



Issues

Gays in the military

In its Feb. 5, 1993 issue, *Pacific Citizen* ran a front page story on reaction to President Clinton's order to lift the ban on gays in the military. In that article, PC talked to three Nikkei who were in favor of the president's position. In this issue, PC offers opposing views, one from Lt. Col. Thomas Mukai, U.S. Army, one from U.S. Sen. John McCain (R-Ariz.) and another from Gen. Colin L. Powell, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff.

Nikkei officer responds to gays in the military

By THOMAS MUKAI,
Lt. Colonel, U.S. Army, Davis, Calif.

I read the article, "Gays in the military," by Gwen Muranaka (PC, Feb. 5, 1993), with great interest. As a commander of an active Army battalion and as a Japanese American, I would like to clarify a few points conveyed in the article and also give another perspective of the gays-in-the-military issue.

First, your article presented comments from three individuals who have had limited, if any, experience with military life. I am aware of Bruce Yamashita's experiences with Marine Corps officer training. I hope he wins his ongoing legal case. However, Bruce is hardly an expert on homosexual treatment in the Army, Navy, Marines and Air Force. He is heavily quoted on gay topics in the article and a number of his comments are speculative and misleading (he may have been quoted out of context). Qualifications for Trisha Murakawa and Martin Hiraga (other than his gay position) were also vague and not specified.

Second, to understand the incorporation of social issues into the armed forces requires realizing the autonomy and differences between them. Each service, with its own mission directed by Congress, has its own traditions and sets its own standards for recruitment, officer and enlisted training, performance, etc. It is erroneous to lump the Army, Air Force, Marines, and Navy all together as if everything is all the same among them. Thus, it is often incorrect to cite an example in one service and apply it to all of "the military." This is stereotyping which readers of the *Pacific Citizen* are quite familiar.

The answer is not as simple as Trisha Murakawa's "just give them regular legal status." People come into the military with their own ingrained social attitudes which the military forces had no part in developing. At least the Army has been effective in promoting change within its ranks. In my nearly 22 years in the Army, I have seen conversion to the volunteer Army, opening more jobs to women with the deactivation of the Women's Army Corps (WAC), race relations and sexual harassment classes instituted, alcohol deglamorized, drug abuse abated, and many other social programs undertaken. The Army succeeded because social attitudes of the American public were pretty much solidified and because the public educational

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We object:

Concerned with the issue of homosexuals in the military, Joe Altman, president of the Arizona Chapter, JACL, and a 24-year veteran of the Army, wrote to U.S. Sen. John McCain of Arizona for his views on the matter. McCain sent Altman his response as well as a letter from Gen. Colin Powell to Rep. Patricia Schroeder (D-Colo.). Here are excerpts...

From Gen. Colin Powell

"I have given a great deal of thought to my position and continue to hold the view that the presence of homosexuals in the military is prejudicial to good order and discipline."

"This is the policy of the Department of Defense and is supported by all of the Joint Chiefs of Staff. It is also a view held by experts who have studied the sociology of the military for many years..."

"I am well aware of the attempts to draw parallels between this position and positions used years ago to deny opportunities to African Americans..."

"Skin color is a benign, non-behavioral characteristic. Sexual orientation is perhaps the most profound of human behavioral characteristics. Comparison of the two is a convenient but invalid argument. I believe the privacy rights of all Americans in uniform have to be considered, especially since those rights are often infringed upon by the conditions of military service."

"As chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, as well as an African American fully conversant with history, I believe the policy we have adopted is consistent with the necessary standards of good order and discipline required in the Armed Forces."

From Sen. John McCain

"As the ranking minority member of the Subcommittee on Manpower and Personnel of the Senate Armed Services Committee, I have had the opportunity to address this issue on many occasions. My position has been, and continues to be that of the chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, General Colin Powell—that homosexual behavior is inconsistent with maintaining good order and discipline."

"I do not believe that the government should interfere in the private lives of civil-

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JACL: Spokane Democratic Party officials should quit

Staff reports

JACL recently joined forces with the Organization of Chinese Americans and the Chinese American Citizens Alliance in asking for the resignation of Spokane Democratic party officials accused of making racial slurs against Asian Americans.

Calling for the resignation of Marge Davis, John Workland, and Betty Drummheller, Karen Yoshitomi, JACL Pacific Northwest regional director, said, "Given recent events, it is clear that neither Marge Davis nor Betty Drummheller fully understands or acknowledges the impact their actions have had on the Asian Pacific American community."

