JA wins Omaha city council race

OMAHA, Neb. — Richard Takechi was elected to the District 5 city council seat on May 19 by an overwhelming margin, winning 46 out of 41 precincts. He received 46% of the vote (5,571) to incumbent Connie Findlay’s 36% (3,153).

The victory marks a comeback for Takechi, a 47-year-old lawyer who served on the city council from 1977 to 1981, when he was narrowly defeated by Findlay. In this year’s campaign, Takechi said he had the backing of voters who were pleased by his performance as city councilman.

“Responsiveness to the people” was Takechi’s theme as he fanned Findlay’s record on, focusing on her “yes” vote on One Pacific Place, a controversial development project that many district residents opposed. Support for Takechi was particularly strong in the area near the proposed development site. Takechi, a Republican, had the backing of Rep. Hais Rub (R-24) and other local Republicans. An informal survey of 30 people who voted for Takechi, however, revealed that they were Democrats, indicating bipartisan support.

“My biggest satisfaction is not only to my supporters, family and many friends but that my opponent came from a cross section of the district,” he said.

Takechi said he would hold quarterly town hall meetings with constituents and use his office to provide information on city policies. He stated priorities include improving the area’s traffic situation and improving Omaha’s image as a tourist attraction.

—from reports by Omaha World-Herald

News in Brief

Hayakawa ridicules 9th Circuit Court decision

SAN FRANCISCO — On May 19, the 9th Circuit Court of Appeals ruled in favor of San Francisco State students arrested in a 1989 confrontation with then-president S.I. Hayakawa, ordering the school to erase the disciplinary records of the students from school transcripts, appoint a monitor to supervise the erasure and pay $10,000 in attorney fees accumulated over the 16-year legal battle. Hayakawa termed the decision “perfectly nonsensical” and “ridiculous” and said that the mass arrest was “completely successful and perfectly constitutional.” Sixteen years ago, Hayakawa emerged as a national political “law and order” personality when he took a hard-line stance toward student activists.

Assembly removes dual-citizenship provision

SACRAMENTO — The California State Assembly voted without debate May 20 to end the state’s ability to discipline an employee holding dual-citizenship with a country with which the U.S. is at war. AB 159, authored by Philip Isenberg (D-Sacramento), repeals Section 11097.9 of the state Education Code which was used during WWII to fire 314 government workers because they were Japanese Americans with dual citizenship. The bill now goes to the State Senate.

Policeman beats Chinese immigrant

BOSTON — On May 1, the same day that the jury in the Anh Mai murder case handed down their guilty verdict for Robert Glass (see May 10 FC), undercover vice-squad detective Francis Kelly allegedly beat and badly injured Long Huang, a 56-year-old Chinese immigrant restaurant worker, on his day off in Chinatown.

Kelly contends that Huang tried to solicit a prostitute and then resisted and attacked the police officer. Numerous employees of the New England Medical Center, next door to where the incident occurred, contradicted Kelly’s version.

Denise Shaughnessy said she saw the entire incident. Kelly “swung at him [Huang] three times,” she said. “He missed the first time. He hit Huang the second time. Then he hit him in the eye.”

Margo O’Toole said that when she and others saw Huang being hit, they yelled: “What are you doing? Leave the man alone!” The big guy, the policeman, just said, “It’s none of your business. Get out of here.”

Numerous other witnesses said that Huang offered no resistance except to try to flee and that Kelly hit Huang in the face at least three times.

According to Kelly, at 11:05 a.m., he decided to arrest both Huang and another man.

Mineta protests Manzanar article

WASHINGTON — Secretary of Interior Don Hodel on May 24 told Rep. Norman Y. Mineta (D-Calif.) that he would immediately withdraw an April 26 press release announcing Manzanar War Relocation Center in California as the “first of 10 war relocation camps established for protection against espionage and sabotage.”

Hodel was responding to a congressional protest by Mineta and Rep. Don Edwards (D-Calif.) who contacted Hodel’s office on May 24 complaining about the release.

Mineta said the description of the camp in the press release was “outrageous and shocking” and contradicted the statements that the Dept. of Interior’s official made at the April dedication of the camp, where he said that Manzanar represented racial prejudice, mistrust, and fear, and that it was a reminder of what no American must ever again be asked to endure.

Edwards wrote Hodel a letter calling the press release an “in intolerable mistake” and “revisionist history.”

