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Friday, August 30, 1985

Coast-to-coast protests by Asians greet 'Year of the Dragon'

by J.K. Yamamoto

Asian American community groups are voicing objections to the newly released film "Year of the Dragon," which they say presents a distorted view of Chinese Americans and encourages anti-Asian sentiment.

Protestors have circulated leaflets, held press conferences, and picketed Loew's Astor Plaza in New York, Northpoint Theater in San Francisco, Mann's Chinese in Hollywood, Coliseum Theater in Seattle, and other theaters showing the movie.

Directed by Michael Cimino ("The Deer Hunter," "Heaven's Gate") and co-written by Cimino and Oliver Stone ("Scarface," "Midnight Express"), "Dragon" is the story of New York policeman Stanley White (Mickey Rourke) and his one-man campaign against organized crime in Chinatown.

The villain is Joey Tai (John Lone), a prominent Chinatown businessman who deals in heroin and employs gang members as hit men. Chinese American TV reporter Tracy Tzu (Ariane) assists White in his investigation and also becomes his lover.

The film has been praised by some critics and denounced by others. Sheila Benson of the Los Angeles Times described it as "undeniable, contemporary history" which "sticks pretty close to the facts," while David Sterritt of the Christian Science Monitor found it "riddled with racist and sexist attitudes" and Carrie Ricksey of the Boston Herald called it "a racist's temper tantrum." All agreed that it is full of graphic violence.

False Reality

Community organizations seem unanimous in their disapproval. In a statement issued August 11, Andrew Chen, national president of Organization of Chinese Americans (OCA), urged a boycott of

the film, calling it a "gross distortion of our peace-loving, civic-minded, prosperous communities" that "cannot be tolerated."

"There's problems in Chinatown, like there's problems in any other location in the United States," said William Chang of OCA's Los Angeles chapter. "There are murder cases, and there is some corruption... but not to the extent that they are showing. It's just blown out of proportion. The way I see it, they tried to make a dirty, cheap Hollywood movie [with] only one thing in mind—make some money."

L.A. city councilman Mike Woo charged that the film "suggests that everyone in Chinatown, from the teenager on the street to the elder in the family association, is implicated in a sinister multinational drug conspiracy."

National Asian American Telecommunications Assn. executive director James Yee expressed fears that "Year of the Dragon" is

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Photo by Lia Shigemura

Pickers outside San Francisco's Northpoint Theater on August 24.



Photo by Bill Gee

Hundreds protested "Year of the Dragon" in New York's Times Square on August 16.

News in Brief

Young Democrats pass redress measure

MIAMI—The Young Democrats of America (YDA) voted to support redress for Japanese Americans interned during WW2 at their national convention August 7-11. The measure was presented by California Young Democrats, who had earlier adopted redress into their platform. California platform committee members who attended include Kevin Acebo, Don Smith, Melody Weintraub and Keith Umemoto.

Calif. Senate appropriates \$750,000 for JA museum

SACRAMENTO—The Calif. Senate passed a bill Aug. 22 to appropriate \$750,000 for a JA historical museum in Little Tokyo in Los Angeles. The bill, authored by Sen. Art Torres (D-South Pasadena), would give the money to Los Angeles if the city comes up with \$1 million in matching funds. The L.A. City Council has already passed a resolution declaring its intention to provide Community Redevelopment Agency funds to the project.

Immigrant restaurant worker found not guilty

BOSTON—On Aug. 23 in Municipal Court, Chinese immigrant restaurant worker Long Guang Huang was found not guilty on both charges of (1) solicitation of a prostitute and (2) assault and battery on a police officer. Huang had been charged with both counts after an altercation in Chinatown in which vice squad officer Francis Kelly contended that Huang tried to solicit a prostitute and then resisted arrest and attacked the police officer (see May 31 PC). A number of witnesses had supported Huang's claim that he offered no resistance and was merely walking from home to Chinatown to go shopping when he was grabbed and hit by Kelly.

The open hearing on officer Kelly's conduct will resume on Aug. 28 at police headquarters on 154 Berkeley St. The Committee to Support Long Guang Huang is asking for additional guarantees against police abuse, including compensation for Huang and the establishment of a civilian review board.

JACL joins national 'Year of the Dragon' protest

SAN FRANCISCO—National JACL has joined other Asian organizations in protesting against "The Year of the Dragon." JACL national director Ron Wakabayashi said, "The film's narrow depiction of Chinese and Chinese Americans as violent, unfeeling, and murderous members of the 'Chinese Mafia' is degrading and an insult to all Asians, and to the intelligence of the American public."

American Jewish Committee president Howard Friedman also expressed strong disapproval of the negative portrayals of Chinese Americans and called on filmmakers to "cease their unfair and harmful portrayals of Chinese and other ethnic experiences."



Photo by Sachi Yamamoto

A coalition of Los Angeles-area Asian Americans staged a march in front of Mann's Chinese Theater in Hollywood on August 23.

Six Asians victims of California killer

LOS ANGELES—Six of the 14 known victims of the serial killer called the Valley Intruder have been Asian Americans, according to the L.A. Times. They were:

—Dayle Okazaki, 34, shot to death at her Rosemead home on March 17, shortly after visiting her parents. Her roommate, Maria Hernandez, was wounded. A native of Hawaii, Okazaki had recently been promoted to traffic supervisor with L.A. County.

