Redress organizations hold ‘summit’ meeting

SAN FRANCISCO-—In what some have described as a redress “sum­mit,” representatives of the major redress groups and of other com­munity organizations met July 13 at JACL National Headquarters. 

Present at the meeting were Frank Sato, Ron Wakahabayashi and John Tateishi of JACL; Min Yasui and Yosh Nakashima of Legislative Education Committee (LEC); Bert Nakano, Naomi Kubota and David Monakawa of National Coalition for Redress/Repar­ations (NCR); William Hoshiko, Ellen Carson and Lobby Wake of National Council for Japanese American Redress (NCJAR); and Chuck Kato of Washington Coal­i­on for Redress (WCR). 

As participants were representatives of Go For Broke, Inc.; the Nisei VFW posts; and the coram nobis legal teams.

This was the first time that all of these groups have jointly con­vened a redress meeting. The representatives have opposed the respective organizations and fo­cused on the current two ap­proaches to obtaining redress: the legislative campaign to support House bill HR 442 and Senate bill S 1035; and the class action lawsuit, now under appeal, initiated by NCJAR.

All organizations agreed to sup­port the two approaches and ex­pressed interest in continuing joint meetings and in sponsoring a na­tionalwide event, the date and place of which have yet to be deter­mined, to demonstrate community sup­port of redress.

Nako, who is national spokes­man for NCJR, said the meeting was “the beginning of something that we hope we can continue.”

JACL president, who chaired the meeting, described it as “very fruitful.”

Student newspaper may be ‘absorbed’

by Reggie Chun

LOS ANGELES—UCLA’s 10-year­old Asian Pacific newspaper, Pacific Ties, and five other stu­dent publications face an uncertain future if the Communications Board of the Associated Students refuses other than a proposal aimed at consolidating the special interest papers.

Opponents of this move, who claim the consolidation will weak­en the autonomy and coverage of the publications, are trying to get the “Harvard until next quarter,” when there are more stu­dents on campus. The Asian Coalition and the Graduate Student Asian, are contesting the proposals.

The proposals were introduced as a way to curb spending follow­ing the “Harvard until next quarter,” which is not more than three­fourths should either proposal pass.

But the Communications Board argues that the consolidation of at least three special interest publi­cations may be necessary to en­sure the papers’ financial health. According to a 1986 study it spon­sored, none of the special interest publications have met more than 36% of their projected advertising revenue for last year.

In addition, the board says a tabloid would minimize frequent staff vacancies and increase effi­ciency.

House passes ‘hate crime’ statistics legislation

WASHINGTON—The House of Representatives unanimously passed the “Hate Crimes” Statis­tics Act on July 23. The measure will require the Justice Dept. to compile statistics on crimes that are motivated by religious, racial and ethnic hatred.

Rep. Norman Mineta (D-Calif.), who was the co-sponsor of the ori­ginal measure, said in his intro­duction that the bill, we put to rest for good the defense used by some that while there are various newspaper accounts, the data we have on hate crimes is ‘anecdotal’ and is not acceptable evidence of any pat­tern or trend.

“With this legislation we will be able to point to the numbers, un­deniable statistics, and refute the argument that nothing needs to be or can be done.”

During debate on the House floor, Mineta said, “Recently we are hearing of…beatings and harassment of recent immigrants from Laos, Cambodia, the Philippines and many other Asian Pacific countries troubled by violence and unrest.”

As people who came to Amer­ica to escape violence and…to be­come hard-working and contribut­ing members of our nation, they should expect our government to do all in its power to protect them from the hatred of unenlightened and ignorant people. That includes banning violence directed toward them here in the United States or anywhere else in the country they happen to be.”

The House now moves to the Senate, where supporters hope to find a senator on the Judiciary Committee to sponsor it.
**Community Affairs**

DELRAY BEACH, Fla.—The Japanese Bon Festival welcomes departed ancestors back to earth for a day of music, dance, and special foods, Sunday, Aug. 11, 4 p.m., at The Morikami Park Museum and Gardens. Folk dancers in traditional costumes, Japanese chefs offering their delicacies, and a floating lantern ceremony are among the attractions. Sponsored by Friends of The Morikami, Inc. and Palm Beach County Parks and Recreation Dept., Information: Larry Rosensweig, curator, 404-0223.