Hodel later agreed that the press release misrepresented the internment experience. The Interior Secretary said he would issue a statement that re-emphasized the points made earlier in April by the Interior official at Manzanar when it was dedicated.

“I believe it was more a case of a press officer at Interior writing a mistaken and thoughtless press release,” said Mineta, “but it shows that there is still a shocking ignorance of what the camps were about. All of us have a responsibility to point out and point when we see this sort of non-sense disseminated as truth.”

“This was just a case of Edwards and me blowing the whistle.”

Model Minority image praised by U.S. Civil Rights Commission chair

Korea Times photo

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Clarence M. Pendleton

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Coalition monitors Woo/Stevenson race

LOS ANGELES—As the city council race between challenger Mike Woo and incumbent Peggy Stevenson neared the June 4 election, a coalition of local Asian Pacific groups called on the two to sign a pledge not to focus on “race, ethnicity, sex or age” in their campaigns.

Although the newly formed Coalition of Asian Pacific Americans for Fair Political Campaigns is not endorsing Woo, its plea, made at a May 21 press conference, was aimed at Stevenson, who used “racial innuendo” in her 1981 campaign against Woo, according to coalition vice-chair Paul Shaughnessy.

After Woo forced Stevenson into a runoff four years ago, Stevenson’s campaign leaflets portrayed Woo as a tool of Asian businessmen trying to gain a foothold in the 13th district. Woo and his supporters believe this strategy may have contributed to Woo’s defeat. Suzuki stated that Stevenson’s campaign staff was repeating a tactic it used in 1981—that of phon ing non-Asian voters and asking if they would support an Asian as a city councilperson. He said that he knew of two people who have received such calls in connection with the current campaign.

“1981...the Asian Pacific community didn’t do anything,” Suzuki said. “This time, we will not be silent.” The coalition will monitor campaign practices and bring any cases of “hit pieces” based on race to the attention of the media.


Woo signed the pledge on May 18. Stevenson’s campaign manager has declined, explaining that Stevenson has already signed a pledge “modeled after the one drafted by the California Fair Political Practices Commission.” Suzuki charged that Stevenson’s pledge does not address the issue of race.

Charges of Scandal

Since being forced into a runoff with Woo in April, Stevenson has focused on linking Woo with W. Patrick Moriarty, a fireworks manufacturer who pleaded guilty in March to making several illegal political contributions. In mid-May, Woo received two checks totaling $5,400 from Condo Vest, a firm run by one of Moriarty’s business associates.

Stevenson has not proven that Woo knew Moriarty or knew that the donations came from Moriarty, but she has established that Woo did not try to find out who was behind Condo Vest. Her campaign literature charges that the Morrison/Moriarty affair “raises serious questions about Michael Woo’s ethics and better judgment.”

Meanwhile, Woo has been capitalizing on voter dissatisfaction with Stevenson’s performance during the last 10 years. Accusing her of favoring development over her constituents’ wishes, Woo has said that she changed her vote on oil drilling in Pacific Palisades after receiving $15,000 from Occidental Petroleum.

Woo’s campaign received a boost May 23 when city councilmen Zev Yaroslavsky and Marvin Braude, in a break with tradition, backed Woo over the incumbent. Both agreed with Woo’s accusations that Stevenson is controlled by special interests. Stevenson is backed by a majority of the council, including Council President Pat Russell.

Mayor Tom Bradley has remained neutral, lending his name to both campaigns.

BOSTON

Continued from Front Page

and Audrey Manns on prostitution charges. When he attempted to arrest Huang, Huang struck Kelly several times on the upper body, chest and arms in an attempt to flee. Kelly is about 6 feet, 200 pounds, in his late 30’s. Huang is about 5’6”, 125 pounds.

Shaugnnessy and other witnesses say that the alleged prostitute, Audrey Manns, apparently knew Kelly and said, “Kelly, Kelly, that’s not the guy, that’s the wrong one.”

Huang was taken to the Medical Center, treated, booked on solicitation charges and assault and battery on a policeman, and released from the hospital, despite the fact that he was nauseous and did not know his way home.

Huang, speaking through an interpreter, said he was merely walking from home to Chinatown to buy some things when he felt someone “grab me by the coat and push me toward his car. Then he hit me.”

On May 3, community leaders met with Boston Police Commissioner Francis Roache to discuss the incident. Roache promised a “fair, thorough and objective investigation into this allegation of excessive force directed to an Asian person.”

