

Kaiser Konsumer's Korner

By Inez Kaiser



The season is here when vacationers will be bombarded with catchy slogans and eye-opening bargains designed to persuade and win them over to one airline or another. It is up to you to decide whether the "Peanut Fare", the "Chicken Fare", the "Half-Price Special", the "Fly Me Away Extravaganza" or the "Weekend Wing Ding" best suit your vacation plans.

Today, the airline industry is one of the most competitive and widely used in the world. It comes as no surprise why the summer months spawn an even higher competitiveness among the airlines.

Once you are outside the gate and on your way the responsibility of an enjoyable trip is no longer yours. Your responsibility for a pleasant trip begins long before you board the plane. Do not settle for the first rate you are given. Just as in shopping, which in a sense is what you are doing, you need to be a selective and comparative vacationer.

Take out time to call all the airlines and have an agent thoroughly explain the terms and advantages of their specials. As a precaution, jot down the name of the person you speak to. Many airlines have common loopholes or conditions that may not be designated unless questions are asked by you.

It has been found that some flights lasting three to four hours have no meals served as might be expected. Also, some special rates are limited to a certain number of people. You should get just what you think you are getting.

Vacations are hectic enough without unexpected, unpleasant surprises. Some specials require leaving and returning by a certain date or staying a certain number of nights. It is up to your discretion to determine whether the special is actually that.

There are some package deals that require you to make reservations anywhere from seven days to two weeks in advance. There are also those that do not require advance reservations, but, you must consider the possibility of not being able to obtain seating on that flight.

You also need to discuss with the agent what your rights are if you have an advance reservation but there is no seat available upon your arrival at the terminal. Will you get a full reimbursement or assurance of being re-routed at the airlines expense? You should also be reimbursed for meals and lodging if necessary.

These and other questions need to be asked before a problem is at hand. Once you have made your final decision about the airline, you need to make your reservations and reconfirm them before you arrive at the airport.

It is wise to remember that there are more to "so-called" bargains and specials than meets the eye. Make sure you are not getting more or less than you're bargaining for but exactly what you pay for.

Your vacation or business trip should be a time to remember. The memories should be happy ones. You can help make them that way by being a conscientious vacationer who has the facts.

REEL THING

The voices of Frankie Avalon and Jonathan Winters are featured in the Reel Thing animated Children's feature "Alakazam the Great" showing Saturday, July 15 at 11 a.m. at the Decatur Library, 720 S. Decatur and at 3 p.m. at the West Las Vegas Library, 1402 N. "D" S

Presented free to children of all ages, the film follows the adventures of Alakazam, a monkey who becomes king of the animal world.

NEW DAY BEGUN

by

Benjamin L. Hooks



As the story goes when Howard Arnold Jarvis launched his crusade for a drastic cut in property taxes 15 years ago, politicians laughed at him. They felt certain that residents of the Maverick State would not want to see any such action that would lead to sizable reductions in public services.

Well, as we have seen from the nationwide rush to jump onto the bandwagon following California's adoption of Proposition 13 last month, politicians are not laughing any more.

Across the nation, public officials and private citizens alike, are earnestly assessing the causes that led to the overwhelming success of the Jarvis-Gann movement. The first reality they must face is, with the loss of \$7 billion in revenue, Californians must scramble to find alternate funding sources. But, did Proposition 13 have to happen?

One unmistakable factor in the approval of Proposition 13 was racism. Proposition 13 leaders were most outspoken against the use of public funds for welfare and other services that were targeted for the poor.

Many voters also cast their ballots under the mistaken notion that Proposition 13 would affect the poor and not them.

But although welfare has always been a favorite target for conservatives and insensitive public officials, it is doubtful that the Jarvis-Gann movement could have succeeded without the burdensome impact of exorbitantly high property taxes.

Looking at other factors in California, we see that the State had a whopping \$5 billion budget surplus. At the same time public officials showed little or no concern for the skyrocketing increases in property assessments and taxes each year.

With one of the most efficient tax assessment systems in the nation, they simply kept on raising taxes each year to pay for needed as well as unneeded services. For it should follow that, with a budget surplus as large as California's, there would be little incentive to be cost conscious. We have it, so let us use it, brothers and sisters, seemed to have been the byword.

