

Yasui fought WWII relocation

In 1942, Minoru Yasui was one of three Japanese Americans who chose to challenge the propriety of WWII military orders which resulted in a curfew and mass evacuation of over 110,000 persons of Japanese ancestry living on the West Coast. He was convicted, held in solitary confinement for nine months in Multnomah County jail while his case was under appeal, and later interned at Minidoka Relocation Camp.

For the past 40, Minoru Yasui has sought justice in his personal treatment by the United States government. His case is a symbol of the struggle for civil and human rights dignity in the Japanese American community.

The government's response has yet to be heard, and "even if we are successful in this case, it won't erase the agony or the frustration endured by 110,000 people."

On Wednesday, May 8th at 7:30 p.m., at Good Samaritan Hospital, Room 1110, in the Nursing Education Building, 2255 NW Northrup, Mr. Yasui will discuss the past, present and future status of the redress efforts and will answer questions on the issue. The public is invited. There will also be a showing of the film, "Unfinished Business," an hour-long documentary film, telling the compelling story of three men who refused to go.

Gordon Hirabayashi, Fred Korematsu and Minoru Yasui courageously defied the government and were separately convicted and imprisoned for violating Executive Order 9066 — which led to the unjust internment of their people. The film interweaves the personal stories of the three men with startling archival footage of wartime anti-Japanese hysteria, the evacuation and incarceration, and life in the camps. It captures them today, now fighting to overturn their original convictions in the final round of a 40-year-old battle against the acts which shattered the lives of two generations of Japanese Americans.

Boise Association

There will be a meeting of the Boise Citizens Improvement Association at A.Y.O.S., 3710 N. Mississippi, on May 6, at 7:00 p.m.

The agenda will include Dee Walsh speaking on the Neighborhood Improvement Plan, the American Red Cross, the Portland Police Bureau, Neighborhood Clean-up and the Neighborhood Flag Project.

Cultural Olympics

The NAACP, ACT-SO Program has completed the process of recruiting high school students for the 1985 competition.

ACT-SO is an acronym for Afro-American Cultural Technological Scientific Olympics. The NAACP has historically been a supporter of Black Youth through a variety of programs. That trend is continuing through its ACT-SO Program.

With the increasing number of students dropping out of school many organized efforts need to be established to keep Black Youth in school and achieving.

ACT-SO continues to be one of these efforts. It provides students an opportunity to sharpen and develop their talents through competitions locally and nationally.

The ACT-SO committee is in the process of recruiting coaches and judges for the program. Persons with expertise in the competition areas and willing to volunteer their time and support may contact Iris Bell, 221-2605 or Joy Hicks, 285-8457.

Nuke Walkathon

Forelows on Board, a local environmental and consumer group, is sponsoring its 8th Annual Nuclear Waste Walkathon on Saturday, May 4. The Nuclear Waste Walkathon is a 10-mile hike on the Park Trail in Portland's Forest Park starting at the Western States Forestry Center across from the zoo. Proceeds will fund efforts to prevent the siting of a high-level nuclear waste dump at Hanford, Washington and to clean up existing radioactive waste dumps at Teledyne Wah Chang, 400 feet from the Willamette River. Forelows on Board is also lobbying for legislation which would require labeling of food which has been irradiated with nuclear waste for the purposes of preservation.

To get your Walker's Packet or for more information, call 637-3549.



Shown at the office of Columbia Records in New York are, from left: Director, Artist Development/Press Sandra DaCosta, "Bugs Bunny" of Third World, Columbia artist Mick Jagger, Marketing Director Jack Rovner, and Willie Stewart of Third World.

Caring message of Third World

Columbia recording group Third World is in the midst of a nationwide tour in support of their latest album, "Sense of Purpose." Third World is the headline act in the travelling musical festival entitled Reggae Sunsplash USA, which has been ecstatically received around the country.

"Sense of Purpose," the first Dance/R&B hit single from the album of the same name is also the subject of Third World's latest promotional video. The video, directed by Donald Cammel (U2's "Pride"), was shot in a warehouse on London's Thames River and revolves around a stylized performance by Third World.

"Sense of Purpose," Third World's fourth Columbia LP, was produced

by the band except for "One More Time," which was written and produced by Kool and the Gang's Amir Bayyan. As acknowledged forerunners of the "reggae crossover" genre, Third World has been most successful at fusing its Jamaican roots with American pop, rock, and soul. To their music, Third World adds a message, a message of commitment and caring, of coping and building.

