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Donnelly Col.

TOMORROW IS FRIDAY the 13th, and the lucky birthday boys are two sports named Chuck ("Golden Throat") Leahey and Frank Valenti, both of whom would probably rather forget it . . . Shipwreck Kelly's has declared the 13th Lucky Day and from 4-6 offering free hot pupus and special 50-cent drinks . . . James Foth, a pilot stationed in Vietnam, sent his wife an anniversary present which she eagerly opened, expecting something exotic from the Far East. Well, it was exotic all right—a slinky, black negligee with the label clearly stating, "Made in Hollywood." . . . New president of the Outrigger



Fukuda

Canoe Club is "cat" sailor Don Avery, with Olympic volleyball player Tom Haine appointed veep . . .

THE RUMOR that Mayor Fasi will play himself in the Gridiron Show this weekend is not true. The word was going around that he doesn't mind roasting himself, but doesn't want to be misquoted . . . Spotted at the foot of Hobron Lane: U.S. Attorney Bob Fukuda, pulling away from the docks in his new boat, "Kaimiloa," fully outfitted with fishing gear. Catch anything, Bob? . . . Roy Kelley back from a 55-day cruise around South America during which he gained ten pounds, but now that he's back at work, he should drop it off . . . Rumor has it that Kelley is anything but happy about the way Cinerama is running the hotels he built and sold to them . . .

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Surf Spray



By Ron Haworth

Duke Classic a Success

Five years ago Kimo McVay sold CBS Television on filming a big-wave surfing contest to be held somewhere on Oahu's North Shore.

He did so because he wished to perpetuate the memory of a man admired around the world and a surfer who did more than any other to spread the gospel of the Hawaiian sport worldwide.

The Duke Kahanamoku Hawaiian Surfing Classic has become an annual monument to that man.

The Duke Classic has been acclaimed the best contest and for two years has been the property of ABC. It is by no means perfect, but it has accomplished what it set out to do — to honor the Duke and to satisfy the fickle appetite of television.

Today, the Duke Classic alone is televised. Others have come and gone.

So, the Duke Classic is successful.

Sadly, there exists a soft core of surfers and surf publications who have patiently waited to pounce on the contest at the first sign of non-perfection.

The International Surfing championships (Makaha) used to bleed yearly from California barbs (Hawaiians always won), but because the carcass no longer twitches or bleeds, and the Duke Classic appeared pompous and successful, the ultra-righteous have shifted gunshots.

Current issues of three California surf magazines have editorial attacks against the administration of last December's Duke Classic.

Usual Gamut of Gripes

The gripes run the usual gamut, television influence, judges who are not "hep" to the "in thing", wrong people invited, tight purse strings, and other minor discontentments.

What are the facts?

Fact No. 1 will undoubtedly crush some surfers: the Duke Classic is not staged to glorify surfing's Blue Book of egomaniacs. The sport, not individuals, is all important.

As executive meet director, Fred Van Dyke has many times said:

"Television couldn't care less about names. I could pluck 24 surfers out of the Sunset lineup the morning of the meet and have equally as good a television presentation."

But Van Dyke has not done so — as yet. Should he?

Instead he has tried to select a fair cross-section of surfers who can handle the North Shore at its biggest, but could also be counted upon to dance magnificently across smaller waves of polished glass.

The combination is no easy task.

Shouldn't Try to Appease Critics

This writer sincerely hopes that McVay and Van Dyke push aside any thoughts of appeasing the "Duke" critics.

Really, there is no choice if McVay considers the many television viewers and special function audiences who see each Duke Classic.

How can you weigh this against a total magazine circulation of far less than 400,000?

And why should McVay listen to a \$100 magazine article when he personally subsidizes the Duke Classic in the amount of \$25,000 annually?

For sure he receives television rights, but these are far less than his expenditures, and he has no guarantee of the television option being picked up until, sometimes, scant days before the Duke is scheduled.

As a business, the Duke Classic would have declared bankruptcy after the first year.

The Del Webb Hotel Co. came into the Duke picture in 1969 as co-sponsor, but the critics saw this as more commercialism. Little do they realize how the fortunes of the North Shore surf might be protected because of this relationship.

Each year's contestants owe television a debt of gratitude.

Producer Larry Lindberg has never let a scrap of film out of the cutting room which didn't make a surfer look good.

This column has no sympathy with a magazine which asks the question: "Why have television at all if it's going to force the quality out of the contest?"

Is that publishing company willing to ante up?

