



Pacific Citizen

National Publication of the Japanese American Citizens League

In defense of
restructuring
—page 5

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Friday, June 26, 1992

Short takes

Amicus brief filed in Wards Cove case

WASHINGTON, D.C.—In new developments in the Wards Cove case, six Asian American organizations recently joined together and filed an amicus brief on behalf of the approximately 2,000 Native Alaskan and Asian American plaintiffs whose suit against the Wards Cove Packing Co. is currently on appeal in the Federal Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals.

The six organizations are the JACL, Organization of Chinese Americans (OCA), National Asian Pacific American Bar Association (NAPABA), the National Asian Pacific American Legal Consortium, Philippine Heritage Federation, and the Chinese American Citizens Alliance. In a move which outraged many Asian Americans, Wards Cove Packing Co. was declared exempt from compliance with the Civil Rights Act of 1991 last November, despite a history of segregation and job discrimination against Asian Pacific Americans. Since then, Asian American groups have been lobbying for the removal of the exemption.

Speaking on the amicus brief, lead counsel Stephen C. Chin said, "Sadly, the Wards Cove exemption is part of a long history of unequal and unconstitutional treatment of Asian Pacific Americans by the legislature. A clause which exempts 2,000 Asian Pacific American plaintiffs from the provisions of a civil rights act violates fundamental constitutional principles of separation of powers and equal protections of laws."

Two JA youths hurt with anti-theft device

HUNTINGTON BEACH, Calif.—Two Japanese American teenage brothers were injured June 15 in a fight that ensued after three white men cut off their vehicle and proceeded to attack. One of the suspects allegedly said "stupid Japs" and "Nips" as he smashed the window of the victims' truck with "the Club," an anti-theft device. The other assailant, also wielding "the Club," opened the passenger side and hit the younger brother in the leg.

The attack occurred as the youths, including two other Asian Americans, were returning home from a drive-in movie. One of the brothers sustained head injuries which required 16 stitches; while the other suffered a large gash in his leg.

Police in the Huntington Beach Police Department are currently investigating the crime, including the possibility that it was a hate crime. The three suspects are described as between 19 and early 20s in age, driving a 1990-92 gray Nissan pickup with chrome wheels. One of the suspects is described as a short blond haired male approximately 5'11" tall and weighing 170 pounds and the other is described as 5'11" tall male with long brown hair weighing 150 pounds.

Pacific Citizen announces summer schedule

Pacific Citizen will begin its bi-monthly schedule in July and August. Issues will appear July 3, July 17, July 31, and August 14.

We will resume a weekly schedule Aug. 28. Editorial deadlines and advertising deadlines, as always, are one week prior to publication.

National JACL election

The slate

Here are the candidates for JACL national offices and their platform statements. Delegates will vote during the 32nd biennial national convention scheduled for Aug. 3-8 at the Sheraton Tech hotel in Denver, Colo.

Candidates for vice presidential offices

V.P., General Operations (1 candidate)

Neal Taniguchi

Five years ago, when I attended the JACL's 1987 Washington, D.C. Leadership Program, I made a commitment to serving this organization in a leader-

See TANIGUCHI/page 3



V.P., Public Affairs (1 candidate)

Bill Kaneko

The world for Asian Americans is drastically different than what it was when we met two years ago in San Diego, California, for the 31st Biennial JACL National Convention. In many

See KANEKO/page 3



V.P., Planning & Development

S. Floyd Mori

Redress has occupied a bulk of the activities of JACL for the past seven bienniums. With the success of redress a reality, we must now focus on planning for the future and executing the present long range planning process.

We must not lose the focus that we

See MORI/page 4



Trisha Murakawa

The vice president for planning and development plays a pivotal role in how the Japanese American Citizens League (JACL) meets its national program for action laid out at the beginning of each biennium.

Now that the implementation of the

See MURAKAWA/page 4



1000 Club, Membership & Services (1 candidate)

Alan Nishi

With the generational transition currently being experienced by our organization, the recruitment of new members and the development of future JACL leaders must continue to be a priority for the coming biennium.