Third World is active in their commitment. Along with fellow Sunsplash USA artists Gregory Isaacs and Floyd Parker & We the People, Third World has requested that ticketholders either bring a small can of food or make a donation to the Ethiopian "Save the Children" relief fund the night of each show.

Black WWII experience documented

It was a war of triumphs and tragedies — like all wars. But unlike the conflict in Vietnam, America's participation in World War II was carried out by racially segregated troops.

Forty years ago, Black soldiers faced hostility not only from enemy forces but also from within the American military ranks. Now the trials and tribulations of some of these World War II veterans have been captured and documented through a Black military oral history project at Howard University's Moorland-Spingarn Research Center.

Six transcripts of taped oral history memoirs were recently installed at the research center in Washington, D.C., detailing firsthand accounts of the Black World War II experience.

"We (generally) don't know the history of Black involvement in the military," laments Dr. Elinor DesVerney Sinnette, head of the center's oral history department. "Far too many of today's young Black men and women believe our struggles began with the Civil Rights Movement of the '60s," she adds.

Personal memoirs were taken through taped interviews from selected veterans of the Army's 366th Infantry Regiment and the famed Tuskegee Airmen who had seen action in Italy during the Second World War.

"The 366th Infantry Regiment was unique," says retired Col. John Thomas Martin, who once served with the Black unit and now chairs the oral history project's advisory group. "It was never made to feel that it was a part of the 92nd Division."

"The fact that the 366th Infantry was staffed by all Black officers not only seemingly rankled the white of-

ficers of the 92nd Division Headquarters but their attitude permeated that of the enlisted men..."

Another former 366th Infantry officer, Robert A. Brown, recalls in his memoir the welcoming speech of the general in charge of the division. The general said, "I want you to know that I didn't ask for you. Your Negro newspapers got you here, and since you are here, I'm going to make you fight." What an oration to Black soldiers by a white commander! observes Brown.

"All through my military career, I was constantly reminded that I was a Negro, therefore, relegated to second-class citizenship," he stresses.

In another transcript, the late Air Force Col. Dudley Wardell Stevenson, a Tuskegee Airman, remembers the day that some 20 B-24 bombers carrying about 200 white aviators were forced to land on the Black air base because of inclement weather. "I said, 'We ain't got no hotel, fellows, so you guys are going to have to bunk with our officers and troops, and we'll find you some food and some booze. You can stay here or you can walk out there, however you want it.' They stayed and integrated the base."

"Our officers had such sophistication, dignity and pride," said retired Army Brig. Gen. George B. Price, also Black, at the recent Howard ceremony installing the memoirs.

Launched in 1981, the Black military oral history project aims to fill the gaps in documentation of the Black military experience. "We were aware that each of the military services had already established oral history units where memoirs of selected

personnel are recorded," says Sinnette. "It was agreed, however, that the unique Afro-American experience of World War II should be captured and preserved here at Howard University's Moorland-Spingarn Research Center," which is regarded as the world's most comprehensive repository of Black history and literature.

Other completed transcripts in the project include memoirs of the late Col. Hyman Y. Chase, commander of the 366th Infantry Regiment, and of 98-year-old retired Col. West Alexander Hamilton, also of the 366th, who in 1983 became an honorary brigadier general with the National Guard in Washington, D.C.

Sinnette notes that 12 other World War II veterans have also been interviewed, including retired Col. Noel Parrish, the white commandant of the Tuskegee Air Base. "He was loved by the Tuskegee Airmen but whites mistrusted him at the time," says Sinnette, noting that the transcripts have not yet been completed.

In addition to the oral history memoirs, the diary of the late Col. Wendell T. Derricks, commander of the Black 597th Field Artillery unit, has also been installed at Howard's research center. It was donated by retired Army Col. Major Clark of Tulsa, Oklahoma.

"Sadly, too many of our young people have little, if any, appreciation for Afro-American military pathfinders of the past who made it possible for (today's) American military leadership..." says retired Army Col. H. Minton Francis, one of the first Black West Point graduates, who now directs Howard's planning office.

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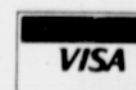
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