

letters

Waikiki, development

It can work

Amen to your editorial on the Kalakaua mall and to the foresight of Mayor Anderson.

The band-aid approach to widening the sidewalks will reduce the lanes of traffic but increase their length. Otherwise, where will it go or back-up to?

The length will eventually disappear and so could the lanes. There's more to be said for the mall than against it.

Tourism is critical to Hawaii and Waikiki is the fulcrum. Let's not give any "weekend wonders" another chance to call it tawdry.

Too much time is spent on why something can't work. Let's spend a little more time on how something can work. It's more important to act than to react.

DONALD P. JONES

Reconsider position

This letter is in answer to and protest against your editorial on a Kalakaua mall (1/31).

You make the statement that several years ago you proposed such a mall, complete with fountains, statues, benches, swaying palms, nifty restaurants, outdoor eating places, strolling musicians—the works.



"Reagan says if we spend enough money on arms for enough years, we can close a 'window of vulnerability.'"

This may be a wishful thinking and not in the realm of reality.

Although it may not be a tourist destination area, I would beg you to look at the Fort Street Mall, where none of these things materialized.

And what is to say that pornography, peep shows, prostitutes may not invade this mall where the money and clients are?

As for the widening of Kuhio Avenue, this is a moot question.

Closing off Kalakaua Avenue in part or whole, and moving the traffic to Kuhio only changes the location without solving the problems of either street.

If much of the city and tour bus traffic moves to Kuhio, this enormously increases the noise and air pollution.

Let me also call to your attention the Diamond Head end of Kuhio which has been widened over a period of at least five years, with its surfeit of noise, dirt, upset, commotion, heavy machinery and other tourist and residential attractions.

All in all, the protestors have a very serious point to be considered.

I beg you to reconsider some of these aspects.

BETTY L. JOHNSON

Planning downtown

Astrid Monson's commentary on "Stopping downtown's destruction" (1/9) was inaccurate, inflammatory and demonstrated a lack of awareness regarding city center planning in general, and downtown Honolulu in particular.

Her reference to duplicating the "sunless canyons of Manhattan's Wall Street" ignores the fact that it is the redevelopment of downtown which has created the open spaces we enjoy today.

She rails against the very incentives which allow a developer increased density in return for creating the malls and plazas that keep Bishop Street from becoming a canyon.

In accusing the planners, architects and developers of destroying downtown, she is apparently unaware that 20 years ago downtown was dying. Buildings stretched from one sidewalk to another.

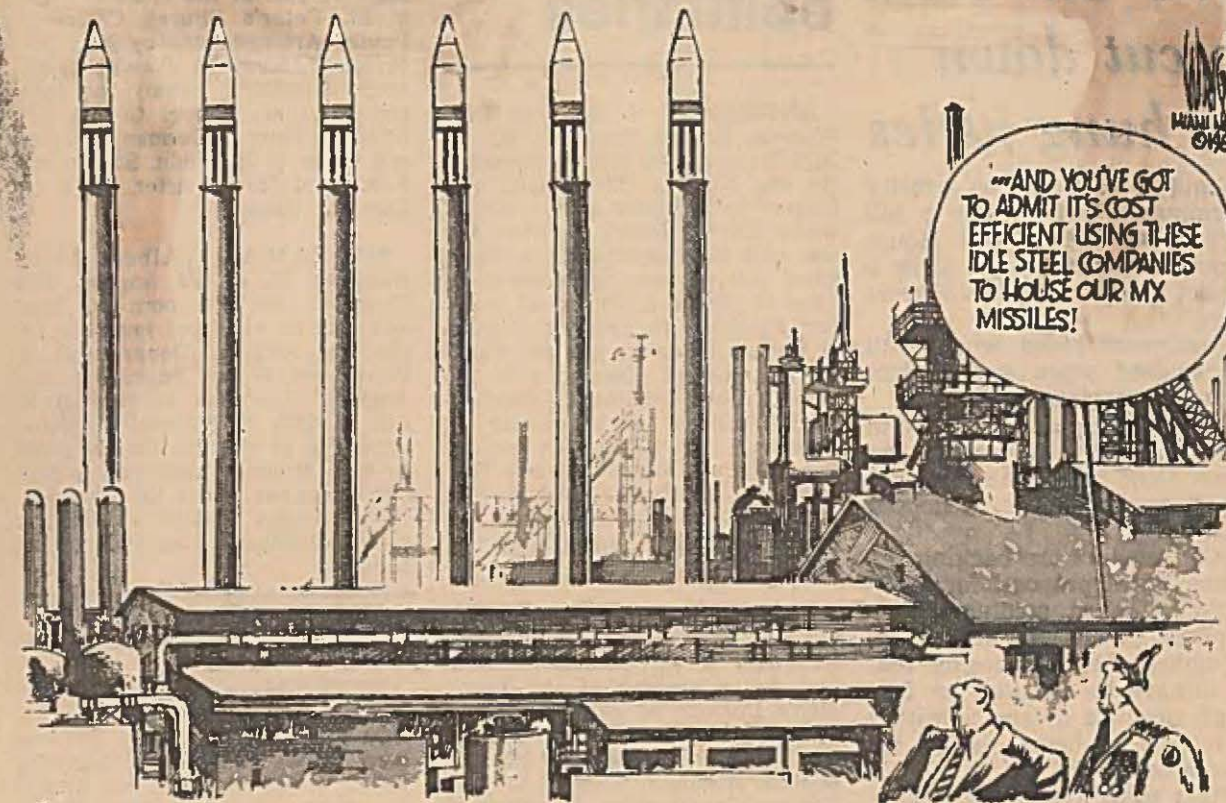
The retail center moved to Ala Moana and commercial activity was following. Many of the old buildings were run down and economically obsolete.