—Tsai-Lian Yu, 30, a student, dragged from her car in Monterey Park and shot less than an hour after the Okazaki murder.

—William Doi, 65, shot in the head at his Monterey Park home on May 14. His wife was assaulted but survived. Doi grew up in Salinas Valley, was interned during WW2, and served in the 442nd RCT. He had recently retired from his job as international sales manager at Santa Fe Trails Trucking Co. and was a member of East Side Optimist Club.

—Chainarong Khovananth, 32, fatally shot at his Sun Valley home on July 20. His wife and 8-year-old son were tied up and beaten, but

Continued on Page 3

Fremont councilman to run for mayor

FREMONT, Calif.—City councilman Yoshio Fujiwara is one of three candidates running for mayor, according to the Oakland Tribune.

Fujiwara, a financial planner for Westinghouse Corp., sees himself as a fiscal and financial conservative. He has already formed a "slate of association" by endorsing council candidates John Dutra and John Baker. His opponents are incumbent mayor Leon Mezzetti and councilman Gus Morrison.

By deciding to run for mayor, Fujiwara risks losing his council seat, also up for grabs in the November election.

"The devil was on one side and an angel was on the other," he said. "The devil told me to take the easy way out and run for council. The angel said I had made a commitment to serve only two full terms on the council. The angel took over."

A Fresno native and father of five children, he "did a year in recreation and a year on planning" in Fremont before running for council in 1976 and losing by 18 votes. He ran again in 1978, won and was re-elected in 1980.

Fujiwara was a behind-the-scenes negotiator during talks that led to the opening of the New United Motor Manufacturing plant in Fremont.

Fujiwara says the present council doesn't represent a sufficient cross-section of the city. If elected,

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Community Affairs

SEATTLE—"Executive Order 9066," a photographic exhibition of JA internment camps, including photographs taken by Dorothea Lange and Ansel Adams, is on display at the Wing Luke Memorial Museum, 414 8th Ave. The exhibit runs through Oct. 12.

LOS ANGELES — The "Festival of Martial Arts" will be held weekends, Sept. 7-22, 1-3 p.m., at the Japanese Village Plaza stage. Included in the demonstration will be aikido, tae kwan do, kung fu, hwarang do, vo vi vam, kendo and Pilipino Kali. Free. Info: (213) 620-8861.

"Cultural Barriers of Asian Immigrant Women," to be held Sept. 7, 9 a.m.-1 p.m., at Japanese American Cultural and Community Center, 244 S. San Pedro St., 2nd fl., includes the following speakers: JACL program director Lia Shigemura on Asian mail-order brides; attorney Eileen Kurahashi on the Fumiko Kimura case; Bok Lim Kim on social services for Asian wives

of U.S. servicemen; and Nilda Rimonte on battered women. Registration: \$5 general, \$3 students/seniors. Sponsored by Asian Pacific Women's Network and PSW JACL.

Artists for Self-Determination, a multi-ethnic, politically diverse group exhibit, opens Sept. 6 at the So. Calif. Library for Social Studies and Research, 6120 S. Vermont. The show includes work from L.A. visual, video and performance artists. Asians participating in the exhibition include: Susan Matsumia, David Monkawa, Alan Nakagawa, Wes Senzaki, and Visual Communications. Performances are scheduled for Sept. 6, 7-9 p.m.; Sept. 13, 7-9 p.m.; and Oct. 6, 5-8 p.m. Exhibits are on display thru Oct. 6, Tues.-Sat., 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Free. Info: (213) 759-6063.

The Council for Recognition of Los Angeles County Asian/Pacific Employees will host a celebration dinner to honor exemplary county employees at the Carson Community Center, 801 E.

Carson St., Oct. 5, 5:30 p.m. Featured speakers will be Judge Robert Takasugi, Michael Woo, Haing Ngor and Lily Chen. Butch Kasahara and the Okalani's provide entertainment. For reservations, send \$20 to "Asian/Pacific Dinner," P.O. Box 30675, Los Angeles, 90030. Info: Ed Lee, (213) 974-7566.

SAN FRANCISCO — Pat Lee and Young Shin, delegates to the U.N. Women's Conference in Nairobi, will present slides of the conference highlights at the Chinatown Y.W.C.A., 965 Clay St., Sept. 12, 7 p.m. Lee and Shin also were participants in Forum '85, an alternative non-governmental conference to the official U.N. Conference. Sponsors: Asian Women United and Chinatown Y.W.C.A.

The Pine Methodist Church, 436 33rd Ave., will host the Bay Area Asian Singles Dance Sept. 28, 8 p.m. to midnight. Admission: \$3. Info: Reiko, 486-4465; Ken, 333-4878; Joan, 462-5262.

Hosokawa honored by Denver Press Club

DENVER—Nearly 90 colleagues attended a luncheon honoring PC columnist and former Denver Post editorial page editor Bill Hosokawa Aug. 14. Hosokawa was named "Colorado's Outstanding Communicator" by the Denver Press Club in recognition of his 37 years as a Colorado journalist and "outstanding contributions to the art and science of communication." Hosokawa told the group, "This is the deepest honor I have received as a professional newspaperman."

FOR THE RECORD:

The Vista Buddhist Temple Taiko group and the Bando Mitsuhiro folk dancers will perform on Japan Day in San Diego, at Balboa Park, 1:30-4 p.m., Sept. 8 and not Sept. 9 as was reported in the Aug. 16 PC.

