News Brief

Chinese American organization endorses redress

LOS ANGELES—During its 38th biennial national convention, held August 8-10, the Chinese American Citizens Alliance passed a resolution to support the proposed legislation in Congress to provide redress to San Francisco, the former capital of the Chinese Consolidated Benevolent Association. The resolution was passed unanimously.

BOSTON—Police detective Francis Kelly Jr., who is facing charges of using excessive force in arresting Chinese immigrant Long Huang, was suspended with pay by Police Commissioner Francis M. Roche. Huang was immediately following Huang's acquittal on charges August 23 (see Aug. 30). In announcing the decision, Mayor Raymond Flynn said, "The decision to suspend Detective Kelly with pay is appropriate under the facts and circumstances of the court's ruling."

MGM/UA sued over 'Year of the Dragon' portrayal

LOS ANGELES—the Federation of Chinese Organizations of America and Chinese Consolidated Benevolent Assn. have filed a $100 million suit in Los Angeles Superior Court against MGM for allegedly libeling their members as Chinese mafia. The suit claims the film "Year of the Dragon," through the use of organizational names, wrongly implied that members trafficked in drugs and other types of organized crime.

Nairobi concedes deplore status of women in Asian countries

by Diane Narasaki

Nairobi—Equality, development and peace were themes of the United Nations Decade for Women and of the Non-governmental Organization's Forum 50, held alongside the U.S. conference in July. Over 11,000 women attended the forum to share strategies and assess the world's progress toward these goals.

Asian feminists made many workshops, the greatest overview of conditions for women in Asia was given by the Asian Women's Research and Action Network (AWRAR), based in the Philippines.

The AWRAN workshop was a 14-country alternative Asian report on the impact of the U.N. Decade for Women. The group considered equity and justice rather than economic growth as indicators of development, and thus produced very different reports from their governments. A Sri Lankan speaker opened by observing that Asia is experiencing a crisis of civilization. Panelists expanded on the point.

A Malaysian speaker gave an economic overview. She reported that the situation of many Asian women over the past decade has been stagnant, if not regressive, largely due to economic "development." Almost all Asian countries have undergone col-
Continued

Continued from Front Page

ization, and economies were restructured in the first half of the 1980s. Most Asian countries now have export-oriented economies, especially Hong Kong, Taiwan and Korea, which are dependent on the Japanese model. In these economies and others (e.g. Malaysia, India, Sri Lanka) conditions for women have worsened.

Multinational corporations play especially an important role in targeting women workers on the basis of their youth and poverty as an expected low-wage, low-skilled source of labor. Health hazards associated with these jobs abound. For instance, women in electronics factories are ordered to work through microscopes long hours every day, ruining their eyesight and backs in the process. Workers experience sexual harassment.

Agricultural "development" (often in the form of replacing local agriculture which sustains the local population with cash export crops for Western countries) has displaced farmers from their land, and increased poverty and migration of labor to urban centers. When men migrate, women are left to hold households. Young women who migrate may be hired in export industries, but older women may be forced to find work. Women with no viable alternatives are forced into prostitution to survive and feed their families.

A Japanese speaker addressed sexual exploitation. She observed that in Asia, women are treated as objects to be sold, bought or burnt. The problem of prostitution is severe, and has worsened during the decade.

This type of sexual exploitation is caused by international tourism. Prostitution is now a multinational sex industry constituting the large-scale commercialization of women. Women from the Philippines, Taiwan, China and other Asian countries are exploited in Japan's sex industry; while recruited as enter­tainers, many are forced into prostitution upon arrival. Thai and Korean women are increasingly imported to Japan for the same purposes. Japanese men also participate in sex tours in other Asian countries.

Prostitution is prevalent at U.S. military bases in the Philippines. Child prostitution is rapidly growing: 10-year-old girls have been hospitalized with severe venereal disease; girls under 10 are used in Bangkok tea houses.

Women's reproductive capacities are exploited through various population control policies, which relegate women to government baby production units. Singapore is pressuring university graduates to produce more than two children, while poor women are pressured not to have more children. Malaysia feels it needs a bigger population to buy and sell industrial products; women are pressured to have at least 3 children.

Thailand's anti-abortion law has caused several thousand deaths from illegal abortions. In Nepal, women are imprisoned for 20 years to life for infanticide, because abortion is prohibited. Only women are accused and jailed. Infanticide is being replaced with sex determination in India. Indian feminists say that sex determination is amounting to female extermination.

The speaker also noted that drugs banned in the Western world are often tested in Asian countries, jeopardizing the health of Asian women and their children.