SAN FRANCISCO—Aug. 25 is the date of the Nihonmachi Little Friends 10th anniversary celebration with an open house at the center, 401 Bush St., 12 p.m., followed by a program and nashi reception at Central United Presbyterian Church social hall, 1700 Sutter St., 2 p.m. Admission: $10 for adults, $2 for children 6-15 yrs. Children under 6 are free. Proceeds will support the childcare center’s services and the expansion of its pre-school program. Information: 422-0901.

The Nisei Widow Group will hold their monthly meeting Aug. 4, 2-4 p.m., at Kimochi, 1351 Sutter St. Contact: San Francisco — May Miyamoto, 306-0721, or Else Chung, 221-0328; Oakland — Yuri Motome, 452-5339, or Mary Ma­

 LOS ANGELES—“Hakoa no Gen” (“Hadaka no Gen”), an animated film about the atomic bombing of Hiroshima, will make its U.S. debut Aug. 4, 1 p.m., at Higashi Hongwanji, 3rd St. & Central Ave. Serialized in a weekly comics magazine and later compiled into book form, “Gen” is a semi-autobiographical story by Keiji Nishimura, who was 7 years old in 1945. Program co-sponsored by Asian Americans for Nuclear Disarmament, East Ward magazine and S.A. Buddhist Church Federation. Film is in Japanese with English subtitles. Ad­mission: adults, $3.50; children, $2. Call: 291-6744.

SAN FRANCISCO—Inspired by the story of Sadako, a 12-year-old girl who died because of the Hiroshima bombing, Bay Area school children will un­veil 1,000 paper cranes at City Hall Ro­unda on Aug. 5, 12 noon. Supervised by Nancy Walker, a-bomb survivor Dr. Francis Tomimasa, and poet Janice Miyakawa, the project will speak. The 1,000 Cranes Project is sponsored by Friends of Hi­rokasa, which gathered cranes from throughout the country. Children will come from S.F. public schools, Glide Church Children’s Program, Nihon­machi Little Friends, and West Ma­rin’s San Geronimo School.

FRESNO, Calif.—At a ceremony to be held Aug. 4, 7 p.m. at Shinzen Japanese Garden in Woodward Park, there will be a talk by Frensaw who were in Hiro­shima shortly after the bombing and helped care for the victims. A service will be held Aug. 6, 8:15 a.m., at the bell tower of Fresno Beatus, Kern & 7th streets. Sponsors: Japanese American Interfaith Council, Women’s Interna­tional League for Peace and Freedom, and Visions of Community.

CHICAGO—A rally in remembrance of the bombing of Hiroshima will be held Aug. 9, 3-10 p.m., Daley Plaza. The rally is being planned by a coalition of peace groups, headed by Women For Peace. Also scheduled are films at Facets Multimedia Theatre. Information: Shirley Lens (376-391B) or Chie Tomohiro (348-6388).

SACRAMENTO — Numerous peace groups, including Sacramento Peace Council, Sacramento Religious Com­munity for Peace, Sacramento Nu­clear Weapons Freeze, Physicians for Social Responsibility, Social Concerns Committee of the Catholic Diocese of Sacramento, and Mothers for Peace, will sponsor a series of commemorative events, “Learn From the Past, Create the Present, Envision the Fu­ture.” Events include:

**ASIAN AWARENESS**—Sen. Alan Cranston (D-Calif.), who seeks re-election in 1986, met July 19 with members of the Korean American Coalition in Los Angeles to discuss such issues as voter registration, leadership development, trade friction with Asia, immigration bills, a Korean War memo­rial, and the fingerprinting of Koreans in Japan.

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Nihonmachi Street Fair tradition continues

by Jane Kaahatsu

SAN FRANCISCO—Every August for the past 11 years, Japantown's streets have been transformed into a lively conglomerate of music, Asian food, free information and friendliness. The festival, the largest Asian American party the Bay Area has ever known.

The Nihonmachi Street Fair, whose organizers include Ron Kaneez, Dean Itai Taylor, Rie Ejima, Steve Nakagaki, Leland Wong and Kenny Kanzaki, is held on August 3-4. Working from many years of experience, not only do they eventually get a good knowledge to operate such a massive event, but a few of them were also the original organizers.

