City holds hearing on JAPSS dispute 

by J.K. Yamamoto

WEST HOLLYWOOD, Calif.—A request that the city council prohibit businesses from using racial slurs, presented by Japanese Americans opposed to a local hair salon called JAPSS, was debated at a Dec. 5 public hearing.

Since it was established last year, the salon has been the target of protests, most recently in the form of pickets every other week by National Coalition for Redress & Reparations (NCRR).

Speaking for co-owners Jerry Brennan, Armando Reyes, Peter Nakajima, Simon Ebaham and Shuji Kida, who used their first initials to form the salon's name, was attorney Steven Friedman. Four of the owners (Kida could not attend) were present but did not speak.

"If the council were to choose to enact a series of ordinances which would in any way restrict the operation of their business," said Friedman, "it would be in violation of their First Amendment civil rights.

Declaring that the owners "are not racists," he said their original intention was to "engender a positive meaning to the word 'Japs.'"

They decided to change the name after "legitimate representa­ tives of the Japanese community" expressed concern "in an appropriate fashion," he said. "We simply want enough time to raise the money to do so."

Friedman accused NCRR of "showing the process by interfering with the salon's business. The change would be made in a year "starting from when picketing stops, when harassment stops, and when vandalism stops." He suggested that NCRR was behind the theft of one of the salon's signs and the spray-painting of another in August, drawing an angry response from NCRR members in the audience.

David Monkawa of NCRR said "Japs" is "a disgusting racial slur. This isn't just our interpretation, it's an objective fact based on the historical usage of the term... 'Jap' is the one word that's capable of bringing together... all of the negative and demeaning experiences that Japanese Americans had to endure... since we first set foot in this country."

Now seen daily by commuters on Santa Monica Blvd, the word is "making itself more acceptable each day," he charged.

"When a city group wants to determine their own identity, the first question that comes up is, what do you want to call yourselves?... To allow a term like 'Jap' to exist publicly would be going a hundred steps backward."

In urging the council to adopt an ordinance against public displays of slurs and a resolution condemning the salon's name, he questioned Friedman's promise. They haven't taken a single step...no timetable, no commitment, not even our request to stop answering their phone [by saying] 'Japs' has been honored."

Monkawa denied any involvement by NCRR in the vandalism. "We don't condone those kinds of things... But there's a lot of people who are angry about that."

As long as that racist thing stays up, the chances for that to occur are there."

He reiterated NCRR's demand that the signs be shielded from public view by Jan. 15 and that the name change be completed by March 1. He also asked the city attorney to conduct a study to determine the proposed law's constitutionality.

Ken Inouye, Pacific Southwest JACL district governor, said the salon has continued to use the name "despite the fact that many organizations and individuals have taken many hours to make them aware that this word is still very offensive to our community."

He recommended that the council adopt the ordinance.

Other speakers opposing the salon's name included Terry Tanaka of Marina JACL, Emily Nakano of UCLA's Asian American Studies Center, and Terry Garay, broadcast standards administrator at KQUP-TV.

Mayor John Heilmann said the council would take the matter into consideration but did not set a date for a decision or another hearing.

Asian students retain minority status 

WASHINGTON — Educational institutions with high percentages of Asian Americans will continue to receive federal funding under the Higher Education Act Reauthorization, which was passed in the House of Representatives on Dec. 4.

The bill, passed by a 350-to-67 vote, contains provisions that re­ strict implementation of the Higher Education Act of 1965 and under student financial aid programs, for post-secondary institutions that naturalize a full percentage of minority enrollment.

Rep. Sala Burton (D-Calif) in­ troduced an amendment that in­ cluded Asian Americans in the minority designation. They had been excluded in the bill's original language. The amendment was passed by a voice vote without dissent.

Rep. Nels Curtis Matsui and Nor­ man Mineta (both D-Calif) had called attention to the omission of Asian Americans in a joint let­ ter to Augustus Hawkins (D-Calif), chair of the House Education and Labor Committee.

"I am proud that my colleagues have supported me on this vital matter to Asian Americans and to the California system of higher education," said Burton. "The overwhelming majority of Asian Americans live in California and attend college there."

"Many of these students attending the state universities or com­ munity colleges come from eco­ nomically disadvantaged homes and communities. Federal assist­ ance under this program is based on minority enrollment. If Asian Americans are not in­ cluded, as they should be, all mi­ nority students would be ad­ versely affected."

"Many of these students are re­ cent immigrants and refugees," Burton said at the cloture vote before the amendment passed. "The students of Asian ancestry attending predominantly minor­ ity schools have genuine needs, especially in the development of written and oral language skills."

