



Pacific Citizen

National Publication of the Japanese American Citizens League

**Senzaki on
story telling
—page 7**

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2 Coral Circle, Suite 204, Monterey Park, CA 91755

(213) 725-0083

May 27-June 2, 1994

Deadlines for '94 JACL convention

June 1, 1994

RESOLUTIONS/ CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENTS & BY-LAWS:

Resolutions and Constitutional Amendments/Bylaws to be considered by National Council at the Salt Lake City National Convention, must be postmarked on June 1, 1994.

For an optional, non-binding review by the Resolutions/Amendment Committee, chapters may wish to forward proposed resolutions and constitutional/bylaws changes to the Resolutions Committee for review by May 1, 1994. The Committee will respond back to the Chapter with comments prior to the June 1st deadline.

CREDENTIALS:

Official delegate forms and proxy forms are due to the Credentials Committee, c/o JACL Headquarters by this date.

Proposed biennial budget to be distributed to district councils and chapters from national headquarters.

Chapter dues, fees and assessments due to national headquarters, 1765 Sutter St., San Francisco, CA, 94115.

June 15, 1994

National Council meeting agenda distributed to chapter delegates.

Resolutions, constitution and bylaw amendments distributed to chapter delegates.

Aug. 4, 1994

Resolutions/Constitution and Bylaw Amendments: Emergency resolutions and amendments due to Resolution and Amendments chairperson at convention site.

Legacy Fund

grant application
deadline

June 1, 1994

Information:

**Donna Ghoo
1765 Sutter St.
San Francisco,
CA, 94115**

1/415/921 5225

JACL National Board meeting, May 21-22, 1994

National Board passes same-sex resolution

How they voted

Here is how members of the JACL National Board voted on the same-sex issue. Note: National president votes only in the event of a tie. Legal counsel and PC board chair do not have a vote.

David Hayashi, governor, Midwest District: **ABSTAIN**
Sharon Ishii Jordan, governor, Mountain Plains District: **NO**
Larry Ishimoto, governor, Central California District: **NO**
Jeff Itami, governor, Intermountain District: **NO**
John Hayashi, first vice governor, Northern California Western Nevada Pacific District, representing Lucy Kishiue, governor: **YES**
Ruth Mizobe, governor, Pacific Southwest District: **YES**
Teresa Maeboni, governor, Eastern District: **ABSTAIN**
Terry Yamada, governor, Pacific Northwest District: **YES**

Jonathan Kaji, national secretary/treasurer: **YES**
Kerry Kaneichi, national youth representative: **YES**
Bill Kaneko, vice president, public affairs: **YES**
Trisha Murakawa, vice president, planning and development: **YES**
Kim Nakahara, national youth chair: **YES**
Alan Nishi, vice president, membership: **YES**
Neal Taniguchi, vice president, general operations: **YES**

Governors (8): 3 ayes (PNW, PNW, NCWNP); 3 nays (CCDC, IDC, MPDC); 2 abstentions (EDC, MDC). National vice presidents (7): 7 ayes.

Yes-10; No-3; Abstentions-2. Motion carried.

Board approves PC lawsuit settlement

Staff reports

The National Board May 21 voted unanimously to approve a \$30,000 settlement in a dispute between *Pacific Citizen* and its former landlord, Oakwood Associates. *Pacific Citizen* vacated its premises in Little Tokyo in November, 1993, citing as the primary reason a concern for the safety of its employees after a number of break-ins and incidents where the safety of the staff was threatened.

PC moved into the Little Tokyo location in the July 1991. The PC board directed the staff to make preparations to move at the May, 1993, meeting. In September, 1993, PC placed the landlord on notice of its intention to move, citing numerous problems. In November, 1993, PC moved to its current location in Monterey Park. Subsequently, Oakwood Associates filed a lawsuit stating breach of contract, asking for \$100,000 in damages.

The terms of the settlement are \$10,000 immediately payable and \$1,000 per month for 20 months

(check issued by JACL on April 8). Allen Kato, JACL legal counsel, said he thought it was a good settlement. Lawyer James Uyeda, who handled the case for PC, gave a report to JACL explaining the details of the case. Following are comments made about the case:

Uyeda said he thought the chances of winning the case were 60/40 in the landlord's favor. "PC staff was instructed to come up with a list of complaints to present to the landlord. There was no follow up until four months later when the lease was terminated. Then the actual abandonment occurred in November. From my view that's too long a time to surrender a property. Constructive eviction requires immediate advice. The other reason is in the lease terms there is no security requirement," said Uyeda.