Today we have a pleasing mixture of restored historic buildings and modern new ones in a revitalized central business district we can be proud of.

If we don't want more mirrored glass, we should look to rescinding those recent revisions which make it the most efficient and economic form of construction to meet the building code.

Let us not, however, mindlessly suggest zoning changes which discourage parking, density and open space, three vital requirements for a successful city center.

JOHN LYLES



Flawed interview

Let me take this opportunity to clarify my position about my remarks as set forth in the article entitled "U.S.-Japan tech war shows in computer case," which appeared Jan. 11.

This article does not convey my true beliefs. It is based on a flawed interview with me in the September 1982 issue of Bungei Shunju, a Japanese magazine, and the subsequent report by The Washington Post of Jan. 9.

A spokesman for our public relations counsel in the United States, is quoted as saying, "Mr. Kobayashi does not question the accuracy of his quotes in the article."

This is a misstatement; our agency has already informed the Washington Post of this in writing.

I have never stated that I did not "question the accuracy" of the Bungei Shunju article. On the contrary, I expressed my disappointment and protest to the publisher of Bungei Shunju several times, I stated then and I state now that the article did not truly reflect my meaning and intentions.

Fujitsu is said in the article to have attempted to prevent the reprinting of my interview in the Japanese magazine.

I would like to clarify this point. Because the original story is totally inaccurate in quoting my comments, I knew that reprinting it might cause unnecessary misunderstandings by American readers.

That is why I asked the Japanese publisher to reconsider granting permission to reprint the complete story.

I, for one, greatly appreciate and respect American companies' prowess in many areas including creativity, technology, and management. We at Fujitsu will, of course, always exert our best efforts to develop our own technologies.

I hope these efforts will contribute further to building ever more cooperative relationships

with American companies and promoting fair and open competition in the international marketplace.

TAIYU KOBAYASHI
Chairman
Fujitsu Limited, Tokyo

Local people

The oral history tale "Local People" which aired on TV recently was a number one kind of event.

I thought for an exhilarating hour that time had slipped (happily) from today's inflation-filled and pollution-prone Island lifestyle into some crazy, hazy and fun-filled dream world of Hawaii's bittersweet past.

Times in the 1920-30s were at once stark, yet happy. Hard work, sacrifice and good-humored respect for its various races made Hawaii strong.

If those times were harsh, maybe it was because a day's wages were a dollar or less. But then that dollar stretched farther than today's money ever can, and all that walking barefeet to school did no one any harm.

The good times of that past were because a loaf of bread "only" cost 10 cents. Handkerchiefs (remember those?) were 5 cents and the monthly "talkies" was a nickel for kids.

People "wasted not, and wanted not." Alas, today some kids cast out pennies, and nickels too. Can we ever get back to basic values?

In "Local People" I like the Big Island's Waipio Valley Chinese poi man; the Paia, Maui Ma and Pa store; the Kauai Filipino student and the Oahu luau stories all equally well. Also, the woman from Greece, who chose Hawaii over all the U.S. Mainland to make her home in.

RICHARD CHOCK
Kamuela