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Thursday, July 12, 1984

'Karate Kid' Producer Says Morita Doesn't Know How Great He Is

"This is the first time I've ever portrayed a real, full-dimensional Japanese character," says Noriyuki "Pat" Morita, who plays Miyagi, the sage philosophical karate mentor in Columbia Pictures' "The Karate Kid."

Before reading for the part of Miyagi in "The Karate Kid," both director John Avildsen (director of "Rocky") and producer Jerry Weintraub were skeptical. Morita recalls, "The following Monday, the phone woke me up with a voice saying, 'Pat, before your agent even hears, I want to be the first to congratulate you.' It was Weintraub, who now says of Morita's performance, 'The role and Pat were made for each other. Pat doesn't yet realize how great he is in this picture.'"

Probably best known for his role as Arnold on television's long-running series "Happy Days," Morita began his show-biz career as a stand-up comic—

JACL Condemns Farrakhan Remarks

The Japanese American Citizens League, a national civil rights organization, joined with other individuals and national organizations in condemning Louis Farrakhan's reference to Judaism as a "gutter religion."

The statement by Farrakhan demeaning the Jewish faith, the JACL stated, deserves the widespread repudiation it has received.

To characterize Judaism, a major world religion, as a "gutter religion" is not an expression of a difference of opinion. It is not an expression of tolerance. It is an expression of hatred and (Continued on Page 2)

Reviews—

Dancing Ink

The Asia Society, usually known for its presentation of native arts from the Asian/Pacific region, recently commissioned its first performance piece, a multi-media event entitled DANCING INK, a coproduction with Spectra Arts—"an interdisciplinary performing arts ensemble...whose purpose is to create cross-cultural programs." This innovative effort brought together Chinese calligraphy, Western and Chinese musical instruments, modern dance and traditional Chinese chanting.

Although this performance does not pretend to be a literal translation of Wang Wei's poetry, which is projected on the screen behind the dancers and musicians, at its best moments, DANCING INK gives new meaning to expressions like, "bringing words to life" or "poetry in motion." The abstract lines that wiggle across the page are echoed in the dancers' contortions as their bodies spell out words, spew out sentences and writhe into paragraphs. At other times, the author's thoughts are more sedate and formal and, accordingly, the dancers' vocabulary becomes a stylized ritual. Or, as another variation, tortured feelings are reflected by word/bodies that collide and contradict one another.

This bold visualization is underscored by music composed and directed **Small Press Requests Works By Women—**

Seattle's Seal Press is requesting short fiction written by women on the overall theme of "The things that divide us." The works, under 7,000 words, may have been published previously. Send material to the Seal Press, 312 South Washington, Seattle, Washington 98104. Deadline: August 1, 1984.

but not until he was in his 30s.

Born in Northern California, the son of itinerant fruit-pickers, he spent most of his childhood in the children's ward of a hospital suffering from spinal tuberculosis, which left him crippled until age 11. Shortly thereafter, World War II erupted and the Morita family found itself interned in a camp near Arizona.

"Following the war," says Morita, "the family picked up the pieces of what was supposed to be a regular life-style and went on."

After working for a while in a restaurant (Continued on page 2)

Fuel For The Fire

Japanese-American Reputation Under Attack

The following was submitted by Sansei Marc H. Iyeki who graduated from New York University Law School this Summer.—Ed.

The effort to erase the social stigma which plagues the Nikkei community as a result of their internment during World War II continues.

John J. McCloy, former Assistant Secretary of War during World War II, recently testified against legislation which would compensate Nikkei and Aleutian survivors of the American concentration camps. As usual, he stated that the internment was justified, a conclusion that can be attributed to his inability or unwillingness to distinguish between Japanese nationals and Japanese Americans. His position is not surprising, for in his testimony before the Commission on Wartime Relocation and Internment of Civilians (CWRIC) in 1981, he implied that the U.S. gov-

From The Editor's Desk—

Redress Foes Present Views At Washington, D.C. Hearing

On June 20, 21, and 27, congressional hearings took place before the House Judiciary Committee's Subcommittee on Administrative Law and Governmental Relations. Twenty-five witnesses presented testimony on the subject of three House bills recommending redress to Japanese-Americans and Aleuts for their World War II evacuation and internment. Supplementing the in-person report by Mike Tsukahara in the June 28 issue of the Nichibei, the following highlights the points presented by the anti-redress proponents. —Ed.

