Asian American groups organize to help for riot victims

Nikkeis provide counseling

LOS ANGELES—The Japanese Americans for L.A. Recovery recently met to help victims of the recent riots in Los Angeles. Kathy Imahara, attorney with the Asian Pacific American Legal Center, reported that many of the victims are bewildered by the jargon in their insurance policies, while others have no idea how to apply for SBA loans.

KATHY IMAHARA

Volunteers sought

The Asian Pacific Legal Center is asking for volunteers to help serve victims of the Los Angeles riots. Call Stewart Kwoh, 213/748-2022.

The relief organization set up a fund and called on donors from the Japanese American community to help victims of the violence. The Japanese American Cultural and Community Center, a non-profit, charitable organization, will be in charge of funds until the committee can distribute them to appropriate sources. Make checks to the L.A. Recovery Fund, c/o JACC.

Attending were Jim Taniishi, JACL; Kathleen Hynke, APALC; Bill Watanabe. See HELP/Page 8

Getting relief

If you are in need after the L.A. riots or would like to help the recovery, the following is a list of organizations providing assistance:

• The Japanese American Cultural and Community Center—The “L.A. Recovery Fund” has been set up to assist victims of the riots. Checks should be made out to the L.A. Recovery Fund, c/o JACC and sent to 244 S. San Pedro St., #505, Los Angeles, 90012. Information: 213/628-2725.

• Asian Pacific Counseling Center—Offering free crisis intervention counseling services for Asian American victims of violence. See HELP/Page 8

Newsmaker

Cheryl Lau has key Republican convention role

WASHINGTON — In 1981, Cheryl Lau moved from California to Nevada and accepted a job in the state attorney general’s office. Nine years later, she was elected in her first political campaign the Nevada secretary of state, defeating her Democratic opponent by nearly 10% points in the statewide race.

Recently, she embarked on another challenge as vice-chairwoman of the Republican National Convention’s 1992 platform committee, a major political function. Her job is to assist in the development of the single document representing the views of Republicans on some 70 policy issues. The committee held one of its hearings in San Diego.

See NEWSMAKER/Page 4

11 weeks until the Convention

JACL Solid as the Rockies - August 3-8, 1992 - Mile-Hi Chapter - Denver, CO

Midwest camps to be dedicated – page 5

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Saturday, May 23—Denver Central Officers' retreat to the former site of the relocation center at Amache. Arrangements for transportation will be made not later than 30 days in advance. Information: Art Mony, 365 W. Radoff Ave. Denver CO 80206 or Kent Yobodto, 5546 W. Iowa Pl. Lakewood, CO 80228, 303-892-1292

Edison, news and views expressed by correspondents of the National Board or National Directors do not necessarily reflect JACL policy.

San Diego


Santa Barbara

May 28—B.B. Chung King and the Screaming Buddhaheads play the Victory Club, 540 State St., Santa Barbara. The doors open at 10 p.m. Featured in the pit, see these exciting and talented stars. Tickets and information: 805-564-3231

Convention calls

For general or registration information regarding the JACL convention:
"Robert Takahashi; 303-237-9747, any time.
"For information: 303-421-1392 (after 6 p.m.)

Mountain States

JACL chapters of the Mountain Plains District will host their first group national convention in Denver, Colo.

Rules for the tournament, to be held concurrently with the JACL convention, are as follows:

1. Teams will be selected by districts on a district basis, and will be limited to a maximum of two men's and women's teams to represent the district council.

2. Team selection should include representation from each districts comprising the Mountain States and find that this requirement is difficult, then the respective districts should contact the JACL convention, 3. The team championship will be played holes at full handicap. Contests should submit an acceptance of the regional equivalent, based on the current USGA handicap system. Each team member shall have a current handicap card for each team. All profit from the tournament will be given to the JACL convention.

Districts interested in entering a team should contact: Mary Yamasaki, 723-2593, Boulder, CO 80303 or John Showalter, 916-5548, Boulder, CO 80302. The team championship will be played holes at full handicap. Contests should submit an acceptance of the regional equivalent, based on the current USGA handicap system. Each team member shall have a current handicap card for each team. All profit from the tournament will be given to the JACL convention.

