

# Feudal colony days for Japan are over

When George Bush meets today in Tokyo with Japanese trade representatives, it will be interesting to see what angle he takes — supplicating whiner or nuke-in-the-pocket gunslinger.

At the end of World War II, Japan was turned into little more than a protectorate of the United States, stripped of all military power and forced to suffer the indignity of an occupation force. There was nothing harsh or unusual in that — such things happen to the defeated in war. But the lessons of Versailles weighed heavy on the Allies' minds. Both Germany and Japan were to be treated with strong measures, but not crippling edicts.

It was hoped the two conquered countries would develop into future friends of the United States. To some extent, that has happened. Newly reunified Germany is our strongest ally in Europe, but the Japan-U.S. alliance is suffering through growing pains.

Through heavy industrialization, strict trading practices and simple, old-fashioned hard work, Japan has become a world economic power. At the same time, the United States has slipped in the rankings. An enormous trade deficit (advantage — Japan) exists, and the national debt is increasingly foreign owned.

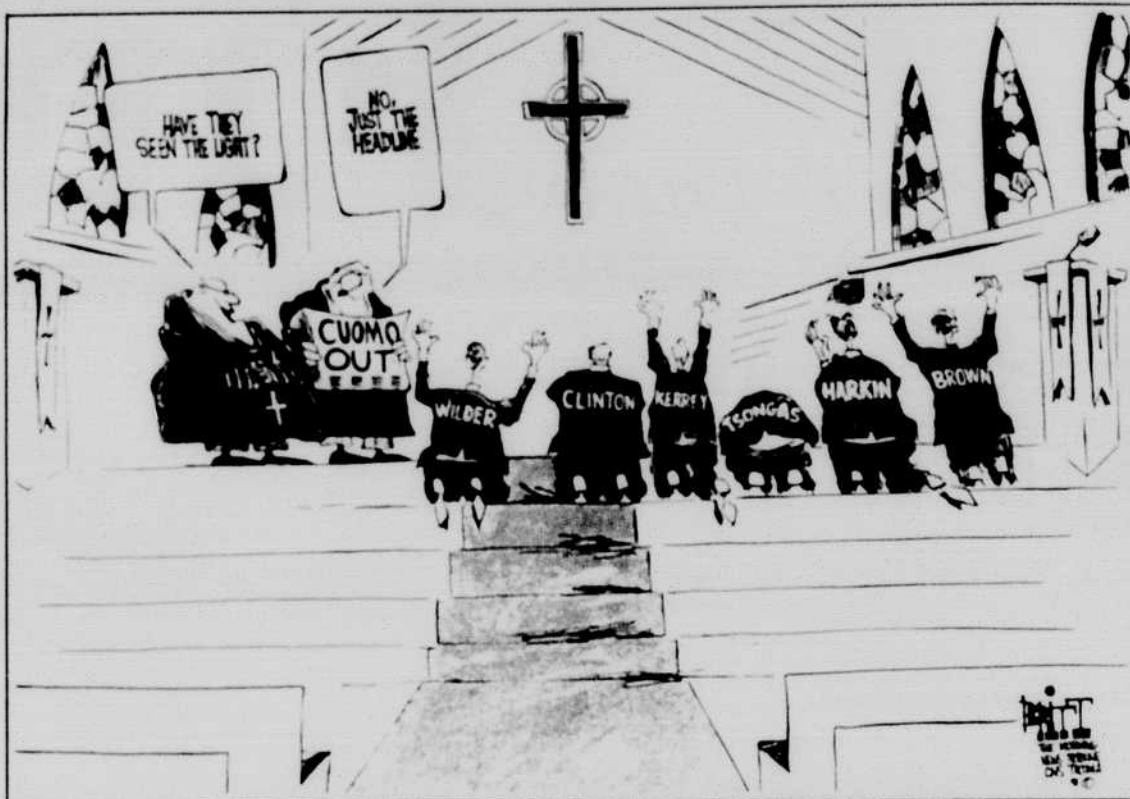
The U.S., the dominant member of the alliance for 46 years, is having a tough time watching the emergence of Japan as a world power.