Testimony presented at redress hearings conducted in Washington, D.C. before a House subcommittee last month provide a fascinating and, for some, disheartening chapter in the long drive for Japanese-American redress. Less than two years following the issuance of the Commission on Wartime Relocation and Internment of Civilians' (CWRIC) "Report" and "Recommendations," pro- and anti-redress advocates continue to collide over the causes for President Franklin D. Roosevelt's Executive Order 9066.

The redress opponents who testi-

fied—basically four, if one excludes Daniel Lungren and Harry Kubo's disension on the recommendation of monetary redress—continue to vehemently deny that "war hysteria, racism, and the failure of political leadership," the conclusion reached by CWRIC, fully explained or had anything to do with the round-up and internment of Japanese-Americans during the War.

Dr. David F. Trask, Chief Historian of the U.S. Army Center of Military History, attacks the Commission's "Re-

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Former Assistant Secretary of War John J. McCloy and "Go For Broke" Mike Massack exchange views at House hearing. From the Washington Times

BRIEF NOTES

Jewish and Japanese Canadians Denounce Collette's Proposals For Redress—At a public hearing in support of Japanese Canadian redress held last month in Toronto, Milton Harris, president of the Canadian Jewish Council, and others, denounced the government's proposal of a \$5 million fund as being invalid because it provided neither an adequate apology nor compensation to the victims (see last week's *Nichibei*). Arthur Miki, president of the National Association of Japanese Canadians, said the federal government's offer is inadequate and that the NAJC will continue to press for a full and just settlement.

75 Attend NAATA Conference On Asian Americans In Radio—Last month, the National Asian American Telecommunications Association hosted a one day conference, entitled, "A Day of Bamboo Radio" in San Francisco, to encourage more AAs to enter the field of radio broadcasting. Out of 9,000 radio stations currently operating in the U.S., only one is owned and operated by Asians.

Los Angeles County Responds To Anti-Asian Activity—On June 18, the Los Angeles County Commission on Human Relations issued a 14-page report in response to hearings held on the rise of anti-Asian acts. The commission recommended a county "Remembrance Day" (Feb. 19), a rallying together of the various AA communities for mutual support and cooperation, a public education program, and said, "Public officials must work with [AA] community leaders to mount early opposition to discriminatory laws, incidents and movements."

Film By Peace Group Wins Top Prize—"Ningen O Kaese!" ("The Lost Generation"), a 20-minute film directed by Yuten Tachibana dealing with the tragedy and cruelty surrounding the wartime A-bomb attacks on Japan, captured the Blue Ribbon Award, the top prize for educational films, in the 1984 American Film Festival held in New York last month. "The Lost Generation," narrated in English by Jane Fonda, was produced by the "10 Foot Film Movement," a group founded in 1977 to foster a commitment to peace.

Vincent Chin Verdict—

Community Leaders And Garment Workers Protest Federal Trial Verdict

Last Friday, July 6, a rally/press conference was held on the steps of the Federal Court in downtown Foley Square. Leaders of the Chinese- and Asian-American communities together with City Councilwoman Miriam Friedlander and City Clerk David Dinkins, expressed their views and concerns on the recent verdict by a federal jury in the case of slain Detroit draftsman Vincent Chin.

On July 28, the jury acquitted Michael Nitz on two charges of having violated Chin's civil rights. Ronald Ebens was found guilty on one count of preventing Chin's use of public accommodations because of his race. Sentencing by Federal Judge Anna Diggs Taylor is being awaited.