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DRAGON

Continued from Front Page

potentially more damaging than previous portrayals of Asians. Because of its realistic appearance, he said, the film "has an air of credibility...people by and large may believe in it."

Colleen Tani of Asian Pacific American Legal Center of So. Calif. (APALC) said that one may "leave feeling—if you don't know any better—that you've really got a good understanding of Chinese American culture."

Fears of Violence

Because the movie's hero is a Vietnam veteran who declares at one point, "This is Vietnam all over again—nobody wants to win this thing," Yee said, "all of us are going to be perceived as an extension of that debacle."

Similarly, Woo said the film-makers draw "muddle-headed analogies between crime in Chinatown and war in Southeast Asia" and that the White character "seems to have walked directly from the Mekong Delta to Mott Street."

Sumi Haru of Assn. of Asian Pacific American Artists (AAPAA) said the images in the film "dredge up and justify hidden bigotry...audiences are led to believe we are all the foreign enemy dealing in drugs and gang warfare." The repeated use of "Chink" and other pejoratives by the Caucasian characters "encourages the use of racial slurs," she added.

Charles Kim of Korean American Coalition reported hearing

shouts of "Kill the Chink!" from the audience during certain scenes. Irvin Lai of Chinese American Citizens Alliance said that whenever something derogatory was said about the Chinese in the film, "there was a big roar" of approval from the audience.

Craig Wong of Chinatown Progressive Assn. said the film "fuels the fire" of anti-Asian violence by suggesting "that we're the violent ones, when in fact violence is being inflicted upon us."

Responding to the argument that "Dragon" is no different from "The Godfather," Stewart Kwoh of APALC said, "They were not devoid of families and family values in 'The Godfather'...Yet in this film, the Chinese Americans are devoid of families, family values, any kind of respect for human life...they are just seen to be thugs or drug traffickers who would kill at an instant." He added that the ethnic slur for Italians was not used in "Godfather."

Woman's Role Criticized

Though ostensibly one of the film's "good guys," the Tracy Tzu character was the focus of many of the complaints. Many community spokespeople objected to the fact that Tzu falls in love with White even though he appears to be a racist. In one scene, White talks about Vietnam, saying to Tzu, "we lost because you were smarter than us." In another, after Tzu tells White that she loves him, he replies, "There is no Chinese word for love."

JACL national program director Lia Shigemura said, "He rapes her and she submits. The implications of that scene for Asian wom-

en is very damaging...she wants to be dominated."

Cynthia Gouw, 1984 Miss Chinatown USA and member of the newly formed Asian Pacific American Media Watch, was also angered. "Tzu is supposedly very intelligent, well educated, independent...instead, she is the victim of definite misogynistic goals." Anything positive about the character, said Gouw, is negated by her acquiescence to physical and verbal abuse.

Ariane, a fashion model of Dutch and Japanese ancestry who made her screen debut as Tzu, said in a New York Times interview that she went into acting because she was disappointed with the way Asians have been portrayed in films.

Actors' Dilemma

In an interview with the L.A. Herald Examiner, John Lone said that "groups protesting the depiction of Chinese as gangsters...are being very narrow-minded. 'Year of the Dragon' cannot be compared to a Charlie Chan or Fu Manchu fabrication. It is based on fact."

"Dragon" marks Lone's first starring role as an Asian. He previously had the title role in "Ice-man," playing a prehistoric man discovered frozen and still alive in the Arctic.

Actor Richard Lee Sung, who participated in an August 23 picket of the film in Hollywood, did not criticize Lone for taking the role of Joey Tai, citing the scarcity of opportunities for Asian American actors. "But the film itself is so bad for the Asian community that I have to stand out here," he said.

Ernest Harada, president of AAPAA and one of the stars of the film "Volunteers," and actress Mariko Tse were also among the protestors.

Emily Woo Yamasaki, who was an extra in the movie, is helping lead protests in New York. She was not able to see the script during filming, she said, but "now that I've seen it, I would not have done it." She considered the film insulting to non-Asian ethnic groups as well and hoped to build a broader coalition to oppose it.

The film takes place in New York, but the Chinatown scenes were filmed in a North Carolina studio.

Demands Made

At an August 22 press conference, Kwoh said that Media Watch planned to voice its grievances through leafleting, picketing, a letter-writing campaign, ads in major newspapers, and meetings with studio executives.

Among the coalition's demands are a disclaimer stating that the

film is not a real depiction of the Chinese or Asian community, and the hiring of Asian Americans to monitor productions and help develop more positive portrayals.

MGM/UA, the studio that produced the film, issued a terse statement August 13, saying that "claims made against the film...and its makers are without validity...we encourage members of the Asian American community to view the film and to make their own judgements."

Kwoh reported on August 27, however, that MGM has expressed willingness to negotiate some kind of settlement, such as a disclaimer or a public apology. No concrete agreement has been made at this point, he added.

He was hopeful that the protests would produce results. "We have to make such an impact that the other studios are going to have to listen to us...otherwise we're going to see ten of these each year, not just one or two."

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Mineta to be honored at D.C. reception

WASHINGTON—To honor and thank Rep. Norman Mineta (D-Calif.) for his first 11 years in Congress, friends in the Washington area are sponsoring a reception September 15, 2-4 p.m., at the home of Mike and Etsu Masaoka, 5406 Uppingham St., Chevy Chase, Md.