Exactly what is the concept of the Street Fair? Although initiated shortly after the volatile "Asian American movement" of the '60s, Nakajoe believes the spirit of the Street Fair still applies today.

"It's been all about the identity; of all of us getting to know each other, from the intellectuals to the street kids and having a good time doing it," he said. "It's also about what is and what is real. Even though it's held in Japantown, at different segments. It's a good mix."

Kenny Kanzaki, dean of the Street Fair's inception and creator, has in charge of the graphic design and publicity poster for almost every Street Fair.

The festival, reflecting his unique style, are the graphic indicators that the Street Fair is about to happen. Wong, however, sees it as the year's highlight. He always tries to incorporate some traditional Asian art theme, such as the "bunraku" theater depicted in the 1980 version, and combine it with a contemporary element, like a comic-book style heading. He said: "I like the support and people seem to appreciate it," commented Wong as he spoke of why he created the posters, this year alone, year after year. "That and the community spirit, the feeling of the spirit of the fair."

His posters from past hang in law offices, apartments, stores, restaurants; either hastily thumb-tacked up or beautifully framed. But the posters are nonetheless displayed—Asian American art themes represented by washi-bucking colors shining the energy of an event many people wish to preserve.

A deliberation of any good party, the Street Fair included, is the entertainment and food. The Street Fair offers a broad variety of performances. The professional entertainment ranges from Azteca, a sala group featuring mariachi, to the very first Street Fair possi- ble to the 1980s, local and to West Coast Asian American bands and performers.

Not surprisingly, Ron Kaneez, proprietor of Kaneez's Lounge, is in charge of entertainment co- ordination. Kaneez's Lounge is well known for showcasing local musical talent.

"Part of me has always wanted to promote Asian American talent, because maybe due to circumstances or history, they don't otherwise get the exposure they need and deserve," he said.

Aside from the entertainment, the 50-plus booths of non-profit organizations selling tasty food or passing out literature are another crowd pleaser. Kenny Kaneez is this year's coordinator. He ensures that Health Dept., codes are met and a varied menu, from sushi to teriyaki burgers to potstickers, is maintained as organisations get ready for what some consider their biggest fundraiser of the year.

Others choose to provide information and recruit members. Some groups are health-oriented, such as the American Red Cross. The San Jose State Film Department is also targeting potential applicants for the South Bay Force. (more)

Kaneez says he enjoys the outreach the Street Fair has. "It's great to see people from our own community and other Asian communities, like Sacramento and Los Angeles, and even as far away as Washington, D.C. We get tourists, the black community nearby, and the entertainers draw other segments. It's a good mix."

Artists voice opposition to apartheid

by Mark Joe

SAN FRANCISCO—As the government of South Africa imposed a state of emergency which resulted in arrests, imprisonment and death for hundreds of Blacks, Asian American artists here came together to express their outrage and once their opposition to the apartheid system.

"It's easy for artists to become escapist and pursue art only for art's sake, because art emphasizes the individual so much. Sometimes we forget that we're part of the human race, and until we make that link-up, I don't think our art can be valid," commented poet-playwright Ginny Lim.

The author of the stage play and TV drama "Paper Angels" was one of several artists to perform at "Asian American Artists Against Apartheid," a program sponsored by East Wind magazine at July 30 at Christ United Presby­ terian Church.

"Fools' Dance' gamers another honor

NEW YORK—"Fools' Dance," a film by Kenya Nakamura and Robert Nakamura, was selected for special screening at the XIII International Congress of Gerontology July 15 at the Rockefeller Center.

Nakamura and Nakamura were awarded a National Media Award from the Retirement Research Institute in New York City for "Fools' Dance." They were selected by a jury of six experts for their cinematic treatment of the problem of aging.

The film, written and directed by Nakamura, is a dramatic comedy of life and death that critics have praised for its sensitive portrayals of the elderly and their families. The film has been shown in over 20 countries and has won numerous awards, including the Gold Medal at the International Emmy Awards.