Attending the rally in force were over

Korematsu Update— US Withdraws Appeal Of Patel Decision

Nikkei attorneys for Fred Korematsu, whose *coram nobis* petition for a vacation of his criminal conviction in 1942 for violating evacuation laws was granted last year, are elated that the government has, apparently, decided not to appeal Judge Marilyn Hall Patel's decision.

Judge Patel found that the U.S. government had suppressed, misrepresented and destroyed evidence which could have led the court to decide that the wartime relocation was not necessary.

Prof. Peter Irons, co-counsel in the case, told *East/West* that he talked personally with Victor Stone, the U.S. attorney assigned to the *coram nobis* case

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People

From Homestead High School in Sunnyvale, California, to another school within the district, because he is disappointed over the failure of his classmates and teachers to remedy the racist portrayals of Asians during his school's school spirit week last Fall (see *Nichibei*, 3-1-84)... Japanese sculptor **Seibo Kitamura**, best known for his Peace Prayer's statue in the Nagasaki Peace Memorial Park, will be celebrating his 100th birthday this year on Dec. 16. Kitamura still makes several pieces every year... Former legislative assistant to Rep. **Mike Lowry**, **Ruthann Kurose**, has been hired as the international trade and tourism coordinator for Seattle and hopes to increase tourism and trade to that major port city... **Sansei Mark Matsumoto**, 18, of Huntington Beach, California, has won a court settlement of \$5.5 million for injuries suffered in a 1982 freeway accident.

Handball coach **Brian Goto**, 38, of Burlington City, Canada, has won the senior men's title at the Canadian National Handball Championships held in Quebec City last month...

Ken Kashiwahara, ABC News correspondent and brother-in-law to assassinated Philippines opposition leader, **Benigno Aquino, Jr.**, stated in a keynote address at the AA Journalists Association's benefit dinner last month that he must "continue, at least in part, the role that I accepted last year," that of bringing Aquino's killers to justice. Kashiwahara added that journalists "not only can get involved, they should"... **R. Mimi Iijima** is the new summer student intern at Japanese American Social Services Inc.... **Sucheng Chan** is the first AA woman to be named a provost in the University of California system... 15 year old **Brad Wong** has decided to transfer

60—mainly women—of Local 23-25 of the International Ladies Garment Workers Union, who lined the steps of the Federal building. When Sam Wong, Director of Community Relations for the Local, spoke of the recent verdict, they raised their fists into the air and cried, "Not Fair!"

Addressing the rally from the Nikkei community were Bill Kochiyama who spoke on behalf of New York's Concerned Japanese Americans. Referring to the jury verdict as a "bittersweet victory," Kochiyama stated that "the acquittal of Michael Nitz must be condemned." Julie Azuma, Ethnic Concerns chair of the New York chapter of the Japanese American Citizens League, called the verdict a "victory" (Continued on Page 2)

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

Art
Hisako Sekijima. The Board of Directors of Wave Hill cordially invite all to a reception honoring Sekijima and a special viewing of "Nature Transformed" Baskets by Hisako Sekijima" at the Wave Hill House, Tue July 17 at 7 pm, 249 St & Independence Ave, Bronx, NY. RSVP is requested, 549-3200.

Events
Rainbow Coalition. Dance fundraiser to build a rainbow coalition sponsored by the Lower East Side Rainbow Coalition, Fri July 20 from 10 pm on at Justine's, 500 8th Ave (bet 35 & 36 Sts), NY. No sneakers, no jeans. Tix: \$6 advance, \$10 pair. For more info, call 598-9026, 458-7380 or 964-6226.

Exhibits
Chinese/Indian Trade. On the 200th year of trade with China, the exhibit "Dragons in the New World: Native Americans and the China Trade" makes the point that the China trade extended to Native Americans as well as the rest of the population, mostly 25 items from the turn of the century now thru mid-October at the Museum of the American Indian, B'way & 155 St, NY.