A speaker from India gave a human rights overview. The past decade has witnessed increasing violations of human and democratic rights. The growing militarism in the Philippines, Thailand, and Malaysia, and the jingoism in India, Pakistan, and Sri Lanka, are major factors. Many women have been sexually abused, tortured, or in India, burnt to death. There is police brutality in India, Pakistan, and Sri Lanka.

Basic democratic and trade union rights have been forsaken with the expansion of free trade zones, where multinational corporations have tax holidays and cheap labor. When women workers try to organize, they are met with resistance, factory closings, and sometimes violence from employers.

An upsurge of religious fundamentalism and ethnic revitalization is also contributing to women's oppression.

A Pakistani reported on Asian women's response to these problems. Though poverty and political repression have increased, women are extremely involved in national liberation struggles, the movement for democracy, peasant and trade union struggles. Women are fighting back through professional women's associations, political parties, trade unions and peasant organizations, women's organizations working for equal rights, women's action coalitions, and feminist groups.

Feminist groups are challenging the status quo in all above categories and see the dimensions of women's oppression—national, class, gender, culture—to be integral. They believe the feminist movement must be allied with other progressive movements but must not be subsumed within those movements. They pointed out that in national liberation movements, people are freeing themselves from foreign domination, so they tend to identify with the past. However, past conditions are often retrogressive for women. This has happened in Iran, where Islam has been a negative force for women.

Asian American feminists agree with their Asian sisters that the basic problems facing women must be solved by organizing across national boundaries. It is their belief that the Forum slogan "Think globally, organize locally" must become an international rallying point if women are to achieve equality, development and peace.

... Narasaki attended the Forum as part of a national American Friends Service Committee (AFSC) delegation.

WOMEN

Continued from Front Page

publicly to accusations of racism. Calling MGM's response a "historic event," Woo complimented Rothman. "It is rare for a movie studio to acknowledge its mistakes in such a forthright manner ... Mr. Rothman's leadership on behalf of MGM/UA in this situation is particularly commendable."

"We have begun to seriously discuss a longer-term program which could prevent the distortion and stereotypes depicted in 'Year of the Dragon,'" Woo added. "No one will deny that there are serious problems involving gangs and drugs in Chinatown and the other Asian communities. We are not asking for reality to be cartoonized, but we do want a balanced presentation of the positive and the negative.

Woo listed proposals such as: advisory panels of Asian American community consultants who could review projects; not allow release, but preferably at an early stage; development of movies that portray Asian Americans "in non-stereotyped ways"; getting rid of marketing from the film industry for existing social service agencies which "fighting the image" depicted in 'Year of the Dragon.'"

On hand to thank Woo and Rothman for their efforts were Irvin Lai of Chinese American Student Alliance and Sumi Haru and Stuart Kwoh of Asian Pacific American Media Network.

"There's nothing we can do right now to withdraw or make up any damage that's been done by this film," said Lai. "Asian American visibility is the first step to improve the image of Asian Americans.

A scene from the restaurant massacre in "Year of the Dragon."

Haru emphasized that "we too are here and have a voice in the debate." Sometimes Asian Pacifics feel that their First Amendment rights have been denied because our stories aren't being told. "We can open the door today as you have, we're going to have a very successful relationship so that your films will be peopled with Asian Pacific Americans as well as in real life."

Kwoh said that "even though we agree with the disclaimer—our opinion is still that we cannot justify this film in any way, while respecting your views. We will continue a public education and public awareness campaign. I hope that this, rather than ending the discussion, really is a beginning for an honest and serious dialogue."

Student Journal seeking submissions

San Francisco — The Asian American Studies program, San Francisco State University, is seeking final proposals for inclusion in a student-edited publication, the Asian American Student Journal. The publication will feature poetry, essays, photographs, and creative writing. Journalistic pieces dealing with the community and with Asian American issues are especially desired.

According to editor Michael Chih Ming Hornbeckule, "The purpose of the Journal is to allow students to express themselves in all forms of art on the topics affecting them today."

Friday, September 6, 1985 / PACIFIC CITIZEN—3

Controversial hair salon vandalized

WEST HOLLYWOOD, Calif.—The JAPSS hair salon, whose name has been protected by members of the Japanese American community (see March 8 & July 12 P.O. has been vandalized, with one sign stolen and the other spray-painted.

No one has been arrested for the act, which was committed between August 24-26. The owners are certain that Japanese Americans were responsible, especially since the word baka (stupid) was painted on the salon’s neon sign.

Derived from the five owners’ initials, the name JAPSS has been assaulted by National Coalition for Redress/Reparations (NCRR) and other community organizations. NCRR has circulated petitions stating, “If this is permitted to go unchecked, it will slowly result in the term ‘Japs’ becoming openly acceptable... We demand the removal of this word so that Japanese Americans can be regarded with respect and equality.”