California Appellate Court Justice Harry Low, national president of the Chinese American Citizens Alliance, added, "These officials need to take responsibility as a first step to heal the hurt

their actions have inflicted on the Asian American community."

El Centro de la Raza, a Latino organization in Seattle, has also added to the call for Davis, Drummheller and Workland to resign. "We find the intransigent attitudes of Democratic Party officials Marge Davis, Betty Drummheller and John Workland to be in direct conflict with the spirit of our party as a whole, in their shocking refusal to apologize to the injured parties and the entire community." Earlier, Shari Bernard, Spokane mayor, called for their resignations.

Drummheller, Washington state Democratic Party vice chairwoman, who is accused of making a racial gesture at a February meeting of the local democratic affirmative action committee apologized to Democratic officials and said that her actions were misconstrued. In her letter Drummheller writes, "The (Chris

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Maryland congressman makes racial remark

Asian Americans, he says, don't have 'American names'

JACL responds to Bartlett comment

Rep. Roscoe Bartlett (R-Md.), speaking at the United States Capitol building, said that people with Asian and East Indian surnames do not have "American names" and that they do not "represent the normal American," according to a report in the *Washington Post*. Bartlett was speaking March 4 before a group of Maryland state officials about the ethnic background of scholarship recipients. A freshman congressman, he campaigned on a platform of fiscal conservatism. Bartlett made his comments in response to a presentation by Maryland Gov. William Donald Schaefer outlining his legislative priorities for the coming year.

A representative said that a list of recent recipients contained a disproportionately large number of "Oriental" and Indian names.

"Not much over a third of (the scholarships) went to students that would represent the normal American," said Bartlett. ☐

JACL National Director Dennis Hayashi, responding to Rep. Roscoe Bartlett's racial comments, said, "It has been almost 125 years since the first Japanese immigrants came to the United States, yet Asian Pacific Americans continue to be viewed as foreigners in this country. It is perhaps even more distressing that neither Maryland Gov. (William D.) Schaefer nor other congressional members who were present raised any concerns about Congressman Bartlett's statement."

Bartlett also reportedly said, "When was the last time you saw an Oriental on welfare? I've looked, and I've never seen one."

"Such a statement," Hayashi said, "perpetuates

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Clinton sees Japan as liability, author says

By GWEN MURANAKA
Assistant editor

LOS ANGELES—Daniel Burstein, author of the new book "Turning the Tables: A Machiavellian Strategy for Dealing with Japan," said that the Clinton administration has done very little to deal with its Pacific Rim allies at a March 8 discussion sponsored by the Japan America Society of Southern California.

"It is remarkable how little attention Clinton is paying to Asia," said Burstein. "They're looking at Japan as a political liability. The danger is that they will get a 'Japan-bashing' backlash if they do propose some positive programs."

Assessing Clinton, he said, "I don't have high expectations of Clinton in the short run. But he is an indicator of a global trend towards younger leadership, while will spread to all the G7 countries

and lead to a different kind of global dialogue."

A senior advisor at the Blackstone Group, Burstein said while Japan remains on the backburner in Washington, now would be the ideal time for the Japanese government to move forward with its own proactive programs on global issues such as the GATT talks or the environment.

See AUTHOR/page 4

Chinese student in Arizona attacked

A Chinese graduate student at Arizona State University was listed in fair condition after being beaten Feb. 26 by as many as three assailants, according to a report in the campus publication, *State Press*.

Lang-Sheng Yun, a 29-year-old industrial engineering graduate student from the Shanxi Province of China, suffered a broken nose, broken cheekbones and deep cuts above

the eyes. The police reported that Yun was unable to speak at the time because of his injuries.

Yun later told a friend that there were three attackers, two white males and one black male and that he was concerned that the attack may have been racially motivated.

The alleged incident occurred as Yun was going home from campus. ☐

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Pacific Citizen

701 E. 3rd St., Suite 201,
Los Angeles, CA 90013-1817
(213) 626-6936 / fax 626-6213

The Pacific Citizen (ISSN: 0030-8579) is published weekly except the first week of the year, biweekly during the first week of August, and semi-monthly in December, by the Japanese American Citizens League, 701 E. 3rd St., #201, Los Angeles, CA 90013-1817. Annual subscription rates: JACL members: \$12; of the national dues provide one year of membership. Non-members: 1 year—\$30; 2 years—\$55; 3 years—\$80, payable in advance. Additional postage per year—Foreign: \$22. U.S. Air mail—U.S. Canada: Mexico: \$30. Japan/Foreign: \$60 US. (Subject to change without notice).

