

TOKYO WEEKENDER

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"A Forum for Foreigners in Japan"

September 26, 1975



The other night in Atlanta, Georgia, there was a professional baseball game between the Atlanta Braves and the Houston Astros of the National League. The Braves won by a score of 9 to 6, thus shoveling a few more spadeful of dirt into the face of the Astros, firmly entrenched in last place in the league. The Braves are next-to-last, so you can see that it was not exactly a stop-the-presses event.

Nevertheless, it was a Major League baseball game in the land that claims baseball as its national pastime. Rattling around in the Braves' ballpark was a lonely, grim gathering of 737 "fans" on hand to see the contest.

At approximately the same time, half-way around the world, more than 58,000 howling, osembi-munching, beer-swilling, bento-buying baseball fans shoehorned into Koshien Stadium in Osaka, Japan, to see the hometown Hanshin Tigers mash the all-time diamond favorites of the Eastern World, the Yomi-

Torrid Pennant Race, Gaijin Skills Fill Yakyu Yards

Season of '75:

One for Baseball Books

By **CORKY ALEXANDER**
Weekender Editor

uri Giants, sending the heroes another step downward on their longest losing streak since the team was conceived in 1934.

The losing streak finally ended at 11, indicative of the Giants' forlorn fortunes in the summer of 1975.

The team that drew the 58,000-plus fans to the ballpark, Atlanta fans please note, is also in last place in their professional league—the Central—and at this writing is playing some of the worst baseball in the world, a won-lost average of .376, having overwhelmed their opponents 41 times, while being whelmed by the opposition a in smashing 68 contests—altogether an amazing record for futility and failure for a team which just a few months ago was riding at the crest of popularity and skill

in the Japan diamond wars. The popularity remains; the skills have strangely vanished.

This factor—the unprecedented slump of the once-proud Kyōjin—is but one of several which have turned the 1975 baseball season into the most successful in the annals of the popular diamond game in Japan, a country which more properly than the States could call baseball its "national pastime."

A new attendance record has already been set this year in the Central League which—almost solely because the Giants play in it—is the runaway crowd-pleaser in pro ball here. The other night 111,000 fans turned out to see three games in the Central League, pushing the summer's attendance figures past a record of 7,667,000. At that time there remained 79 more games to be played, so league officials were predicting an all-time high of more than 8.5 million.

Although making the Central League cellar their private domain and seemingly permanent abode in the Summer of '75, the Giants have proved once again to be the top boxoffice success in baseball, attracting a stunning 2.5 million to the first half of its season—an average of more than 44,000 per game.

Just to make the Giants' success at the boxoffice even more indelible and to point out the almost phenomenal drawing power this team holds, consider the American League Oakland Athletics in the U.S. The Athletics are just one game of sewing up their fourth consecutive AL West division title at this

(Continued on Pages 8 & 9)

Weekender Mailbox

To the Editor:

Sir! You go too far! First "Fat Norman" and now—"Dirty Norman!" "Dirty" Norman, indeed. I must protest. Lately all my favorite bar girls and nightclub hostesses have taken to calling me "Fat Norman."

Now, I would like to warn you, sir: should they begin to call me "Dirty Norman," you, sir, will have a duel on your hands. Fuller Brushes with Palmolive Bullets at odd and uneven paces.

Alas, in regards to the "Fat" Norman bit, I must admit that I fall into a category somewhere in between **Weekender's** "Fats" and **Japan Times'** Don Maloney. Since the introduction of Maloney's "Japan: It's Not ALL Raw Fish," I have been asked to autograph numerous copies of his book. Of course, I always comply with the requests, with the proviso that the book-buyer not read my inscription until he gets home.

I have fun imagining his expression when he reads, "Best Regards! Now buy and read 'Kill Me in the Cannery'."

Regards,
EARL NORMAN

(Earl Norman, for the newcomers in our midst, is the prolific author of such Japan-based softcover kung-fu favorites as "Kill Me in Tokyo," "Kill Me in Atami," "Kill Me in Shimbashi," "Kill Me in Yoshiwara" and our favorite, "Kill Me in Roppongi" in which the two protagonists to Norman's karate-trained hero Burns Banion were named Addis Racketts and Alex Corkenzander, patterned after the late, great Stars & Stripes Entertainment Editor and fun pundit Al Ricketts and his sidekick and constant companion, me! Earl Norman's latest creation is a Hong Kong based private eye named (wouldn't you know?) Rick Shaw.—Cork)

3 Concerts for All Ages

Music for Youth Sets 12th Slate

A series of three concerts planned for specific age levels — from kindergarteners through high school students and adults — has been announced by Young People's Concerts for its 12th season commencing this autumn.

Exciting programs have been planned, according to Eloise Cunningham, director of YPC. At the concert for older audiences Oct. 30, entitled "From Baroque to Avantgarde," a composition for chamber orchestra, electronics and tapes by Frank Becker will be heard with comments by the composer.

On Jan. 28, shortly before departing on their European tour, the Konig Quartet with Romanian pianist Paul Dan will play string and piano quartets by Haydn, Mozart, Brahms and Webern.

And on April 7 talented students from participating schools will appear as soloists with the Tokyo Little Symphony led by David Howell, young English conductor who graduated from

the Royal College of Music.

For younger listeners, two concerts on Oct. 3 and Feb. 3 — and a ballet performance of "Hansel and Gretel" on Apr. 1 will be held. Programs will include demonstrations of instruments, comments on what to listen for in the music, and audience participation.

All of the foregoing concerts will be held at the beautiful little concert hall in Tokyo-To Jido Kaikan (near Shibuya station) from 10:30 to 11:30 a.m. Reservations have already been made by Nishimachi International School and the Deutsche Schule in Tokyo, and dependent schools from as far away as Yokota Air Base and Sagami-hara U.S. Army Garrison.

A third series of three Saturday morning symphony concerts by the New Japan Philharmonic will be held in May — on May 8 at Shibuya Hall, May 15 at Bunka Kaikan, and May 22 at Hibiya Hall.

Held under the auspices of

Music For Youth, Inc., the Young People's Concerts were established in 1964 as a self-supporting, international community project — "To supplement and enrich the music programs of the schools in the Tokyo-Yokohama area."

International schools, dependent schools, and also Japanese private schools are cooperating in the project and more than 143,000 students have attended 107 Young People's Concerts by professional musicians.

Thomas Preble, music coordinator for Dependent Schools of the Pacific Area, writes: "The Young People's Concerts are a marvelous opportunity for our young people. There is no finer motivation for music literacy than to see and hear music at its finest."

Tickets at ¥700 for students and ¥1,000 for adults and may be ordered through participating schools, or by mail from Young People's Concerts, 21-2 Nishi Azabu 2-chome, Minato-ku, Tokyo 106; Tel. 400-3386.

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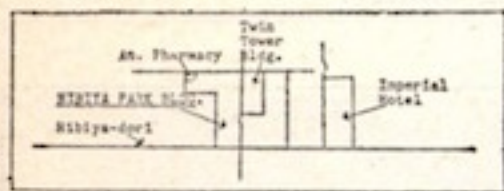
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**An Avalanche of Activities
For the Tokyo Newcomer**

In the distant days of my innocence, I used to consider Scotch Plains, New Jersey, a transient community. Then I moved to Tokyo where a survey by the Tokyo Union Church disclosed that almost one-third of its members move each year.

Unfortunately, my personal experience in the sayonara-ing field confirms these figures. Saaa...

This then, leaves two groups of English-speaking temporary Tokyoites—those who are new and those who are not. Challenge that one!

To you who are new, I say welcome to this great big fascinating polluted city. It may be a hard place to visit, but it's a great place to live.

To you who are not, maybe you're hoping that this is the year you'll really get organized and pursue a few of those latent interests that have had to remain latent while you resolved the immediacies of language, shopping, exploring and generally coping in a land short on English signs and neighborhood A&P's.

Tokyo offers a yummy smorgasbord of activities. I've selected a few possible entrees to entice you. So bon appetit, but beware of gluttony.

My list is far from complete, but I've tried to choose organizations which are easy for newcomers to join. There are many other fine groups which are by invitation that you'll hear about after you've been here awhile. But these welcome

you NOW.

Since 1908 the Tokyo Women's Club, originally the Tokyo Ladies Debating Society, has been entertaining its members with cultural programs. Meetings are held the first Monday afternoon of the month, and—would you believe—there's no fund raising! Annual dues are ¥3,000 with a monthly tea charge of ¥800 for members and ¥1,200 for guests. Mrs. Yahshi (464-7304) is membership lady.

Maybe you'd like to branch out this year at Ikebana International. The roots are deep here, because Tokyo is the founding chapter of this world-wide organization. You'll see the experts at work as headmasters (headmistresses, headpersons) demonstrate their special view of floral beauty before your very eyes. It's a great opportunity to watch the pros, choose the approach that's best for you, and be with Japanese.

In October on the third Friday Shodo Hayakawa, headmaster of the Seifu Heika school, will demonstrate at the New Zealand Embassy. This meeting is for members only, but Mrs. Purdy (584-4884) will tell you how to join. The initiation fee is ¥3,000, annual dues are ¥5,500, and the monthly tea charge is ¥500.

The College Women's As-

sociation of Japan, which is open to veterans of two or more years of college training, has monthly luncheon meetings second Wednesdays at the Hilton. Members have the opportunity to join special interest groups and to participate in a variety of English teaching programs. Open to the public are a lecture series beginning in January and a print show and sale Oct. 17-19 from 10:30 a.m. to 7 p.m.

The Tokyo American Club will host this remarkable display of almost 200 prints representing the best work of 100 artists. The show is a popular cultural treat eagerly anticipated by browsers and buyers alike. There is no admission charge—the college women count on the artist's skill to hook you—and everyone is welcome. If you get your ¥3,500 dues quickly to membership chairman Mrs. Porter (400-7556) or Mrs. Tohmatsu (718-7897), they'll give you an invitation to the private opening night showing of the prints on Oct. 16.

If you love to talk, but take it personally when your audience begins snoring, you can improve your public speaking ability at the Tokyo Toastmistress Club. Meetings are third Tuesdays and the group is small (about 36) with Japanese outnumbering westerners two to one. Find out how to beat mike fright—and then tell me! Call Mrs. Bates (786-0064) or Mrs. Matsushita (701-2049).

For the greasepaint gang, TIP (Tokyo International Players) welcomes thespians, costumers, set designers, technicians, ticket sellers—and ticket buyers, natch. Enthusiasm is as welcome as experience they tell me.

This year the club will present a total of eight

offerings to the eager public, including two major productions scheduled for November and the spring. All performances will be at the Tokyo American Club BUT open to the public.

Their first production, "Sweet and Sour," consisting of two or three one-act plays, will reach the boards in late October. It will be a gala evening featuring good drama and and good partying for current and prospective members. Watch for the exact date or call membership chairman, Ken Macdonald (early evenings or weekends) at 441-1420.

He can also tell you more about their three types of membership, namely: regular (notices, invitations, mailings but no tickets—¥3,000) sustaining (all the above plus one admission to each production—¥6,000) and family (all the above plus two admissions instead of one—¥10,000). It looks like they've planned a particularly exciting year, so be sure to get into the act.

Another dramatic development you should know about is Theater for Children, whose first production of this season will be a novel treatment (narration with pantomime and dance) of Hans Christian Andersen's "The Ugly Duckling."

The play will be presented on Nov. 15 & 16 twice daily at 11 a.m. and 2 p.m. at The International School of the Sacred Heart. The active, enthusiastic group behind the scenes is always looking for reinforcements, so if you'd like to be more than a spectator, call Mrs. McVeigh (321-0952) or Mrs. Olson (446-1727).

The International 3F Club (Freedom, Friendship, Forward-thinking) — bet that surprised you—offers opportunities for mutual understanding and cultural interchange through a wide ranging group of activities. Events planned for the fall include such winners as a visit to a silk village, a zen demonstration, rice harvesting, grape picking, foreign cooking classes, Noh by torchlight and assorted festivals and sports.