Mineta was the first Japanese American mayor of a major U.S. city (San Jose) and the first JA to be elected to Congress in the Mainland U.S.

Clavell literary award winner announced

LOS ANGELES—The winner of this year's James Clavell American Japanese Literary Award is Sylvia Watanabe of Honolulu, who received the \$1,000 prize for her short story "Colors." Set in Hawaii, it is about aging and the passing of old customs. Authors of the 42 submissions ranged in age from 13 to 70.

The award was announced at the 21st annual Miss Sansei California Pageant, held at the Beverly Hilton on July 27. Accepting the award for Watanabe, who was unable to attend, was actor Keye Luke.

This year's judges were Karen Wada, Los Angeles Times suburban section news editor; Karen Seriguchi, executive director of Asian American Journalists Assn.; and Ted Tajima, retired Alhambra High School journalism teacher. The award was established in 1979 with a \$10,000 grant from novelist James Clavell.

FUJIWARA

Continued from Front Page

he plans to delegate responsibility and form a citizens advisory panel to curtail the need for his presence in City Hall.

"I want to realign the council and have quarterly meetings with the standing committees and commissions. I would have, for lack of better words, a second vice mayor to help coordinate these meetings."

He is critical of his fellow candidates, saying Mezzetti is too preoccupied with day-to-day operations to have an eye on the city's future. Morrison, he said, is taking advantage of his situation by running for mayor with two years left on his council term.

Win or lose, Fujiwara has definite plans for the future. "If I win, I will definitely be running for higher office. If I lose, I will take up all the things I haven't done lately, like play golf and go fishing. If I lose, it will be the end of my political career."

Ever since coming to Washington in January 1974, he has been an acknowledged congressional leader. The Washington Post's David Broder wrote that Mineta is one of the few with the potential to be the next Speaker of the House.

He has served on the Budget, Intelligence, and Science & Technology committees and the Aviation Subcommittee of the Public Works & Transportation Committee as well as the Democratic Policy and Steering committees. He has also assisted in leadership of the House as an assistant whip.

In addition, Mineta has helped bring to the House's attention such special JA issues as redress for the WW2 internment and medical treatment for Hiroshima and Nagasaki victims living in the U.S.

As the congressional representative on the Board of Regents, he has been instrumental in promoting and developing the American Museum of History's 1987 exhibit featuring the Japanese American Experience for the Bicentennial of the Constitution. He has taken time and energy to participate in JA events throughout the country, including JACL conventions.

As other Asian American ethnic groups are not represented in Congress, he has also assumed the duty of acting as their national representative in Washington, dealing with immigration problems, civil service, social security, racial violence (such as the Vincent Chin killing in Detroit) and political violence (such as the murder of Henry Liu in Daly City, Calif.).

Reservations may be made by calling Mary Toda, (202) 296-4484 (days), or Etsu Masaoka, (301) 656-4739 (nights).



Salinas JACL members and LEC Prime Solicitors Henry Tanda (left) and Violet de Cristoforo receive LEC donations from Salinas mayor James Barnes (right) and Rep. Leon Panetta (D-Calif.).

Asian American to run for school board

MONTEREY PARK, Calif.—Dr. Judy Chu will run for the Garvey School Board in its November 5 election. Three seats will be open in the district, which includes Monterey Park, Rosemead, San Gabriel and South San Gabriel.

The Asian American student population in Garvey School District has increased from 6% in 1979 to 30% now, but there has never been an Asian American on the school board.

Chu teaches psychology at Los

Angeles City college and Asian American studies at UCLA. She specializes in research and courses on Asian American women and is co-author of *Linking Our Lives: Chinese American Women of Los Angeles*.

She serves on the Educational Equity and Boundary Organizing committees of Garvey School District, chairs the Commission for Sex Equity of L.A. Unified School District, and is on the board of the

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MURDERS

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survived. Khovananth immigrated from Thailand 10 years ago and worked as a parking attendant.

—Elyas Abowath, 35, shot in the head at his home in Diamond Bar on August 8. His wife was assaulted, but his two children were unharmed. Abowath, a Pakistani immigrant, worked for a computer company.

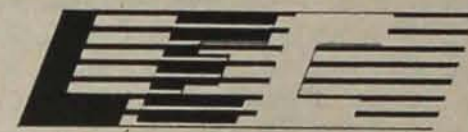
—Peter Pan, 66, shot in the head at his home in the Lakeside District of San Francisco on August 17. His is the first Northern California murder linked to the Valley Intruder. His wife Barbara, also shot in the head, was hospitalized. Born in Taiwan, Pan immigrated to California with his wife 16 years

ago. He worked as an accountant at S.F. General Hospital.

The killer is also believed to have committed a number of assaults, including the sexual molestation of a 6-year-old Chinese American girl on February 25 and of a 9-year-old Japanese American boy on March 11.

Described as a 25- to 30-year-old man, 6 feet tall, slender, with curly hair and stained, gapped teeth, the killer has most often gained access through an unlocked door or window while his victims slept.

A spokesman for the L.A. County Sheriff's Dept. told Pacific Citizen that no special warning has been issued to Asian Americans and that investigators think the choice of victims is determined by "area and locale" rather than ethnicity or race.