For the record

Vail, the well known Colorado resort town, was incorporated on May 8 issue. The town is one of the featured areas at the JACL convention.

Cost: $20 including a buffet lunch. Program, entertainment, information and entertainment: "American History Through Interviews and Information: Sacramento Reunion—Toko Fujii, 601 Union Bank, 700 L St, Sacramento 95814, or call Toko Fujii at 916-212-2112 or 916/441-7900 days.

Monday, May 17—25th San Diego JACL convention at the Holiday Inn and Hotel, Sacramento (pits: to be held at Elk Grove Park. South Sacramento)
JACL active on civil rights measures

By KAREN NARASAKI
Washington, D.C., Representative

JACL has been able to maintain a strong presence in the civil rights community over the past year. Headed by Bob Fujitani, JACL's leadership, along with the Organization of Americanizing Americans, have represented the interests of the Asian American community in several bills that have been advanced by the Leadership Conference on Civil Rights. If you have not already done so, please call your congressperson and senators to let them know that you support the legislation. The Capitol switchboard number is (202) 225-3100.

Voting Rights Act Language Assistance Amendments of 1989

The Voting Rights Act, as amended, requires that assistance provisions of the voting rights act be made available for deaf and limited English proficient voters in August 1989. If Congress fails to reauthorize Section 508, that section and all assistance provisions which are currently required to provide language assistance will no longer be required. In New York City, there has been provided written testimony to Congress and has worked with the Riverside County language department.

In the wake of the L.A. riots, David D. Durenberry, Republican candidate in the new 41st Congressional District and the candidate who lost the race for mayor in the state, earned broad public recognition over his two rivals with his measured speech and his record of making sure to be heard. The city, which was not re-elected the city council with a "very healthy margin," 5,090 (16.8%) of the total 29,700 votes cast, finishing second behind the mayor's list of candidates.

In the Sun, Prop. 490 as a correction to the election story prop. 411 of the November 1990 referendum that sets three-year terms in the State Assembly and two four-year terms in the 46-member Senate. It also kills the pension plan for legislators and slashes their $165,000 annual budget by 47%. The state supreme court made the proposal that it does not violate First Amendment rights of either voter or candidate.

In JAPAN, JACL's Emily Murase was elected as one of two representatives at the Democratic Alliance regional convention, which met last April in Hong Kong. An account executive with AT&T Japan, she authored a platform resolution to create a national force to propose to force proposals on the public agenda. She also addressed a problem that the Japanese language is a vital issue in the U.S. Democrats in order to compete for the Democrats in foreign communities.

—HARRY HONDA

Bay Area groups criticize justice system, media

SANFRANCISCO—Withholding for the LAPI, the justice system and the media, Bay Area Asian groups continue to work on May 7 to assess the aftermath of the Rodney King verdict and the effect on the Asian American community.

In preparing the statement were a broad representation of Asian American groups including, JACL, the Asian American Civil Liberties Union, Young Koreans, Asian Women United and the Chinese Progressive Association.

"To portray Korean Americans as a holy war on the part of minority who have surpassed African Americans in their own communities is to misrepresent the structural and historical discrimination against the African American community that predates the arrival of Koreans in large numbers to Los Angeles and other major cities.

The group strongly criticized the results of the LAPI report, "The police non-response to the initial outbreak of violence represents a complete failure of the police force of south central Los Angeles against Asian American communities inhabited by African American, Latino and Korean Americans to ensure the safety of all groups in the community."

With alacrity and shock for media coverage of the riots, the group blamed the media for perpetuating "model minority" stereotype of Asian Americans and creating a new stereotype — the gun-toting Korean gangland. The exclusion of Korean and other Asian Americans from the serious media analysis also left open the question of whether the riot was a self-centered response to the social problems in this country."

To unity for the group, the statement says, "We must work together to attack the root causes of the problems. Our role is to help our media and government educationalists provide favorable for people of color.

Scholarships

Following are scholarships available to Asian Pacific and Japanese students.

The Southern California American Nikkei (SCAN) JACL is offering two scholarships for undergraduate college students. Requirements are: applicant must be of Japanese ancestry; a resident of Los Angeles County; must be enrolled at a 4-year college or university, and must be enrolled for the 1992 fall semester.