Peggy Liggett, PC board member, pointed out that contrary to Uyeda's statement, there were two communications in June, 1993, alerting the landlord to problems with power outages. Further,

See SUIT/page 4

Measure gets 10 yes
votes; 3 governors vote
no and 2 abstain

By GWEN MURANAKA
Assistant editor

SAN FRANCISCO—Following a lengthy discussion, the National Board voted at its May 21 meeting to support the concept of same-sex marriage by a margin of 10 yes, 3 no and 2 abstentions. All seven vice presidents voted in favor of the resolution, while the district governors were split 3-3 with two abstentions.

The Honolulu Chapter brought forward the issue after the Hawaii State Legislature had voted to outlaw same-sex marriages.

Bill Kaneko, vice president, public affairs and a member of the Honolulu Chapter, then introduced



"I think it's the nature of the beast. If you want to look back to the National Council, and you're looking at numbers of chapters, PSW has 33 chapters, Northern Cal has 35 chapters. That's a majority right there."

—Ruth Mizobe
PSW governor



"I would like to see this go not as a National Board decision but brought as a resolution to the National Council. I don't understand why it is here before us. As I understand it, the NAACP won't touch it."

—Jeff Itami
IDC governor

a motion in support of same-sex at the National Board at the Feb. 12 meeting. Supporting that measure were fellow members from the Pacific Southwest, Trisha Murakawa, vice president, planning and development, and Ruth Mizobe, district governor. After that board meeting, Kaneko sent out informa-

tional packets about the same-sex issue to the National Board.

Asked to query their chapters, many of the governors reported that the membership was very divided on the issue.

Requesting to bring the issue before the National Council, Jeff Itami, governor, Intermountain District, said, "I would like to see this go not as a National Board decision, but see this brought as a resolution to the National Council. Because we are already beginning to see the kind of mail and reaction

See SAME-SEX/page 4

More National Board meeting coverage

In the June 3-9, 1994, issue... Stories on finance, Legacy Fund, health care, convention and more...

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Calendar

East Coast U.S. Seabrook, N.J.

Fri.-Sun. Oct. 7-9: JACL and Seabrook Educational and Cultural Center's 50th year celebration, Ramada Inn, 2216 W. Linds & Rte. 55, Wheeling, NJ 08080, 609-686-3800. Brochure, forms, info: Ray Bano, SEEC, Upper Deerfield Twp. Municipal Bldg., Hwy 77, P.O. Box 5041, Seabrook, NJ 08032. NOTE: Oct. 7, 6 p.m. Registration (\$50) at hotel, 7:30 reception; Oct. 8, 9 a.m. Registration at SEEC, 9:20 Seabrook Village tour, 11 a.m. People's inaugural: Seabrook: a New Beginning" program, Upper Deerfield Twp. Hall—dedication of museum, video, exhibit, speakers, buffet luncheon, (Optional Fri. evening activities include Atlantic City casino excursion, 5 p.m. Filles Flashback dance at Bridgeton Firehall, 7 p.m., Bridgeton symphony concert at the newly located BHS Auditorium, West Ave., 8 p.m., Oct. 9, Social hour, 6 p.m., Benquet, Ramada Inn, 7:30 p.m. (Optional Sunday events: Church services, 10 a.m. Golf tournament, 12:30 p.m. Lunch under the tent, 1:15-4 p.m. Wheaton Village tour at Millers' Transportation and charter air: Gene Nakata, Bridgeton/609-455-1865, Randall Kinsman, Monterey Park/618-268-5369.

Washington, D.C.

Mon. May 30—Annual JACL Memorial Day Services, Arlington National Cemetery

Midwest Chicago

Sat. June 4—Japanese American Service Center's "Market Day" 11 a.m.-5 p.m., 4427 N. Clark St. NOTE—Lunch or take home, see & buy ceramics, arts—craft, using clothing, white elephant, toys, plants.

Milwaukee

Sun. Aug. 14—JACL Wisconsin picnic, Deer Park, WI.