JACL Legislative Education Committee Fund Drive Report

No. 2—Aug. 15, 1985

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Midwest (6): Roy Ebihara (\$100), Alan Hida (\$225), Tom Nakao (\$300), Frank Sakamoto (\$500), KP: George Sakaguchi, Henry Tanaka (\$100), Shig Wakamatsu.

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To: A Civil Rights Organization

EAST
WIND

Bill
Marutani



THE EVENTS IN South Africa are very much in the news today, involving the effort of indigenous residents to overcome an official policy based upon racism. While I am not possessed of all the facts, and while one might rationalize the policies of the South African government, one thing is immutably clear: racism, and all that it invokes, is wrong. Uprooting people from their long-held communities, and confining them into unwanted "homelands" must have a particularly familiar ring to AJA's. And all the "reasons" to "justify" such use of force should—must—pluck a responsive chord among us.

As an American who treasures all the beauty of the rights contained in our Constitution and Bill of Rights, I am most aggrieved

that my government rationalizes all that is occurring with the term "constructive engagement" (What does that mean?).

IN LIGHT OF what is transpiring, and in view of the posture assumed by our government, and particularly mindful of what happened to us here, does the National JACL have an obligation to speak out? To make our views, as Americans, known? One can readily think of various contentions opposing such suggestions: We should not "interfere" in international affairs. We don't know enough about all the "facts." We may endanger the organization's tax-exempt status. Or: It's none of our business.

If this be so, then why does the National JACL have a formal, active committee known as "U.S.-Japan Relations"? ("Oh, that's different," you say?)

WE'RE NOT SUGGESTING, even for a moment, that the national organization, or anyone else for that matter, should blurt out some statement. Rather, we're suggesting, urging, that we must begin to consider assuming a less provincial (and selfish) posture and be willing to speak up on the

40 YEAR HARVEST



burning issues of the day. The leaders of this organization must look to the continuing maturation of the organization and its membership, to lead, to help in the growth and development as an organization. And if, as a civil rights organization, we do not respond to the trampling and trashing of the civil rights of others, then we are abdicating our prime obligation.

IT CANNOT BE gainsaid that this is a difficult and sensitive issue. It is a difficult and complex question for one who heads the

National JACL. Similarly, it will be a difficult question for our leaders who serve on the National Board. And it may be that after carefully—and hopefully, open-mindedly—reviewing all the facts and factors, the ultimate decision may be something other than issuing a statement decrying what is happening to millions in another land based upon racism.

At the same time, however, it is a principle deserving of sober consideration by the National JACL.

WITHOUT GOING OVERSEAS, however, and focusing solely upon the events in this, our own land, there are many crises, issues, and concerns that appropriately should be addressed by National JACL. Openly and forthrightly. The days of second-class mentality should be behind us. We must learn to think, speak and act as the first-class citizens that we espouse to be, that we are entitled to be, that we should be.

THE FIRST STEP is to begin thinking like one.

Fear of the 'Dragon'

ONE THING
LEADS
TO ANOTHER

Bob
Shimabukuro



For the past few years, I've been wondering about my failure to favorably impress Asian women. I felt that something was lacking in my approach. Well, thanks to director Michael Cimino and screenwriter Oliver Stone of "Year of the Dragon," I now know what was wrong. I wasn't macho enough.

Asian women, I learned from the movie, find "racist, arrogant, condescending s.o.b.s" very charming. They also like to be pushed around, manipulated, raped and beaten. No wonder I've had so little success.

That's just one of the lessons to be learned. There are more in

this movie in which women and Asians are treated with such contempt and callousness. I also find it difficult to believe that Vietnam vets and policemen would find this movie very complimentary.

It is very curious to me that, as of this date, the only person involved in the project who has defended the movie to the media has been Chinese American actor John Lone, who plays drug dealer Joey Tai. Neither Cimino, Stone, nor producer Dino De Laurentiis has seen fit to answer the Asian American community's complaints about the racism and sexism of this movie. It's as if they're letting Lone take all the heat for this.

Maybe they just believe their own script too much. When Mr. All-American Cop, Stanley White, wants the Chinese American TV journalist Tracy Tzu to do an expose on the drugs and gambling in Chinatown, he notes that if a white person exposes the crime, everyone will say it's racist, but

not if a Chinese does it. The theory here must be if the Chinese actor defends the movie, then nobody will call it racist.

Lone claims that this is one of the few roles that have been offered to him that wasn't demeaning. Well, what could be more demeaning than having to defend this racist movie to critics, while the producer, director and screenwriter take a vacation from public comment? Talk about being used. Lone is being treated in the same manner that the Chinese in this movie are treated, as props to be brought out when the heat is on.

But what's to be done? A free public screening in Chinatown, with De Laurentiis, Cimino and Stone present to answer questions after, would be a good start. If they believe that they have made a non-racist, non-sexist, semi-documentary movie about Chinatown, then they need to be educated, immediately, before they do any more damage.

In addition, there has to be enough of an uproar so that producers will think twice about movies of this type. Remember, there's another one, "Border of the Tong," scheduled for release soon (see April 12 PC). And by an Asian film company too.

Some, including Lone, have defended the movie on the grounds that while White is admittedly evil, racist, and sexist, he is not portrayed as a good guy. After all, the argument goes, a movie about a racist and sexist does not necessarily mean the movie is.