Of particular concern to NCRR was the fact that two of the owners are from Japan, which could lead others to believe that “Jap” is not a racial slur. Owner Shuji Kida has defended the name. “It sounds strong, and to me it’s nice,” he said in an L.A. Times interview, suggesting that the word could be infused with a new, non-detractive meaning.

Although the article about the salon was prominently displayed in the Times’ August 22 edition, Kida does not think it inspired the vandalism. Instead, he attributes it to the negative publicity generated by NCRR. “I’m not saying that they did it,” he added.

But he felt that “Japanese Americans” image went down so bad” as a result of the incident.

David Monkawa of NCRR said he could “completely understand the sentiments” of whoever commited the act, but added that “change of injustices are made by large numbers of people led in an organized manner, not by individual acts of vandalism.”

The owners will replace the sign, and Kida expressed no inclination to change the name. NCRR is planning a protest in front of the salon on September 14.


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ONE THING LEADS TO ANOTHER

Bob Shimakuro

One of the most admirable characteristics of the Nikkei in the U.S. has been their ability to persevere in the face of what sometimes has seemed like insurmountable difficulties. Some have succeeded by "waiting out the storm," or exhibiting extreme self-control and self-discipline: Others simply changed their "act," so to speak, trying new fields of endeavor until something clicked. Still others managed "just get by" hoping that recognition for a lifetime of struggle would come to those who strived for excellence. But that quality, perseverance, the ability to absorb abuse, and an accompanying acceptance of that abuse does have its drawbacks. For in this society, it is more the rule than the exception that quiet acceptance perpetuates the abuse.

Frequently, "ethnic" artists address this issue in their works. Black writers like Maya Angelou, W.E.B. DuBois, and Langston Hughes, have written on the contradictions inherent in survival in a hostile society; knowing when to "lay low" and when to "fight back" is paramount to an alive and victimized dead and proud docility. Visual Communications' latest entry, "Shimoda: The American Asian Actor," by John Esaki and Amy Kato, which premiered Aug. 24 at the Japan America Theatre, deals with the issue of the basic contradiction and instead focuses on Shimoda's perseverance and dedication, and in the process, leaves few other qualities open for admiration/indulgence.

As one who knew very little about Shimoda, I must admit that I was a little disappointed with the movie. I sat there trying to figure out why he was so special to so many people. I did find it inspiring in the sense that I wanted to go back and bring a role model to split, formed into an appropriate cross-covered with newspaper glued down by yesterday's johon,and I'd have her flying. With strings used for strunging the peas.

I've purchased store-bought kites for our children, but somehow those things just didn't have the "flavor" of the kites we used to make as kids. They somehow lacked the spirit of a happy, busy kid's mind was able to devise.

From scouring around we gathered materials to hand, and what have you, and built go-karts, "boats," and, if we didn't have the time or the inclination, just a plain raft. I recall one time a group of us,en's rafting on White River with poles (again, pea poles) and helplessly running afloat when the water grew deep and the poles became too short.

If the highways didn't get us, it's a wonder that the river didn't.

The ISSEI PARENTS weren't quite so shi chisatsu as one might conclude from what is written turn their and nail gorks, in session of a tricycle with which.

I went everywhere as a tyke, including places where a tyke or a trike ought not to go. And do the least make Erector sets? The hours we used to spend conjuring up various structures with that set! And our first bicycle was one that my brother brought back from Japan, but which always had flat tires. Then a Colum­bia-calied bike with a front-end spring action. Had that one until the spring of '42 when we were all hauled off. Never did find out what happened to that bike. Never got it back.

As THEY SAY, "There were the days."

Is Perseverance Everything?

Redress by Lawsuit

I trust both writers and the readers of the PC are aware of the class action lawsuit filed in March 1983 on behalf of Japanese American veterans of mass evacuation and detention. This lawsuit seeks individual restitution of over $300,000. The lawsuit is currently in the U.S. Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit. A hearing is scheduled for Sept. 24, 1985 on procedural barriers raised by the government. Of course, it remains to be seen whether the suit will proceed to trial. But I have come to respect the courts as an arena for redress.

First, we operate within the legal structure, using the precedents and precedents established throughout the centuries. What we seek in compensation is the normal due to any citizen seeking to repair injuries inflicted through governmental misconduct.

Second, we place ourselves in an adversarial relationship to the United States. I find it refreshing. Unlike legislation, we are required to spell out our grievances explicitly and with detailed documentation and argument. This comprehensive statement of injuries to our constitutional and civil rights is now embedded as historic fact in our complaint.