The trips are amazingly inexpensive for Japan, and children are welcome on appropriate excursions. A family membership at ¥5,000 or an individual one for ¥4,000 entitles you to all the irresistible literature. Call them at 811-5855 between 2 and 5 p.m. You'll be glad.

The English speaking churches, of which there are five in central Tokyo—St. Albans Episcopal (431-8534), Tokyo Baptist (461-8425), Franciscan (Catholic) Chapel Center (401-2141), St. Paul's Lutheran (261-3740) and Tokyo Union (400-0047)—encourage you to visit them. Both Tokyo Union and Tokyo Baptist have a wide range of women's classes open to the public.

Watch for announcements in the papers from these organizations and many others, and don't be shy about phoning. Remember, they probably lost a third of their members last year, and are just waiting for your call. So if you're hungry for new experiences, you'll find them in Tokyo—a moveable feast.

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Bangkok's My Beat

BANGKOK—DOES THIS SORT of thing ever happen to you? You're being crushed in a bus or an elevator, or being swept along with the crowd in a department store or a theater, and suddenly you get this feeling: "Migod, what am I doing here?" All at once it hits you: you're the foreigner here; not "them." Like a great, cold wave breaking over your head, the thought hits that you are the alien, the interloper, and always will be, as long as you stay here, in your adopted country.

It's a sobering feeling, not altogether comfortable—but not cause, either, for rushing back to the apartment and packing your bags. It's something that all of us "foreigners" overseas experience from time to time.

I should mention here that I've been out here—East of Suez, or however you care to refer to it—for more than a couple of winters and so it is not the ordinary first-tour cultural shock that I'm talking about. I think one encounters the Big Expatriate Test sometime between the second and fourth year, and you either pass it and go on living overseas more or less normally, or you flunk, and return home.

This other feeling, though, is one that even Old Asia Hands experience well along in the game, I think. In my own case, I am trying to determine if that cold wave is catching me more frequently these days, or if I'm just noticing it more. Probably the latter, since Bangkok is one of the more westernized capitals in Asia, not nearly as "foreign" as, say, Tokyo.

Someone, in a book whose title escapes me at the moment (but it might have been *The Ugly American*) made the observation that it is often the fate of the expatriate to linger on overseas until he has passed his prime and becomes disillusioned, then returns home, embittered and disappointed and very often becomes ardently isola-

tionist and intolerant of all "foreigners." He becomes a super-patriot.

It's pure sour grapes, of course, but it is also basic human nature at work. For this reason I keep checking my acidity level regularly.

(On a national scale, this same thing seems to be happening right now in the U.S.; disappointed by her experience in Vietnam, and forced to reduce her involvements overseas, America is becoming more isolationist in outlook.)

But this feeling of "strangeness," of being the alien in the East, is one that waxes and wanes for all of us. Sometimes it seems the most natural thing in the world to live the strange lives we lead overseas. Other times, something from the past will trigger a reaction and there comes that feeling of being on a distant planet, lost in space—in Tokyo or Hong Kong or darkest Korea or most distant Thailand.

Everything is suddenly seen in a new, weird light, as if one minute you are watching a Technicolor movie and the next instant all the colors appear in reverse, in negative tones, and the soundtrack is playing backwards. Sort of the opposite of *deja vu*—where am I? Does this ever happen to you?

There are some basic questions we *gaijin* ask ourselves, at some point or other, about living overseas. Questions like:

● How deeply to get involved in the local culture, how strongly to cling to the fixtures of the old life Back Home?

● How long to stay here? Or will you ever go back?

Hard questions, those, and the decisions are most often made subconsciously.

I once invited a friend to dinner in Hong Kong

and was greatly surprised when he informed me that, although he had lived there for 15 years, he didn't like Chinese food. He faithfully bought American hot dogs and American ice cream and American canned soup. He was even making plans, at one time, to have someone back in the U.S. make video tapes of American TV programs and send them to him.

On the other hand, there are others who come to these foreign shores and simply fade into the jungle. They wench with the native women and eat the native food, and many even scorn their countrymen who do less.

I have an old friend, an Australian, who falls somewhere in between. He came to Thailand nearly 20 years ago. He studied the language and became fluent enough eventually to write what is considered one of the best obtainable texts for studying the Thai language. He traveled widely in the country and got to know the people and their customs, and sometime after the age of 60 he took up SCUBA diving and became one of the most knowledgeable divers in Thailand.

For the past several years he has been engaged, as a hobby, in photographing and cataloging all the hundreds of types of coral found around one little island off the coast of Pattaya. When he has finished, he intends to publish a book on the subject.

But in nearly 20 years he hasn't been outside Thailand and in a short time he plans to leave and return to Australia, for good. What will he find there? Will he be bitter? Disappointed? I don't think so; he has a remarkably fresh outlook. He is the sort of a man who, if shipwrecked on a desert isle, would build a city.

But the adjustment, from here to Back There, can be a difficult one for many.

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I once worked for an American daily military newspaper in Tokyo, which shall remain nameless, and there was once an editor of that newspaper who was held by many to be a consummate s.o.b. Many were the reporters and desk men who left employment at that place because of him, and all swore (1) they'd never return until he was gone

and (2) to do heinous things if they ever encountered that man back in the States.

Now, you would be surprised at how many of those same people, after a few months (the average was seven) running in the Great American Rat Race, wrote back, asking for their old job—or any job. It happened so often that betting pools were organized, the winner to pick the date closest to that when Old Frank, or whoever, would write back—in a very casual manner, of course—sucking up for a job back in Tokyo. It happened so often that particular type of letter came to be known as a "Dear Ernie."

Some of them made it, but most were disappointed, and eventually had to learn How to Cope Back There in America.

It's got to be just as hard, for people like that, who Go Back, as it is for people like us who linger on. And if there's a sure-fire way to make a point (and wind up a column) in this vein, it is, invariably, to quote Kipling. I give you the final stanzas of his *Mandalay*:

But that's all shove behind me, long ago and far away,

An' there ain' no buses running from the Bank to Mandalay;
 An' I'm learning 'ere in London wot the 10-year soldier tells;
 If you've 'eard the East a-callin', you won't never 'eed naught else.
 I am sick o' wastin' leather on these gritty pavinstones.
 An' the blasted English drizzle wakes the fever in my bones.
 Tho' I walks with fifty 'ousemaids outer Chelsea to the Strand,
 An' they talks a lot o' lovin', but wot do they understand?
 Beefy face an' grubby, and—
 Law! Wot do they understand?
 I've a neater, sweeter maiden in a cleaner, greener land.
 Ship me somewheres east of Suez, where the best is like the worst,
 Where there aren't no Ten Commandments, an' a man can raise a thirst;
 For the temple bells are callin', and it's there that I would be—
 By the old Moulmein Pagoda, looking lazy at the sea.

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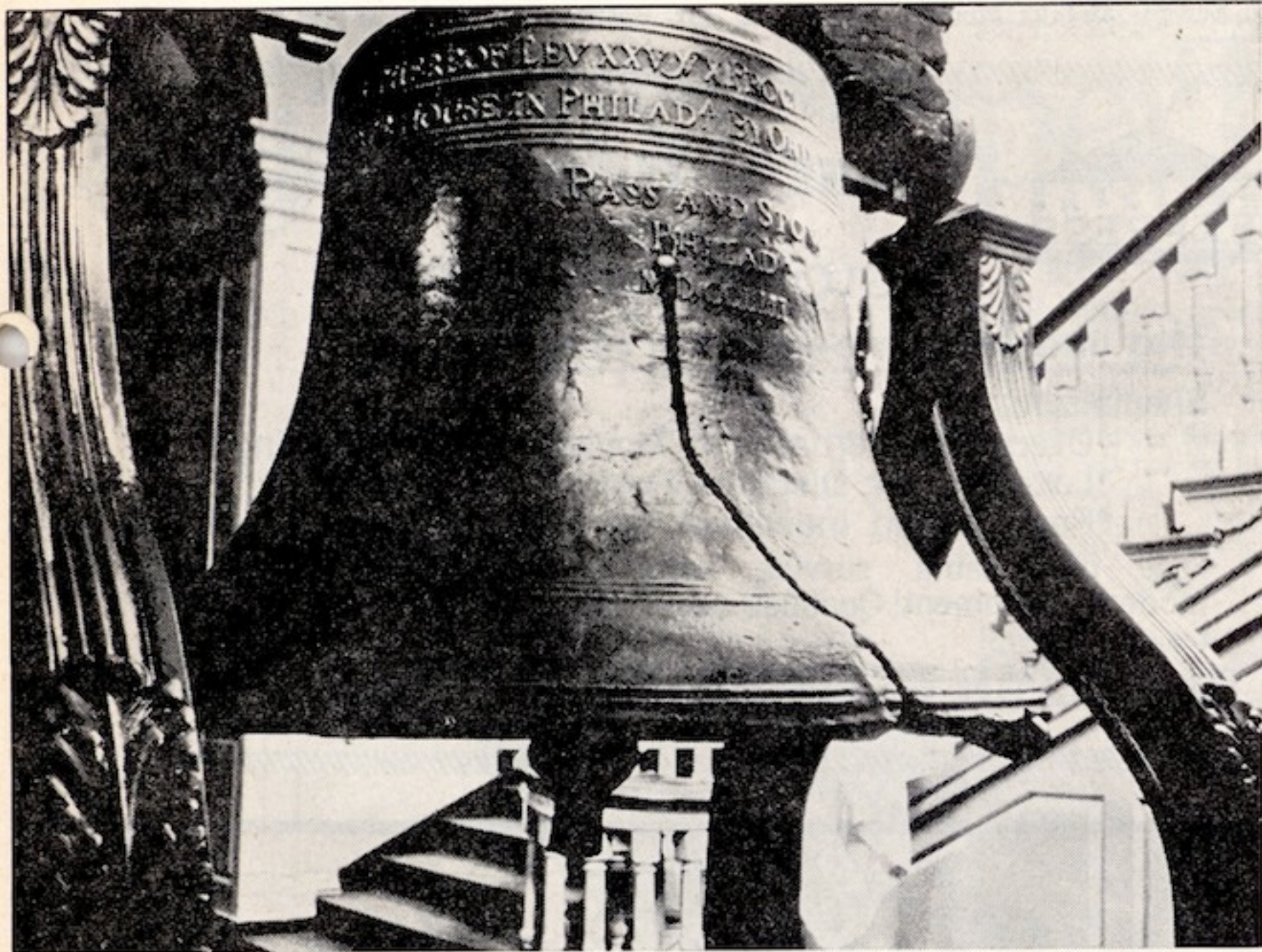
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The Pan Am Unstopables: Non-Stop USA!

Summer holidays have had it, the heat's still with us, most Tokyoites are back from home leave and vacation and things are really starting to happen again here in our big burg. I'm not feeling too literate this week, so will keep the column down to a few important events that need covering right away, and save some social footnotes to add next time.

Action this week includes all the Italian fashion happenings, a garden party held by the Ethiopians, a festive party to celebrate Mexico's Independence Day and sayonaras to some nice people we really hate to see go.

"Bravissimo" sums up the unanimous reaction to the Italian high fashions shown during the Italian textile exhibit held here Sept. 16-19 at the Imperial Hotel. This annual event, sponsored by the Italian Institute of Foreign Trade, is organized in Rome by I.C.E. and presented here by their Tokyo office headed by Dr. Giorgio Corrias.

In the last few years it has become a must on the calendars of all in or interested in the field of good fashion. On Press Day, a Japanese designers-Italian fabric contest was held with 17 participants from all over Japan.

The panel of judges included last years winners Seichi Uehara and Isamu Shigeta, Fiat Director Luigi Cerrato and Maria Giorgias, the glamorous head of the Italian Press Agency here. Visiting judges were Luciano Barbera, President of the Italian Wool Association and a designer himself; Fausto Sarli, that very well known Italian womenswear designer, and Luigi Bartolomei.