The future of JACL is dependent

See NISHI/page 4



Candidates for president



Lillian Kimura

The opening sentence of "A Tale of Two Cities"—"It was the best of times, it was the worst of times"—is an apt description of today's climate. Coming out of a decade of greed and selfishness, of corporate takeovers and junk bonds, this country needs to get back on the track of caring for its people. Strong leadership is necessary for America to again have its people to be able to fulfill their dreams in the 21st-century.

So it is with JACL. Cressey Nakagawa during his tenure has started us on the path to increased viability. Under Bill Yoshino's di-

See KIMURA/page 3



John Saito

I envision JACL as going on a two-year journey. The national council will determine what the journey will be at this upcoming national convention. The national president will read that journey's course and with the assistance of the national board, will navigate the course for a successful two-year journey.

I anticipate that the issues of the past few bienniums will continue to be critical issues for the JACL. We are close to completing the individual payments to Japanese American internees. We will celebrate its closure during the upcoming biennium, but our job in

See SAITO/page 3

Candidates for Youth Council

Kim C. Nakahara

If elected to serve as national youth representative for the 1993-94 biennium, there are a number of issues which I would like to see the JACL address. In addition to continuing to uphold civil and human rights, I would like to see the JACL address the following:

• **Hate Crimes**—With the rise in anti-Japanese sentiment, combined with increased racial tensions across the United States, I believe that the national

See NAKAHARA/page 4



Kim Tachiki

If chosen to serve on the JACL national board, I would like to see JACL concentrate more on the issues that our membership faces. Issues such as "the glass ceiling," advocacy training, and anti-Asian violence seem to be a few of the more important ones at this time with which our JACL members need help.

For increasing our membership, I would like to see

See TACHIKI/page 5



Sign up now!—page 8



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JACL candidates

MURAKAWA

(Continued from page 1)

Civil Liberties Act of 1988 has nearly come to fruition, I see a different JACL emerging. We are beginning to retain political and social empowerment. Our memberships have new goals and needs that must be met.

I see the role of the vice president for planning and development playing an instrumental role in helping the organization adapt and adjust.

The major objectives for the vice president for planning and development are:

1. Adopt, prioritize and implement the 1992-1994 JACL National Program for Action as outlined by the JACL National Board.

2. Adopt, prioritize and implement the recommendations made by the Select Committee on Organizational Structure (SCOS). The next step is to prioritize the recommendations made by the SCOS and start implementation. As a planning document, this program should fall under the purview of the vice president for planning and development.

3. Research and measure JACL's success rate/effectiveness in achieving its mission given its current structure. To take the SCOS's recommendations one step further, the organization must have a mechanism to measure its success or effectiveness. What works and what doesn't? Is the JACL visible, are we meeting our goals, are we effective advocates? Do we need to further change the structure of the organization to meet our goals? We must seek the answers to these questions.

4. Create and implement a volunteer development and training program. Many members live in areas with no national staff. In order to remain effective, we rely on our volunteer corps to act as spokespersons for the organization, handle public policy and advocacy issues and represent the organization. If our membership grows and we experience a transition in leadership, will all the volunteers be prepared? If there existed a volunteer development and training program, our volunteer corps would be prepared to handle any situation from running a meeting, recruiting potential members, organizing a workshop, or speaking at a press conference on anti-Asian violence.

These objectives will assist JACL to continue to grow, develop and remain a strong organization.

If we are to remain a viable organization in the civil rights community, we must effectively build and utilize the skills of our national volunteer corps. If we are to remain a large and powerful organization in the Nikkei community, we must strive to effectively meet the needs of our members by providing them with the training and development they need to train and develop the younger generations. If we are to

remain the strongest civil rights organization in the Asian and Pacific Islander American community, we must never lose sight of our original mission: to uphold the human and civil rights of all Americans.

MORI

(Continued from page 1)

are a civil rights organization. With the present problems of Japan bashing and the racial problems which still exist with other groups within our country, JACL must make the effort to remain in the forefront as a leader in civil rights. Racism remains a big problem which must continue to be addressed and combated by our organization. We need to work with others on this major problem.

I feel that it is important in the planning process to find ways for JACL to encourage the involvement in JACL of more of our younger generation who are not joining JACL. They should be shown that JACL is operating for their benefit and their membership and involvement is important to the organization.