Information: SCAN JACL, P.O. Box 9490, Mariposa Del Rey, CA 90038; or call Hiroko Sabatato (213) 785-7707 during business hours, Monday-Friday. $100 in support of Asian Pacific Women's Network (APWN) is offering four $1,000 scholarships to women of Asian or Pacific Island ancestry. Applicants must be residents of Los Angeles, San Bernardino or Ventura counties. APWN encourages scholars of Asian Pacific women seeking betterment through education or training programs. Applications must be completed by: July 1, 1992. Address: 1500 Mission St., Suite 101, San Francisco, CA 94105.

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Short Takes

(Continued from page 1)

Angela L. T. and L.A. Times Orange County edition staff writer, said, "Our concern is that the Times poll once again did not break out statistical data on Asian American attitudes about the King verdict and the riots when it broke out data on attitudes of Anglos, Latinos, and blacks.

"Wouldn't it be worth it to spend the extra money to oversample the Asian American population in order to get meaningful results? Since so much has transpired with respect to race relations and there has been a lot of anecdotal analysis of the riots, we believe that Asian Americans should be polled," said Takehashi.

Rebels clash in Lima prison

LIMA, Peru — Presidential decree signed by Alberto Fujimori on May 6 to mete harsh prison terms to rebel Sheeld Experience JACL members charged with police clashing with inmates at Canto Grande, a maximum-security facility, according to the prison agency. Police said at least 16 police and 11 rebels, all women, were injured.

About 600 Sendero Luminoso rebels, half nearly being women, were in prison awaiting trial. The military has long soughtrogate jail terms for rebels, but most have died in the Congress. With the Congress dissolved, Fujimori was free to renew his decree.

"We want a country without violence and a climate of security and tranquility, both for human life and for the nation's socioeconomic development," Fujimori declared.

North Korea nuclear sites revealed

TOKYO — The International Atomic Energy Agency has issued a 100-page study describing North Korea's nuclear sites, including a rebel previously unknown facility, according to David Sanger, a New York Times reporter here anticipating the arrival of U.S. inspectors from officials here.

While North Korea has denied the existence of a reprocessing complex in Yongbyon, about 60 miles north of the capital, Pyongyang, which U.S. intelligence surveillance has called a mysterious site, the true nature will not be known until inspectors arrive at the site.

Separate J.A. exhibit to close soon

SACRAMENTO, Calif. — Section II of "Continuing Traditions: Japanese Americans at Sacramento History Museum in Old Town is scheduled to close by the end of May, according to Tobi Fujii, of the Sacramento Regional Japanese American 1900 Exhibits Committee. Its highlight is the Hakka diorama of the Mainanur Camp and a rear view of the barrack. Section I, or the permanent exhibit shown by many Nikkei groups, has been a popular attraction since it opened in February, according to Wayne Madsen, project director/curator.

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A Strike of public policy and began to study law part-time. Launched her new career into political salience.

Newspaper

(Continued from page 1)

Lau said she hopes the platform committee recognizes the value of a significant and unique opportunity to the American society.

Hiroshi Ueno, who works closely with business and overseas Nevada laws that regulate the establishment of corporations, said, "And from a small business family," she continued.

From the time she was in high school in Hilo, Hawaii, until she left college and the Mainland (Indiana University), she worked at the family store, a small clothing and souvenir shop managed by her parents. Lilo, who plays the flute, music and music-related performance at Indiana, earned her master's in music education at Simon Fraser University (Washington, Mass.), and a doctorate from the University of Oregon. She taught music at Sookow University and the College of Chinese Culture in Taiwan, returned to the Mainland and joined the California State University faculty at Los Angeles as professor of music.

While teaching music and writing a book, Lilo took the tug of public policy and began to study law part-time. Launched her new career into political salience.

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NEWMAKER

(Continued from page 1)

"Our leadership has to be more inclusive of our people. The entire community has to be involved in (rebuilding) otherwise the building will come down again," said Choo.

Focusing on the Bush visit, Choo said, "We've placed Bush as our leader and our president to acknowledge that there's a lot of people involved in rebuilding. We need resources, specifically
to rebuild the community. We need to create opportunities to make young people feel like they have a stake and a place in the establishment of operations."