Shigeru Hara was chosen the winner for his beautifully executed beige and olive green safari suit. Hara will go to the San Remo Fashion Festival in Italy next year as a guest of I.C.E. and the Wool Association. Every day during the exhibition, there was a 45-minute fashion show featuring a special preview of Spring-Summer '76 fashions by leading Italian designers including Balestra, Laug, Ognibene, Zendman, Sarli, Tita Rossi, Litrico, Piatelli, Palazzi, Testa and Barbera.

Thirty fabric manufacturers had displays of the latest trends in wool, cotton and silk in the Imperial Theater, and also in their own sales rooms in the Imperial Hotel. To top it all off, there was a reception, cocktail party, buffet dinner and elegant fashion show with over 500 guests attending.

Hospitable Italian Ambassador Carlo Perrone Capano was on hand to greet guests as were Dr. Corrias, Dr. Opinato, Dr. Massi and Dr. Riccardi, all of I.C.E.

The Fuji room made a beautiful setting for the show which was a symphony in color, movement and elegant fashion. The buffet was beautifully done with a giant ice carving in the center and the I.C.E. logo in red and green in the ice.

Among the congenial chat-

tering crowd, I spotted Paul and Amy Sung, Charles and Katie Hagedorn, Walter and Natalie Ermakoff and lovely Bee Kaltenthaler. ENI's Renato and Vanda Carrano were there, and we talked with Anna Marie Leys (husband Andre, head of UTA, was on duty at the airport).

A few other of our own fashionable ladies who turned out for the affair were Juanita Reed (just back from Mexico), Anne Hugnot, Mrs. Elskop, Eileen Foley and Sandra Mori. It was a classy, glamorous evening!

Just a week earlier I attended another Italian party...this one not quite so happy. It was a gathering of the many friends of Mr. and Mrs. Giuseppe Opinato to say goodbye to this well-liked couple being transferred from the I.C.E. office here to the office in Budapest. Nice people, and we'll miss them, but know, once they've made the big change, they'll make friends wherever they go.

The Takanawa Prince Hotel Garden was the place and the occasion was the celebration of the first anniversary of the Ethiopian Revolution. Charges d'Affaires Zewge Melak Men-

gasha, looking cool and elegant in his white shama, greeted guests as they entered. I headed for the yaki tori (first Japanese food since I got back) and in between nibbling on that, rapped with Karl and Mona Wiegand of the American Embassy and Mr. M. Ogumi, a really charming guy who's with the Metropolitan Police.

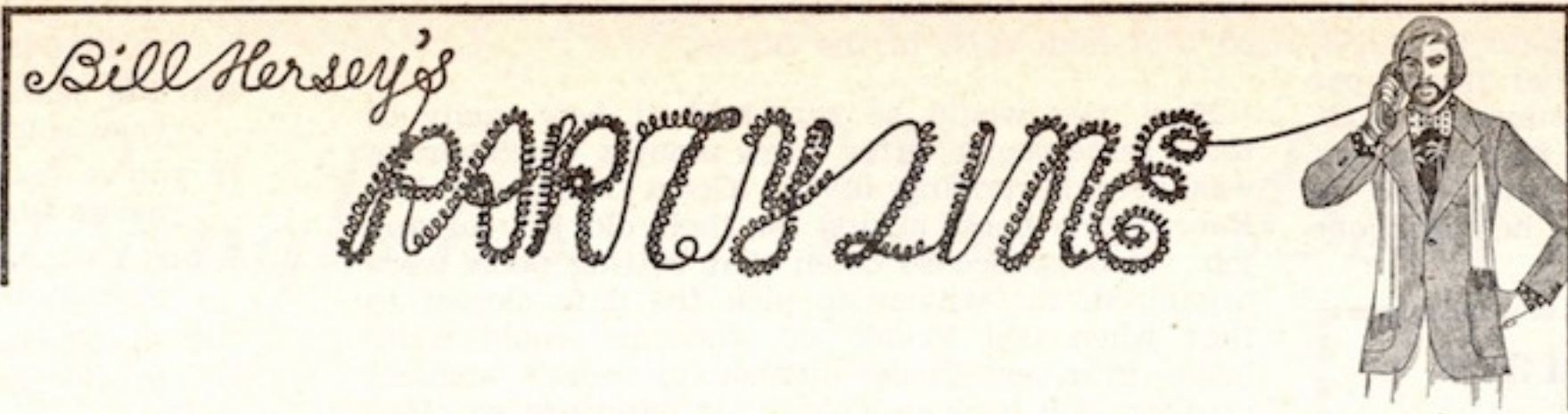
Moved on to Charge d'Affaires of the German Embassy Hartmut Schulze-Boysen on the pretext of talking about the fashion fair I recently attended in Koln. The real reason was to find out who the great looking tall blonde girl with him was. It turned out to

be his daughter, Susanne, on holiday from school in Rome...and headed back that way by now.

Another very pretty girl at the party was TV personality Maria Cristina. Maria, studying voice with Regina Doi, is slated for eight TV shows in the future. Regina was there, too, and she's very busy with her teaching, and planning three or four concerts for later this year. More on these as plans develop.

Viva Mexico! We all feel that way. I really don't know anyone who's visited this lovely, colorful, hospitable and interesting country who hasn't literally fallen in love with it.

Proof positive is the large number of ex-Tokyoites who eventually ended up retiring in Mexico. Thanks to Mexican Ambassador and Mrs. Manuel Alvarez Luna, we all got a touch of Mexico at their Embassy Sept. 16 at a reception to celebrate Mexico's 165th Independence Day.



Mr. and Mrs. Bottitto (left) bid fond farewell to the departing Mr. and Mrs. Giuseppe Opinato, leaving Tokyo for Budapest. Mr. Bottitto is head of Berlitz here.



At the Italian textile exhibition, this handsome trio posed for the Weekender lens: Luciano Barbera, Natalie Ermakoff, Katie Hagedorn.



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Lots of nice people, a beautiful buffet catered by the New Otani, authentic Mexican music and the varied and colorful art collection of the Ambassador and Mrs. Luna created just the right mood for the celebration. The Lucky Ambassador was off to Mexico via JAL for a two week business and pleasure trip the next day.

A few hellos and a few goodbyes before we sign off for this week. First, we really are glad to see Jane Rees back with us on the

social scene here. She looks great, and, of course, will be covering everything for her **HERE AND THERE** column in **The Asahi Evening News**. Welcome home!

And it's so long to **Ed Gibson**, who's been the Director of LEVIS here in Japan. Ed and his lovely wife are off to San Francisco where he will be in a top exec position at LEVIS headquarters there. We'll miss you, Ed, but don't feel too sorry for you...San Francisco's fantastic!

Haven't met him yet, but Ed's replacement here is

Brian Martin, an Englishman who's been with LEVIS as their director in New Zealand for three years. Welcome to Japan, Brian.

A few complaints on things that should have appeared in Party Line not appearing. Happy to stick in anything of news value you have to offer. We would appreciate you sending it directly to my home address which is Bill Hersey, 6-21, 2-chome Horinouchi, Sugunami-ku, Tokyo. My home phone is 312-0496.



Peruvian Ambassador and Mrs. Jorge Belando Ugartete (left) give best wishes to Mexican Ambassador and Mrs. Manuel Alvarez Luna during the celebration of Mexican Independence Day.



The first anniversary of the Ethiopian Revolution is celebrated by a happy trio: Christine Santa Cruz of the Philippine Embassy, Ethiopian Charge d'Affaires Zewge Malak Mengasha and Mona Wiegand, whose husband, Karl, is the Air Attache at the U.S. Embassy.



From left: Mr. and Mrs. Francisco D'Escato of the Nicaraguan Embassy, Mrs. Olavarria, from the Uruguayan Embassy, and Mrs. Mossi, wife of Dr. Cesar Mossi Sorto, the Ambassador from Honduras.

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Foreign Ballplayers Having Prime Season

(Continued from Page 1) writing, which will give them a shot at winning their fourth consecutive World Series Championship.

A record such as that makes them "the best," right? A few days ago, the Athletics drew the lordly number of 11,124 fans to their handsome Oakland ballpark, sending the A's to a new attendance record: 1,001,179 at home. Compare that with the 2.5 million the Giants drew in just half their regular season, and you might have an idea of the Japanese baseball fans' devotion to the sport.

While the Giants continue to draw full houses every time they take the field, several other considerations are important contributing factors to the upsurge of fan interest this season in a land where baseball is played and watched and discussed virtually year-round.

In the Central League, a smoking, redhot pennant race between three teams—the Hiroshima Carp, the Hanshin Tigers and the Chunichi Dragons—is going right down to the wire.



WALLY YONAMINE

At this writing, the Carp hold a slim one-game edge over the Tigers, a two-game bulge over the defending champion Dragons.

While the Central League has always been the top draw for fans here—entirely because of the Giants, again—action in the Pacific League has been exciting and the quality of play superb to keep the turnstiles spinning busily.

A couple of innovations were inaugurated in the Pacific League this season to try to infuse enough interest to counterbalance the mystic pull of the Kyojin and even up the attendance wars. The league continued a new system began last year to divide the pennant race into two segments of 60 games each, with the winners of each mini-league playing off — best three games out of five—for the Pacific League gonfalon, as they used to say.

The plan almost backfired for both ends of the demi-champs were sewed up with weeks to spare in the regular season game span. The Hankyu Braves repeated their success of 1973 by clinching the first half with weeks remaining on the schedule, and the Kintetsu Buffaloes wrapped up the second half Sept. 21 with still six more games on their schedule.

Another brainchild of the

Pacific League was the introduction of the U.S. American League inspiration of a designated hitter, wherein one guy plays the position of "batter" and hits in the line-up in place of the pitcher. Results have been marginal and the reaction of fans and players alike is a bit bland on this.

Perhaps the happiest circumstance for gaijin baseball fans here has been the splendid showing by just about every one of the foreign ballplayers active in both leagues this summer.

But in spite of premier performances by most, the big news of the season has been the disappointing showing made by Davey Johnson, the first Caucasian ballplayer ever signed by the former perennial champion Yomiuri Giants.

(Two Hawaiian Nisei—Andy Miyamoto and Wally Yonamine—previously played for the Giants, the only gaijin on a team which has prided itself for being all Japanese—and a winner. Miyamoto is now a mailman in Honolulu and weighs about 230 pounds; Yonamine is manager of the defending Central League champions, the Chunichi Dragons from Nagoya.)

In an interview I once had with premier Giants slugger Sadaharu Oh (Weekender, May 18, 1973) he touched on the "purity" of the Giants in shunning foreign talent but pointed out that as soon as the Kyojin diamond fortunes waned, you'd see the ownership in the States, checkbook at the ready, chasing gaijin talent.

Such was the case last spring after the Dragons edged the Giants for the Central League pennant by one-thousandth of a percentage point.

Freshman manager Shigeo Nagashima—one of the all-time baseball greats of this country who could have made any Big League team ever assembled—was rumored to be casting calf's eyes at Ken McMullan and two or three other "name" players, but ended up signing Johnson from the Atlanta Braves.

Johnson, 32, still had good years left in him for the Majors, but was disenchanted with the Braves for their odious expressed intention of platooning him at second base. In 1973, Johnson set a Major League slugging record for second basemen by creaming 42 home runs for the Braves, more than any man ever at that position.

To be blunt, Johnson has been a massive disappointment to the Giants management and—more emphatically—to the fans. He made a tactical error when he arrived in Tokyo well after the season had begun by boldly predicting he would hit 38 home runs. At this writing, the Giants have 15 games left and if Johnson is allowed to take part he'll have to hit an average of two per game to reach his lofty goal. In other words, he's hit eight.

And his average is under .200. What's more, his fielding has left a bit to be desired, albeit he's playing

third base, a strange position for him. To make matters worse, he's struck out far more often than most—and it seems unhappily that there are always men in scoring position when he does.

Just when Davey seemed to be putting it all together a month or so ago (he'd got an average of two hits per game in about six contests and was getting his rhythm down), he was hit by a pitched ball which broke a bone in the "wing" part of the upper back. Out a month. And now Nagashima seems to be bowing to fan pressure and is not playing him regularly.