On May 9, Asians for Justice held a community meeting attended by nearly 400 community members. A formal Committee to Support Long Guang Huang was established, and a set of community demands for justice was formulated. The demands include: (1) that all charges against Huang be dropped; (2) that an open investigation of Kelly’s behavior be conducted with community involvement; (3) that Kelly be suspended without pay during the investigation; (4) that Huang be compensated by the city for all losses and damages suffered.

Community demands include: (1) appointing an Asian American to the police command staff; (2) hiring bilingual police officers; (3) establishing a review process for official misconduct; (4) eliminating the “Combat Zone” (Boston’s adult entertainment district adjacent to Chinatown) with decisions about Chinatown made by the community.

From reports by<br/>Sampan & The Boston Globe

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SAN JOSE—Herbert Hayde, president of the American Chamber of Commerce in Japan and chairman of Burroughs Japan, speaks on “United States-Japan Trade Ties: The View of American Business in Japan” on June 12, 5:30 p.m. at the Red Lion Inn, 2000 Gateway Place, Information: The Japan Society, (415) 986-3831.

SACRAMENTO—A benefit “Monte Carlo” night for the Sacramento Asian Pacific Women’s Network scholarship program will be held June 1, 7 p.m. to 11 p.m. at the Buddhist Church, 2101 Riverside Blvd. A $100 donation is requested. A no-host bar, Asian appetizers and local celebrity dealers will be featured. Information: 477-3005.

LOS ANGELES—The first U.S. exhibition of Japanese photographer Taishiro Morita will open at the Japanese American Cultural and Community Center’s Doizaki Gallery, 244 S. San Pedro St., on Saturday, June 9 and continue through June 30. Featured will be his photos from the Kabuki stage and his series entitled “Kumadori,” portraits showing the stylized makeup of Kabuki performers. Gallery hours are noon-5 p.m. daily except Mondays.

Discussion groups on interethnic understanding are being organized by the Nikkei Lions Club of Los Angeles and the Japanese American Community Center and are open to the public.

JACL files brief in support of Hirabayashi

WASHINGTON — JACL D.C. representative Tim Gojo announced that a joint amicus curiae brief filed by JACL and the American Jewish Committee was filed May 24 in Federal District Court in support of the coram nobis case of Gordon Hirabayashi.

The 40-page brief traces the history of anti-Asian sentiment, and relates some of the facts surrounding Hirabayashi. It also discusses the constitutional threat posed by the interconnection cases, including the loss of civilian control over the military and the obliterating of limits which should be imposed upon the exercise of federal war powers.

“Japanese Americans seek to educate the general public, but those who make and interpret the laws, that a tragic mistake was made by the government in interning 120,000 men, women and children of Japanese descent during WWII,” the brief continues, “and urge the court to overturn the 1942 conviction of Gordon Hirabayashi.”

Entries sought for short story contest

ALTADENA, Calif. — Manuscripts for the 7th annual American/Japanese Literary Award, initiated by author James Clavell, are due by June 30. It was announced by Ted Tajima, contest coordinator.

The winner of the 1985 short story contest will be presented a $1,000 cash prize by JACL and a perpetual trophy at the 1985 San Simeon California Pageant. The award was initiated in 1979 with a grant of $10,000 by Clavell, author of “Shogun” and other best-selling novels, as a way of encouraging Japanese Americans to write on the experience of their Japanese and their descendants’ experience.

Clavell’s emotional bond with the Japanese prompted him to establish the contest with the intention to motivate and develop the talent among Americans of Japanese ancestry and to help document and preserve a living Japanese American history.

The trophy and all entries to the 1985 contest are to be exhibited in the Franklin D. Murphy Library of the Japanese American Cultural and Community Center in Los Angeles.

The American Japanese National Literary Award (AJNLA) contest is open to all JACL members.

(1) All entries must be original and not previously published. A letter from each entrant stating the work is original and unpublished must accompany each entry.

(2) All entries should incorporate some aspect of the Japanese American experience. (Experiences of the Japanese in Canada and Latin America is also included.)

(3) All entries should exhibit both plot and character development of a short story. All entries must be written in English.

(4) All entries will be less than 5,000 words in length.

(5) Eligibility for competition is limited to persons with at least one parent of Japanese ancestry.