"The devastation of Los Angeles shows that the country needed to reposition itself. We need a new national agenda that works toward security and justice for all," said Choo.

"The Revitalization of Los Angeles shows that the country needed to reposition itself. We need a new national agenda that works toward security and justice for all," said Choo.

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"The Revitalization of Los Angeles shows that the country needed to reposition itself. We need a new national agenda that works toward security and justice for all," said Choo.
Restored Rohwer, New Jersey camps dedicated as part of National JACL 75th Anniversary

The独具的 restored original monuments at Rohwer and the new granite gravestone at the text monument will help maintain the awareness of the significance of the camps in American History. The Rohwer Reunion Committee, the JACL and other organizations that were instrumental in fund raising, are encouraging all those who were interned at either the Rohwer or Jerome camps to attend the dedication ceremonies. Contributions to the restoration fund are still needed to meet Federal guidelines to qualify as a National Historic Landmark.

George Kanezaki of West L.A. Travel, inc., Los Angeles, (310) 850-8252, will provide group travel information. Hotel reservations can be made by calling Gini Ashkev at the Excelsior Hotel, Little Rock, AR (501) 927-1745 or 29-November. Further information and registration forms: Rohwer restoration project director, George Kanezaki, P.O. Box 1277, St. Louis, MO, 63126, or call 314-295-2135. The banquet dinner costs $25. Order tickets for the banquet when reserving hotel reservations. Reservations for accommodations and dinner payment must be received by the Excelsior Hotel by the middle of May.

More St. Louis Chapter JACL activities

- Member George Hasegawa was honored for his work in international relations at a scheduled ceremony held by the International Institute May 6.
- George was instrumental in initiating and developing the Japanese Garden in the Missouri Botanical Garden.
- Kimi Darham, member, is organizing the Sept. 29-Oct. 20 trip to Nagano, Missouri's sister state in Japan.
- The St. Louis chapter has raised $34,600 for the Legacy Fund, which is 23% of our goal.
- Information can be obtained by contacting Sherrill Pratt, (314) 963-8115.

JACL (Continued from page 3)

Justice for Ward's Cove Workers Act: JACL, along with the Organization for Chinese Americans and the National Asian Pacific American Bar Association, is leading the fight to remove a special interest provision in the Civil Rights Act of 1991.

This provision excuses 2,000 Asian American and Native Alaskan canner workers, who sued Ward's Cove Packing Company for employment discrimination, from the protection of the Civil Rights Act of 1991.

The Senate Labor & Human Resources Committee passed S.1992 out of committee last month. The House bill, H.R. 3744, is stuck in the House Judiciary Committee and the Education and Labor Committee, despite the fact that the bill currently has 16 cosponsors in the House and Speaker Foley's commitment to move the bill. There is still a chance that the bill can pass if compromise language can be agreed upon, but continued community pressure is crucial to get Congress to act.

Equal Remedies Act: JACL is working with other members of the Leadership Conference on Civil Rights to support passage of the Equal Remedies Act, S.2005/ H.R.8796, which would remove the limitations on damages for intentional violations of Title VII discrimination cases brought by women and religious minorities.

Removal of these arbitrary caps is crucial to the Asian American community because the caps represent a dangerous precedent for capping damages available in race discrimination cases as well. The Senate is expected to vote sometime in May.
A person I know who has won awards for her TV documentaries told me recently she was thinking of doing a program on Japanese picture books that came to the U.S. to marry men they had never seen.

Good idea, if a little late. There may be a few of them still living who could tell first-hand stories, but probably not many. She asked whether she could run some questions and questions by me about Japanese Americans and I said, no problem.

She has been sending me questions ever since. I'm horrified by her ignorance. Let me answer a few:

Was it true, she asked, that the Issei did not return to Japan because they would be killed if they did?

No. Thousands of young Japanese men came to the United States at the turn of the century and shortly thereafter, and while many stayed, many others went back to Japan without facing execution.

The producer double-checked her sources and added it turned out that either she, or the person who gave her the information, confused 20th Century immigration with what happened nearly 300 years earlier. In 1600, in an effort to rid feudal Japan of foreign invaders, the Tokugawa shogunate banished Japanese to go abroad and did not allow them to return. But that changed when Commodore Perry persuaded Japan, under threat of gunfire, to open its doors in 1854.

