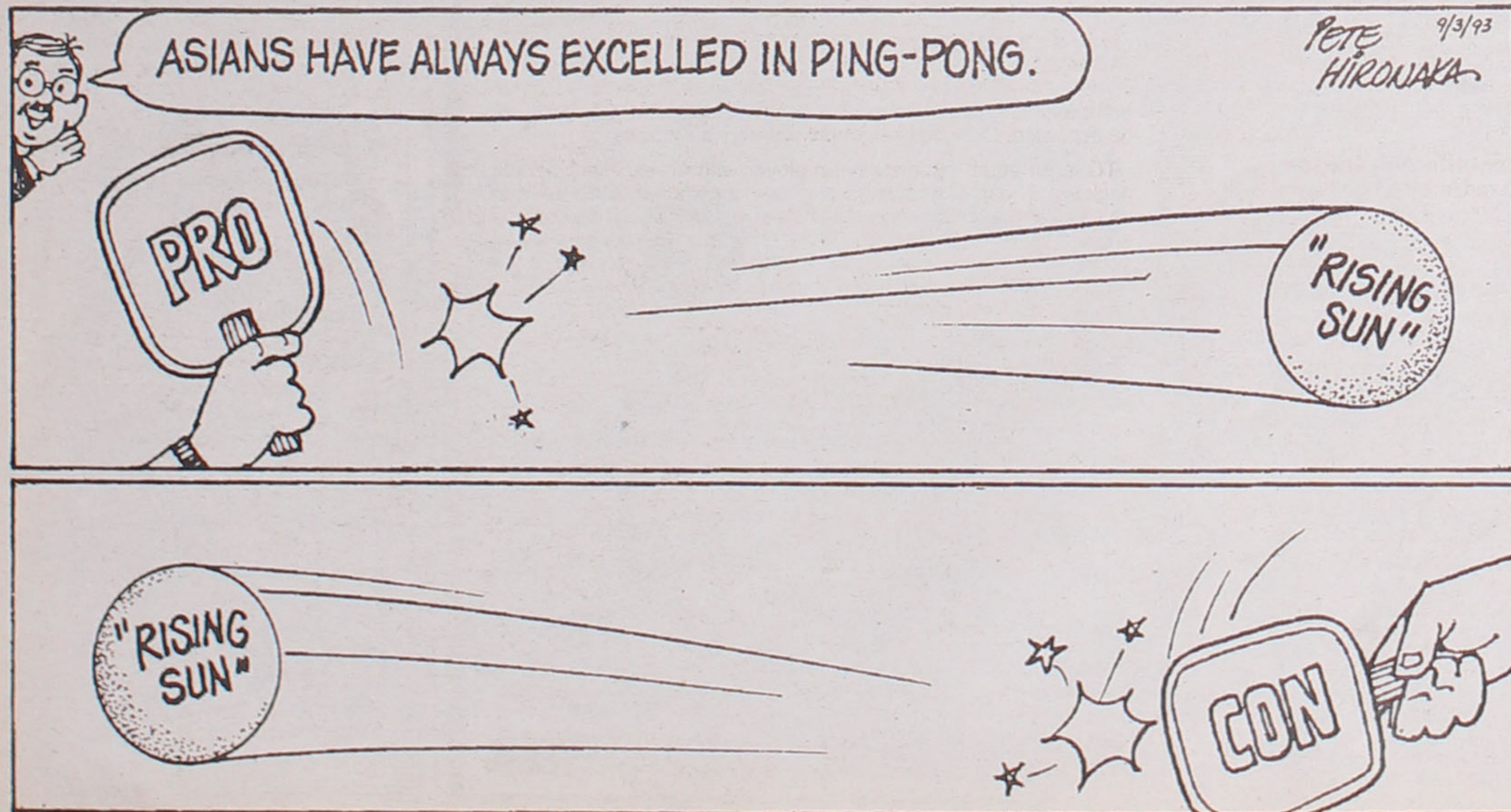
PSWD chastises the Pacific Citizen for reporting the fact that Texan JACLers said they got little help from National Director Dennis Hayashi while trying to resolve the "Jap Road" issue. PSWD further charges that the Pacific Citizen "managed to embarrass ourselves" (presum-

ably the entire JACL organization) before a national audience by printing that article.

But, while both appear to view the Pacific Citizen as kind of newsletter—a vehicle to voice what JACL leaders deem appropriate—they both refer to it as a "newspaper."

A newspaper has broader concerns than merely supporting the interests of its owner/management. It is driven primarily by the ideal of the "public's right to know the truth," as stated in the Society of Professional Journalists' Code of Ethics. In pursuing that ideal, it provides not only facts, but an open, honest forum in which many viewpoints see print, even if those views run counter to those of the owner/management. "Freedom of the press," the Code further declares, "is to be guarded as an inalienable right of the people in a free society. It carries with it the freedom and the responsibility to discuss, question, and challenge actions and utterances of our public and private institutions." Even the opinionated, the late W. Randolph Hearst Jr. followed that mandate, judging from

See SIDEBAR/page 8



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Pacific Citizen welcomes letters to the editor. Letters must be brief, are subject to editing and those unpublished can be neither acknowledged nor returned. Please sign your letter but make sure we are able to read your name. Include mailing address and daytime telephone number. Because of limited space we may condense letters that are accepted for publication. We do not publish form letters, copies or letters written to other publications. Fax letters to 213/626-8213 or mail to Letters to the Editor, Pacific Citizen, 701 E. 3rd St., Ste. 201, Los Angeles, CA, 90013.

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