Last Monday afternoon the *Nikkan Sports* daily re-



SHIGEO NAGASHIMA
While Still a Player

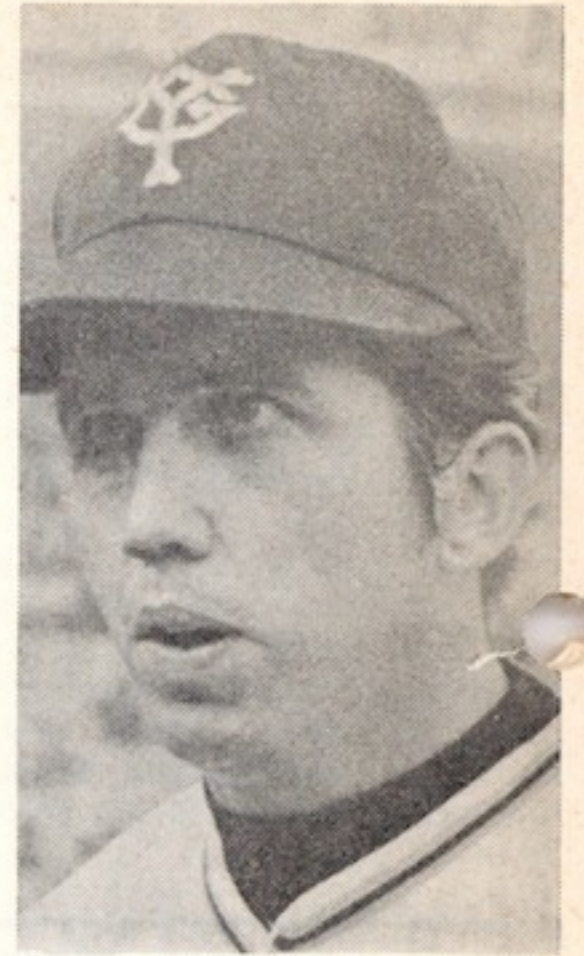
ported that Johnson had decided to quit. Erroneously, it turned out.

I talked to Maryann Johnson, the warm, friendly—and worried—wife of Dave and mother of their four kids.

"The reporter misunderstood Davey," she told me. "What he said was that if he didn't improve in the final weeks of this season, he would feel like hanging it up. I think Davey would really like to just get on a plane and forget this season ever happened, but he doesn't want to leave Japan with the impression he's given so far. He's not a quitter!"

"The thing is, Davey can do it! He's in great shape and feels certain that if he just is given a chance to do his thing without so much pressure on him, he'll really produce for the Giants.

"The whole season has been wrong, somehow. He began playing too soon after he got here, for one thing; he was still suffering from jet lag. Then the kids and I weren't here and he missed us. And—this is important—he doesn't have anyone on the team he can talk to. The language barrier and all have really got him uptight. And he worries himself to death. When he strikes out or goofs in the field, he broods and gets down on



DAVE JOHNSON

himself, even though he knows he can play better. He still makes some beautiful plays at third and was hitting pretty good before he was hurt.

"We have a two-year contract, but unless he's sure he'll be able to play regularly and get some of the pressure off his back—well, I just don't know what Dave will do about next season. This one's been very long."

But if Dave Johnson has less than a stellar year, most of his 21 compatriots playing in Japan this season are having telling effects for their clubs.

Nothing succeeds like success, they say, so the biggest impact is obvious on the leading teams. The Hiroshima Carp are leading the

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Central League at **Week-end** deadline and instrumental in their pennant drive are the two Yank ex-league players, Gail Hopkins and Richie Scheinblum.

While Hopkins is hitting a so-so .255 for average, his big bat has won many games for the Carp, blasting 29 home runs, second only to Hanshin Tigers' superstar Koichi Tabuchi who's hit a stupendous 42. The Giants' Oh—home run king for the last seven consecutive seasons—won't make it this year; he's hit only 28, but he's batting around .300.

Hopkins, 31, played for the Hawaii Islanders last year, but before that was with the Chicago White Sox, the Kansas City Royals and the Los Angeles Dodgers. He has 82 runs batted in.

Switch-hitting Richie Scheinblum—noted as a locker room wit and legendary cut up in his days with the Cleveland Indians, the California Angels, the Cincinnati Reds and the St. Louis Cardinals—is hitting a fine .288 (10th best in the league) and has 14 homers and 57 RBIs.

If Hiroshima wins, it will be the first time since the team was organized in 1950. Most of the players credit their 1975 success to American manager Joe Lutz who was skipper of the club at the beginning of the season but quit after a run-in with management over who would run the team on the field.

Lutz had Big League pitching great, lefthander Warren Spahn, to Japan to coach his pitchers during spring training, a move which obviously paid off; the Carps' Keiji Suzuki is the only 20-game winner in either league.

Challenging Hiroshima for the pennant are both the Hanshin Tigers and Wally Yonamine's Chunichi Dragons, both teams being helped aplenty by their gaijin



BOBBY TAYLOR
While Still a Dragon

diamond imports.

Veteran George Altman has proved to be one of the most consistently fine foreign players in the history of Japanese baseball. A dignified, elderly gent in his mid-40s, Altman seems indestructible as he just keeps getting those base hits and winning ball games—and playing a very competent first base for the charging Tigers. At presstime he was hitting a commendable .274 and has 12 homers. Altman spent most of his Big League years with the Chicago Cubs.

His gaijin teammate is Bobby Taylor, a slick-fielding outfielder with a rifle arm and a keen batting eye. Taylor broke into Japanese ball with the Dragons, but was a disappointment in 1973. Wally traded him to the Tigers where he caught on fire. Taylor told me he "always hits .300" and expects eventually to make that goal here. He's batting .266 now but is very valuable to the team.

Wally Yonamine's gaijin are also proving to be of great help. Gene Martin has caught on fire of late. I had dinner one night recently with Dragons coach Takeshi Kondo and he intimated that the Dragons were just about convinced to let Martin go in '76, but he's been hitting very nicely lately, though his average is only .241. He has 18 homers.

Ron Woods, late of the Montreal Expos, is the other American player on the Dragons and is hitting .262. His slingshot arm was instrumental in the recent brouhaha in Hiroshima.

A perfect, frozen-rope throw from dead center-field caught a baserunner at the plate and the Dragons catcher tagged the sliding Carp in the chops. Hundreds of fans erupted onto the field and the ensuing riot injured half a dozen Dragon players, including Woods.

"Never saw anything like that in all my years in baseball," Woods says, amazed.

The other three gaijin on the other two teams in the Central League are doing equally well. Veteran third sacker (Big League Golden Glove winner umpteen times) Clete Boyer just keeps rolling along for the Taiyo Whales, making fantastic Brooks Robinson-type plays at third with a grace and precision that belie his 38 summers. Last remaining active player in a baseball family (brothers Ken and Cloyd were both in the majors), Clete's not hitting too hot for average, but has won beaucoup ballgames with his 13 homers.

Playing a classy second base for the Whales is Johnny Sipin who had a cup of coffee with the San Diego Padres in 1969 before touring the upper-division minors, coming here from Hawaii. Hitting a spiffy .289, Sipin has blasted out 28 homers.

Roger Repoz, formerly of the New York Yankees and Kansas City Royals and California Angeles, is having his very best year for the awkwardly named Yukult Swallows, hitting a sizzling .299 with 27 homers.

The Kintetsu Buffaloes just clinched the second half title and will meet the Hankyu Braves for the Pacific League crown. Without the booming bat of Clarence Jones, it's unlikely they would have made it. Though not hitting for average, his 29 homers are right up there at the top of the heap.

His teammate is Mike Andrews who won a gang of renown when superkook Oakland Athletics owner Charley O. Finley forced him to "retire" himself after making two errors in one inning in the 1973 World Series with the Mets. He's hit 12 homeruns for the Buffaloes.

The Braves boast one of the top hitters in the Pacific League in young Bobby Marcano, just 23, who played his Stateside ball for the Class AAA Salt Lake City club where he hit .317. His average this season is .299 and he'll end up over .300, just watch. He's rapped out 20 homers in booting his team to a first half win.

His teammate is Bernie Williams, 26, who formerly belonged to the San Diego Padres. He first signed with the San Francisco Giants as a \$70,000 bonus baby. He's hitting just .240 but the Braves seemed pleased with the young outfielder.

A funny thing happened

to Jim Lefebvre on his way to glory with the Lotte Orions—they kept him on the payroll, but assigned him to a non-playing role as coach of their farm system. Weird. Jim was Rookie of the Year with the L.A. Dodgers in 1965 and played with behind the legendary Sandy Kofax.

Lefebvre, just 32, has much terrific baseball left in him, but he is at the whim of showboat Orion manager Kaneda who benched Jim and brought over two American minor league players in mid-season. Bill McNulty led all of baseball in home-runs last year with something like 57 for Salt Lake City or somewhere. So far he's hit about a dozen here. Ernesto Batesta is the other player for the Orions and he's not doing much, either.

One of Lefebvre's tasks was to coach these newcomers in batting against Japanese pitchers, but he reports that they took umbrage to being taught after they'd been in organized ball for eight years. So, they're both hitting about .130 and won't be back next year.



JIM LEFEBVRE
While Still a Dodger

Jim Lefebvre will. He's already been told he'll be playing with the Orions in 1976. Meanwhile, he's enjoying working with young Japanese players in the "minors" farm system which he calls "the hope of baseball in Japan."

The Taiheiyo Lions have one of the Big League superstars of yore in Don Buford, late of the World Series Champ Baltimore Orioles. Buford's having a fine year, hitting a neat .275 with 17 homers.

His teammate is Matty Alou of the baseball Alous, a former Yankee. Matty's hitting .256 and playing his usual jam-up defensive game.

Ron Lolich, 29, holds down an outfield job with the resurging Nankai Hawks; he's in his second year in Japan. The Hawks finished dead last in the first half of the season, but are now in third place and moving.

His teammate was Jim Nettles, formerly of the Detroit Tigers. Coach Don Blasingame—the "Blazer"—to his Japanese fans—is in his ninth year here and is tremendously valuable.

Garry Jestadt remains with the Fighters, hitting a ho-hum .241. Jestadt, 27, came to Japan from the Hawaii Islanders and before that was with San Diego.

The flop of defending Pacific League champions of 1974, the Lotte Orions, the mysterious nosedive of the Yomiuri Giants, the futile hopes of the Taiyo Whales and the Yukult Swallows leave Tokyo with-



SADAHARU OH

out a team contending.

Thus it will be a base-ball-poor fall during the playoffs and Japan Series.

The remainder of the pro ball schedule to be played in Tokyo's environs—is: in the Central League—Sept. 27: **Taiyo vs. Yomiuri**, Kawasaki, 6:30 p.m.; Sept. 28: same teams, same place, double-header beginning at 3 p.m.; Sept. 29: same teams, same place, 6:30 p.m.; Sept. 30: **Yomiuri vs. Chunichi**, Korakuen, 6:30; same day: **Taiyo vs. Yukult**, Kawasaki, 6:30.

The October CL local slate: Oct. 1: **Yomiuri vs. Chunichi**, Korakuen, 6:30; Oct. 3: **Yukult vs. Taiyo**, Jingu, 6:30 p.m.; Oct. 4: same teams, same place, same time; Oct. 10: **Taiyo vs. Chunichi**, Kawasaki, 1:30 p.m.; Oct. 11: same teams, same place, same time; Oct. 15: Oct. **Yomiuri vs. Hiroshima**, Korakuen, 2 p.m.; Oct. 17: **Yomiuri vs. Hanshin**, Korakuen, 2 p.m.

There's only one more Pacific League game remaining in Tokyo, Sept. 27 between the **Nippon Ham Fighters** and the second half winners **Kintetsu**, at Korakuen at 6 p.m.

The Pacific League playoffs between first half winner Hankyu and Kintetsu will be played Oct. 15-20, depending on the number of games needed in the best three out of five series. The games will be played in Osaka, of course, alternating between Nishinomiya and Koshien.

The Japan Series between either Hankyu or Kintetsu and either Hiroshima, Chunichi or Hanshin will begin Oct. 25—and none of them will be in our home town. The South has risen!