There are high hopes for this trade summit, but the big question is how much will Bush push the Japanese on trade policies? Experts and pundits agree Japan will probably make some concessions, but in the main, will pay only lip service to the lofty ideal of "free trade."

If Bush chooses to play hard-liner, his hole card will be American military power. Japan still has only a cursory military, which frees up large amounts of capital for investment and infrastructure support. Pacifists and smart economists in Japan oppose remilitarization — after all, why pay for something (protection) the U.S. supplies for free?

Will Bush be the trade dove or hawk? Best guess: a mix of both, but leaning toward pandering.

But no matter which way the trade summit goes, one thing is perfectly clear: No longer is Japan a simple extension of U.S. foreign policy. And that may be the hardest thing for Bush and Co. to accept.



## LETTERS

### How long?

How long will supposedly intelligent adults sit back and allow the media, the Oregon AIDS curriculum, and the Kaiser Permanente play "Secrets," to preach the lie of "safe sex" to our children and teens.

Condoms have an 18 percent failure rate for teens for pregnancy, which can occur only during the 40 days a year when the female is fertile. The tiny AIDS virus is transmissible 365 days per year. Furthermore, the Centers for Disease Control cannot even tell the American public how many citizens are infected. Obviously, no empirical study has been done that proves Condoms produce "safe sex."

Most Americans have passed fourth grade sentence diagramming. When we dissect the sentence, "Have safe sex," here is what we find. ("You" — implied subject), "have" the verb, "safe" the adjective, and "sex" the object. What happens when we remove the adjective? We are left with "Have sex." Just what the massive Siecus-Planned Parenthood network has been preaching for 25 years in teacher education programs and sex ed materials. And now the AIDS crisis presents a perfect platform to step up the "have sex and here's how" rhetoric.

We should all be a little frightened with the fact intelligent but unthinking Americans so readily grab a two-word slogan and run with it, before counting the cost to our children and society.

According to Rush Limbaugh, Magic Johnson has changed his message from "safe sex" to "abstinence." I hope this holds true. Its high time for

classroom teachers to do the same.

Patricia Smith  
OCA Research Director

### Inspiration

Open letter to Abe Hepner: It is truly unfortunate your example has inspired such controversy. It is unfortunate people consider you "wrong" for filing your grievance. I for one would prefer to give you the benefit of the doubt. I'd rather believe your complaint stems from deep-seated convictions on the issue of equality. Because if that is the case, I can also believe you might eventually see things from a different perspective.

You may even be inspired to investigate this matter further, to prove to your own satisfaction whether "the condition of women in society" justifies the discrimination you observed. Besides information in the library, the University offers many classes dealing specifically with issues of gender in society. Whether you finally decide you were "right" or you were "wrong," I'd like to believe you would at least come to understand more clearly the many tensions at play in this complex issue.

But most importantly, I'd like to believe you can learn not to see all this as a defeat. To do so would only reinforce, and exasperate, the opposition which has arisen between you and Saferide supporters. Until we can all learn to conceive of issues and positions thereupon non-oppositionally, we will

continue to reinforce the patterns of oppression which lead to such claims as "discrimination," "reverse-discrimination," "reverse-reverse-discrimination," etc.

Matt Ramsey  
English

### Challenge

During 1992, there will be a divisive human rights issue on the ballot in our communities. The Oregon Citizens Alliance campaign to legitimize discrimination against gays and lesbians has already stimulated conflict. Windows were broken at four businesses and in one automobile belonging to OCA supporters.

No On Hate, a political action group opposing the OCA initiative, has reported several incidents of harassment, as well as three broken windows and windshields on automobiles of their supporters. In general, reports of threats or intimidation related to these election measures are increasing.

The Eugene Human Rights Commission deplors threats, intimidation, and violence. Questions of human rights can only be resolved by treating all other people with respect and dignity. Harassment, threats, and violence simply deny others their human rights, encouraging a downward spiral of behavior.

Instead of living down to the standard of conduct exemplified by these acts, we challenge all involved in these campaigns to live up to their own.

Eugene Human  
Rights Commission

# Oregon Daily Emerald

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