National headquarters: 1765 Sutter St., San Francisco, CA 94115.
(415) 921-5225

Editorial, news and opinions expressed by columnists other than the National Director or National Director do not necessarily reflect JACL policy.

2nd-class Postage Paid at Los Angeles, Cal., and additional mailing offices.

POSTMASTER: SEND ADDRESS CHANGE TO: Pacific Citizen, 701 E. 3rd St., #201, Los Angeles, CA 90013-1817

Newspaper deadline Friday

before date of issue

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Calendar

Washington, D.C.

Saturday, March 27—Washington D.C. Chapter, JACL, is hosting an evening of music and political satire with the Capitol Steps, Chelsea's, Georgetown, 7:30 p.m. Cost: \$25. Information: John Nakahata, 703/683-0214.

Wisconsin La Crosse

Thurs.-Sat., March 25-27—University of Wisconsin-La Crosse sponsors the conference, "Asian Americans: probing the past, living the present, shaping the future." Registration and information: Penny Tiedt, Continuing Education and Extension, 227 Main Hall, University of Wisconsin-La Crosse, La Crosse, WI 54601; 608/785-6503.

Washington Seattle

Through Sunday, April 4—Asian New Year traditions are Dean Wong's International District photos, Wing Luke Asian Museum, 407 7th Ave. S., Tues.-Fri., 11 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.; Sat.-Sun., noon to 4 p.m. Cost: \$2.50, adults; \$1.50, seniors/students; \$.75, children under 12. Thursdays free. Information: 206/623-5124. Fri.-Sun., March 25-27: The 16th annual Seattle Cherry Blossom and Japanese Cultural Festival, Seattle Center, Fri.-Sat., 9 a.m.; Sun., 10 a.m. Admission: free. Music, dance, martial arts, and food. Information: 206/626-4140.

California San Francisco area

Sunday, April 4—The Nisei Widowed Group's monthly meeting, 156 16th Ave., San Francisco, 2 p.m. New members welcome. Information: Elsie Uyeda Chung, 415/221-0268, or Yuri Moriwaki, 510/482-3280.

Arts calendar

Theatre

Through Sunday, April 25—Crossroads Theatre Company presents "Mothers," a story of the lives of two women and their mixed-race daughters, 7 Livingston Ave., New Brunswick, N.J., Tues.-Sat., 8 p.m.; Sun., 3 p.m. Additional performances: Mar. 21, 7:30 p.m. and Apr. 8, noon. Previews: Mar. 7-12, cost: \$20. Sun.-Thurs., \$24. Fri. Regular run: \$22. Sun., Tues.-Thurs., \$30. Fri.-Sat., \$26. Sat.-Sun. matinees, and \$18, weekday matinees. Information: 908/245-5560. Commissioned by Bill Cosby; performers include Jeanne Morel and Takayo Fischer.

Film

Thursday, March 18—1992 JACL scholarship recipient Ken Kashima screens his film, "A Rhythmic Reflection: '69-'90," 92 Asian American International Film Showcase, AMC Kabuki 8 Theaters, San Francisco, 7 p.m. Information: 415/663-0814.

Sunday, March 21—The San Diego Chapter, JACL, and the Union of Pan Asian Communities present Akira Kurosawa's film, "No Regrets for Our Youth," Kiku Gardens Senior Housing Project, 1260 Third Ave., Chula Vista, Calif., 2 p.m. Admission: seniors free, \$2 donation for others. English subtitles. Refreshments: \$20 p.m. Information: Kiku Gardens, 619/422-4951. Tuesday, March 30—Japan America Society of Southern California and the National Association of Japanese Americans present a screening and discussion of the film, "Dream Window."

Saturday, April 10—The East Bay Nikkei Singers' 4th annual "Fun and Friendly" golf tournament for single men and women, Alameda's Chuck-Conica Golf Complex, Jack Clark Golf Course, 1 Club House Memorial Rd., Alameda, 11 a.m. Entry fee: \$25. Dinner at Bay Fairway Hall, next to golf course, 6:30 p.m. Cost: \$20. Sign up deadline: 20. Information: Tye Yoshizawa, 510/523-5205, or Millie Nakano, 510/223-5619.