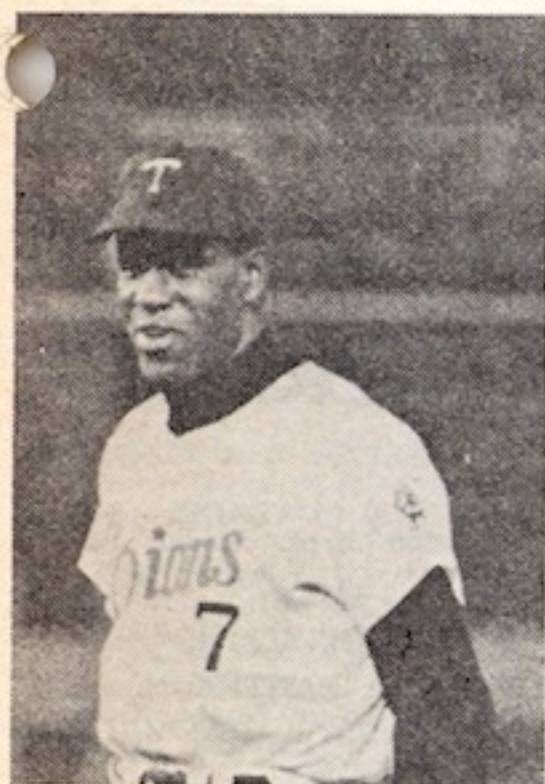
All games will be nationally televised—in their entirety, we hope.

So, hustle out to the ballpark, dear readers. It's getting cooler now and the ballgame is an ideal place to take the entire family for a fun outing. Here's the location of the Tokyo environ parks and how to get there:

Korakuen—near Korakuen subway station on the Marunouchi Line. Address for cab: 1-3, Koraku, Bunkyo-ku, Tel. 811-2110. Home of the Giants in the Central League and Lotte in the Pacific.

Jingu—home of the Swallows in Meiji Park, near Jingu Gaen-mae subway station on the Ginza Line. Address: 13, Kasumigaoka, Shinjuku-ku, Tel. 402-3115.

Kawasaki—home of the Whales between Tokyo & Yokohama. It's to the left of the East Exit of JNR's Kawasaki train station, about 10 minutes away. Go past Komiya Dept. Store and City Hall. Driving it's just off Dai-Ichi Keihin. Address: 180, Fujimi-cho, Kawasaki-shi, Tel. (044) 24-1171.



GEORGE ALTMAN
While Still an Orion

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Weekender



MOVIES: 'Lennie'

One of the best bosom buddies I ever had is a statuesque, full-breasted, blonde bombshell of a showgal name of Doris Lee. Billed as a singer, La Lee was primarily out there on stage to show off one of the most terrific bods extant. I mean, like POW!

She was also an expert comedian's foil, the perfect My Friend Irma-like straight girl who could open up their big blue eyes, shift her fantastic prow to the front row, roll a provocative hip and break up audience.

Well, Al Ricketts and I were opening up the Press Club bar one day, swapping yarns with Doris one pre-noon when she begins to regale us with tales of this new comic she'd been working with in Las Vegas.

"Man," says Doris Lee, "you've GOT to dig Lennie Bruce. Just the funniest cat ever to come along; but more than funny. This man has something to say!"

Well, that was in, like, 1961-ish and eventually Ricketts and I did get to see Lennie. I sure wish old Al hadn't cashed in his chips in Honolulu in 1969, because I would sure enjoy going to see the film version of Lennie Bruce's life with him. It was fun to laugh with Al.

"Lennie" will open in Tokyo either Oct. 4 or some other time, the guy at the movie office told Nuiko, but I saw it at a preview with my daughter Jill in mid-July. My grown daughter, I'm quick to add, because I wouldn't want to take any of my un-grown daughters to see it.

And Lennie Bruce would hate me for that. Because that's what Lennie the man was all

about, and that's what "Lennie" the movie is all about, too. Hypocrisy and an innate flinch when certain language is used.

Bob Fosse is maybe best known as a dancer-choreographer, but if "Cabaret" didn't prove him a certifiable genius as a film director, "Lennie" will.

A stroke of inspiration cast Dustin Hoffman as Bruce, and after you see the fine portrayal he gives us, you'll wonder just who the hell else could have played the role. The physical resemblance helps, of course, but more than that, Hoffman has Bruce's staccato delivery and soft, almost sweet personal side down to a tee.

Equally as fine is the rest of the cast, notably Valerie Perrine as Honey, Lennie's stripper, showbiz wife, and Jan Miner as Sally Marr, Lennie's Top Banana of a mom.

Also fine is Gary Morton as a Milton Berle-type stand-up jokesmith in the Catskills, and Stanley Beck as Lennie's personal manager.

The device used is really right; a supposed series of taped interviews by some unseen seeker of truth about Lennie. As Honey, Sally and Artie the Manager reminisce, we flashback through Lennie's professional life, the rise and fall of a funny man who was trying to change human nature and fought his personal demons with drugs and "dirty language."

We follow Lennie and Honey into addiction, orgies, her imprisonment for carrying a stash, their little girl growing up in flophouses while Lennie makes the people laugh in sewer-type joints.

Lennie is busted by the fuzz

for using the word (I won't do it, I won't!) on stage. Later as he goes through a series of court battles, his act disintegrates into his reading from the court record on stage to the yawn-look-at-the-watch reaction of his once-enraptured fans.

Finally, the night he dies from an overdose in a filthy toilet, Lennie goes on staged stoned out of his skull and gives a spaced-out performance which consists mostly of silences and back-to-the-audience musings.

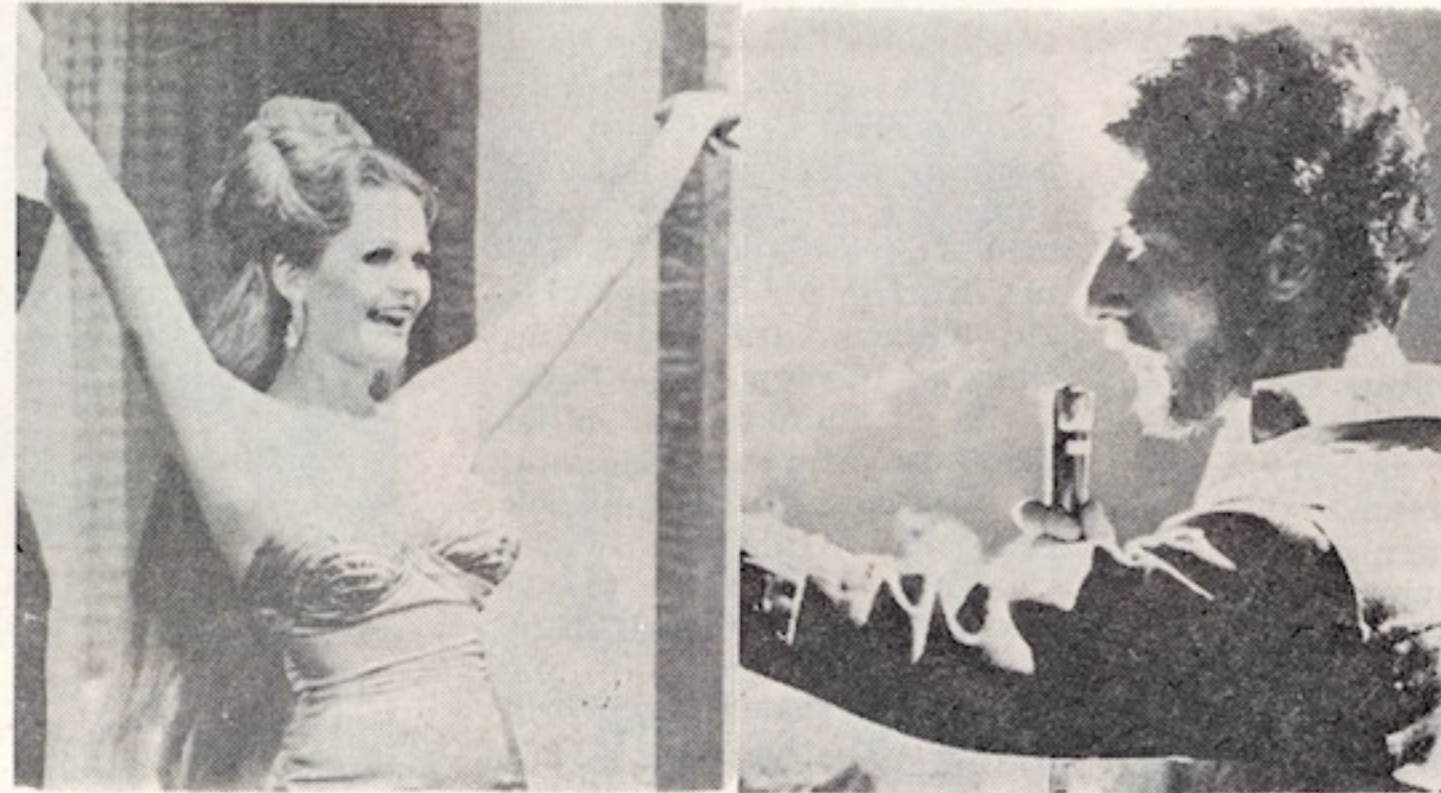
During this most telling scene, Fosse wisely sets his camera from a balcony-eye-view and simply leaves it there so we see Lennie's pathetic performance just as if we were in the saloon.

If Valerie Perrine seems oddly at ease doing her strip numbers and cavorting in the nude, it's not to be surprised; she once worked as a bare-bosomed dancer in a Las Vegas revue.

This film is not for everyone, I'm afraid, and (forgive me, Lennie; sorry about that, Doris) you should avoid it if you are delicate about swear words, as they say. Lennie will make you see how the use of some of our most condemned words is harmless and subject for ridicule.

But you've got to be ready. Being the guy I am, I dug the film whole-heartedly. So did my grown daughter. But my little ones won't get a chance to find out. Not for a few more years.

(CORK)