The festival helps to promote Asian American culture and provide a platform for artists to express themselves and share their work with the community.

The annual event features music, dance, food, and performances by artists from various cultural backgrounds. The street fair offers a unique opportunity for people to come together to celebrate Asian American culture and to support local businesses.

"I think that this is the oldest Japanese American festival in the United States because Sakura Matsuri in Washington, D.C., and the San Francisco started after WW2," said Katsushi "Kats" Kunishita, general chair of the 1985 Nisei Week and executive secretary at the Japanese American Cultural and Community Center.

She added that the meaning of the festival has been transformed from a business promotion to a community event.

"The main purpose of this festival is to make the general public, who are aware of the Japanese American community, aware of Japanese Americans and to make SenSense and Yorose realize their cultural background," she explained.

The festival starts at 6 p.m. on August 7 with a traditional Shinto purification ceremony at JACCC. At 8 p.m. on August 11, a sidewalk fair starts at the Japanese Village Plaza fire tower. At 3 p.m. on August 15, the Grand Parade, which includes Japanese dances, taiko drums, floats and marching bands, will feature former SFO board member Justice Ichihara Dauye, astronaut Ellison Onizuka, and actor George Takei of "Star Trek" fame.

This year, many local businesses will participate in the festival, including restaurants, shops and entertainment venues. The festival is open to the public and free to attend.

"It is our hope that this festival will continue to grow and become an important cultural event for the Japanese American community," Kunishita said.

The festival is one of many events held throughout the year to celebrate Japanese American culture and promote understanding and respect for the community.

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The Vernaculars

by J.K. Yamamoto

A few years ago, I worked on the staff of the East West, a periodical given the title of "Japanese American community newspaper" in Los Angeles. It was the first such publication in the city. It has since folded due to a variety of problems, including financial difficulties, staff turnover, and changing reader interests. However, it provided a valuable platform for expressing ideas and opinions that might not have been represented in other media.

Only L.A. and S.F. have two JA dailies each: Rafu Shimpo and the San Francisco Examiner. Both are owned by the Nichi Bei Tan. However, there is no overlapping of coverage, and there are distinct differences as well. Readers in both cities definitely have a choice.

Even in East and West, there are many Japanese newspapers that are distinct from each other. This is due to the unique position of Nikkei community news plus the need for information to be published in language that is both Japanese and English. Although there are many English-language papers, there are still distinct differences from the Japanese-language ones.

This sampling shows that there is a wide variety of perspectives and interests covered in these papers. However, it is important to note that these papers are not just for Japanese Americans, but also for other communities that have an interest in Asian American issues.

THE OTHER NIGHT, on the spur of the moment, we decided to see a movie when we noticed it was a Japanese one playing at the mainland theaters. The film was titled "The Ballad of Narayama," produced by Little Tokyo People's Japanese Community Progressive Association.

The title of this presentation: "The Ballad of Narayama."

THE PERIOD SETTING is in the 19th century, the place in northern Japan, mountainous country. Stuning vistas, in color. The story is set upon a particular far family which, while not "living "high on the hog" as they say, is comparatively well off compared to its neighbors (one in particular).

In the household is a widowed matriarch, now age 90 years and reaching that painful number of 70 when such elderly are removed up from the mountains (Narayama). Except this matriarch happens to be vigorous, active, productive and has just about all her teeth. At least 20, more or less. So here as to the plot, there may be some of you out there who are planning to see the movie.

THERE WERE A COUPLE of scenes that caught us off guard. Sexual scenes, including one of sodomy. On the way home, Vicki and I were commenting: "Is this the kind of scenes they permit on movie screens in Japan? With mothers, perhaps, taking their youngsters?" Obviously, in part the answer to these questions is "yes." So those of you planning to see the movie, leave the kiddies at home. This is not for children.

The only other English-Chinese paper I am aware of is Sampan in Boston, which deals almost exclusively with local issues. For some reason, the paper does not seem to be an English-language Chinese American paper, even though there is a need for one.

The English section of the mostly Korean-language Korea Times in L.A. is an all-purpose, all-journalistic on covering Pan-Asian issues in addition to those which are of special interest to Korean Americans.