San Jose area

Sunday, April 18—Yu Ai-Kai's 14th annual benefit luncheon and fashion show: Red Lion Inn, San Jose. Tickets: \$30. Tickets available now at the Yu Ai-Kai office, 555 N. 5th St. Information: 408/294-2505.

Fresno

Saturday, March 20—Fresno Chapter, JACL, will be honored at the dedication ceremony for the Shin Zen New Entrance and Gate, Shin Zen Buddhist Garden, Woodward Park, Fresno, 10 a.m. Cost: Free.

Los Angeles area

Friday, March 12—Greater L.A. Singles Chapter, JACL monthly meeting, Founders Savings and Loan, Gramercy and Verdugo Beach Blvd., Gardena, 7 p.m. Everyone welcome. Speaker: Dr. Bruce Ishibashi, doctor of osteopathy in Torrance. Information: Joyce Kuruma, 310/691-9686.

Thursday, March 18—Japan America Society presents Jack Rodman of Kenneth Leventhal & Company announcing results of its study on 1992 Japanese investment in United States real estate. City Club on Bunker Hill, Wells Fargo Bldg., 54th fl., 333 S. Grand Ave., Los Angeles, 7:30 a.m. Cost: \$20, members; \$25, non-members. Information: 213/627-6217.

Sunday, March 21—Sierra Madre's annual Wisteria Fete, take Footfall Fry to Baldwin Offspring, north one mile toward Kesting Ct., 10 a.m. Cost: \$2. Limited number of tickets available. Send

SASE to Sierra Madre Chamber of Commerce, 48 S. Baldwin Ave., Sta. K, Sierra Madre, CA 91024. Information: 618/306-1150.

Sunday, March 21—Aikido Center of Los Angeles' exhibit, "The spirit of the samurai—early on Japanese sword guards," 940 E. 2nd St., Little Tokyo, 1 p.m. Admission: \$15. Information: 213/673-5673.

Monday, March 22—Asistencia League of Newport Mesa presents Ken Kashiwara, ABC News, 26th Town Hall Celebrity Series, Edwards Theater, Newport Center, Newport Beach, 10:30 a.m. Information: 714/645-6929.

Thursday, March 25—The Asian Business League's first quarter business networking reception, Biltmore Hotel (Emerald Room), downtown Los Angeles, 6 p.m. Cost: \$8, members; \$12, non-members. Information: Jacqueline Phong Quach, 818/405-7802 or Naomi Kurokawa, 213/626-5637.

Saturday, March 27—Multicultural Bar Albano's seminar on the working of the FCC, Seaside Involve Filipino American Conference Center, 3200A W. Temple St., Los Angeles, 8:30 a.m. Cost: \$5. Information: Greer Bosworth, 310/840-8264 or Robert Lee, 213/368-0104.

Wednesday, March 31—Japan America Society hosts a luncheon with Kai Hoshi, president, Canon Trading USA, speaking on, "U.S. Japan strategic business and technological partnership: then and now," Westin South Coast Plaza, 666 Anton Blvd., Costa Mesa, 11:30 a.m. Cost: \$30, members; \$35, non-members. Information: 714/850-4335.

San Diego

Sunday, April 4—San Diego Chapter, JACL, and the Union of Pan Asian Communities (UPAC) host Steven Okazaki presenting his films, "Days of Weiling" and "Troubled Paradise," Lewis Junior High School Auditorium, 5170 Greenbrier Ave., San Diego, 2 p.m. Admission: \$10, 7th graders. Information: UPAC, 619/232-6454.

Dance

Friday-Sunday, March 26-27—The 1993 Bay Area Dance Series presents Kuniting Arts, a Pilipino performance group, in Aleliela Panis' Dwaeta, Laney College, 900 Fallon St., Oakland, Calif., Fri.-Sat., 8 p.m.; Sun., 3 p.m. Ticket: \$14 at door; \$12 in advance; \$10, students and seniors. Information: 510/889-9500.

Comedy

Through Sunday, April 4—ColdTut's first annual "Comedy One Act Festival," Los Angeles Theatre Center, 614 S. Spring St., Los Angeles, Fri.-Sat., 8 p.m.; Sun., 2 p.m. Tickets: \$14; \$12, students and seniors. Reservations: 213/739-4142.