Valerie as Honey; Dustin as Lennie

the weekender guide to

- BUNGEI CHIKA.** To the left of the East exit of Ikebukuro Station. Under Bungeiza. Tel. 971-3348. 文芸地下 豊島区東池袋1-43-4 (池袋駅東口より左側)
- BUNGEIZA.** To the left of the East exit of Ikebukuro Station. Tel. 971-3348. 文芸座 豊島区東池袋1丁目43の4 (池袋駅東口より左側)
- GINREI HALL.** To Kagurazaka from the West exit of Iidabashi Station. Behind diagonally fr. Kasakuza. Tel. 269-3852. ギンレイホール 新宿区神楽坂2丁目19 (佳作座斜め裏)
- GINZA BUNKA.** Behind Wako Department Store at Ginza 4-chome. Tel. 561-0707. 銀座文化 中央区銀座4丁目4-2 (和光裏)
- GINZA MEIGAZA.** Follow Sotobori-dori east from Ginza Mitsukoshi for about 100 meters to Mihara Bridge. The Ginza Meigaza is under the bridge. Tel. 561-4058. 銀座名画座 中央区銀座4丁目5 (銀座外堀通り三原橋下)
- GINZA ROXY.** Near Kabukiza and the Ginza Tokyu Hotel. Right next to the Shochiku Central. Tel. 541-2716. 銀座ロキシ 中央区銀座1丁目13-5 (歌舞伎座近, 松竹セントラル隣)
- GINZA TOKYU.** Near Shimbashi Station, front of the Shimbashi Center No. 2. Tel. 571-3411. 銀座東急 中央区銀座8丁目 (新橋センター2号館前)
- HIBIYA EIGA.** Near Sanshin and Hibiya Mitsui Bldgs., between the Imperial Hotel and Hibiya Park Bldg. Tel. 591-5353. 日比谷映画 千代田区有楽町1の14 (三信ビル, 三井ビル前)
- IKEBUKURO GEKIJYO.** To the left of the East exit of Ikebukuro Station. Tel. 971-8361. 池袋劇場 豊島区池袋1丁目22の10 (池袋駅東口より左側)
- KASAKUZA.** Opposite the West exit of Iidabashi Station. Tel. 269-1511. 佳作座 新宿区神楽坂1丁目12 (飯田橋西口前)
- KEIO MEIGAZA.** Across diagonally fr. Isetan. Tel. 356-3518. 京王名画座 新宿区新宿3丁目1-24
- KICHIJOJI MUSASHINO.** Fifty meters from Seiyu Store near the North exit of Kichijoji Station. Tel. 0422-22-3555. 吉祥寺 武蔵野館 武蔵野市吉祥寺本町1丁目1-23 (吉祥寺駅北口近西友ストアより50m)
- KORAKUEN CINEMA.** Near Suidobashi Station in the Korakuen Bowling Center. Tel. 811-2111. 後楽園シネマ 文京区後楽1丁目3後楽園ボウリングセンター内 (水道橋駅前)
- MARUNOUCHI SHOCHIKU.** Behind the Asahi Shimbun Bldg., which is next to the Nichigeki Theater. Tel. 201-3720. 丸の内松竹 千代田区有楽町2の3 (日劇横朝日新聞ビル裏)
- MARUNOUCHI TOEI PALACE.** Next to the Yomiuri Shimbun Bldg. Tel. 535-4740. 丸の内東映パレス 中央区銀座3の17の2 (読売新聞ビル横)
- MARUNOUCHI TOHO.** Basement of the Nichigeki Theater. Tel. 211-6088. 丸の内東宝 千代田区有楽町2の1 (日劇地階)
- MEGURO SCALAZA.** On the left side of Meguro-dori going downhill from the station to Otori-jinja. About 300 meters from the station. Tel. 491-4734. 目黒スカラ座 目黒区下目黒1丁目5-15 (目黒駅権之助坂下300m左側)
- MEIGAZA MILANO.** In front of Koma Gekijo, near the East exit of Shinjuku Station. Tel. 200-0888. 名画座ミラノ 新宿区歌舞伎町29-2 (コマ劇場前)
- MIYUKIZA.** Across from the Imperial Hotel. Tel. 591-5357. Ext. 284. みゆき座 千代田区有楽町1の14 (帝国ホテル筋向い)
- NEW TOHO, CINEMA 1.** 3rd floor New Toho Bldg., across from the Nichigeki Theater. Tel. 571-1946. ニュー東宝, シネマ1 千代田区有楽町2の4 ニュー東京ビル3階 (日劇筋向い)
- NEW TOHO, CINEMA 2.** Basement of the New Tokyo Bldg., across from the Nichigeki Theater. Tel. 571-1947. ニュー東宝, シネマ2 千代田区有楽町2丁目4 (日劇の前, ニュー東京ビルの地下)
- NICHIGEKI BUNKA.** Basement of the Nichigeki Theater. Tel. 201-2111. 日劇文化劇場 千代田区有楽町2の1 (日劇地階)
- PICCADILLY.** Behind the Asahi Shimbun Bldg. Tel. 201-2881/2. ピカデリー 千代田区有楽町2の3 (朝日新聞ビル裏)
- SCALAZA.** 4th floor of Takarazuka Theater, across from the Imperial Hotel. Tel. 591-5355. スカラ座 千代田区有楽町1の12 (帝国ホテル筋向 宝塚劇場4階)
- SHIBUYA BUNKA.** In the basement of the Shibuya Toho, which is on Dogenzaka, the uphill street going west from the front of Shibuya Station. Tel. 461-4902. 渋谷文化 渋谷区道玄坂2丁目7の17 (道玄坂渋谷東宝地階)
- SHIBUYA PALACE.** Next to Seibu Dept. Store. Tel. 461-3534. 渋谷パレス 渋谷区宇田川町20番9号
- SHIBUYA PANTHEON.** 1st floor of Tokyu Bunka Kaikan adjacent to Shibuya Station. Tel. 407-7219. 渋谷パンテオン 渋谷区渋谷2の21の12 (渋谷駅近 東急文化会館1階)
- SHIBUYA SCALAZA.** On Dogenzaka, the uphill street going west from the front of Shibuya Station. Tel. 461-1929. 渋谷スカラ座 渋谷区道玄坂2の6の17 (道玄坂並び)
- SHIBUYA TAKARAZUKA.** On Jingu-dori, across from the front of Shibuya Station. Tel. 461-8779. 渋谷宝塚 渋谷区宇田川町2 (渋谷駅前神宮通り)
- SHIBUYA TOKYU.** 5th floor of Tokyu Bunka Kaikan, adjacent to Shibuya Station. Tel. 407-7131. 渋谷東急 渋谷区渋谷2の21の12 (渋谷駅近 東急文化会館5階)
- SHIBUYA ZENSENZA.** On Kami-dori to the right of the East exit of Shibuya Station. Tel. 400-2088. 渋谷全線座 渋谷区渋谷1丁目24の10 (上通り渋谷東映隣)

the Weekender guide to

FILMS

- **ONCE IS NOT ENOUGH** Kirk Douglas, Deborah Raffin. Begins Sept. 27. (23, 35)
- **MIRAGE** Cesar Elias, Hernan Bejar. In Spanish. Begins Sept. 27. (44, 59)
- **LA BELLISSIMA ESTATE** Alessandro Cocco, Senta Berger. In Italian. Begins Sept. 27. (20)
- **SHANE** Alan Ladd, Jean Arthur, Van Heflin. Begins Sept. 27. (7, 51)
- **THE WILBY CONSPIRACY** Sidney Poitier, Michael Caine. (34, 46) Poitier and Caine become the Frick and Frack of the Bush in taking a most light-hearted, quip-filled approach to the problems of apartheid and black rebellion in South Africa. 
- **FRENCH CONNECTION II** Gene Hackman, Fernando Rey, Bernard Fresson. (8, 36, 56) Like the title, a bit unoriginal but gives Hackman room to emote up a storm as Popeye is made a junky, kicks it, then busts dope ring and Marseilles, both. 
- **THE ANTICHRIST** Carla Gravina, Mel Ferrer, Arthur Kennedy. (19, 57) Every "Exorcist" cliché trotted out in Johnny-come-lately Satanism coat-tail's ride; elephants' graveyard for film stars of yore. 
- **FORTY CARATS** Liv Ullmann, Edward Albert, Gene Kelly, Deborah Raffin. Begins Sept. 27. (14)
- **LE HASARD ET LA VIOLENCE** Katharine Ross, Yves Montand. In French. (21)
- **THE TOWERING INFERNO** Steve McQueen, Paul Newman, William Holden, Faye Dunaway. (27, 33, 43, 53) No artistic achievement but edge-of-seat excitement as hundreds are incinerated in high-rise conflagration. 
- **GONE WITH THE WIND** Vivien Leigh, Clark Gable. (30, 50)
- **SEVEN SAMURAI** Toshiro Mifune. Directed by Akira Kurosawa. In Japanese. Full-length version. (49)
- **DERSU UZALA** Directed by Akira Kurosawa. In Russian. (54)
- **THE DEVIL IN MISS JONES; DEEP THROAT** (15, 40)
- **LE BONHEUR** In French. Begins Sept. 30. (2)
- **EMMANUELLE** Sylvia Kristel. In French. (4) Begins Sept. 30. (2, 18, 48)
- **THE GREAT GATSBY** Robert Redford, Mia Farrow. Begins Sept. 30. (3) Very lovely interpretation of Fitzgerald's thought-provoking novel about the super-rich in the 20's. 
- **CABARET** Liza Minnelli, Joel Gray. Begins Sept. 30. (3)
- **VERTUHRERINNEN REPORT** In German. Until Sept. 29. (5)
- **BIBI SUNDIG UND SUSS** In Swedish. Begins Sept. 30. (5)
- **THE KID** Charlie Chaplin. Until Sept. 29. (45) Begins Sept. 30. (10)
- **ART OF COMEDY** Charlie Chaplin. Begins Sept. 30. (10)
- **VIVRE POUR VIVRE** Yves Montand, Candice Bergen. In French. Until Sept. 29. (18) Begins Sept. 30. (58)
- **WALKING TALL** Joe Don Baker, Elizabeth Hartman. Begins Sept. 27. (25) Based on true-life tale of Tennessee Sheriff Buford Pusser, it's one man's battle for justice in the midst of crime and corruption; kind of country but telling. 
- **BORSALINO AND CO.** Alain Delon. In French. (31) Until Sept. 29. (37)
- **AIRPORT 1975** Charlton Heston, Karen Black, George Kennedy. (31) Yet another disaster opus, complete with a 747-full of manufactured crises. 
- **PRISON BABIES** Until Sept. 29. (5)
- **THE SOUND OF MUSIC** Julie Andrews, Christopher Plummer. (24, 28, 39)
- **CONTES IMMORAUX** Paloma Picasso. In French. (9, 16, 29, 32)
- **11 HARROW HOUSE** Candice Bergen, Charles Grodin. Until Sept. 29. (37) A few suspenseful moments in a diamond heist can't counterbalance the silly defects of the "adaptation" by Grodin. 
- **LES SEINS DE GLACE** Alain Delon, Mireille Darc. In French. Begins Sept. 27. (25)
- **ASH WEDNESDAY** Elizabeth Taylor, Henry Fonda, Helmut Berger. Begins Sept. 30. (37) Soap opera plot will jerk tears from housewives; Liz' plastic surgery metamorphosis is instructive but gory. 
- **FOOLS** Katharine Ross, Jayson Robards. Begins Sept. 30. (37)
- **THE SUGARLAND EXPRESS** Goldie Hawn, Ben Johnson. Until Sept. 29. (38)
- **THE MAN WITH THE GOLDEN GUN** Roger Moore, Christopher Lee. Until Sept. 29. (45) Very somber Bond with slim-shanked chicks: Come Back, Sean! 
- **JUGGERNAUT** Omar Sharif, Richard Harris. Begins Sept. 30. (45) Edge-of-the-seat suspense thriller has bombs aboard luxury liner and Harris' macho for excitement. 
- **THE TAKING OF PELHAM ONE TWO THREE** Walter Matthau, Robert Shaw, Martin Balsam. Begins Sept. 30. (45) Suspense, comedy and a primer on the New York psyche. 
- **UN HOMME ET UNE FEMME** Jean-Louis Trintignant. In French. Begins Sept. 30. (48, 58)