The national board must be a team effort. Communication should be increased and improved among board members as well as providing more visibility at the local level.

NISHI

(Continued from page 1)

upon a stable and well led organization to insure that the rights of our future generations continue to be protected.

I strongly believe that JACL's primary objective always has been and will continue to be to safeguard the civil rights of all Asian Americans especially during these times of increasing anti-Asian violence and Japan bashing which affects us all.

After serving JACL in the chapter, district and national levels, I feel that I can add the needed commitment and stability to the position of vice president of membership.

One of JACL's priorities for the coming biennium should be to improve the communication between the national and the chapter level of our organization. It is imperative that JACL convey not only to its membership but to potential new members its accomplishments and future direction to better sell the "intangible" benefits of a JACL membership.

With membership playing a major role in JACL's future, greater responsibility is placed on the office of vice president of membership which includes a need for a person with a strong commitment and understanding of JACL to most effectively carry out the duties of the office.

NAKAHARA

(Continued from page 1)

organization needs to continue to

monitor incidents of hate violence, to continue to promote awareness, and to encourage discussion.

• **Media Monitoring**—The power of the mass media is immense. During times of remembrance, anxiety, hardship or violence, the media can often transfer public attention from the immediate problem and focus it on more sensational issues. I would like to help the national JACL continue to promote media awareness, as during the Pearl Harbor commemoration, which will hopefully result in more sensitive coverage and increased public awareness.

• **Japan-Bashing**—As the United States continues its economic recession, anti-Japanese sentiment continues to increase. I feel that it is important for the JACL to continue to educate the public about the distinction between Japanese nationals and Japanese Americans, and for the JACL to assist in improving U.S.-Japan relations.

• **Coalition Building**—I would like to see the national organization continue to form coalitions with other minority organizations. By working together, we can learn from each other's histories and mistakes, and build foundations for future alliances.

• **Advocacy Training**—As we near the 21st century, as Asian Americans we are represented by a handful of outstanding individuals, but a few people cannot do everything. For these reasons, I feel it is necessary for the national JACL to undertake an advocacy training program—if our members are educated about prominent issues and trained to respond, it will lessen the burden on our current leaders.

• **Membership Recruitment**—Many people ask the question: "Is there still a need for the JACL?" and I believe there is. Racism and hate continue to grow in this country and it is essential for the JACL to continue to exist, to educate the people and defend our basic civil and human rights. However, this organization cannot continue to exist without a strong membership base. In order to ensure the future of this organization, the national JACL must launch a membership recruitment campaign.

• **Youth and Student Issues**—If elected to serve on the National Board, I would like to focus on youth and student-oriented issues:

(a) To develop and implement a national youth and student recruitment program.

• With the rise of campus-based violence, and the increased awareness generated by Asian American Studies programs, youth and students are looking for an organization like the JACL, which will allow them to become more involved in the fight of the civil rights.

(b) To develop and produce an updated version of the '91-'92 NYC brochure.

• This brochure would be used

See NAKAHARA/page 5

Small kid time

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RELATIVES ARE COMING,
SO WE BETTER PREPARE

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ENOUGH WITH THE
BATHYPE ALREADY!

SORRY.
THANK YOU!



Opinions



From the frying pan

BILL HOSOKAWA

'American Nightmare'

To Prof. Kaname Ōsuya, professor of American history, Tokyo Women's Christian University:

Dear Kaname-san,

The Asia Foundation's Translation Service Center has just sent me an English language version of your essay, *The American Nightmare*, published by *Tokyo Shimbun*, in which you discuss the root causes of the riots in south central Los Angeles.

It reminded me that it has been a long time since we have had an opportunity to sit down and talk about American affairs. Sometimes in those interesting sessions we didn't agree, and so it is not strange that there are points in your essay with which I do not agree.

As I understand it, your main thesis is that the United States spent so much of its wealth in the Cold War—you called it an "orgy of spending"—that minorities were deprived of the American dream of equal economic opportunity. This, you contend, led to "seething tensions" which erupted in the L.A. riots.