My advice to these defenders is that they should listen to the audience reaction to the movie. As bad as the movie was, nothing in the movie was as chilling as the audience cheering every time White murdered a Chinese, made some racist remark, or

Time to Decide

BY THE BOARD

by Yosh Nakashima

It is now 7 years since the National Council decided in Salt Lake City that redress was the single most important issue for JACL. This has been reconfirmed in subsequent biennial Council meetings. The beginnings were slow and funds required were minimal. However, in 1980 and 1982, fund-raising became a serious function of all JACL leaders at every level. For the most part, fund raising was successful and we have been able to sustain a viable redress program over the years to the present.

Then, after much discussion and serious consideration, the National Board decided that it was time for the redress program to take another form effective 1 June 1985. The 501 (c)(4) LEC was activated for the purpose of intensive lobbying in Congress. As with anything new, there has been a serious lag time in implementation as well as much confusion in the fund-raising

forced himself upon Tzu. Anti-Asian sentiments, at least in Los Angeles, are alive and well.

And it doesn't take much to figure out who the hero is. The two antagonists in this film are Tai and White. Tai ends up shooting himself in the throat after White outmaneuvers him. White ends up being praised as a good cop. And he walks off with the girl. You tell me, who's the hero?

part by many local chapter leaders.

The former regional and area coordinators within the NCWNP District under the previous organization were asked to stay on, but to date none have received further information nor instructions.

The grass-root mechanism is an ideal set-up for effective information sharing and also in most cases, the fund-raising effort. To date that mechanism has not been put into gear, resulting in confusion and a terrible waste of people-power.

The fund-raising for LEC has taken priority for most of the leadership, but somehow we must not forget the completion of the \$5 pledge for this year and also for the 4th year. That effort has come to a screeching halt with the potential for serious consequences to the redress program.

If the present trend continues, you can be assured that at the Sept. 20-22 national board meeting, there will be serious consideration to terminate the redress director, John Tateishi.

I wonder if grass-roots members know that the redress funding is at a crisis point and that serious consequences can and shall occur. I don't have ready answers as to how to overcome this situation but we must not do anything in haste and regret it too soon after. I would hope that JACL is not a cold, heartless corporation with only the survival of the organization in mind, but one with heart enough to look for the answers.

We must not forget the many thousands of volunteer hours that certain people put into this

Continued on Next Page

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A Blessing in Disguise?

FROM THE
FRYING PAN:

Bill
Hosokawa



Among the complaints voiced by some Japanese Americans is the undeniable charge that few if any of them have made it to the board rooms of America's top corporations. That's where the power lies, and some Japanese Americans plead the existence of subtle discrimination so long as they are denied places in the highest echelons of corporate management.

I tried that argument recently on a non-Asian friend. His first reaction was that I must be kidding. I told him I didn't necessarily buy the argument, but some Japanese Americans who might be described as thinkers and activists did.

"How much do you overachievers want?" he asked in genuine astonishment. "You already have the highest income and educational level of any ethnic group, and now you're charging discrimination because your people haven't made it in one generation to president of General Motors, Bank of America, Exxon, General Foods and General Dynamics!"

Then he went on to point out that Japanese Americans make up less than one-half of one percent of the American population (0.5%) and that minuscule number has managed to do pretty well even though they can't claim Lee Iacocca as one of them.

My friend can make a fairly good argument. It's difficult to thumb through Pacific Citizen these days without reading about Japanese Americans who have been elected to public office, named to judgeships, been promoted by corporations or recognized by professional organizations. True, the topmost posts have eluded them, but then there isn't much room at the summit for anybody regardless of race, faith or pedigree.

Perhaps someday, maybe sooner than we expect, we will find Japanese Americans heading major corporations. For the present, though, there is plenty of distinction in achieving positions of influence and eminence at more modest levels. And a good many Nisei, in the twilight of their careers, and Sansei just approach-

ing their most productive years, are doing just that.

Which brings up another question that I hope the academics in their endless research can answer for us:

Did the Evacuation help or hinder the process of upward mobility among Japanese Americans?

On the surface it would seem you could argue both ways.

Oddly enough, the Evacuation, which was an example of massive racial discrimination, was a big factor in breaking down discrimination. Japanese Americans were blasted out of their West Coast ghettos and, for the first time, gained occupational and social mobility. Unprecedented vocational opportunities were opened. For the first time many college-trained Nisei found it possible to practice their professions and live where they wished.

On the other hand, the Evacuation left cruel psychic scars. It deprived many Japanese Americans of productive years, destroyed their businesses, and left them with a nagging sense of anger, frustration and worthlessness.

Could Japanese Americans have climbed further up the ladder of professional and social progress if they had not experienced the trauma of the Evacuation? Or was the Evacuation the bitter medicine that helped them individually in the long run?

Rights and Redress

FROM THE
NATION'S
CAPITAL:

G. Tim Gojio



I was having lunch the other day with John Nakahata, a law student from Harvard University. One of the topics of discussion was the relational scheme established by Prof. Wesley Newcomb Hohfeld in a seminal article appearing in the 1913 Yale Law Journal titled, "Some Fundamental Legal Conceptions as Applied in Judicial Reasoning." My discussion with John prompted me to examine the article and its implications for Japanese Americans.

