

Point of View

The views on these editorial pages are those of the artists and authors indicated. Only the one depicted as the Sentinel-Voice editorial represent this publication.

TO BE EQUAL

JAPAN'S BLACK-BASHING HAS TO STOP

By John E. Jacob

Whenever you read about Japan's reaction to its problems with the United States you usually wind up hearing complaints about "Japan-bashing." The Japanese complain — with reason — that too often disagreements are converted to anti-Japan sloganeering.

They are sensitive to Japan-bashing and rightly identify it as

a poor substitute for clear thinking and honest negotiations.

They are also sensitive to racial distinction, and some Japanese leaders have suggested that anti-Asian racism is at the core of our problems with Japan.

America, they say, would not be so critical or so insistent on having its way with a white, European power.

Well, maybe. Japan-bashing is an ugly sport and racism is a big part of the American scene.

But what about Japan's "black-bashing?"

It seems that whenever lead-

ing Japanese politicians run out of something constructive to say, they dump on African Americans and blame us for the U.S.'s weak economic performance.

And it's odd to hear com-

plaints of racism from a country that regularly causes international scandals through racist statements by its leaders and through widespread racial stereotyping, as in their Sambo dolls

and anti-black advertising gimmicks.

The latest racial slur surfaced in September, when Japan's Justice Minister, Seiroky (See Black-Bashing, Page 5)

♥ SPEAKING FROM THE HEART ♥

By Congressman Augustus F. Hawkins

A nation, failing to satisfy its unmet needs in health, education, housing and its own infrastructure actually increases illiteracy,

poverty, slums, unemployment and crime.

Men and women who fight shoulder-to-shoulder against a common enemy overseas ought not have to fight with each other at home over too few jobs, substandard housing, and so-called preferential treatment. Yet, their President/Commander-In-Chief has threatened to veto the current Civil rights legislation, pending before Congress, which would further correct these faults.

At the end of World War II, this nation invested billions of dollars to educate our returning veterans, allowing them to regain their security and the skills needed to secure employment. Veterans repaid the government, through their taxes and the production of goods and services, at a rate five times greater than the investment in the G.I. bill of Rights. Now, the government is cutting the budget for the education of the children of our veterans, and is void of plans to restore the educational and training benefits to its returning soldiers.

(See Heart, Page 5)



I NEVER RAN FROM THE KLU KLUX KLAN

The fall of 1974 found this writer in a small country town called Livingston, Louisiana. A town just a few short miles east of Denham Springs, home of a man who at that time was the National Grand Wizard of the KKK. Yes, I accepted a teaching job in what was called David Duke Country. My job consisted of an hour and a half drive both ways. I taught five different subjects each day. I coached the Jr. High football team, assisted the high school football team and coached the Jr. High basketball team. I had no permanent classroom. Children were allowed to chew tobacco in class and for this I was paid a yearly salary of \$6,700.

The Doyle High School student population consisted of only seven African-American students. One of those students, Darrell McGee was a student of mine and a good athlete. On one basketball trip we found ourselves in a jammed packed country gym, where Darrell and I were the only African-Americans in the entire place. Just as the ball was about to be tossed to start the game, someone released a bag of crows that flew around inside the gym. After the game a cross burned behind our bus. It was a common practice to view Klan rallies as I drove home on the dark roads after late nights of practice. The fear was constant but Darrell and I kept coming back night after night, day after day, and we were moved by an unspoken understanding, that the importance of facing the nightmares head on and seeing it all through just had to be done. No, we never ran. We refused to run.

If we are bold enough to not run from those who would rather kill you because they look different from you, then we should be bold enough to not run from those who look like we do.

This weekend Minister Louis Farrakhan is scheduled to speak at Cashman Field. On most occasions when I hear people mention Farrakhan's name, they often say "I don't agree with everything he says, but I sure like most of the things he talks about." In fact, most African-Americans, if

they would admit it, don't really know why they shy away from Farrakhan. However, while they are reluctant to relax and appreciate the message, they know that his call for pride in self and pride for community is mandatory for a strong people. They know that his call for economic and political empowerment is a challenge that we must accept, but have not decided to do. We do not have to agree with each other on everything all the time, but we must accept the truth when we realize it. We must not run from each other just because "other" people dislike them. How can we grin and wave the confederate flags at Rebel games and won't allow Farrakhan to speak on the campus?

We ran up a mountain to see a Mormon Temple but run through mountains to get away from each other. We allow George Bush to twist his lips but still if he came to town, many of us would be out at McCarran Airport on the runway waiting to get a glimpse of Mr. Bush, while at the same time be afraid to think that someone at your job might find out that you enjoy the message of African-American unity.

If Minister Farrakhan is not here this weekend because of the lack of support, then we all lose. If he is here, then go out and take the message that you can use and leave the parts that you can't. Because any African-American male such as Minister Farrakhan who has lectured to millions on self-respect, self-help and the power of knowledge should be heard by each of us.

America was built on the principle of freedom of choice. We as African-Americans have had more limited choices than anyone else, and have faced greater amounts of discrimination. We must stop disliking each other because of one's religion, sex, shade of blackness, where we live, where we work, colors we wear, age or education or lack of it.

On Sunday I hope Minister Farrakhan is delivering his message. If so, I know where I'll be. "I never ran from the Klu Klux Klan and I shouldn't have to run from a Black Man." You either! See you there.



By Assemblyman
Wendell P. Williams

Letters to the Editor



HYPOCRISY AS PRACTICED BY JAPAN

This reader was struck by the revolting offensive racist remarks made by the Japanese Justice Minister Seiroku Kajiyama in your issue of September 27th. In barbarous fashion, this tojoistic propagandist painted blacks and prostitutes — the foreign Tokyo streetwalker — with a broad brush, equating both as ethnic blockbusters who forced whites out and blacks in, much like the "there goes the neighborhood" syndrome, which is supposed to typify our American cities.

Shame on you, Kajiyama! Your hackneyed analogy, and your perverted thinking have not added one scintilla in furthering relationships, national or private. It was noted that the Japanese immigration officials only arrested "foreign" prostitutes. Immunity from arrest was apparently granted to the privileged, licensed Japanese bathhouse harlots.

(See Japan, Page 7)

Dear Editor,

As a member of the generation asked to turn their lives upside down, perhaps even lose their lives, due to the Persian Gulf issue, I feel our voice needs to be heard. To that end I have sent over 125 of these letters to newspapers in nearly every state. In the upcoming elections, our voice can be heard with resounding clarity.

Perhaps we could do something to stop it. Thousands of students left classes to protest one war. Somehow, though, it is hard to imagine masses of morally outraged students jeopardizing their careers today. If we did, even the media coverage might make a dent in public opinion. Is it not possible that with enough attention drawn to the demand for peaceful resolution there could be a little less bravado and a little more bargaining?

Then again, it may be too soon to be so alarmed — there is only the possibility of violent

(See Iraq, Page 7)