I think this is too simplistic a view. True,

we have an enormous national debt, but it is due only in part to the Cold War. And while we are talking about the Cold War, how would you have handled it? Do you believe the Cold War was not a threat to the West, and the U.S. should have let the Soviets gain military superiority or even disarmed unilaterally? And what was Japan doing all the while the U.S. was trying to protect itself and its friends, including Japan?

While U.S. taxpayers were being squeezed for the hundreds of billions of dollars that went into defense, we were also paying for a huge social welfare program. That spending hasn't put much of a dent into the problem. In fact, sometimes it seems that the more we spend on social welfare the worse our problem becomes. Our inner cities have become a national disgrace and not because we haven't spent enough trying to fix what's wrong with them. You are correct when you write that "America's underlying social ills are beyond any quick fix," but I don't agree that it's because of "more than two decades of neglect."

If there is any simple explanation for our

problem, it would seem that we have slipped as a nation because we have lost our pride, pride in being independent, pride in being law-abiding, pride in being decent human beings, pride in family and ourselves. This is a moral problem not solved by spending.

I don't agree either with your statement that Ross Perot's growing support testifies to the "public's disenchantment with the entire two-party system." I think the public's disenchantment is not with the system, but with lack of leadership in the parties.

Let me make one last point. You write that the verdict in the Rodney King beating case made hollow the guarantee of equality under the law. I agree that it was an outrageous verdict. But it should be understood that the jury did not rule the police were innocent of beating the bejesus out of Citizen King; the jury said the state had failed to prove its case to the jury's satisfaction.

Kaname-san, you and I are both worried about where the U.S. is going, but for different reasons. We must get together soon, like the good friends we have been for so long, to talk about those reasons. Please take care. ☐

JACL candidates

NAKAHARA

(Continued from page 3)

as an introduction to the organization's ideology, a form of publicity, and a membership recruitment tool. (c) To continue to expand the biennial National Youth Conference.

The foundation was laid at the 1992 conference, for it to become a major event for Asian American youth and students. Each successive conference should grow in scope and commitment. For the next conference, the national youth council should develop programs directed at student and campus-based issues, as well as towards the needs of high school students. For example, we should address the issues of affirmative action, financial aid, admissions, and the glass ceiling.

(d) To develop and implement the internship program at national headquarters and each of the regional offices.

Internships can be valuable in shaping a career choice and many students would like to gain hands on experience with non-profit organizations before making a final career choice. In addition, internships are an excellent way to get more students involved in the organization.

Programs could be developed with different high schools, colleges and universities. Interns could either serve as volunteers or for academic credit.

(e) Voter registration drive.

The demographics in the United States and especially in California, are rapidly changing. By the mid-21st century, experts predict that the U.S. will become a nation of minorities. Given these facts, it is essential that we encourage Japanese and other Asian Americans to exercise the right to vote. We can form voting blocs and play an integral role in shaping policy and legislation which affect Asian American issues.

(f) Higher education issues.

As the number of Asian Americans pursuing advanced degrees and entering the field of higher education increases, so does the need for the JACL and the national youth council to become advocates for university students on issues such as admissions, financial aid, student fees, and minority retention. In this instance, it would be good for the NYC to work with organizations such as the United States Student Association (USSA). I would like to see the NYC become a voice for Asian American students on a national level.

On a district level, district youth representatives can work with organizations like the University of California Student Association (UCSA) or the California State Student Association (CSSA) to advocate higher education issues in their own state legislature.

(g) To develop and implement regional youth council.

In addition to the biennial national youth conference it is important for districts to also hold youth conferences. These conferences should be held on an annual basis, and can be used as an opportunity to increase awareness in the organization about local issues.

(h) To develop leadership skills in Asian American youth.

The NYC should support and actively participate in Asian American leadership conferences, such as the Asian Pacific Youth Leadership Project. This project selects 50 high school students from around California, brings them to Sacramento, and presents workshops such as advocacy training and mock legislative sessions.

The NYC should also seek to develop similar programs in other state capitals. ☐

TACHIKI

(Continued from page 1)

the JACL develop a marketing plan to assist our chapter membership chairpersons.

As the national youth chair, I would like to see more youth get involved in JACL. I think that there is so much that the youth could learn from Nisei and Sansei members of JACL.