Festivals
Obon. Annual obon dance festival sponsored by the New York Buddhist Church—performed by over 100 dancers including audience participants with Soh Daiko—Sat July 14 at 6 pm at Riverside Mall, 104 St &

Fuel For The Fire

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controversy raging over whether the internment was justified. The argument continues in the wake of the CWRIC report which concluded that the internment was due not to military necessity but to economic competition, wartime hysteria, race prejudice and a failure of political leadership. It continues despite the documented evidence uncovered by the attorneys for Hirabayashi, Korematsu and Yasui, that the government, in prosecuting their cases, had lied to the judiciary in order to prevent it from rendering an informed decision.

The inescapable fact is that the reputation of the Japanese American community remains at issue. The reputation of the Issei and Nisei who are no longer with us will remain tainted until we affirmatively defend them from the ignorant and prejudiced elements of our society. Act, if not for yourself, then for those who are no longer with us to see that justice is done in the land where justice is supposed to prevail.

'Karate Kid'

(Continued from page 1)
rant, Morita found employment with Aerojet General, learning computers and worked his way up to department head and a very nice living for himself and his wife.

But, at this point, he decided to leave the comfort of a corporate life-style for a shot in show business. "I had no degree, no possibility for further advancement, and I was overweight and pushing 30," Morita explains. "Something was telling me that this was not what I wanted to do with my life. I'd reached a crossroads."

The avenue he chose was comedy. "I was too short to be a leading man. I couldn't sing and I couldn't dance. I didn't fit anywhere—but I could talk."

Morita moved to Southern California and worked the nightclub circuit for eight years. "During the 70's," he recalls, "the face of show business began to change. Suddenly the clubs weren't hiring opening acts." So Morita supported himself with commercials and character roles on television's "Love American Style," "Green Acres," "The Odd Couple" and "MASH."

It was only when Morita landed the role of Arnold on ABC-TV's "Happy Days," that the actor gained in popularity. Of his "Happy Days" experience, Morita says, "It was an enormous education. A major chapter in my life in terms of refining my work."

As for the future, Morita confesses, "I think I could be a pretty good movie director or TV producer. I've got enough experience putting together an act, but I'll do whatever I can to stay in the business. It's the only life I know now."

"It's taken me all over the world—out front and behind the scenes," Morita continues, "I'd very much like to give a lot of this back, if I could."

—from *The Rafu Shimpo*

Riverside Mall, NY. Free.
Rallies
Restaurant Workers. Rally in support of the striking restaurant workers of Hong Gung/Man Wah on Sun July 22 at 12 Noon at Confucius Plaza, Bowery & Division Sts, NY. For more info, call 924-5073.
Vincent Chin Update—
(Continued from Page 1)
in that it is the first civil rights case involving an Asian American to be tried on a federal level.

Both Azuma and Kochiyama, similar to the other speakers, described the need for the Asian American communities nationwide to stand together and be vigilant in the face of increasing discrimination and violence directed against Asian Americans. Councilwoman Friedlander stated adamantly, "What right do our courts have to allow the destruction of a person with racial slurs and epithets?"

Robert Wu, National President of the Organization of Chinese Americans, referred to the verdict as a "partial victory" and noted that "the conviction is a sign of maturity for the entire community." Virginia Kee, Democratic State Committeewoman, wondered if the sentencing by Judge Taylor will be only "another slap on the wrist," stating, "Times in Detroit have been hard" but, she added, "Times have always been hard for us."

Lorraine Leong of the Chinese Progressive Association likened the murder of Vincent Chin to the subway murder last February of Ly Yung Cheung, whose killer will not be standing trial due to a plea of mental incompetence. Leong said both murders expose the "deep racism" against Asian Americans in the country. Rocky Chin, speaking for the Justice for Vincent Chin Coalition, spoke of the "double standard" of justice in the U.S. Chin said the wartime internment of Japanese-Americans "was done with the authority of the highest court."

Sharon Hom, speaking for New York Asians for a Rainbow Coalition, ended the rally with a call for the defeat of president Ronald Reagan in November, saying that Asian Americans have suffered under his term.