Installations

Detroit Chapter, JACL—Saturday, March 20, Hotel Baronette, 27790 Novi Rd., 5 p.m. Japanese banquet. Speaker: Ken Kashiwara, bureau chief, ABC news. Dinner: 10-piece bento box dinner. Cost: \$22. JACL members; \$25, non-members. Lodging: \$69 per night, reduced rate. Information: Mary Kamidai, 313/521-7917; Emie Olson, 313/947-0108; or Toshi Shimoura, 313/356-3089.

Philadelphia Chapter, JACL—Saturday, March 27, Coastline Restaurant in Cherry Hill, N.J. Graduates will also be recognized.

Small kid time



Gwen Muranaka



Small kid time



To our readers

The Pacific Citizen receives a number of inquiries regarding its circulation procedures and occasional problems.

We'd like to take this opportunity to explain how the process works, how subscribers receive their issues.

Processing JACL members

A) Centralized Membership Program (CMP)

In this program, members of participating chapters receive renewal notifications from national headquarters in San Francisco. Members then submit their checks and filled-out forms back to headquarters. After the CMP database is updated for all new and renewed members, memberships cards are sent back to members.

B) Handling By Chapter

Members of chapters not yet participating in the CMP receive their renewal notifications from a chapter official. The chapter also processes any new members. The forms and checks are sent from the chapter officer back to national headquarters on a regular basis. Once the renewal of new member forms are received, the database at headquarters is updated.

At the end of each month, the national office of JACL and Pacific Citizen prepare a current mailing list. The disk prepared by JACL includes all renewed and new members while another disk prepared by Pacific Citizen includes subscribers (non-JACL members), and advertisers. These disks are then sent to California Data Services in Manhattan Beach, Calif., to produce one subscriber list for the mailing firm. Once printed, Pacific Citizen copies are sent directly to the mailing firm, which in turn labels, sorts and sacks them for delivery to the San Bernardino, Calif., Post Office, which in turn sends them to local post offices for final delivery to readers.

Any change or update done to either database takes from four to six weeks to take effect.

We realize that problems occur and we thank you for your patience and cooperation. We take prompt attention to address problems when they occur and do our best to rectify them in a timely manner. Please call me at any time for assistance at our toll-free number: 800/966-6157.

Frances Okuno
Circulation Manager

MUKAI

(Continued from page 1)

systems were already including intolerance of racial inequality, discrimination against women, drunk driving, use of drugs, etc. However, the Army was not under pressure to change the rest of society, to set the example for the general public, to correct a social wrong overnight.

I challenge JACL to keep working toward educating the public on civil rights and to develop a realistic position at the national and regional levels, not specifically targeted against the military, to be applied across the board in federal/state/local governments, businesses, schools, and the media (yes, including the Pacific Citizen). I hope the gay rights issue, including gays-in-the-military, does not detract from the

fine progress JACL has made in rights for Asians. I hope it does not fragment and cause dissension detrimental to the sole national organization for Japanese-Americans. If we JACLers are to continue with the gay rights issue the way it is presented in the Pacific Citizen, I hope we are able to maintain our credibility with the American public and what political support we now have.

In closing, JACL needs to act on the big picture and focus less on a special interest group so different from what JACL is. We officers and noncommissioned officers are realistic; when the public gets its act together, we will be able to effectively respond. Soldiers, sailors, airmen, and marines will then naturally accept change as the right thing to do. Until then, let's not bash the military. This is a fair request I would expect the Pacific Citizen to honor. ☐

OBJECT

(Continued from page 1)

ians, but any policy requiring the armed services to accommodate a particular lifestyle of whatever description is misguided.

The Supreme Court has consistently recognized the unique nature of the military and military service, which are subject to conditions found nowhere else. They have allowed and applied different criteria to resolve issues of

personal freedom and individual rights of members of the armed services. The military is fully justified in considering sexual orientation a central issue in determining an individual's fitness for duty ... Until I receive different advice from this nation's most senior military leaders, I will oppose any attempt in Congress to rescind Department of Defense Directive 1332-14, Section H.1, which spells out current policy toward homosexuality in the armed services."

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Tri-districts

● PSW, CC, and NCWNP conference

—April 2-4 Westin South Coast Plaza Hotel, Costa Mesa, Calif.: Doris Matsui, deputy public liaison for President Clinton, will be the featured guest speaker Saturday, April 3.

Matsui was a member of the Clinton transition team prior to assuming her position. She is presently the president of the Congressional Club, a social and philanthropic organization comprised of spouses of the members of the House, Senate, cabinet and Supreme Court justices.

Emceeding the event will be actor George Takei, known best for his role in the "Star Trek" television series and feature films.