By applying a Hohfeldian analysis to the Japanese American internment cases, it is possible to diagram and explain some of the constitutional dangers which the cases engendered. The following should serve to stimulate discussion and thought in this area.

Hohfeld argues that a clear understanding of legal problems requires a clear knowledge of legal terms, which is obtained by examining the correlative and opposite relations which such terms bear to one another. For example, the term "right" is best understood by examining its jural correlative and opposites, and not through a formal definition. Hohfeld provides that the jural correlative of "right" is "duty," and that the jural opposite of "right" is "no-right." Thus, if person A possesses a right against person B, then, correlatively, B is under a duty towards A. Additionally, the term "privilege" under Hohfeld's system is

the jural opposite of "duty," and the jural correlative of "no-right." These terms are enough for the purposes of this discussion, although Hohfeld does discuss the relations among several other legal terms.

Hohfeld argues that when a court determines that there is a right or no-right in a particular legal or constitutional litigation, then what the court is really determining is whether there is or is not a privilege on the part of a party. Suppose that A brings B into court claiming that A had a right against B, and that B violated his duty towards A. If, in this case, the court determines that in fact A had no-right against B, then B has a privilege to engage in such conduct. As such, when Japanese Americans brought court cases against the federal government in 1942, and the courts determined that the Japanese Americans have no-right against the federal government (as was done in *Hirabayashi*, *Yasui*, and *Korematsu*), then what the court has really done is determine that the federal government is privileged to engage in such action.

It is such governmental privilege which many concerned Japanese Americans are trying to address in the current redress movement (including the *coram nobis* and class action lawsuits as well as the redress legislation currently before Congress). An important facet of such considerations is to have the recognition from all branches of government involved in the evacuation and internment (judicial, executive and legislative) that there is no privilege for such racist actions, and to further recognize that the federal government owes a duty to all Americans not to violate their hard-earned constitutional rights.

Women's Concerns

Sexual Harassment

by Sandi Kawasaki

Asian women are still stereotyped as exotic and passive. Partly, this is due to an image perpetuated by TV and movies, but it is partly because of our own actions.

In the past, the positive stereotype as coined by white America—"Asian women are loyal and they don't make trouble"—helped us in employment and housing, but now it may have turned against us.

Peggy Joslyn, a first generation Chinese American, went from Bank of America to the vice presidency of the General Bank of Commerce in L.A.'s Chinatown. There she was harassed by her Asian supervisor with sexual comments, like being introduced

as the Sex Vice President, and was constantly barraged with subtle sexual propositions.

Six months after she was hired, Peggy was fired for incompetence only a week after receiving an excellent rating. After a few weeks of feeling inadequate and degraded, Peggy sued the bank for sexual harassment.

Another case in point is Un Chong Kerr, a Korean immigrant. She was the sole supporter of her family, as her husband was a full-time student and she was sending money to Korea. Un Chong began working as a library aide in a community college in San Francisco. On her first day, her Caucasian supervisor fondled her and

finally assaulted her. Fearful of losing her job, she did not report him. But finally, after one year of abuse, she filed a suit.

During the investigation procedures, her attorney learned that several other immigrant Asian women were similarly assaulted. It is interesting to note that these victims did not volunteer to testify and would only do so if subpoenaed.

In citing these two cases, I conclude that immigrant women are more susceptible to sexual harassment because they recently left a male-dominant society and don't know that American laws will protect them.

Not to be left out, second and third generation Asian women here in the U.S. are also faced with negative effects of the "positive stereotype"—maybe not so much blatant sexual harassment, but job discrimination.

Carole Fujita is an example. She was a pharmacist at L.A. County Harbor/UCLA Medical Center, where she worked as an acting supervisor for two years. On one of the several occasions when she confronted her supervisor about her promotion, she was pushed, falling and breaking her arm. The Civil Court eventually ruled in favor of Carole.

Did you know that by law, a company with 15 or more employees must have a sexual harassment policy? Asian women need to protect themselves by knowing the laws and using them when they can help us.

I know it's difficult to be assertive after all the years of cultural upbringing, but if this passivity is harmful, we need to change. We need to depend on ourselves because no one will fight our battles for us.

If JACL could trade all the words of advice and criticism given to the leaders from both members and non-members for green money, there would be no budget crisis and JACL could probably fund everyone's heart desire. We never lack for words, only the greens to do the necessary and important work ahead. Based on past experience, I don't expect much, but it would be nice if a lot of people contacted their respective district leaders to voice their thoughts about the program and fund-raising effort.

If you have concerns about the possible cut in redress staff, please, let's hear from you. We need to know if our concerns are significant or not. Does anyone really give a damn about what's going on?

BOARD

Continued from Previous Page

redress effort with little or no compensation and at great risk to their regular occupation.

It is interesting that there are so many people out there who have great ideas that need funding and know how to spend money, but so few who know how to raise it. In the end, within JACL ranks, it is personal persuasion and gentle arm-twisting that becomes necessary. Recently, I sent out 25 letters soliciting funds for LEC to persons who could afford to give and who have shown community spirit; but to date I have received only one donation. The answer is unclear, the response disappointing. What next?