We need to make younger Japanese and other Asian Americans realize that they can't be complacent in our society. We have to make them understand how important it is to join JACL because when problems arise that concern our community, we need organizations like the JACL and the network that it has established.

At the NYC conference last year, we learned that the youth want to become more active in advocacy but didn't know how to go about it. I feel that it is important for JACL to take the initiative and reach out to those youth and college students and show them how they can make a difference in "the system."

From attending the JACL-Washington D.C., Leadership Conference last year, I learned that JACL plays an important role in the political system, but that we need to become even more visible so that our publically-elected officials start to acknowledge that Asian Americans exist and that the problems we face are real. I feel that JACL needs to "get out there and start playing hardball" like the other civil rights organizations. But in order to do so, we have to learn how to be more sophisticated by understanding what the "ins and outs" of the system are and how they can work for us. ☐

Voices

A response on organization structure

By HANK TANAKA

Select Committee on Organization Structure

In response to comments by Hank Sakai and Denny Yasuhara on the proposed organizational change, I believe the change has attempted to keep in mind the following principles:

● The membership shall be officially represented as voting members of the national board.

● The national board serves as the responsible official voice of the organization.

The change proposed by the committee is an attempt to ensure that these principles are maintained by:

1. Recommending district-elected representatives (8) as voting members of the national board without the added responsibilities as district governors.

2. Recommending a new position of national vice president for financial development to make more explicit the national board's responsibility in fund-raising.

3. Recommending a new position of national vice president for communications and public relations to coordinate these activities at the national board level.

There is no guarantee, of course, that the

proposed change will substantially improve JACL's ability to carry out its mission in a timely and effective manner. But, it is a fact that the current structure of the national board prevents efficient and effective deliberations and timely actions.

At issue is the fact that under the proposed change:

1. The district governors will no longer serve as members of the national board. Their attention will be focused on chapter membership development, state and local legislative issues, coalition building and the like. Technical assistance would be provided by regional directors or other national staff.

2. The respective district-elected representatives (new) on the national board may not have the insights or working knowledge of JACL that only district governors have. If so, should only past district governors or national officers be considered for these positions? What are the qualifications of persons who serve on the national board?

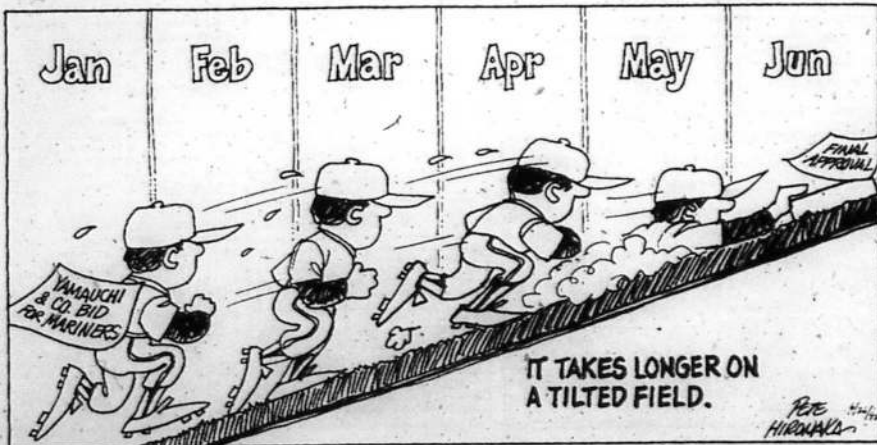
3. The at-large members (new) of the

national board need not be JACL members. This is a major change from the current membership structure of the national board. The committee views these Nikkei as individuals who are actively involved with other related national organizations. Their participation on the national board would bring more objective and different viewpoints on issues.

Hank Sakai and Denny Yasuhara's comments are thoughtfully stated. Their comments reflect their perspectives based on their personal experiences and assessments as past national JACL leaders.

Change is a difficult process for JACL. But change is necessary. There is sufficient evidence that JACL is having difficulty in fulfilling its mission and stated goals to the satisfaction of its membership and, for that matter, its current leadership. ☐

Got something to say? Voices is the column to express your opinions and thoughts. Limit text to 750 words. Send to Editor, 701 E. 3rd St., Suite 201, Los Angeles, CA, 90013; fax: 213/626-8213.



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