Farrakhan

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bigotry.
Ron Wakabayashi, National Director of the JAACL, described Farrakhan's statement as "abhorrent."

Floyd Shimomura, JAACL National President, stated that "Americans of Japanese ancestry, who fell victim to bigotry highlighted in the wholesale incarceration of the entire West Coast population of one ethnic community during World War II, clearly understand the harm and suffering that can arise from statements such as Farrakhan's."

The JAACL echoed the resolution passed unanimously by the United States Senate in stating that our government, a democratic institution, must not tolerate either in its society or its electoral process, such vicious racism as expressed by Louis Farrakhan.

DANCING INK

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marimba. Then the choreography by Ohad Naharin became expressionistic, spirited, lively and showed off the strength and agility of individual dancers as well as solid ensemble work by his company: Iris Hoffman, Elizabeth Roxas, Irene Ouzounoglou, Kenneth Bowman and Ohad Naharin.

The work of Siu-Hang Lai on *tu-tu* and *erh-hu*, Euphemia Wong on *cheng* and Chinese chanting by Parker Po fei Huang provided a much needed authentic Asian flavor to the evening. A greater infusion of Chinese movement with the modern dance interpretation might have given a greater variety and depth to this multi-media exploration. For example, at one point the chanter solemnly crosses the stage while the dancers as frozen statues observe his passing. It's a moment of dissonance, a clash between two countries, an opportunity that could have been further exploited or integrated for greater visual and visceral impact on the audience.

It is hoped in the future that the Asia Society will continue to support and encourage this kind of artistic exchange that "highlights the essential kinship between peoples of various cultures."

Redress Foes

(Continued from page 1)
port" for being a "legal brief" rather than an historical accounting, stating "I appear before you to offer my professional opinion as an historian about the quality of the historical information contained" in the CWRIC "Report." Trask faults the "Report" for giving inadequate consideration to "the growth of Japanese expansionism and its adverse consequences for national security" and the "fact" that "War is an ultimate political crisis" when "early in 1942, the nation experienced defeat after defeat at the hands of Japanese military and naval forces."

Certainly at home in the current atmosphere of rising militarism, Trask states, "military decisions often reflect a "worst-case" point of view, in which capabilities rather than intentions largely determine the outcome."
"Even if it is established," continues Trask, "that the arguments based on military necessity were invalid, it is possible to argue that the decision makers acted in good faith and not on the basis of unseemly motives," i.e. "prejudice."

Former Assistant Secretary of War John J. McCloy leaves the realm of "historical objectivity" in his attempt to make the case for military necessity stronger. In his testimony, McCloy states, "The [Pearl Harbor] attack was the direct, proximate and only cause of the President's Order."

On the subject of the "Magic" cable traffic in 1941 and early 1942 from Japan to its consular offices here, McCloy says, "The far-reaching consequences of the Japanese attack, together with the knowledge obtained by "Magic" more than supplied all the information needed to justify fully President Roosevelt's action." (McCloy's emphasis).

Witness Ken Masugi, Resident Fellow of the Claremont Institute, would

Korematsu Update—

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of Korematsu, as well as those of Gordon Hirabayashi and Minoru Yasui. Irons said he asked Stone, "Did you file an appeal in the Korematsu case?" Irons said there was a moment of silence and then Stone replied that a "decision has been made to withdraw the appeal."

When asked how he felt about the withdrawal, Irons answered, "I feel great. It's a vindication of a long struggle not only for Fred Korematsu, but for all Americans."

Lead attorney Dale Minami was overjoyed by the news. "It's a great thing and I feel relieved that there will be no further test of the excellent decision by Judge Patel."

Minami added, however, "Personally though, I feel a bit disappointed in the sense that we could've carried the vindication of Japanese Americans to another, higher level, to the appeals court."

Despite the case's end, Minami stressed that it will be used as an educational tool "more so now than before" because Patel's decision is now the law of the land.

Because DANCING INK is art inspired by art, it is also art twice removed from life and, as such, remains remote, detached and fails to satisfy on a more profound level. It is a clever exercise that lacks the immediacy, focus and drive derived from first hand expression of experience.