Pacific Ties, published at UCLA, is (to my knowledge) the only Asian American student paper that comes out on a regular basis. Although it is published only a few times a year, it is being reprinted and is making its way into other English-language papers, including those that do not normally carry Asian American content.

And in Seattle, the all-English International Examiner, like the International District in which it is located, covers the broad spectrum of Asian American communities.

Another Seattle publication, Asian Family Affair, folded earlier this year. Some might find this surprising, but I think it is a good thing. The paper was not doing well financially, and I believe it was better to fold than to continue with a paper that is not sustainable.

The only reason why I mention these papers is that they are all important for covering Asian American news. They are all important for providing a voice to those who are often left out of mainstream media coverage.

Lack of Cohesion

I'm beginning to feel that the whole aspect of repatriation for Japanese Americans is similar to the American Indian land claims issue. Here in Maine, I have seen how a lack of cohesiveness hindered that resolution.

Unlike there is a more concerted effort, perhaps you should just forget about it and get busy with another subject which has more appeal. How about a national JACL basketball team?

VIRGINIA SUYAMA
Ellsworth, Maine

Cover-Up

Is it possible to place the mailing label elsewhere than in the upper left corner? It has been discovered that the label is not visible when the envelope is not addressed. Would appreciate another site for the labels.

JOHN T. OMORI
Chicago

The mailing labels are placed on the reverse side of the change of address form so that when the form is sent, the label with the old address is attached, making it easier for our circulation department to handle address changes.

We try to place a photo or headline in the top left corner so that the name is covered by the label, the thought being that it's better to cover a photo or headline than the first paragraph of a story. We will entertain any suggestions on the matter, however.
A Question of Expertise

FROM THE FRINGE PAN:
Bill Hosokawa

Paraphrasing from someone who at the moment identifies diplomacy as too important a national function to be left in the hands of professionals... The people have to get into the act, and there is much that they can do to build understanding, create good will, promote friendly relations with the people of other nations. There are numerous vehicles for this kind of activity—the People to People and Sister Cities programs, student exchanges through schools and service clubs, organized tourism, professorial exchanges, and international movements such as the 1978, Kwansei Gakuin. In their fields of competence there’s no better way to make friends and influence people than through such programs. But there are complex and sensitive areas best left to the professionals.

William Ouchi, professor at UCLA’s Graduate School of Management, seemed to be addressing this point in an interview published in the June 21 Pacific Citizen. Regarding Japanese American business and government leaders, Japanese American business and government leaders, it will be helpful for them to serve as “cultural mediators,” he said. When there are trade disputes.

“But that’s a process that has to happen naturally. It will happen only if in fact people who are Japanese American have more interest, more natural access to parties on both sides of the trade dispute. If a Japanese American civic group or other organization attempts to place itself formally, and in a permanent intermediary position, I think it will be more of a hindrance than a help.”

“Whatever I foresee is that groups—community, civic, ethnic and national organizations and their members, in particular their young members, to develop themselves, to develop broad contacts on both sides of the Pacific, then they will be growing a future generation of very broad leaders who in fact will be those informal intermediaries.”

The essence of Professor Ouchi’s advice seems to be that Japanese Americans are in position to serve as trans-Pacific bridges, between the United States and Japan simply because of their ethnicity. It is as stereotypical as saying all blacks have rhythm and will play the drums. But all blacks are outstanding basketball players.

The opportunity is present and the Japanese Americans can seize it if they’ll prepare themselves. Some have. To name a few, people such as Tom Sasaki of Little Tokyo, Mike Masaoka and Dave Nakaido in Washington, and Frank Nishimoto in Chicago. They have the skills and expertise were acquired less because of their ethnicity than because they worked at it.

Thank God I’m Stupid

Barry Salki

Long ago, as a company grade officer, I was assigned to a special unit in Japan under the command of a brilliant but autocratic major (later colonel)Japanese. Texas-born, he looked like Sean Connery and had a photographic mind. His projects were like 007 operations. On the second day after my assignment, I went to visit my former military unit, with which I had previously spent 30 months. Upon returning from my courtesy call, I was called by the major and was severely castigated for my sense of judgment.