Sat.-Sun., Nov. 19-20—JACL booth at Hill Country Folk Fair, Milwaukee

Mpls.-St. Paul

Sat.-Sat. May 28-June 4—America Japan Week '94. Exhibits, activities, workshops, 10 a.m.-4 p.m. (May 30-June 4) Minneapolis Convention Center, info: Kathleen Holler, 612/661-4755. OTHER EVENTS: May 28, 7 p.m.—Opening ceremony, State Theater; May 29, 2-4 p.m. Opening celebration, MPS Institute of Arts; May 30, Music kite-flying, Lake Harriet Bandshell; May 31-June 2, Concerts: 5-7 p.m. Peavey Plaza; 7-10 p.m. State Theater; June 3, Martial arts; 7-10 p.m. Target Center; June 4, Downtown parade, 1-3 p.m. Minneapolis, Closing ceremony, 3-6 p.m. Target Center.

Sun. June 26—JACL Twin Cities summer picnic, Lake Cornelia Park, Pavilion, Eden, information: John Nakasone, 612/466-6999

Intermountain Ontario

Sat. June 4—JACL Snake River's 50th Anniversary celebration, 6:30 p.m. social, 7 p.m. dinner, Commercial Bldg., Maffee Court Fairgrounds, info: RSVP \$15 dinner by June 1, Cathy Yasuda 503/869-9493, Mike Isert 503/869-8691. NOTE—Shakey Unio, Salt Lake City, guest speaker. Chapter also is seeking memorabilia, artifacts, old film footage for use in a video-doc about Japanese Americans in Treasure Valley. Some will be on display at the 50th Anniversary celebration, info: Randy Harano 503/869-5532, Mike Takatori 208/722-6516 (ans. machine). Golf tournament fee off, 8:30 a.m. 9-hole scramble, 11 a.m. 9-hole individual, Shadow Butte Golf Course, registration: Kerry Isert 503/869-8691. Sat. June 4—JACL InterMountain District Council session, 11 a.m., Indian Room (across from Eastside Café), 112 SE 2nd St., Ontario. RSVP: Randy Harano 503/869-5532. NOTE—Snake River chapter hosts, lunch will be provided, meeting is open to general membership.

Salt Lake City

Aug. 3-6—33rd Biennial National JACL Convention—Mt. Olympus JACL sponsors, Downtown Marriott Hotel, info: Irene or Floyd Mon, 801/572-2287. Pre-June 25 registration fee schedule—Convention package (*) \$135, Youth Package \$125, covering following events: Aug. 3 Welcome reception with omelet, Salt Lake Art Center gallery and private showing of UCLA's "Views from Within" exhibit, Aug. 4 Grande Western Barbecue dinner and Hooedown, Wagonmaster Restaurant, Aug. 5 National Awards luncheon, noon, Downtown Marriott; Aug. 6 National Council meetings, Aug. 5-6 workshops on AJAs

in the acts, (d) dealing with the media, (e) successful lobbying, (f) personal finance and retirement preparation, (g) personal history of JAs, (h) AJAs in the workplace—corporate goals, (i) relations with other minority/civil rights groups, (j) youth, (k) U.S.-Japan relations, (l) education, (m) Hawaii/overseas, (n) gay and lesbian issues, (o) T.O.J., (p) hate and violent crimes, Aug. 6 Youth luncheon (for all young adults), Aug. 6 Savorana bar-b-que, 11:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m., 3 Social networking, Liberty Park Tennis Courts, Aug. 4 Old Times luncheon, Joseph Smith Memorial Building, formerly the Hotel Utah (\$20), Aug. 6—Golf tournament, tennis, 9:30 a.m. Temple Square. Other booster activities: SLIC Historic tour (\$14, historic site, Old Mormon Trail), Salt Lake Area bus tour (\$22 includes visit to Great Salt Lake and Brigham Open R. copper mine, etc.), Windower, New gambling tour (\$11), Aug. 7-10 four-day tour Bryce, Grand Canyon, Zion and Shakespear Festival at Cedar City, Utah (\$580 per day incl. nightfall), Aug. 7 three-day tour Yellowstone, Teton Park (\$360 per day incl. 2 nights), Yas Tokita, Mountain West Travel, 1390 S 1100 East, Suite 104, Salt Lake City, UT 84105, 801/467-4567, fax: 801/467-4574. NOTE: Hotel reservations 800/345-4754 (specify "JACL Convention") for Disabled Services, Edith Mikko 801/468-4211. Registration forms, additional details including packages for individuals events in Convention package (*) 1994 National JACL Convention, P.O. Box 17715, Salt Lake City, UT 84117.

