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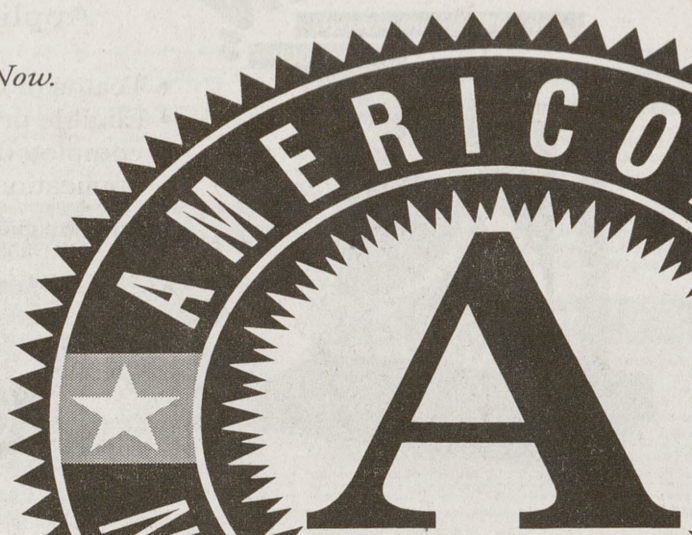
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Clinton administration renames 'V-J Day' as gesture to Japanese

□ Critics say the administration is being insensitive to U.S. Pacific War veterans.

WASHINGTON (AP) — The allied victory over Japan, traditionally known as "V-J Day," has been redubbed the "End of the Pacific War" by the Clinton administration for observances this summer. Critics suggest the government is bowing — even kowtowing — to Japan.

There are also reports that a planned Pearl Harbor ceremony marking the Japanese surrender was scaled back to avoid embarrassing Prime Minister Tomiichi Murayama, who will be there along with President Clinton. Political fallout has accompanied Clinton's plans for end-of-war ceremonies in Europe, too.

His decision to celebrate the anniversary — it's still "V-E Day" — in the United States on May 8 and then again in Moscow

on May 9 drew suggestions that he was slighting other U.S. allies, namely Britain and France, who had invited him to celebrations in their capitals.

But the heat is rising even faster over the approach to the Pacific observances.

First, came published reports that the administration, at Japan's behest, was reducing plans for a gathering of Pacific heads of state at Pearl Harbor on Sept. 2, the 50th anniversary of Japan's formal surrender.

"You're completely accurate. There have been reports to that effect," was all White House spokesman Mike McCurry would say on the subject.

There is still a ceremony planned for Honolulu, and Clinton is expected to attend along with Murayama. But leaders of other nations aren't being invited.

For the record, the administration says plans can't have been scaled back because they hadn't been announced in the first place. And officials say

there already were an abundance of high-level gatherings scheduled this year.

At the core of the dispute is Japanese sensitivity on the subject, and the fact that Murayama is on thin political ice himself.

When he became prime minister last summer, he vowed that the Japanese parliament would pass a formal resolution of apology to Asian nations it attacked during the war. That resolution has not passed, nor does one look likely.

A gathering of Pacific heads of state in Honolulu would have put Murayama in a delicate and embarrassing position — having to come and face his former adversaries.

The overall subject, including the controversy over the "V-J Day" phrase, is a sensitive one for the White House since several conservative commentators and lawmakers have cited it as a sign of Clinton's clumsiness on military issues — and insensitivity to U.S. veterans of the Pacific.

Bus driver support for video cameras has seen decrease in Corpus Christi

□ Cameras often display the drivers' behaviors in addition to the students'.

CORPUS CHRISTI (AP) — Some school bus drivers who at first supported the use of video cameras to monitor unruly students now worry that the hidden lenses can be turned on to expose them.

"Originally, the drivers were supportive of the monitoring devices, and they had hope that it would cut down on disruptive behavior," said Linda Bridges, president of the Corpus Christi American Federation of Teachers.

"However, it appears to the drivers that the cameras might be used on the employees instead of the students."

In one case, a driver was caught encouraging a student who was yelling sexually degrading remarks at a pedestrian.

The cameras are installed behind a one-way mirror so drivers and students don't know whether they are on.

Walter Prothro, director of transportation for the Corpus Christi Independent School District, said the program has worked so well that he wants to add four new cameras to the six he currently rotates among the district's 88 buses.

Prothro credits the cameras

for a drop in bad behavior. Two years ago, bus drivers made 20 to 40 daily reports of student misbehavior to principals.

A year after the cameras were installed, the reports dropped to about 15 a day. So far this year they average six or seven.

Bertha Martinez, a trainer who views the videos, said the cameras have helped reduce vandalism.

"Students are getting the message that they are being monitored, and it is not as easy to misbehave because they know that their parents will have access to those videos," she said.

But a system of assigned seating may be a greater factor in the drop in vandalism, she said.

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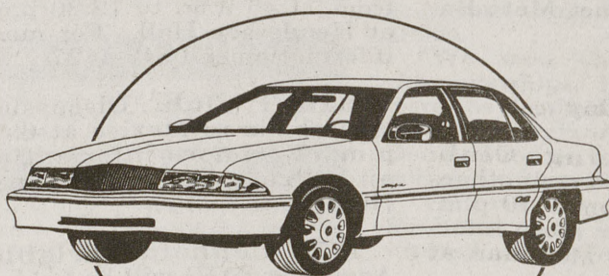
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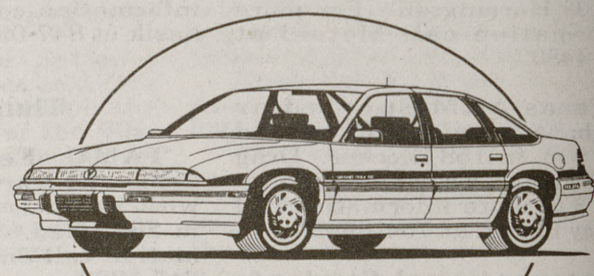


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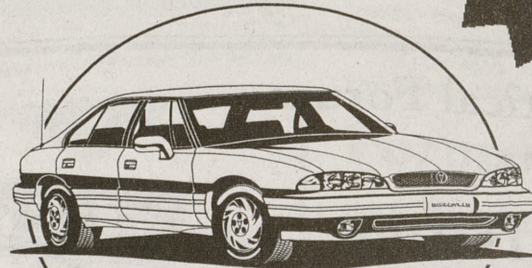
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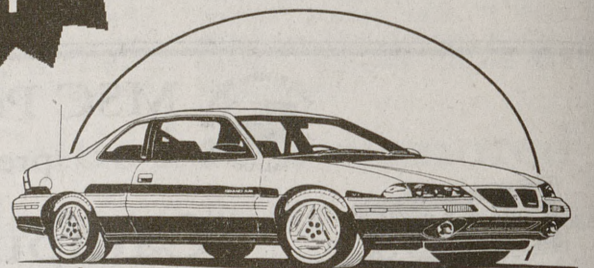


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