THEATERS

- 32. **SHINJUKU BUNKA.** Across from the side entrance of Isetan Department Store on Meiji-dori. Tel. 351-3414. 新宿文化劇場 新宿区新宿3の21 (明治通り伊勢丹前)
- 33. **SHINJUKU MILANOZA.** In front of Koma Gekijo, near the East exit of Shinjuku Station. Tel. 202-1189. 新宿ミラノ座 新宿区歌舞伎町29 (コマ劇場前)
- 34. **SHINJUKU MUSASHINOKAN.** In front of the main exit of Shinjuku Station. Tel. 354-5671. 新宿武蔵野館 新宿区角管1の1 (新宿駅中央口前)
- 35. **SHINJUKU PICCADILLY.** Behind Kinokuniya Book Store, which is on Shinjuku-dori between Isetan Department Store and the station. Tel. 354-2411. 新宿ピカデリー 新宿区新宿3の16 (紀伊国屋ビル裏)
- 36. **SHINJUKU PLAZA.** Next to Koma Gekijo, near the East exit of Shinjuku Station. Tel. 200-9141. 新宿プラザ劇場 新宿区歌舞伎町19 (コマ劇場隣)
- 37. **SHINJUKU ROMAN.** In Shinjuku, front of the Isetan Department Store. Tel. 351-2941. 新宿ロマン 新宿区新宿3丁目3-25 (新宿伊勢丹前)
- 38. **SHINJUKU ROYAL.** Behind the Shinjuku Marui Department Store. Tel. 352-7004. 新宿ローマール 新宿区角管802-1 (新宿丸井デパート裏)
- 39. **SHINJUKU SCALAZA.** Opposite Isetan Department Store. Tel. 351-3127. 新宿スカラ座 新宿区新宿3丁目5-4 (伊勢丹前)
- 40. **SHINJUKU TOKYU.** In front of Koma Gekijo, near the East exit of Shinjuku Station. Tel. 200-1981. 新宿東急 新宿区歌舞伎町92の1 (コマ劇場前)
- 41. **SHINJUKU VILLAGE 1.** Across from the side entrance of Isetan Department Store on Meiji-dori. Tel. 351-3127. ビレッジI 新宿区新宿3丁目5-4 (明治通り伊勢丹前)
- 42. **SHINJUKU VILLAGE 2.** Across from the side entrance of Isetan Department Store on Meiji-dori. Tel. 351-3128. ビレッジII 新宿区新宿3丁目5-4 (明治通り伊勢丹前)
- 43. **SHOCHIKU CENTRAL.** Near Kabukiza and the Ginza Tokyu Hotel. Tel. 541-2714. 松竹セントラル 中央区築地5の13 (歌舞座近)
- 44. **SUBARUZA.** In the Yurakuchō Bldg., across from Sogo Department Store. Tel. 213-2861. スバル座 千代田区有楽町1の5 (有楽町ビル内)
- 45. **TAKADANO, BABA PEARLZA.** Basement of Seiyu near Takadano-baba Station. Tel. 371-9905. 高田馬場パール座 新宿区戸塚町3丁目167番 (高田馬場駅近 西友ストア地下)
- 46. **THEATER GINZA.** Basement of Theater Tokyo, which is on Ginza between Matsuya and Takashimaya Department Store. Tel. 561-7938. 銀座テアトル 中央区銀座1の2の11 (銀座松屋近 テアトル東京地階)
- 47. **THEATER SCORPIO.** In the basement of Shinjuku Bunka Gekijo, which is on Meiji-dori, opposite the side entrance of Isetan Department Store. Tel. 351-9106. 蝸座 新宿区新宿3丁目21 新宿文化劇場地階 (明治通り伊勢丹前)
- 48. **THEATER SHINJUKU.** Next to Isetan Department Store, new building. Tel. 352-2828. テアトル新宿 新宿区新宿3丁目8 (伊勢丹新館隣)
- 49. **THEATER TOKYO.** On Ginza, between Matsuya and Takashimaya Department Stores. Tel. 562-5301. テアトル東京 中央区銀座1の2の11 (銀座松屋近)
- 50. **TOGEKI** In front of the Ginza Tokyu Hotel 541-2711. 東劇 中央区築地4丁目1-1 (銀座東急ホテル前)
- 51. **TOKYU BUNKA.** 1st basement of Tokyu Bunka Kaikan, adjacent to Shibuya Station. Tel. 407-7131. 東急レックス 渋谷区渋谷2の21の12 (渋谷駅近東急文化会館地階)
- 52. **UENO TOKYU.** Next to the Ueno Station Hotel, near Ueno Station. Tel. 831-6612. 上野東急 台東区上野2の26の14 (池之端 上野ステーションホテル隣)
- 53. **YOKOHAMA PICCADILLY.** On Isezaki Street near the Chojamachi 5-chome intersection. Tel. (045) 261-2886. 横浜ピカデリー 中区長者町G-88 (伊勢崎通中程市電長者町5丁目前)
- 54. **YOKOHAMA SOTETSU EIGA.** In Sotetsu Kaikan—turn left at the West Exit of Yokohama Station along Main Street Sotetsu Kaikan across the T-intersection at the first light. Tel. (045) 311-6226. 横浜相鉄映画 西区南幸1の7 相鉄文化会館1階 (横浜駅西口名品街通抜)
- 55. **YOKOHAMA TOHO CINEMA.** Basement, Toho Kaikan on Bashamichi Street near Yokohama Kannai. Tel. (045) 681-7410. 横浜東宝シネマ 中区住吉町5の59 東宝会館地下1階 (横浜関内より歩いて3分馬車道通)
- 56. **YOKOHAMA TOHO.** 1st floor, Toho Kaikan. Tel. (045) 681-7410. 横浜東宝 中区住吉町5の59 東宝会館1階 (横浜関内より歩いて3分馬車道通)
- 57. **YOKOHAMA TOHO MEIGA.** Toho Kaikan on Bashamichi Street near Yokohama Kannai. Tel. (045) 681-7410. 横浜東宝名画 中区住吉町5の59 (東宝会館地階)
- 58. **YURAKU CINEMA.** In front of the main exit of Yurakuchō Station. Tel. 201-3066. 有楽シネマ 千代田区有楽町2丁目9 (有楽町駅中央口前)
- 59. **YURAKUZA.** Next door to the Hibiya Theater. Tel. 591-1211. 有楽座 千代田区有楽町1の14 (日比谷映画隣)

(The numbers in parentheses after each listing correspond to those of the theaters where that movie is playing. Landmarks used in the directions are major ones and enable a person with only a limited knowledge of the language and city to find the theater. The name, address and directions to each theater are also printed in Japanese for taxi drivers and emergencies.)

YOUR WEEKENDER

BULLETIN BOARD

FOR SALE

1973 MODEL VOLKSWAGEN K70, 1700 cc, 4-door sedan with inspection OK through Feb. '77. Also 1970 model Toyopet Corona Mark II, 2-door hardtop with automatic transmission & a 1969 model Toyopet Corona 4-door sedan. Please call 432-4813 (office hours), 582-0958 or 585-1785 (Sat. only) or 424-5386 (Sun. & evenings.).

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AMERICAN FULL-SIZE CRIB (Lullabye brand) with Simmons deluxe mattress & 2 rubberized fitted covers; matching 5-drawer dresser, both in excellent condition, ¥35,000. Also sturdy high chair with removal tray, best offer. Also Pro-So-Bee soy formula, ½ Japanese price, ¥3,000. Please call 446-5690.

BEDROOM SET, modern Scandinavian design, teakwood, knock-down twin beds, 2 x 1 meters, each with mattress, attached side table, 1 matching chest of drawers (145 x 50 x 75 cm); 1 handmade Chinese carpet (6' x 9'), blue/beige with design, perfect condition; 1 doll's sit-up folding push car; 1 pair of skis, child size, 140 cm. Call 446-5443.

1970 DODGE COLT A II GS, yellow, 4-door sedan, 4 speed floor shift, ¥320,000, must see. Also Toyota Celica 1600ST, 1971 model, automatic, car stereo, ¥400,000, excellent condition. Please call 470-0420, 7 to 10 a.m. or 9 p.m. till 1 a.m.

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mattress, box springs, frame. Avocado carpet. Call 925-3427.

TAG SALE: Sun., Sept. 28, 1 to 5 p.m. 2 small Korean chests (now used as bedside tables); maple dinette set with 4 chairs; signed Stuben glass Limouges & Royal Doulton porcelain; Bohemian wine decanter set; many other new & used & antique items, ideal for Christmas gifts. Call (045) 641-8906.

52-TSUBO WESTERN STYLE HOUSE on 240-tsubo leased land, near Awase Golf Course, Okinawa. 4 bedrooms, 2 baths, telephone. Excellent location with view of Buckner Bay. Asking ¥10,500,000. Also 13.5-meter twin-diesel GMC671 motor yacht. Completely rebuilt in 1969. Sleeps 8 persons. Teak deck & interior. Tax free. Asking ¥15,000,000. Please contact D.D. Williamson % Okinawa Yacht Club, P. O. Box 83, Okinawa City, Okinawa, or call (0989) 38-3397.

LEAVING JAPAN, want to sell Pioneer receiver, record player, 2 speakers, tape recorder. All items in excellent condition. Please call 580-1620.

DRAPES, EXCELLENT QUALITY & fully lined, medium gold in color; custom made in Canada. one pair: 210 cm x 230 cm & another pair 388 cm x 230 cm wide. Total price: ¥45,000. Also other drapes in various sizes & colors. Telephone 44-0616 after 5 p.m.

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ELEGANCE AT REASONABLE PRICES. Almost new Interlubke-style 4½ cream-colored bookshelf elements with bar, writing compartment (each 220 cm high, 100 cm wide, 40 cm deep), ¥80,000; genuine African Berber white wool carpet (200 x 300 cm), ¥85,000; 2 crystal-glass tables with metal frames (40 x 70 x 70 cm, ¥60,000 & 40 x 140 x 60, ¥80,000); Dual 1219 automatic record player, ¥30,000; Fisher 504-T AM-FM amplifier-receiver electronic tuning, ¥70,000; GE refrigerator-freezer, 15 cu. ft., no-frost, ¥100,000; National 20" color TV with console all-white remote control, ¥80,000. Also 1972 Corona Mark II L Coupe, Michelin tires, automatic transmission, aircon, 40,000 km, taxed, ¥600,000. All items in exceptionally good condition. Call 432-4251, ext. 290, during office hours. Mr. Kutscheid.

TOP-CLASS HI FI Sansui stereo preamplifier, CA 3000, used only 3 weeks, full guarantee with factory data sheet of performance. Sophisticated controls, 2 large level meters built in. Price new, ¥160,000; will sell for ¥110,000. Call 813-4031, weekdays from 9:30 a.m. to noon. Ask for Mr. Bechstein.

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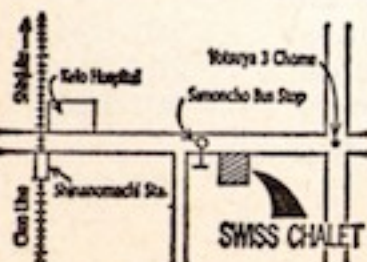
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PROFESSOR F.H. AIBA, Psychologist & Doctor of Medical Science, is holding psychological consultations & psychotherapy together with Izuru Shibata, M.D. (Tel: 371-7230) Amongst members of your family & your acquaintances, if you have any of the following complaints, this would be sufficient justification for psychological consultation: insomnia, irritation, depressed mood, hypochondriac feelings, fear of heights, claustrophobia, weak memory, forgetfulness, sexual incapability, not having a good relationship with people in the office or at school, cannot adjust to Japanese culture or cannot get along with Japanese people, fear of other people's disapproval.

HELP WANTED

WE NEED A LIVE-IN MAID for family with 3 girls. New house in Shibuya area. Experience & English necessary. Call 469-6494 after 6 p.m.

WE WANT A MAID to take care of our 1-year-old son from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Mon. to Fri. beginning Sept. 29. Please call Mr. Edman, Swedish Embassy, 403-9241 or 446-5397.

SITUATION WANTED

EXPERIENCED BABY SITTER, age 25, looking for babysit job 1 or 2 nights A week with no charge, but free use of dormitory. Please call 291-8778 or 469-2837. Miss Matsuo, 9 a.m. till 5 p.m.

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GORGEOUS APARTMENT, 5-minute walk from Azabu-Juban shopping area, 10 minute drive to Ginza; 48 tsubo consisting of 3 bedrooms, 1 maid's room, large living & dining room, 2 bathrooms, wall-to-wall carpet, equipped with refrigerator, dishwasher, washer/dryer, parking, theft-protection alarm system. Rent: ¥400,000 per month with 6-month deposit. For details please call 591-1944/5, Kunio Cho.

LARGE WESTERN STYLE 4-bedroom house, large study, living room, dining room, children's playroom, maid's room, garage, etc. Located in Hiroo with pleasant garden. Ideal quiet residential location. No agent involved. Rent: ¥500,000 per month; no deposit. Phone Smith at 501-2630 (office) or 409-4059 (home).

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

THE INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL OF THE SACRED HEART has announced altered schedules for many of the planned events for parents of girls enrolled at the school. Increased local activity surrounding the visit to the United States by the Emperor of Japan made postponements advisable. Sports Day, originally scheduled for Sun., Sept. 28, has been postponed till Sun., Oct. 5. The Mothers' Club tea for moms with children from kindergarten through 4th Grade has been reslated for Tues., Oct. 7, and the tea for mothers with children in 5th-12th grades is now set for Tues., Oct. 14. Both teas begin at 3:30 p.m. The Friends of the Sacred Heart meeting originally scheduled for Wed., Sept. 24, has been postponed until Wed., Oct. 9. The school administration and the Executive Committee regrets any inconvenience caused by these altered schedules.