Carat
Karate

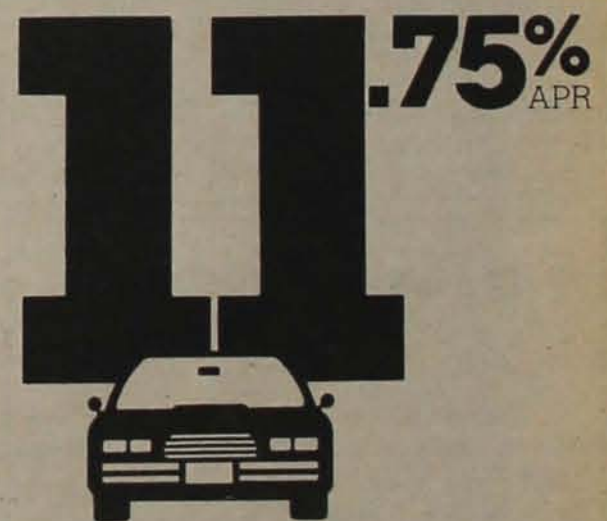
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Chapter Pulse

Orange County

SANTA ANA, Calif.—Kent Wong, staff attorney with the Asian Pacific American Legal Center of Southern California, will speak on "Asian Awareness" at the Sept. 21 general meeting of the chapter at Wintersburg Presbyterian Church, 7:30 p.m.

His topic will include the rise in racially-motivated violence against Asians and barriers confronting Asians in today's world.

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Florin

SACRAMENTO — The annual fall benefit dance will be held on Sept. 28 at the Florin Buddhist Hall, 8-12 p.m. Admission is \$7/person; tickets may be obtained from Florin JACL members or at the door. Music by Mel-O-Tone. General chairperson for the event is James Abe. Proceeds will be used for local JACL projects.

Selanoco

ORANGE, Calif.—Selling teriyaki and won ton, the chapter again will participate in the Japanese GINZA section of the Orange International Street Fair at the Traffic Circle on Chapman in the city of Orange, Aug. 30-Sept. 1. This is the chapter's biggest annual fund-raiser. Those wishing to participate are asked to call Gary Sakata at (213) 923-9903, or Frank Kawase at (714) 529-7634.

CHU

Continued from Page 3

Chinese American Parent and Teachers Assn. of So. Calif. She was also appointed to the President's Advisory Board of CSULA.

In addition, she has been active in United Way Region II, San Gabriel Family Services Center, So. Calif. Asian Pacific Legal Center, and L.A. United Methodist Urban Foundation.

Youth

Three high school delegates to the 1985 California Boys State in Sacramento were elected to the following posts: Brent Alan Koba of Chula Vista, state treasurer; Todd Nakamoto of Culver City, state controller; and Bryan Noguchi of So. Pasadena, Federalist Party secretary. Noguchi also attended Boys Nation, held July 19-26 in Washington, D.C.

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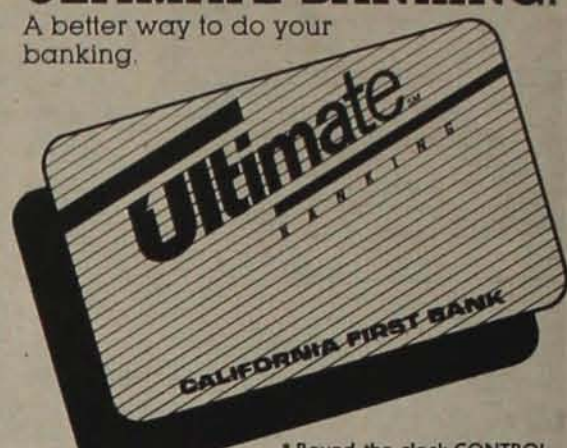
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A/A candidates vie for King County seat

SEATTLE—"My priority is to get King County involved in our community on a day-to-day basis," Bob Santos said, explaining why he felt he would be the best person for the King County Council. Santos is vying for Council Position 5 with three other Democratic candidates this fall.

Santos, former executive director of International District Improvement Center, was one of the speakers at an August 14 candidates' forum at Seattle University, organized by Asian Americans for Political Action (AAPA).

On July 30, the Asian Pacific Democratic Caucus of Washington also held a candidates' forum, attracting about 50 people to the Bush-Asia Center to hear candidates for the major races.

"The forums provide education and information to the community," said Martha Choe, AAPA president. "It allows the community an opportunity to listen to how these candidates' positions affect the Asian community and provides an opportunity for the candidates to become aware that the Asian community has a constituency."

Besides the King County Council candidates, those running for King County executive, Seattle mayor, Seattle City Council and Seattle Port Commission were on the agenda. The candidates explained their views to approximately 60

people at the forum, discussing issues ranging from health care to international trade with Pacific Rim countries.

Several candidates mentioned capturing the Asian market as a way to boost the area's economy. That would definitely affect the county's Asian population, according to Jim Wright, King County executive candidate, who envisions this area as the "Hong Kong of America," an international community, by the year 2000.

Pacific Rim trade is "a natural tie-in" to the economic development of King County and the Asian community, according to Cheryl Chow, who, along with Santos, Ron Sims and Bob Stowers, is seeking to fill the King County Council position being vacated by her mother, Ruby Chow. The council district extends from Capitol Hill to Renton.

Chow said the Asian American community would benefit by electing her because she has "dealt successfully with a diverse multi-ethnic population in the 5th District as an educator."

Santos said he would be accessible, involving King County in the community "on a day-to-day basis." This would cover a broad spectrum, he said, including "mental health, health and unemployment."

—from International Examiner

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