Under such circumstances it is little wonder that Californians did not move to roll back taxes much sooner.

The only tragedy is that by taking such sweeping action as adopting a constitutional amendment, voters are striking at those least able to bear the burden of their anger as well as at those most responsible for the revolt. These were state and local public officials.

So, faced with an increasingly rebellious mood within the state and the nation, minorities as well as teachers, firemen, police, and municipal workers of all categories can expect even more difficult times ahead.

Minorities must therefore be careful about attributing the California revolt primarily to racism or classism. Certainly racism was a factor. But it was not the only one. Neither was it the most important one.

As responsible citizens, blacks will therefore have to assume a more vigorous role not only in the area of civil rights, but also in working for responsible, efficient local government. Blacks have always been concerned about the operations of their government, of course.

But, as the large number of unregistered voters will show, we as a people can do much more to ensure that public officials at all levels spend our tax dollars with greater care.

Blacks must enter even more fully the mainstream of their communities, creating watchdog committees and civic groups. They must become ombudsmen and seek election to more public offices. It is only through such exercise of responsible citizenship that we can be better prepared to help temper such destructive currents as are now spreading under the guise of taxpayer revolts.

Community Affairs

by Kenyon C. Burke

How do Africans view American foreign policy? What do they think about the Cuban adventure in Africa? What do they expect from their black American brothers and sisters at this stage of their liberation?

Fresh and enlightening answers to these questions surfaced at the 38th Annual Convention of the National Newspaper Publishers Association in Cleveland last week. In a no holds barred presentation, Dr. Patrick D. Cole, editor of the Nigerian Daily Times, challenged the conventional wisdom that dominates our media on Africa today.

Ideological conflicts aside, Dr. Cole advised, "We on our part have certainly never tired of telling our foreign visitors that we are far more interested in peace, in food, in good roads, hospitals and schools, and that it does not much matter to us what ideological shirt you wear, only and always provided you are capable of helping us obtain these things for our peoples."

The Cubans will continue to be welcome in Africa for as long as there is a single African who is not free. They will be welcome with us as long as Zimbabwe and Namibia and South Africa are governed by racists.

Beyond that, they will presumably continue to offer their services to sovereign African states that invite them to stay, as in Angola and Ethiopia. But it is essential that it is understood that if we are forced to choose between ideological purity and abundant food for all our people, we would choose the latter."

Running through Dr. Cole's presentation was a strong feeling that the Nigerians and their African brothers are not about to let Africa become the theatre for ideological conflict between powerful foreign nations.

While watching and listening, this articulate and imposing spokesperson, we were reminded of how ignorant most of us are on the successes thus far realized by the developing countries in Africa. Nigeria, today is engaged in a fundamental restructuring of their society. They fought a civil war and have the best record of post-war reconciliation since the beginning of time.

In 1960, there were approximately 40,000 children in school and three universities. By contrast, today over 4-1/2 million children attend school and 13 universities are operative.

Could it be that our limited knowledge and view of African affairs is still distorted by the "Tarzan and Jane" Hollywood interpretation of that great continent and its people? Or do we for the most part have difficulty comprehending the nature of African affairs beyond acquiring such artifacts as dashikis, beards, necklaces and African walking sticks?

Dr. Cole's message to his Afro-American cousins is an invitation to have understanding and unity, but is also a challenge:

"We endured the travails of James Meridith with you. We canonized the brave lady who refused to sit at the back of the bus. We too marched to Selma; we followed the progress of Bradley, Stokes, Brooke, King, Young and others. We believe that those of us in Africa now have a right to cash in our credit insofar as your struggles are concerned. We expect you to turn to the source of your lives, Mother Africa, and do her proud," he told his NNPA audience.

To that we say, Amen, brother Amen!

SUMMER READING PROGRAM CONTINUED FROM FRONT PAGE

"Fantastic Encounters of the Verse Kind" is presented free to children between the ages of 6 and 13 through a grant from the Western States Arts Foundation, a regional affiliate of the National Endowment on the Arts.