By adopting this amendment, we not only protect the rights of those students of Asian ancestry, but we also assist all schools with a significant portion of minority students."

United Way releases study on A/Ps 


According to council chair Lib­ by Lee, the report for the dis­ tinct characteristics of the Japa­ nese, Filipino, Chinese, Korean, Vietnamese, Asian Indian, Samoan, Hawaiian, Guamanian and other Asian Pacific Communities.

Each ethnic group was exam­ ined in terms of community edu­ cation, employment, immigration, health and other characteristics. The result shows vast differences between the groups. Some are our country's most wealthy and edu­ cated minorities while others are severely depressed with little schooling."

The Asian Pacific population increased 92%, from 228,000 to 457,000, between 1970 and 1980, the report states.

The 1980 figures show Japanese as the largest group at 117,200, followed by Filipinos, 100,040; Chinese, 94,200; Koreans, 61,500; Vietnamese, 26,410; Asian Indians, 17,720; Samoans, 7,440; Ha­ waiians, 6,260; Guamanians, 3,826; and 20,004 "other Asians" in­ cluding Cambodians, Thais, and Indonesians.

The county's current Asian Pacific population is estimated to be as high as 720,000, although Lee believes the actual number may be about 1.1 million, or 14% of the county's 6 million resi­ dents.

Foreign-born Asians make up 65% of the county's Asian Pacific population; the American-born make up 35%. The 72,600 refugees from Vietnam, Laos and Cam­ bodia in the county by mid-1983 were the state's largest concentra­ tion of Southeast Asian refugees.

According to the report, 8% of Asian Pacifics speak English and 21% do not speak it well. A 67% increase in Asian Pacific public school students in need of bilingual education between 1980-84 was also reported.

Groups with rates of college graduates above the county aver­ age were: Asian Indians, 45%; Filipinos, 47%; Koreans and Chi­ nese, both 39%; and Japanese, 27%. Vietnamese had the lowest education level, with 28% of the adults having 0 years of school­ ing.

The report attributes the rela­ tively high household incomes of Asian Pacifics to more workers per household, longer hours per week at work, and higher education levels. At the same time, the Asian Pacific poverty level rose from 9% in 1970 to 13% in 1980, largely due to the very low in­ come of Vietnamese refugees.

Among the recommendations on Asian Pacific service needs:

• Language — English classes are needed for adults at basic and advanced levels; bilingual staff and materials can improve outreach and service delivery to non-English speakers.

• Employment — Job training linked to basic education is needed for immigrants with low skill levels; small business tech­ nical assistance is needed for small-scale businesses; and im­ migrants need help in obtaining licenses in the U.S.

• Immigration — Legal services are needed to help Asian Pacifics.
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Kagawa centennial director being sought

BERKELEY, Calif.—The American Committee for the Kagawa Centennial Project is seeking a director for fundraising in conjunction with the 100th anniversary in 1986 of Dr. Toyohiko Kagawa’s birth.

Kagawa rose to fame through his work in the Shinkawa slums of Kobe in the early 1900s. Subsequently he had a prominent role in the Christian, labor, and cooperative movements in Japan. In his overseas lecture tours he preached the brotherhood concept and exhorted thousands to become community activists in self-help groups.

He visited many churches in the Nidoki community, organizing Seicho No Ie (Society of Jesus) in 1941, while on an unsuccessful mission of peace to the U.S., he was the featured speaker at a retreat of the N.Caf. Japanese Young Peoples Christian Conference. He returned on the last boat to Japan before the outbreak of WW2.

During the war the Japanese government restricted his movements and imprisoned him at times. He made a controversial visit to China to demonstrate the concern of the Japanese people for the Chinese people and was castigated by both sides. In the postwar period he was an adviser to Gen. MacArthur on reconstruction policies and was instrumental in the rebirth of churches, farm and consumer cooperatives, and labor unions in Japan.

The Centennial Project recently engaged the services of Robert Schildgen, free-lance writer and former co-editor of Berkeley Opinion, to write an updated biography of Kagawa. Translations of Kagawa’s own writings, including poetry, are also planned.

Applicants may contact Thomas Grubbs, project vice president, at 2238 Kehoe Ave., San Mateo, CA 94404; (415) 341-3117.

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EAST WIND

Bill Marutani

THE GRACIOUS CITY of Kyoto—from the picturesque wood-block print appearance of the Gion section, through the hustle and bustle of the markets in the narrow Nishiki-kōji (a must for every visitor), to the stately temples and shrines throughout the area—has always been my favorite place in Japan.