On the other hand, it is thoughtfully conceived, well-executed and does convey a fascination and respect for Asian culture and its impact on the American psyche. It also achieves one specific goal, that of getting inside the heart, mind and soul of the calligrapher Wang Fang Yu, an artist steeped in ancient tradition yet daring enough to explore the modern, abstract implications of this art form.

It is hoped in the future that the Asia Society will continue to support and encourage this kind of artistic exchange that "highlights the essential kinship between peoples of various cultures."

Gerri Igarashi Yoshida

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like to see as the sole form of redress a monument erected to the 442nd RCT with the inscription, "To the memory of those American fighting men who assumed duties before enemy rights."

Based in the beliefs that both the "Report" and the "Recommendations" not only "fail to meet... scholarly, political, and ethical standards" but that the "Recommendations", as well, "will only serve to increase racism," Masugi says that the entire redress drive could not have been effected if it were not for Japanese-American activists in the 60's who were "possessed by a twisted romanticism."

Opposing monetary compensation, Masugi cites a quote from *The New Republic* which was issued on the subject of individual payments—"the folly of viewing history as a big debit-credit sheet." Masugi feels, as well, that a public education fund is a "classic example of special-interest legislation" and that "a foundation would damn America for its past, in the most irresponsible way imaginable."

But Masugi's ultimate quarrel with the "Report" is the commission's "arrogance of hindsight." He states that the "Magic" cable traffic and intelligence reports made Roosevelt's Order an "absolutely reasonable" action.

With David D. Lowman's eagerly-awaited 45 page report plus an appendix (see *Nichibei*, 5-24-84)—"Magic and the Japanese Relocation and Internment"—the former career intelligence officer launches a serious challenge to the CWRIC conclusion that there was no military necessity for Roosevelt's decision. Lowman begins his statement by referring to the evacuation and internment as a "grave injustice" and states that his "quarrel" is with CWRIC for failing to know about the "Magic" volumes issued by the U.S. Department of Defense in 1977.

Lowman proceeds to stress the importance of the "Magic" operation, described by the conclusions of *Hearings before the Joint Congressional Committee on the Investigation of the Pearl Harbor Attack*, 39 volumes published in 1946, as "some of the finest intelligence in our history." He further describes the methods by which the cable information was transmitted to top-ranking government officials as well as President Roosevelt; and through their reproduction in his testimony, he asserts that they gave the impression that the Japanese government had a well-organized espionage net involving Japanese-Americans working here. Lowman concludes, "The key civilian and military leaders of a nation at war personally were aware of Magic intelligence including its source, nature, content, and scope." Lowman states, "To conclude...that Roosevelt was motivated solely by political and racial considerations, is absurd."

The issue of the "Magic" cable traffic is clearly still with us despite its proven inconclusiveness on the subject of Nikkei spying. Must it be reiterated that not one case of espionage or subversion by a Nikkei has ever been found. Yet, as a correspondent who attended all three days of the hearings told me, the subject of "Magic" was repeatedly raised by the Subcommittee chair, Rep. Sam Hall. It is becoming evident that the question of "military necessity" may become as endlessly open to debate as the question of whether or not President Roosevelt knew of the Japanese "sneak attack" on Pearl Harbor before it occurred.

However, not only are we who advocate redress called upon to be prepared to debate the question(s), the argument of military necessity has not risen accidentally. The "arrogance of hindsight" which Masugi charges CWRIC with, is, to state it otherwise, a precious and timely gift. If anything, the lesson from the House hearings is that "military

necessity" cannot be viewed as an end in itself, distinct from other political, economic and social forces such as gave rise to the complete injustice of our incarceration. Mitziko Sawada states it well in her letter in the May 10 issue of the *Nichibei*: "[T]ied to the oft-heard claim that there was "no military necessity" for the World War II incarceration, the larger questions of abuse of power and the violation of human rights are totally ignored."

—Teru Kanazawa

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