Third and most important, we address, point by point, the breaches of constitutional and legal protections in order to repair them. This repair can only occur in the courts.

I believe your readers need to appreciate this effort at a judicial remedy. It is neither 'better than' JACL's legislative efforts nor confusing, it is an alternative of another group of citizens.

WILLIAM HOHRI
National Council for Japanese American Redress Chicago
A Life Time of Helping Others

by Chizi Iyama

Dr. Yoshie Togasaki sits back, eyes closed, as she reminisces about her life. She speaks in a soft, gentle voice, with occasional hesitations in her voice, as she recalls the instances of prejudice and discrimination she has encountered as a Japanese American woman.

Now in her 80s, Togasaki (or "Doctor," as she is called by her friends) will be honored by the Women's Concerns Committee of NCWP-DC at their conference, "Japanese American Women in Transition: A Time for Change and Growth," on Sept. 21 at Laney College, Oakland, Calif. She will be honored in recognition of her life of humanitarian service.

Public Health Servant

A great part of Dr. Togasaki's life has been devoted to improving health conditions for minority communities—Japantown Concentration Camp during WWII, in Italy with the U.N. Relief and Rehabilitation Agency, in 1944, and in West Contra Costa County for the remainder of her illustrious career until her retirement in 1972.

Recalling the alarming public health conditions at Tule Lake camp and at Manzanar, Togasaki states, "We had 5 doctors to take care of 10,000 people. There were open sewers, the barracks had no water, and on Sundays, the young families, many with new babies, and no vaccines, or DPT shots, or sanitary conditions for making baby formulas."

Trying to persuade the Army to attend are pretty well set in their ways. But the conferences were so important to them because even in Japan, in various Western Hemisphere nations to meet, talk and try to understand..." The last two goals are not without their frustrations, as I will explain in a moment.

The first of these conferences was held in Mexico City four years ago. The second was in Lima, Peru two years ago. The next one, if it isn't sidelined by galling inflation and political unrest, will be held in Buenos Aires, Argentina, two years hence.

My wife and I attended the five conferences—an inability for both, the conference sessions, and what little we were able to see of Mexico City, a very pleasant experience. The workshop sessions were set on a high plane, covering such subjects as nutrition in the public health system, the Japanese language in the Americas, social perspectives on Nikkei senior citizens, the Nikkei women, and the impact of the Nikkei press and its future, and a psychological profile of the Nikkei woman.

But they were handicapped from the very beginning by a problem that besets most international meetings—an inability to communicate freely and easily because of language differences. These were quadrilingual meetings, in four main languages. The hosts spoke Portuguese. The other Latin Americans spoke Spanish. Delegates from India, Canada and Spain spoke English. Most, but not all, spoke varying amounts of Japanese. Togasaki was then one common language, but you know how inadequately U.S. Nisei speak it. The same could be said for Nisei from the Latin nations.

It's fascinating at first to see a person with a Japanese face, with first names like Luz, Roberto, Paulo, America, Alfredo and Eduardo lecturing in English or Spanish. Interpreters did their best to keep up. But that's a situation that doesn't enhance free and easy give-and-take discussion, which after all are the most interesting part of workshops.

Language was less important on other occasions, such as the 1984 banquet..."
No Shortage of Topics for ‘Asians Now’

by J.K. Yamamoto

Eleven years is a long time for any TV show to last, especially if the subject is community affairs. But that is just how long it has been since KTVU-TV, Channel 2, went on the air in Oakland.

In the words of host and producer Serena Chen, the show serves as a wide net for topics. In recent weeks, “Asians Now” has dealt with, among other things: Cantonese opera; Martha Argerich; and a recipe for Cambodian chicken. In the beginning, the show served Japanese, Korean, and Pilipino Americans as well.

As for the other communities, “a lot of times I'll just pick up the phone and call up community leaders that I know and say, ‘Hey, I haven't heard from you guys in a while. Can we do something?’”

Faced with an overabundance of material from the established groups, she feels an obligation to “try to balance it out and do outreach to the other communities.”

“People ask me if I ever run out of topics,” she laughs. “There's no way you can run out of topics.”

Broadening Coverage

The show was thus able to increase its audience, albeit at the expense of those viewers who did not understand English.

While the show now covers more of the Bay Area's various Asian communities, the coverage isn't always as evenly distributed as Chen would like. “The Chinese and Japanese communities have been the longest established in the area, so they have more activities and more issues that come to the forefront, and more people can speak on it. So a lot of times there might be more Chinese and Japanese coverage than others.”