Even the tiny (dialect) of Kyoto is gentle. The area is steeped in the history of Japan, Nijo Castle of the shogun probably being the most familiar to foreign tourists. This (dialect) also lays claim, and justifiably so, to some of the best strawberries that you can buy or the palate can savour. There are famous restaurants throughout the city, some of them in such nondescript places and settings that only the local denizens can point them out. (A comprehensive guide book for Japanese tourists will list these hidden gems.)

MOST JAPANESE STREETS are crowded, narrow and har-\...

Reynolds' Rap

ONE THING LEADS TO ANOTHER

Bob Shimabukuro

The PC regularly reports from the Justice Dept, which report on the Justice Dept's activities with regard to its civil rights program and goals. Often we receive copies of Asst. Attorney General William Bradford Reynolds' speeches to various groups.

For the most part Reynolds defends President Reagan's approach to civil rights and quotas, citing various statistics, programs, and the commitment to equality of opportunity to "prove" that civil rights leaders are out of touch with their constituency, that affirmative action does not work, and that it is, in fact, contrary to basic American principles.

African-American voice is an anomaly in the Reagan administration, which translates it as "giving unqualified minorities opportunities which their predecessors were discriminated against."

This definition makes it easy to justify the dismantling of affirmative action programs; who in his right mind would want to recruit under such a designation? But it is this designation which Reagan and Reynolds and a large part of the American public believe is the case when they see minorities in positions which defy their own stereotypes of an identifiable group of people, usually non-white.

Since this country, especially the present leadership, places such emphasis on athleticism, let's suppose that you are the president of a college or university. And suppose your football team is all-white, despite the fact that your student body is 20% black.

The public is now questioning your football program. Well, after all, that is what the sport is all about. And suppose the four football coaches you manage to convince him that it would be prudent to spend some of his recruiting budget to do little affirmative action.

He recruits a few blacks—mostly running backs, wide receivers and defensive backs. A few years down the road, you notice that more than 30% of your team is black. Do you decide to cut back on its affirmative action plan? I don't know of a school in the country which would.

Basketball especially is a sport where affirmative action has far exceeded any goals or quotas set, and in fact has rendered quotas meaningless.

Phi Delta is simply the statistical data by which the attainment of the goals of equality of opportunity can be judged. Removing quotas removes the pressure to judge the effectiveness of a recruitment program; it also removes the pressure to find qualified minority applicants.

If affirmative action presently has negative connotations, it is because businesses and educational institutions have not committed themselves to the original concept, which was based on the notion of equality of opportunity rather than the notion of simply having the numbers.

The "tokens" were recruited and hired only to meet regulations. Programs designed to locate and train qualified personnel for "color-blind" positions, but not fit in with the "quick solution" of simply satisfying the numbers game.

Only in cases of "acceptable" public stereotypes (black athletes and performing artists, Asian engineers and businesspeople) have there been serious, continuous attempts to locate, educate and train qualified personnel.

The Justice Dept. should be enforcing the spirit and intent of affirmative action programs rather than trying to put the whole idea as a failure because it does not fit in with this administration's concept of a "color-blind" (in other words, "white") society.

The institutions of this country work on the principle of the "good of white boy" network. Friends and associates of those in power, schoolmates from the Harvais, Princes, Yales, and Storond, are hired and promoted before any thought is given to qualifications.

As a graduate from Harvard Law School I am given top legal employment opportunities, so will a graduate of the US, football program be given better football employment opportunities (well, maybe not from this year's team). Room is made available for them, but without affirmative action there will be a lockout.

Just think for a second: ever wonder why colleges and universities will spend a lot of their resources searching for a good, qualified athlete—going outside their "normal" friends and acquaintances—and not spend a dime looking for a future research scientist, writer, artist, or if you'll pardon the expression, humanist?

Also ever wonder why nobody has filed suit against any top college basketball team for "revenue disease made only for associates, without affirmative action, there will be a lockout.

And as long as we're at it, with all this talk about defectors, ever wonder why immigrants from Asia, South America and Central America are called "aliens," while those from non-Asian communist countries are called "defectors?"

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There's nothing that irks a Japanese American more than to be told by someone with a white face that he speaks English well. Why shouldn't he? It's his first and probably only language. He was born in the U.S., educated in American schools, and possibly has never been out of the country except for brief trips as a tourist or perhaps as a member of the U.S. armed forces. If he (or she) didn't speak English well, there'd be something wrong.

Of course, the dot who makes the comment means it as a compliment. But by that action he demonstrates his ignorance. He fails to understand that people with Asian faces also can be native-born Americans. He assumes, out of thoughtlessness or ignorance or unintended racism, that one must be white to be able to speak English. He needs to be corrected and educated. He also needs to back off a bit so definitively and so devastatingly that he'll never forget the lesson.