Another question: Before World War II, passage back and forth to Japan was not uncommon, but the women who became Americans tells me that the government refused to give her the papers necessary to return.

Noroo says she and many other American-born Japanese were caught in Japan by the outbreak of war because they didn't realize war was about to start.

Question: Why did most Japanese Americans on the East Coast return to Japan just prior to the war, while those who settled on the West Coast didn't? If they were different, in what way were they different?

Simple. Most of the ethnic Japanese on the East Coast in 1941 were residents of Japan who were in the U.S. temporarily with their families as businesspeople, representing Japanese companies. As businesses fell off due to war fears, they went home. Most of the Japanese Americans who were immigrants with American-born offspring, permanent residents of the United States who had no reason to go to Japan since America was host. Somehow, even today, many people don't understand the difference between Japanese businesses facing off from Tokyo and fourth and fifth generation Americans of Japanese origin.

Is this producer getting this kind of information that is confused at best and totally false at worst? From her, I tell a university instructor who teaches a course on Japanese immigration.

Nothing is terribly, terribly wrong here. The reason needs to be explored and the situation corrected.


The Watts riot—how it was then

When they ask me what was it then? (referring to the "Watts Rebellion of 1965") as African Americans call it today, our quick refuge are the P.C. pages of that week. The lead story of the Aug. 30 issue is headlined: "Los Angeles riot heated for second day" (Aug. 31). Page 42, 42 column-inch copy follows—no pictures, however.

The riot broke out in Watts on a number of issues. Los Angeles, when a California Highway Patrol motorcycle officer stopped a Negro man, Marquette Frye, for speeding and reckless driving. Since he failed to pass the sobriety test, Frye was put in the patrol car by two other officers and the officer radiated for a patrol car to carry the youth to jail. By that time, Frye's mother, his brother and several other people surrounded the scene. A scuffle with police ensued. The patrolling car was returned from leaving and police called for more. Violence began. The police department consisted of 300 men. The riot was widespread.

The National Guard on the scene the fourth evening (Saturday) to restore order and clear the streets of rioters and looters.

On Monday (Aug. 31), 34 persons, mostly black, were dead; more than 1,000 wounded, nearly 4,000 arrested, and property damage estimated at $40 million with over 600 buildings destroyed or damaged within the 40 square miles of Watts.

Prominent in the new Los Angeles Mayor Tom Bradley was a member of the City Council;Rep. Mervyn Dymally (D-Calif.), two of the blacks, drafted the rioters to "mookeys in a zoo" and councilman Billy Mills, a superior court judge today, wanted the police to use tear gas. In the aftermath, G. Jerry Brown appointed former CIA director John McCone to start the U.S. in the riots. His report, "Violence in the City—An Analysis" (Washington: Government Printing Office, 1966) criticized the police chief and the department, dismissed police brutality as highly exaggerated, advocated training of the police and proposed an outside inspector general to oversee the department.

It also urged that more black and Latino officers be hired. Only 8 percent of the force was black. The report also warned of housing shortage, lack of jobs, education and transportation in the black ghettos. It also minimized the black participation in the riot.

That is one page of a tragic item: Eugene Shimatsu, 18, (a Westside Sambo) and a black companion were slain by police as a suspected burglar in front of a liquor store at 5440 W. Washington. Shimatsu was killed on Tuesday night in the 10th, but the other daily, the Herald-Examiner, since the incident occurred outside the riot curfew area.

My "Eye Editor's Desk" column page 2 ended with a paragraph about a meeting Thursday night the Watts Community Action Plan (WCAP) and John Salto, now working on the JACL Legacy Fund and immediate past PSW regional director. It was decided to ask Salto a staff member of the Los Angeles County Commission on Human Relations. The column carried no names of attendees. We were discussing how to strengthen the lines of communication between the black and white communities.

The column also gave a personal view "by" the writer on "the facts of the Watts rebellion in the Westside. There were many Nikkis, by SUTTIPS PAGE 8

Very truly yours

-HARRY K. HONDA