Tickets: corporate gold table, \$2,500; corporate silver table, \$1,000; community sponsorship table, \$500; per person, \$50.

Information: Ruth Mizobe, 714/529-8360, or PSWDC regional office, 213/626-4471.

● MDC, EDC, and MPC conference

—Aug. 19-22, Sheraton, Cleveland City Centre Hotel, Cleveland, Ohio: Biennial conference is expected to attract about 200 participants from the 20 chapters represented by the three district councils.

Irene Natividad, former chairwoman of the National Women's Political Caucus, will be a featured speaker, according to Henry Tanaka, conference chair. Also speaking will be Lillian Kimura, JACL national president, and Dennis Hayaishi, JACL, national director.

Conference will cover topics such as Asian American retirees, women in the workplace, issues for young adults, multicultural education, membership development, and development and training of new leaders. Recreational events will also be scheduled.

24th annual Manzanar journey set for April 24

The 24th annual Manzanar Pilgrimage has been scheduled for Saturday, April 24.

According to the Manzanar Committee, the trip to the site takes about 4 1/2 hours from Los Angeles. The program will begin at approximately noon.

Visitors are asked to bring a potluck dish to serve at least 8 people (main dish, fruit, finger food or dessert). The committee will provide an entree, soft drinks, water and paper goods. Bring snacks and drinks for your car or bus ride to and from Manzanar.

In addition, attendees are advised to wear comfortable walking shoes, layers of clothing, a hat and sunglasses.

Dust and high winds are a

possibility. The altitude is 3,500-4,000 feet above sea level. Sanitized toilets will be available.

Visitors are also asked to bring flowers for the interfaith service. The traditional finale is the dancing of the Tanka Bushi, the Coal Miner's Dance.

The committee recommends a visit to the Eastern California Museum in Independence, Calif., where an extensive exhibit on Manzanar is on permanent display.

Admission to the museum is free.

Last year, Manzanar was officially declared a national historic site.

Information: 213/662-5102.



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Gila River camp monument planned

PHOENIX—Five Arizona JACLers met with Urban Giff, Gila River Indian Community (GRIC) manager, on March 4, as part of a planning committee to dedicate a monument at the WRA campsite, it was reported by the Arizona Chapter JACL.

Permission to visit the two units at Gila River for possible location of a monument was requested. After development of plans, the project will be reviewed by the Indian community council. GRIC members are to be involved in the planning and development phases.

The five JACLers attending were chapter President Joe Allman, Mas Inoehita, Ben Inoehita, Lee Sakata, and Jim Kubota.

National board to meet March 19-21

The amended Program for Action and 1994 convention guidelines and topics are among the subjects to be discussed at the JACL national board meeting, March 19-21, at Washington, D.C., which meets in conjunction with the JACL National Leadership Conference.

The Program for Action, amended in previous meetings by the national board and staff, will be further discussed.

The specific convention financial guidelines will be discussed as well as proposed workshop topics.

Among the suggested topics are: Japanese Americans in the arts, relations with other minority and civil rights groups; dealing with the media; successful lobbying; Japanese Americans in corporate America—the glass ceiling; history of Japanese Americans—their own family history; family finances—how to create a family legacy fund; hate crimes; women's issues.

The meeting will be held at the Hyatt Regency Hotel.

Information: 415/921-5225. ☐

Sasakawa Foundation aids Chicago JASC

CHICAGO—The Japanese American Service Committee, which is scheduled to open its JASC Nursing Home this month, acknowledged it had received a \$1 million funding from the Sasakawa Foundation in 1992. JASC president Arthur T.

Morimatsu announced.

The foundation, regarded as one of the largest in the world, has assisted several Japanese American projects including the Smithsonian "Go For Broke" exhibit in Washington through the efforts of the late Mike Masnoka.

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SPOKANE

(Continued from page 4)

Yasuhara, chairman ad-hoc committee, said, "In my opinion they were apologizing to themselves and that's ludicrous. It really reflects the monumental insensitivity and lack of awareness they have."

Marge Davis, who is accused of referring to a local hotel owner as a "Chink" at a November meeting apologized to Democratic officials

not for the racial slur, but for losing her temper. Davis writes, "I should have kept my temper and kept my mouth shut, but I had been pushed almost to the breaking point by my campaign opponent and her followers."