Otherwise, the contest is open to all regardless of “amateur/professional” status. Entries with publication shall be retained by the AJNLA foundation to be used for documentation, history and education, and any other use beneficial to the purposes of the AJNLA foundation committee. Any monetary net proceeds received by the AJNLA from the publication of any entry shall be shared by the writer and the AJNLA.

(7) A writer may seek a publisher for his or her own entry. In the event a writer obtains a publisher, the writer shall retain the total net proceeds paid to the writer by that publisher.

(8) Entries must be postmarked no later than midnight, June 30 (Pacific Time). All entries must be accompanied by a self-addressed stamped envelope. Entries should include name, address and telephone number.

(9) Entries should be mailed to: American Japanese National Literary Award, c/o Ted Tajima, 1856 Homewood Drive, Altadena, CA 91001.
Citizens with One Country

Bill Marutanii

THERE ARE SUBSTANTIAL segments of people in both Japan and the U.S. who harbor a common misconception of Nisei/Issei, Americans of Japanese ancestry. The paradox is that so many people in these different countries and societies share the same misconception; both fail to comprehend a simple, basic fact: JA’s are Americans, no more and no less. One would suppose that by now, both in Japan and in the U.S., this fundamental, and proven, fact would be unerringly understood—particularly inasmuch as JA’s served, valiantly, in the cause of this country in the Pacific as well as European Theatre, even as our parents, younger siblings and spouses remained confined in barbed-wire camps in the very country for which we were fighting.

No other American can point to such dedication during those trying times.

MOST OF US are aware of the pervasive, negative manifestations we’ve endured because of this continuing misconception by an unfortunately large segment of our own citizenry. We’ve all experienced them—and continue to experience them, even if some of us may be reluctant to acknowledge the distastefulness of reality. But whether for better or for worse, JA’s are Americans, born and reared on our land; we belong to it and we belong to it. Nothing can change that, no matter what some cynical minds may choose to believe or say. And such cynics, operating on un-American principles, are not going to discourage JA’s from their own land or homes. Physically or otherwise.

Once was once too often.

As WE SUGGESTED, in Japan JA’s are viewed with ambivalence. Although acknowledged as having American kokuminzoku, Japanese society in general, and many Japanese in particular, expect Japanese behavior and observance of Japanese standards by anyone who enjoys so-called "special treatment," JA’s may be attired like any other Americans, or generally behave and speak as the Americans that they are, such appearance and behavior are frowned upon when applied to JA’s. This is because the society expects that ‘If you look like a Japanese, you must behave and speak as a Japanese.’ Even if you are an American.

An AJA visiting in Japan can become downright schizophrenic. DURING OUR LAST visit to Japan and in the maze of the Tokyo station to board the ‘Bullet Train’ for points south, wishing to be absolutely sure that we headed for the assigned platform, I paused to ask a train official for the location of the platform stop for the shinkansen. His response was some what abrupt, as if he were addressing an uncouth nitwit. Any JA Japanese should know where to catch and board the shinkansen.

I had my hair been blonde, he probably would have not only given me directions—in a polite manner but also have taken the arm and physically led me to the correct spot. And then bowed as he left.

IT ISN’T THAT JA’s expect special treatment. On the contrary, our plan is precisely that: we are given treatment differing from other Americans. We are expected to be Japanese when we are not. But beyond these superficial manifestations, there’s a huge void in the understanding of the Japanese people of just who JA’s are, that JA’s are Americans who happen to embrace many of the fine ethical traditions handed down to them by and through the Iseai, that we are not Japanese except by the happenstance of birth. And we, proudly, of our own ancestry—just as any other American is proud of his ancestry, whatever that may be.

THE RESOLUTION OF this situation is not at the governmental level, rather, it is on a people-to-people level. It must be methodically organized and deliberately implemented on a long-range basis. We must go over for a quickie trip for a couple of weeks hardly makes a dent and is not far-reaching or long-lasting.

And, clearly, merely talking about it means nothing.

Positively Speaking

Almost all the letters we receive from readers appreciate and respect the interviews and the way articles and news stories are handled. While the staff appreciates that response, we also would like to hear from those who have questions or criticisms of the paper. What we receive in the way of criticism comes from members of the Pacific Citizen Board who keep us informed about the objections readers are voicing to them.