“Listen, stupid, while you’re under my command, you owe loyalty only to my unit,” he emphasized with a growl. “He had the habit of adding “stupid” to his

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Eight Who Excel

Eight Who Excel:

President’s Corner:

by Frank Sato

It is natural to be concerned about what the future holds for JACL. A look at the impressive 1985 Second National JACL leadership gives you assurance that the leadership is in good hands.

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JACL Blue Shield Committee Feded

San Francisco—Blue Shield of California recently hosted a dinner for the JACL Blue Shield Administrative Committee and their spouses. At that time, Manuel Nuri, director of Group Re­
tention of Northern California, presented a plaque to the Ad­
ministrative Committee and a letter of congratulations to chair­
man John Yasumoto commemorating 20 years of service with
Blue Shield of California. The JACL Blue Shield Group Health Plan was started in 1964 by the Northern California Western Nevada District Council. Other districts were added to the plan in 1969, 70, 71 and 77. There is no broker of record for the plan. Members of the Ad­ministrative Committee, all of whom are elected biennially by the chapter commissioners, over­see the plan operations. The commissioners serve as liaison between the subscribers and the JACL Blue Shield office. The plan is open to all JACL members 1948 year of age who qualify to enroll. Any enrolled subscriber upon reaching age 65 may elect to stay in the plan and integrate benefits with Medicare A and B. Administrator Frances Morio­ka and administrative assistant Doris Sasaki take care of the day to day operation of the plan. This office is located in the National JACL building, 1765 Sutter St., San Francisco, CA 94115.


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Sealed proposals will be received Sept. 5 at 5:00 p.m. Re­quest for Proposal information and requirement document available from Vance L. Alton, Chief, Office of Housing and Service Environments (614) 466-7460 (Columbus) or Gary Conley, Director, City of Cleveland Department of Economic Development (216) 664-3677 (Cleveland) during regular working hours.

Rights are reserved to waive informatics and to reject any or all proposals by Director, Ohio Department of Mental Health.
Some Good News, Some Bad

One Thing Leads to Another

Bob Shimabukuro

Another week has gone by and still no air conditioning. If I have seen crabbiness the past few weeks, forgive me. The situation here has moved from bizarre and crazy to downright irritating.

We finally negotiated a settlement with the typesetting machines. The repairman came over three times the past week and came to terms with the machines, at least so that they would operate in these conditions.

However, the processor has decided to pull off the job and call in sick. Too hot, it screamed. Sorry, no more working until the work environment is modified, it stoically said as it walked off the job.

The past few weeks, we've been driving down to Fullerton to typeset the paper. It's a crazy situation. Fullerton is about 30-45 minutes away. At least that of our air is conditioned.

The walkout of the processor (I'm not sure whether it's on strike or on sick leave), following the strike by the typesetting machines, leaves me feeling totally inadequate with regard to managerial skills. Just as I felt when I ran a restaurant.

Why me? So kind and considerate, I kept telling the machines. Go picket City Hall. That's where the problem lies. Or the contractor. Or the landlord. Or the PC board. Or Ron Yababashii. But it refuses to listen. Talk about feeling powerless.

But of course, who cares? After all, Americans are once again beset with a strike of even greater magnitude, the great baseball strike of '83. What a PC machine strike compared to that. Big logs plus a lot of jobs are involved in that one, from the players to the hot dog salesmen. A lot of jobs. Who knows? Maybe the processor wants to be a free agent too. But of course, we can't give in. If we let the processor become a free agent, all the other machines will want to be free agents too. And then what? Maybe the editor will too. We have to be firm.

But there is some good news. The PC processor just learned that we will receive an award from the Los Angeles County Commission on Human Relations in October. The PC was selected as the recipient of the John Anson Ford Award for outstanding media achievement in the field of human relations for its "broad coverage and focus on multi-ethnic issues and events."

We can say thanks to the Commission and, most of all, thanks to former editor Karen Sergachij who visioned the award possible.

And finally, did anyone see Art Buchwald's July 21 column on the U.S.-Japan trade war? It was surprisingly similar to the Bob and Mike view of U.S.-Japan trade and deficit presented in the May 24 edition of this column. So you see, the PC is where it's at. Time to order a gift subscription for a friend.

Now if we can only solve the problem of our dissident machines.

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