Most of us can't think of the properly devastating thing to say at the moment of the affront. So our retort lacks the proper course I speak English, I was born and raised in this country. I hope that for you, to that action he denies, is the lesson.

of the remark Absolute Free.

McKinney's address is listed below.

One of the first actions I took after the race for the Nisei Congress seat was sponsored by the community as a way of greeting the new congressman on his ability to speak English.

Mineta's eminently appropriate retort: "Thank you. You might be interested to know I'm familiar with two more words: (Expletive) you."

A more gentle response which I heard recently goes like this: "Thank you very much. You speak English very well, too. Where did you learn it?"

Okay, now listen up.

This is sponsoring a contest for the best put-down for anyone dumb enough to compli-
JA receives award from government

WASHINGTON — At a Nov. 27 ceremony, Andrew Kuroda was awarded the Third Class Order of the Sacred Treasure by Ambassador of Japan Nobuo Matsunaga at his official residence. Presented as a symbol of the Emperor and the ribboned medalation of the Japanese government, Matsunaga explained that the honor was being conferred in recognition of Kuroda's contributions to Japanese studies in America, and thus to understanding between the U.S. and Japan, during his 35 years in the Library of Congress.

A naturalized citizen of Japanese ancestry, Kuroda was a Methodist minister before WWII in Washington and Oregon. Following his evacuation in the spring of 1942, he served the U.S. government in the Office of Strategic Services. While employed by the Library of Congress in the postwar years, he also tended the religious and other needs of the Japanese American community in the Washington, D.C. area. In that capacity, he participated in the burial of the first Nisei war dead of the 442nd at Arlington National Cemetery. "If the right to die is taken away, then it can never be restored," Kuroda said during his acceptance speech.

Now retired, he remains active in the Washington, D.C.: JACL, especially in civic and religious matters. At the ambassador's invitation, the chief librarian, assistant librarian and other Library of Congress colleagues of Kuroda attended the ceremony, as well as Congressman and Mrs. Norma Mineta of California, Helene Matsunaga, wife of Sen. Spark Matsunaga of Hawaii, and Kuroda's wife Julia and sons Frank and Bert

JACI-Blue Shield gets new contract


Plan chairman John Yasumoto said that since the claims utilization of the group during the past year continued to be favorable, the Administrative Committee decided to take the opportunity to improve dental and inpatient benefits in the hopes of attracting younger JACLers to join the plan. The improvements are as follows:

—The dental schedule will be paid at a higher level. Procedures will be increased from 11% to 18% per present schedule.

—The new calendar year den

Three LEC board members elected

WASHINGTON—Minoru Yasui, current LEC chair, and James Tsujimura, incumbent JACL Executive Committee member, were re-elected to the LEC Board in the Nov. 20 mail ballot election. Their current terms expire this month.

Jerry Enomoto, past National JACL president, was elected to fill the third opening on the board. A former director of the Calif. Dept. of Corrections, he is a part-time professor of criminal justice at CSU Sacramento.

Nominations were opened to the public in July. Nominations by mail were closed Aug. 31; nominations were opened from the floor at the Sept. 16 LEC Board meeting.

The slate of candidates consisted of incumbents Yasui, Tsujimura and David Nakado and three nominees at large: Enomoto, Peggy Nagae, and George Ogawa. Eight of newly elected board members ran Jan. 1, 1986-Dec. 31, 1988. The board is comprised of 8-at-large members and 7 representatives.

Dr. Kaz Mayeda, national v.p., for public affairs, and Mollie Fujioka, No. Calif.-W. Pacifc District governor, were nominatated to fill the position of Yosh Nakashima, who declined to run for reelection, and were unanimously approved by the LEC Board as nominees of the National JACL Board.
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5. Mediterranean Cruise/Royal Odyssey

May 27-Jun 13

6. Japan Spring Festival

Mar 28-Apr. 13


Apr 25-May 3

8. Washington DC & Vicinity Heritage Tour

May 7-19

9. Caribbean Cruise

May 27-Jun 3

10. Japan Summer Tour

June 22-July 5

11. Colorado River Rafting

July 29-Aug. 10

12. Canadian Rockies-Victoria Expo

Aug 19-Sept 4

13. England-Scotland-Ireland

Aug 25-Sept 3

14. European Highlights Tour

Aug 25-Sept 3

15. Mediterranean Cruise/Royal Odyssey

Aug 25-Sept 3

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Sept 27-Oct 14

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Oct 3-13

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