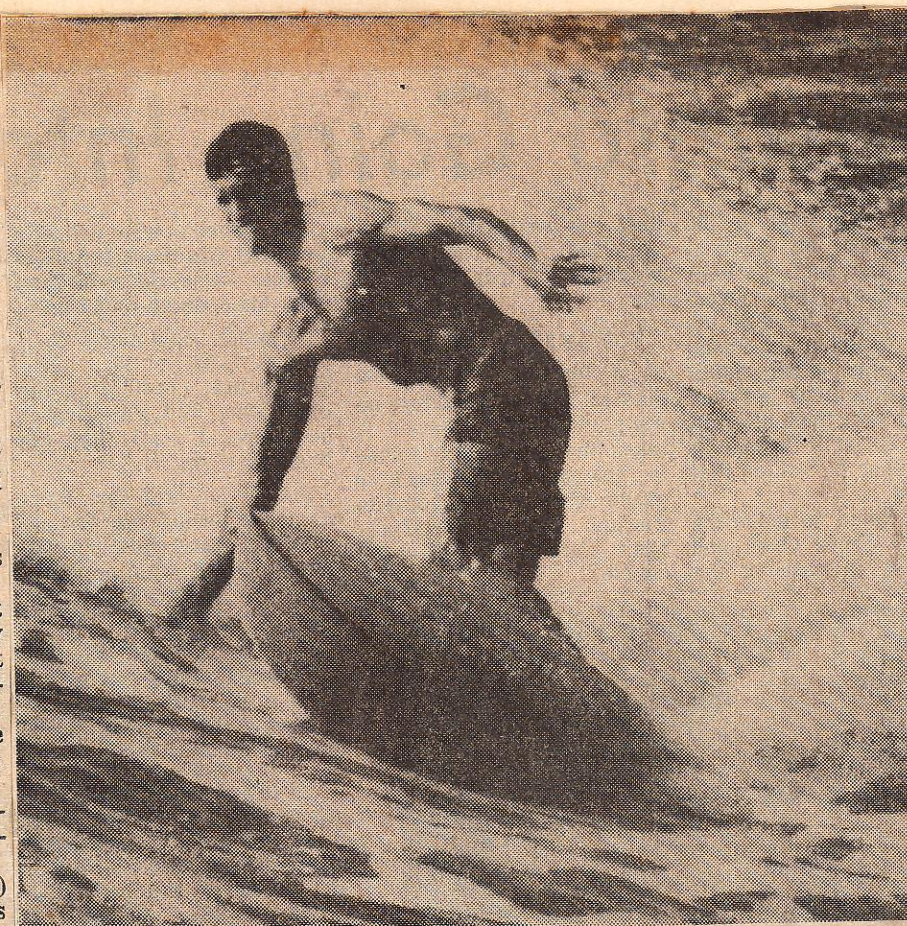
And when an editor prompts a boycott of the Duke his plea really falls on the ears of that minute fraction the contest doesn't need.

Let's hope they comply.

Here — at last — are the results of the Peruvian International Surfing Championships concluded last weekend in 10-foot surf.

Big wave — Joey Cabell (Outrigger), Gordo Barreda (Peru), George Downing (Waikiki Surf), and Jimmy Blears (Freedom Riders).

Californian Mike Purpus and Downing were tops in a small-wave contest with surf approaching 8 feet.



WINS IN PERU—Joey Cabell captured the Peruvian International Surfing Championship last weekend in 10-foot waves.

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Visiting retired songwriter-composer Chester Conn telling friends at the Outrigger Canoe Club about one of the finest men he ever knew. "That was Nat King Cole," said Chester. "I was one of the few he allowed to visit during his fight with cancer. When I arrived at his hospital in Los Angeles after flying in from New York, I almost didn't recognize him he was so thin. I'll never forget—he put his arm around me and sighed, 'Why me, Chester? Why me?' A couple weeks later, he was gone" . . . Incidentally — have you quit smoking???

Things are this tough in H'wood: 20th Century Fox suffered a pre-tax operating loss last year of \$69 million — worst ever. . . Sad story: William Taylor, 83-year-old retired justice of the peace, came to Honolulu on a charter tour from Vancouver, B.C. Fell — broke his hip and is now confined in Kaiser Hospital. Taylor and wife won't have enough money to get home. Auctioneer Lou Stambler (his wife also at Kaiser's) donating \$25 to get the ball rolling for the Taylor's transportation. . .



Greer

Michael Greer, the new "Queenie" of "Fortune and Men's Eyes" at Forbidden City Theater, will next be film-seen in "The Magic Garden of Stanley Sweetheart." The 6'4" Greer's ambition is to direct. "I've been in show business since I was 10. When I was a kid, my mother took me to so many movies, every Father's Day I want to send a card to theater ushers". Castle owner: Eddie Eu.