This is as it should be, I suppose, for JA’s are reluctant to give the appearance of ‘tampering with the press.’ However, it gives us no way to respond directly. As far as I can gather from memos from Board Chair Clifford Uyeda, the criticisms address (1) the emphasis on Asian American issues over those of Japanese American and (2) the negative Asian American images. Reports on both are necessary. A better balance would improve PC, the readers seem to be saying.

It is difficult to answer a criticism like this, because it doesn’t define exactly what “positive” and “negative” is in addition, it carries the inference that protesting an intolerable situation is “negative.”

From my vantage point, positive role models include, but are not limited to, people like James Shimoura, Peggy Nagae, Kaz Maeda, Chiyo Tomiharu, Miss Joo, and Cherry Kinoshita who are interred in seeing this image and trying to expose and corrected, and we have, whenever possible, heightened these kinds of efforts.

These people are not “tearing down” anything; they are, in fact, “building bridges” with other ethnic minorities here in this country. And given the charge of the JACL that is of utmost importance. It is a positive, not negative role model, but are still dwelling mostly on the one positive role model, but are still dwelling mostly on the Asian American news, I really don’t know how to answer other than by questioning whether people are reading the paper. Looking over the past year of PC, I am surprised that anyone can make that charge. In addition to exclusively JA events and happenings, the PC, as has been noted, covers pan-Asian activities.

Japanese Americans are very prominent in pan-Asian organizations, including American Citizens for Justice, Asian Pacific American Advocates of California, Leadership Education for Asian Pacific, Asian American Journalists Assn., and the various organizations that cover these organizations, we covering Japanese Americans.

In terms of specific objections, the only one we heard, other than the letter Charlotte Hirasuna wrote (see May 17 PC), was that we didn’t have enough Toyota coverage. Given the fact that Toyota has publicly stated that they would much rather be a pan-Asian sponsor, and that PC has run stories and photos of her in recent months (at least 4 times since October), I don’t understand the basis for this complaint either.

Now, I realize that people get tired of reading about Nori Mieta and Bob Matsui repeatedly, and I suppose that JA’s are, like most Americans, celebrity oriented. That being the case, here’s a little Tria Tyrone piece.

First of all I would like to thank her for giving me a lead on the Rayman Bravin1800 Engineer story which we ran as our one front page story (May 24 PC). No one else knew about it, I don’t know how she found out about it, but thanks.

Second, from Sophia Kyung Kim of the Korea Times Los Angeles Edition, I learned that Toyota sponsored the Korean American Coalition meeting, May 2, where she urged the young audience to be “irresistible” people to community involvement.” She stressed the importance of biculturalism, to “really celebrate that we are Americans of Asian ancestry.” She also added that Koreans must unite with other Asian-Pacific American communities and speak as one voice in order to gain any real political power.

“I know that in the Japanese community, there are all kinds of factions and I am sure I am the same in your community, but we have to get beyond that. As Asian Americans—that is how people are going to view us.” A realistic appraisal of an existing situation, an appeal for pan-Asian unity. According to my definition, a very positive statement.

But, for those who have complaints, let me know what you view as “positive” and reinforce your opinion, that the JACL constitution, Article II, states that the purposes of this organization shall be to:

(1) Protect the rights of Japanese Americans as its primary and continuing concern. It shall also serve to secure and uphold civil and human rights for all people.

(2) Participate in the development of understanding between all social and ethnic groups (emphasis added).
Some weeks ago a Denver newspaper column wrote a supercilios (that means snotty) piece about sushi. Ugh, he said in effect. Raw fish. How horrible.

But, considering the tragedy that befell 13,000 Japanese American people as possible to collectively work and push this plan to maximize the possibility of bringing the redress pursuit to a successful conclusion. In the June 7, 1985, issue of the Pacific Citizen there will be a great deal of information on this LEC redress plan.

One definite requirement to carry forward this plan is money. Please read the Legislative Education Committee Section in the June 7, 1985 issue of the PC. Then rush to your LEC District Fund Raising KEY PERSON to become one of the 200 plus PRIME SOLICITORS LEC needs to raise the money to push the redress pursuit plan to a successful ending. The District Governors can tell you who the District KEY PERSON is. Thank you.

HARRY KAJIHARA
Oxnard, Calif.

First Things First

The compassion, idealism and the sense of morality of the students taking part in the current rash of protests against aparth­

ded or white ... you wonder if this does mean defending Japan when­

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