Thus far, local Democratic officials have refused to apologize to Asian Americans. In a letter to fellow Democrats, Larry Marshall, vice-chair, and Sally Jackson, county chair, said, "They expect the Democratic Party to apologize for something over which we neither have nor want control of,

namely an individual's thoughts and words. The Democratic Party is not racist and everyone knows it."

Daphne Kwok, executive director, OCA, called the inaction of Washington state Democratic party officials "abhorrent."

"The tolerance of such blatant disrespect for a group of people is disheartening, especially when it is coming from Democratic Party officials and a party that is supposed to be all-embracing," said Kwok. ☐

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Opinions



From the frying pan

BILL HOSOKAWA

A story that needs retelling

Gordon Hirabayashi, one of the three Nisei musketeers who took their fight for justice to the U.S. Supreme Court, visited the University of Colorado at Boulder recently in what is called the Artist Series to study social issues.

All of us are familiar with the story of how Hirabayashi, Min Yasui and Fred Korematsu resisted the injustice of various aspects of the Evacuation order in 1942. The cards were stacked against them. The Supreme Court justices who finally ruled on their pleas felt the hot breath of wartime political expediency on their collective necks. Not only that, but it was proven later that the very government officials charged with upholding the Constitution withheld damaging evidence from the high court by destroying it.

Hirabayashi goes about from time to time speaking of his experiences and his thoughts, and it is good to get his story out to a new generation of Americans for whom World War II is ancient history. But I gather that he is not entirely comfortable with the hero's role bestowed on him, and the fawning over that he gets from college audiences.

From his point of view, he did only what he believed was right and his duty as an American when he refused to obey a discriminatory order.

There is something profound in this attitude, particularly when one considers that it was taken by one lonely college student in the face of widespread public condemnation. But Hirabayashi declines to consider it heroic. It was simply the right thing to do.

This nuance seems to be missed by some in his audience, a point picked up by two members of the Boulder panel that with Hirabayashi discussed Executive Order 9066 and racism in the American West. The two were Dr. Patricia Limerick, who describes herself as a Danish American Mormon who became a professor of history at the University of Colorado, and Dr. Vine Deloria, Jr., an attorney of Indian descent who also teaches Western history.

Some of the starry-eyed young students see Hirabayashi as a heroic challenger of institutional evil. They see themselves making the same heroic and idealistic decision were they caught in a similar circumstance.

Limerick decries this as nonsense without an understanding of the history of American bigotry—which few of the youngsters in the audience would seem to have— that led to the circumstance of Executive Order 9066. It would not seem unlikely that some of them would have been on the sidelines in 1942 demanding the ouster of the damn Japs.

Deloria, who knows something of the deplorable experience of the Native Americans, would also be excused for having doubts about the understanding of some of his students.

All of this is a strong argument for continuing the educational process, of which Hirabayashi is a very important part. Unfortunately, it may be too early to cheer about the progress we are making in impressing on tomorrow's adults the depths of the implications involved in the Evacuation. ☐

Hosokawa is the former editorial page editor of the Denver Post. His column appears weekly in the Pacific Citizen.



IN-SIGHT

LILLIAN C. KIMURA

National President JACL

Participation key to solving problems

On March 1, 1968, the National Advisory Commission on Civil Disorders issued its final report of its examination of the riots of the summer of 1967. Named for Gov. Otto Kerner of Illinois, the Kerner Commission warned that "Our nation is moving toward two societies, one black, one white — separate and unequal."

Twenty-five years later, America still faces the challenges of the two distinct societies except blacks are now joined by the increasing numbers of other people of color. True some of us have advanced into the mainstream of society but a whole group remains in the underclass. And regardless of status—economic, education, social—a person of color faces the effects of racism daily.

As our nation becomes more pluralistic, tensions between people increase. The poor economic situation and the lack of jobs add fuel to an already volatile situation. From the vast destruction of the 1992 riots in Los Angeles, the increase in hate crimes, the violence in the streets and in homes, the rise of the "skin head" movement, to the

racist remarks by Marge Schott and the Democratic leaders of Washington state, the NAACP leaders in Cincinnati who refused to let JACL be a part of the group to talk to Marge Schott, we are no better off today. And now we have to contend with terrorism of the bombing of the World Trade Center in New York a few weeks ago.

What will it take to make this a better place? For one thing: open communication. In my visits around the country, I was pleased to see that JACL Chapters are working with other groups on issues of concern. We need to do more on the local levels as well as nationally. We have received much support on our redress effort. We in turn must work with others on their issues. We must reach out to be proactive.