For the other communities, “a lot of times I'll just pick up the phone and call up community leaders that I know and say, ‘Hey, I haven't heard from you guys in a while. Can we do something?’”

“Sensie came up to me and stuck her hand, and said he watched the show, and said that he’d just written me a letter and hadn’t read it yet, so he handed me this letter.”

“I took it and I read it. He told me he was a Vietnamese veteran, and that he was watching any show for therapy, and that my show was helping him not hate himself any more.”

“Yeah, I’ve heard that. All my years not wasted! It made all the difference to me.”

JAM literary contest winners named

SAN FRANCISCO — Japantown Art and Media Workshop has announced the winners of its fifth annual JAPAN AMERICAN MUSEUM OF THE WEST literary contest. The contest included poetry and prose entries which addressed some aspect of Asian Pacific life.

Winners in the prose division were: 1st place ($75) — Cindy for “Towards a Good Future”; 2nd place ($50) — Huyen Nguyen for “No Moment for Tears”; 3rd place ($25) — Tracy On for “The Adoption.”

All three attend Mchenry High School in Oakland.

Honorable mention went to Angel Sullivan of McChesney for “The Past Remembered” and Rudy Corpuz of McChesney for “Asians Now.”

Chapter Pulse

Ventura County

VENTURA, Calif. — Snow cones and California sushi will be sold by the chapter at the International Food Fair, Sept. 8, 11 a.m.-5 p.m., at Ventura College. Main St. Proce-

eds will support chapter activities. Info: Onozari, Henry Aso-oka, (805) 485-0881; Camarillo, Yas Umeda, (805) 481-1313; Thousand Oaks and Newbury Park, Mascha Miyasaka, (805) 490-2117.

Kamisha case to go to trial in October

by Katia Kuriy Hayashi

SANTA MONICA, Calif. — The trial date for Fumiko Kamisha, who unsuccessfully attempted parent­child suicide on January 29 at San­ta Monica Hospital, has been tenta­tively set for October 21 by Judge Robert Thomas at a pre-trial hear­ing Aug. 6 at Los Angeles Su­perior Court. The trial had been de­layed by the post­poned pre­trial hearing.

Kamisha is a Japanese national who walked into the ocean with her two children. They were soon pulled out of the water, but neither child survived, Kamisha, charged with two counts of each of first degree murder and child endanger­ment, has been incarcerated at Syl­ brand Institute for Women with bail set at $100,000.

At the pre-trial hearing, Judge Thomas said that in the motion filed by Gerald Klauser, Kushi­ma’s attorney, “A lot of points were made, and some are pertinent.”

Klauser appealed to the Superior Court to overturn the Municipal Court ruling because the police violated Kamisha’s constitutional rights. He said the ruling, based on Kamisha’s confession to the police, “wasn’t a product of free will and rational intellect.”

When Kamisha was interrogated two days after the incident, her brain did not function well because of the oxygen administered after her rescue, Klauser claimed. Moreover, the police confused Kimura with saying, “your son’s dead,” he added, describing their attitude as one of “no compas­sion.”

“Fumiko wasn’t mentally disabled at the time” but “the police stole the evidence,” taking ad­vantage of her confusion, he argued emotionally. “It was like stealing candy from a baby.”

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KIMURA
Continued from Previous Page
Klausner also said that KImura
did not understand English well
and that, in the opinion of arrow Mitchell
Kato’s Japanese was “totally
inadequate.” Kato intimated
KImura with his “rough” and “gang
member” talk, Klausner said. “It’s illegal that prosecution
use the data.”
However, deputy district attorney
Lauren Weis contended that
the upper court had to respect the
lower court ruling. She said that
Kato was “lured” during the
interrogation by the police and
added that there was no evidence
that Kimura was emotionally disabil­
ished.

Weis argued that Kimura’s con­
titutional rights were explained
to her both in English and Japa­
ese. Responding to Klausner’s
charge that Kato mistranslated
as shogi (analogous to chess) rather
than the correct word, kenri,
she said that Kato translated the
word as both kent and shogi to
help Kimura understand her
rights better.

Kimura “said to the police that
she understood English very
well,” Weis continued, and
answered detective Ray Cooper’s
questions in English with the
help of Kato. Cooper, she added,
used only simple English, avoid­
ing terms such as “interro­
minate.”

She also had good recollection
and said that she decided to con­
mit suicide,” Weis said, adding
that Kimura spoke of having “no
money and no place to go.”
The statement, Weis emphasized,
was made by a lucid person with
good recollection.

The pre-trial hearing will be
continued on September 21, and
the trial will be delayed depending
on its outcome.

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