CAPTAIN HOOK or Robin Hood; Napoleon Bonaparte or "Big Daddy" Amin. You have your choice for our international fancy dress party on Sat., Oct. 4. For more details, call Goodlooks, 416-7709.

VOOR ALLE NEDERLANDERS woonachting in de Kanto: Kennismakingsavond "Open House" op 2 oktober 1975 om 19:30 uur; in het Hilton Hotel (Silver Room).

THE MOTHER'S CLUB OF SEISEN International School cordially invites its members to the first general meeting of the new school year. The long Tokyo summer is drawing to a close & social calendars are rapidly beginning to fill, so please circle in red the date: **Sept. 30**; the time: **1 p.m.**; the place: **the school cafeteria**. Take this opportunity to enjoy a relaxing afternoon renewing old friendships & establishing new ones while learning about Seisen Mothers' Club activities. For those with young children, a babysitting service will be provided in the kindergarten. We'll look forward to seeing you!

FREE BOATING COURSE: The United States Power Squadrons are offering a free 10-week Basic Boating Course on Wednesdays at 7 p.m. at the Sanno Hotel's Penthouse. The class began Sept. 24, but late registrations are now being accepted. No previous boating experience is required. The class is open to men, women & older teenagers of all nationalities & it is not necessary to own a boat to attend. The course covers sail as well as power boat handling. Successful completion of the course will contribute to qualifying students for the pleasure boat operator's license to be required by the Japanese government. For further information, call David Ziegler, 212-2425.

THE COLUMBIA SOCIETY'S Annual Champagne & Caviar Gala will be held Sat., Oct. 4, 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. at the Yokohama Navy Officers' Club, Bayside Courts, Yokohama. Donation: ¥2,000 per person. Dress: black tie (optional). Tickets at the door or for reservations, call Mrs. Schroeder at (045) 623-7820 or Mrs. Pierce at (045) 622-7628.

LECTURE SERIES given by Professor B.E. Martin is now beginning. There are a few vacancies in the following courses: Japanese History, Japanese Art, Italian Art. Classes will be held once weekly in units of 2 months. It is not too late to enroll. Please telephone Margaret Fields, 409-7498.

MENSA JAPAN, branch of Mensa International, will have its first autumn meeting Sat., Sept. 27, at the Yokohama Country & Athletic Club. Ted Freeman is the host, so please sign in as his guest. The club is up the hill from Yamate Station of the Negishi Line. Take Keihin Kyuko Line or Yokosuka Line to Yokohama & change there. LeNora Harris, a specialist in children with communication problems, is guest speaker. YCAC facilities are available to Mensa members from 3 p.m. Dinner is at 6. The next 2 meetings will also be on the last Saturday of the month at YCAC. For more information, call Mensa Secretary, Kimiko Fisher, 408-3366.

Weekender Bulletin Board Rates

Rate for Bulletin Board Classified Ads is ¥2,000 per 50 words, with an additional charge of ¥2,000 for each succeeding 50 words. A flat handling fee of ¥8,000 is charged for commercial classified ads placed by firms or individuals. Please enclose the payment with the written classified ad; we do not send invoices for Bulletin Board items. Please print or type. Deadline is the Friday preceding publication.



FAT NORMAN

Man Enough to Try Testes for Two?

Fat Norman Says: Shut Up and Eat Your Testes; Whattya Expect for ¥2,000?

Hi, all you Fat Norman fannies out there in Week-enderville. This is Mara, Norman's mostly present sweetie. Norm's laid up, sleeping off a heavy night, and he asked me to fill in.

"Balls," I said one day within earshot of our big buddy. "Balls, balls, balls, that's all I ever read about in the society columns, and we never get invited to any of 'em."

Anyone ever see a fat stranger gobbling anchovies at the Tanzanian Ball? Well it wasn't Norman, 'cause he's never been there; he's so busy hunting down cheapie places that he doesn't have time to court the favors of the ambassadors with the budgets for fancy spreads.

While everyone in the foreign community is stuffing their frilly blouses with imported goodies hijacked from the homeland, Norm is out searching for bargain joints to satisfy his impoverished readers' satiable demands.

"Quit shooting off your trap," Norman responded gaily, "if it's balls you want, I'll give 'em to you. But don't try to get me into those embassies."

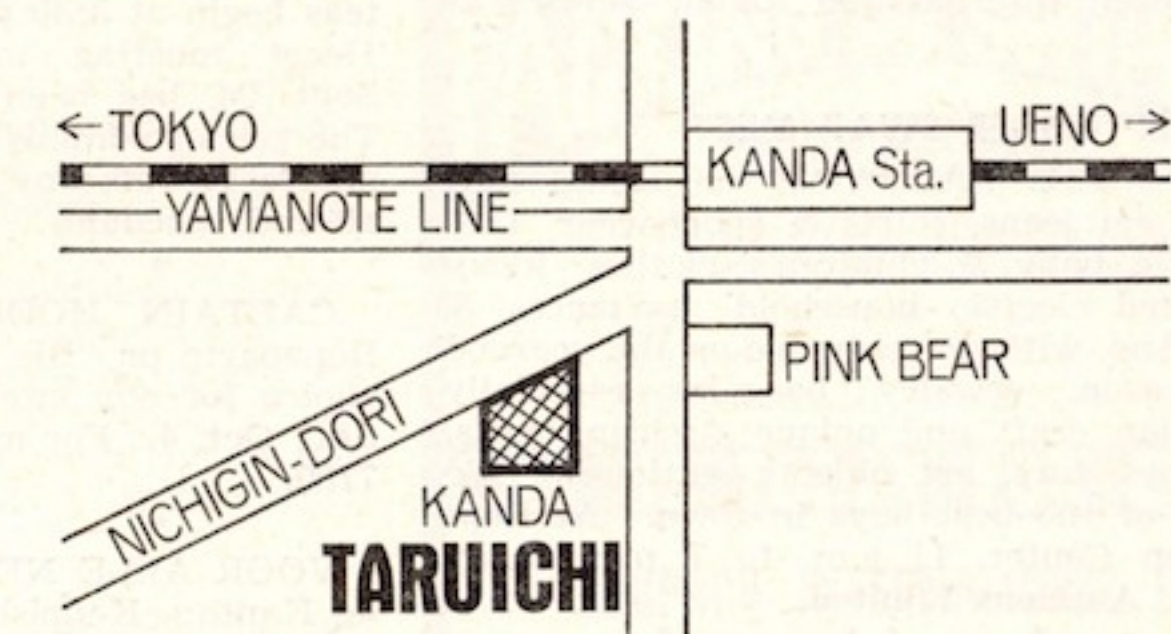
"Once I went to the Cuban Embassy to pick up a few cigars and inquire about the health of a cutie I knew down there in the pre-Castro days. The guard at the entrance reached into a handy box and pulled out a fistful of the best Habana specials which he shoved in my direction. 'Your cutie's fine. Don't worry about her. She's working the teahouses outside the American marine base,' he said, marching me out the door.

"After that, every month for a year I got a box of 25 Uppman finos, mailed anonymous but enclosed with a little engraved card from a clerk at the embassy who apparently thought he could get in good with me."

"That doesn't sound bad at all," I answered. "Why don't we ever get invited to the Cuban Embassy, then? I understand they serve a fantastic gazpachos on Che Guevara's birthday."

"You think I can be bought off for a mere box of Habana finos every month," Norman answered, his belly heaving dangerously. "I smoke Churchills or nothing. I told that guy at the embassy I'd swipe his panatellas unless he upped the quality of his Uppmans, and he never answered. Next thing I heard he had become closet attendant at the Dominican Consulate-General in Las Vegas."

"And that's my entire, total experience with embassies, except that I understand you can get a messy hamburger steak at the American Embassy Saturday



mornings if you tell the guard you've just hiked from Dacca with the CIA files in your rucksack. It only works once, however," he advised.

Undaunted, Norman agreed we'd have a ball, and he asked me to meet him late the next Friday night at Kanda Station on the JNR line. It seems he had important business with the Bank of Japan—something related to changing hot Dominican currency so he could dabble in cigar futures.

"If you come from Tokyo Station, get on the back of the train, so you can get out at the south exit, or *minami guchi*," he suggested. Norm is so erudite once you get to know him. Unfortunately, he has other qualities as well, but you only learn those once you get to know him, too.

Meet us must, and meet we did, at the south entrance of Kanda Station, and handed in our tickets, like good little commuters. Turning right, we crossed one busy wide street and turned into another jutting off at an angle towards Mitsukoshi Depahto (see, I know Japanese too) and the Bank of Japan—the street is called *Nichigin Dori*, after the bank of that name.

Sauntering past not more than two or three shops on the left we came to a remarkably indescribable (for Norman) place: a tearoom called *Rin* and a Mah-jongg parlor called—if my Japanese serves—*Senjin Club*.

A stairway leading precariously downwards took us to the dining establishment of Norm's choice: the drinking house *Taru-Ichi*, which means Barrel #1. "This is the only place in Japan, or Tokyo at least, where you can pick up *kinchan*, or *kin-tama*—or whale testes."

Testes, Norman explained, are defined in the dictionary as "the male reproductive gland."

"But isn't that called a penis?" I asked, borrowing from my extensive knowledge of anatomy.

"A penis is that thing over there behind you," Norm replied, pointing to a black, swordlike object suspended above the entrance to the

restaurant, under which we had just passed amid a chorus of welcomes.

"That's really erotic," I said, "to a dolphin. And the testes are the two oval glands I've read about as being associated with the penis. I didn't know either was nourishing or edible."

"The testes are tender and piquant when served raw," my mentor replied in his professorial voice. "Boiled, they have the texture of egg yolks, and a mild aroma. But served raw, and sliced thin, they taste like togue."

Taru-ichi serves whale testes raw—*kintama sashimi*—with a special sauce. We ordered a serving, and watched the chef prepare a fist-sized ball of pink veinous meat for Norm's palate.

"Delicious," the diner uttered, flopping the first slice into his mouth. "It's believed people who eat testes enjoy abundant sex lives," he said, but I doubted that so vast an improvement could be achieved merely by a change in diet.

Since my sex life isn't in trouble, I ordered a different house specialty: *Hoya*, is a prehistoric soft-shell creature found only along the coast of Miyagi Prefecture, according to the drink-

ing house's raconteur-owner Mr. Sato (who said he will personally welcome foreign visitors to his shop—they need only phone 252-7341 if they get lost).

A *hoya* looks pretty grim: reddish on the outside with prickles on one end to stab passing fish. The shell attaches itself to rocks on the other end. The inside is yellow and soft, but not mushy. It's sliced and served with soy sauce. Real fine.

If Westerners are reluctant to savor either *kintama* or *hoya*, however, Taru-Ichi has a selection of ordinary-looking foods lining the long counter where animated clerks from the Bank of Japan plan noisy heists and getaways.

But the big specialty of the house—what really must be tasted, is the fantastic cold saké which is unique to this place. Norm purchased a bottle of the stuff and drank it like a *hoya* until Mr. Sato warned that it has the power to inspire a memorable hangover, since it's "raw," which means it has some potent elements.

The saké has won prizes, which Mr. Sato will gladly explain, along with his license permitting him to serve raw oysters during

months that begin with 10, 11, 12, 1, 2 or 3.

The saké tasted invitingly, inducing our bulky gourmet to down the entire bottle. As we stumbled out, he paid the bill—a paltry ¥2,200 and dropped over to another place he knows under the railroad tracks. By the time we left Kanda, it was taxi or nothing, so the evening wasn't quite as cheap as some we've had.

The night, however, was something else. The testes and the saké effects combined, keeping Norm very busy in more ways than one, so you can understand what I mean when I say he's laid up now. A few days' rest, the doctor says, and he'll be back to normal again—what will be a pity.

By the way, you Shinjuku freaks can hit the Taru-Ichi restaurant in Kabuki-cho. The phone number there is 208-9772. It's Mr. Sato's newest, biggest venture. But I don't think my Norman is man enough to try that stuff twice in a month.

Hang in there, gang; Fatso will be back to plague you as soon as he can hit those eateries again. Till then, why not have a ball yourself? Or share one with a friend?

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