We need to support job creation and job training. As industry becomes leaner and meaner and we go into a peace time mode by closing military bases, new ways for gainful employment must be developed. These are monumental problems. The solutions will not be easy to come by. However, we must have hope and we need to participate in the political process to let our voices

be heard.

Finally, back to 1968. That was a terrible year. The assassinations of Martin Luther King Jr. and Robert Kennedy, the demonstrations at the Democratic National Convention—we will be reliving those events on this 25th anniversary year. That's thirty for now. ☐

Kimura's IN-SIGHT column appears regularly in Pacific Citizen.

Seeking prospects for a Raleigh, N.C., chapter

JACL National President Lillian Kimura, on YWCA assignment in Raleigh, N.C., from April 16-18, would like to meet with the many offspring of JACLers for the possibility of organizing another chapter there.

JACLers who know of anyone in that area are asked to submit the name(s) to Lillian Kimura, 75 Grove Street, Bloomfield, N.J., 07003.

Letters

Pacific Citizen encourages and welcomes letters to the editor. Letters must be brief, are subject to editing and those unpublished can be neither acknowledged nor returned. Please sign your letter but make sure we are able to read your name. Include mailing address and telephone number. Fax letters to 213/626-8213 or mail to Letters to the Editor, Pacific Citizen, 701 E. 3rd St., Ste. 201, Los Angeles, CA, 90013.

Praise for coverage of gays in the military

I would like to congratulate the Pacific Citizen (Feb. 5, 1993 issue) for its timely, in-depth coverage of the gay issue. As a civil rights organization, this is a matter we need to address.

We know that discrimination against Asians still exist in the military. One has only to point to Bruce Yamashita's treatment by the Marine Corps. To support continued discrimination against gays is unconscionable in light of our efforts to promote equal treatment for Japanese Americans.

It was in 1948 that Phillip Randolph, an Afro-American union leader called on Black men to resist segregation in the armed forces. President Truman shortly ordered the integration of Afro Americans in the military with Executive Order 9881. The same kind of arguments against the integration of Afro-Americans can be heard today against homosexuals.

It was appropriate that you highlighted this issue on the front page to call attention to this very important civil rights question. People with varying opinions should feel free to voice their concerns.

Chizu Uyama

El Cerrito, Calif.

Says JACL scholarship criterion is not fair

People are much more sensitive to discrimination when they're the victims than the perpetrators. So it's not surprising to see JACL practicing bigotry.

Scholarship eligibility requirements are: "JACL members, their children, or any American of Japanese ancestry may apply..." This is selective inclusion based solely upon race and national origin. Had the eligibility requirement been a variant of "only whites," the racism would be obvious and unquestioned. Instead, people at our Sequoia Chapter meeting, started by saying that anyone can join JACL, so it's not discriminatory. After some discussion, most agreed that selecting ONE special group from the entire population of non-members, based on race and national origin, was pretty stupid. It's blatantly racist, and there are better ways to achieve the same result.

Our chapter directs its scholarship money in a totally non-discriminatory way. We selected a handful of local organizations that have supported JACL activities. Their memberships are heavily, but not exclusively, Japanese American. Children of ALL members of these organizations are eligible for our scholarships. Others are not. JACL needs to change its scholarship requirements and re-think the meaning of racism. Maintaining one's identity as a minority is a major challenge, but resorting to exclusion and racism isn't the answer.

Peter Harris

Palo Alto, Calif.

Another who enjoys Hosokawa columns

This is the year of "family values." The recent letter to you saying Mr. Hosokawa's column was family trivia is of the minority. Most of us enjoy reading what is happening to Nisei families and where their offspring are headed.

May Sasaki

San Jose, Calif.

Says cartoon portrays women negatively

I am incensed by the (Pete Hironaka) cartoon in the Jan. 22 Pacific Citizen (showing women spending too much with credit cards). This blatant sexual harassment is not funny. You should be more careful of what you put in the paper.

Marie K. Hasegawa

Richmond, Va.



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JACL

(Continued from page 1)

the model minority myth and in-
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the problems still faced by many
Asian Pacific Americans, many of
whom live in poverty.

A spokesperson for Bartlett told
Karen Narasaki, JACL Washing-
ton D.C., representative, that the
congressman had not intend to in-
fend Asian Americans and that
Bartlett will be writing a letter to
the editor of the Washington Post,
which first reported the story.

Classified Ads

(Continued from page 7)

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