Pacific Northwest Seattle

Ending May 31—Asian Pacific American Heritage Month in Seattle. Works of visual artists, Pacific Crossing—photo story of Filipino immigrants (1900-1935), Seattle Public Library, 1000 4th Ave. Sat. May 28—International Sovereignty Issue, noon-4 p.m., UW Ethnic Cultural Theater, 3300 Brooklyn; info: Denny Yamauchi 206/623-0520, Indonesian Tupper mass show, 2:30 p.m., Waldford-Walsh Library, 4423 Densmore Ave. N. Info: 206/684-4088, Morning Star Kanor, Dancer, 2 p.m., Southwest Library, 9010 Aurora Ave. SW, info: 684-7455. Dances of the "Jale Rock", 2 p.m., Douglass Trust Library, 23rd and E. Yesler, info: 206/684-4704.

Mon. May 30—Nisei Veterans' Committee Memorial Day service, 10 a.m., Lakeview Cemetery, noon luncheon South China Restaurant, wreath laying, 1:30 p.m., Veterans Memorial Cemetery, Washelli.

Tacoma

Thu. June 9—Re-dedication of File High School plaque given to school in 1932 but removed during WWII, in conjunction with HS graduation, Tacoma Dome, info: Bob Mizukami, Puyallup Valley JACL.

Nevada Las Vegas

Tue. June 21—Manzanar High School 50th Anniversary reunion-union, California Hotel-Casino, NOTE—Dedicated in memory of Ralph LaZar, Contacts: Sumi Nakashima Hayamizu 702/922-3165, Bruce Kaji 310/327-7790, Nori Kuryama 310/329-5273, Rosie Maruki 310/329-5273, 6119, Arnold Maeda 310/329-5157, Kuno Maeda 310/329-1838, Kazie Nagai 310/329-2611, Koki Nagai 310/329-5831, Seichi Tori 310/329-9144, Lillian Uyemura Yano 310/327-9201, George Yoshinaga 310/328-1971.

California San Francisco

Fri. June 3—JACL San Francisco 2d annual scholarship benefit golf tournament, 10 a.m., Sonoma Golf Club, info: John Hayashi, 415/563-8468, Sheryl Ishizaki 415/214-1711. (Entry deadline was May 7.)

Sun. June 5—Nikkei Widowed Group, 2 p.m., Elsie Uyeda Church 415/221-0288, info: 415/682-2991.

Wed. June 8—Reading: Nguyen Qui Duc, Where the Ashes Are: The Odyssey of a Vietnamese Refugee, 7 p.m., Asian Art Museum, Golden Gate Park, info: 415/688-4404.

Peninsula

Sat. May 28—Asian Pacific Heritage celebration, 1-4 p.m., Central Park, San Mateo.

NOTE—JACL booth to feature finger foods, May 28-29—Also Commemorative memorial service, 9:30 a.m., Alta Mesa Cemetery.

Eastbay

Fri. June 3—JACL Berkeley scholarship awards dinner, 6:30-8:45 p.m., Lantier Restaurant, 814 Webster St., Oakland. RSVP \$25 pay by May 15, 214 Ogawa, Berkeley Optometric Group, 2414 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley 94604. NOTE—KPIX-TV reporter, Wency Hanamura, speaker: Awardees: Brent Nakase, Ajun Fujimoto, Alison Sasaki. Sun. June 5—and annual (Northern and Central Calif.) JACL Jr. Olympics, 9 a.m., Chabot College, Hayward. Registration, contact local JACL or Steve Okamoto, 415/574-2541 evenings. NOTE—The Wrong, which new event added to attract more 8-10 year old athletes with a Soccer kicking event, 200 and 800 meter runs.

San Jose

Fri. June 17—JACL San Jose theater party, "A Thousand Cranes," 8 p.m., Northside Theatre Co., 848 E. William St. (RSVP before 6/10/94), JACL Jr. Olympics, 408/295-1250 (Mon-Thru, 9-3).

Salinas-Monterey

Sat. May 28—Onokubo, Taiko performers from Japan, 8:30 Sat, 2 p.m., Henry J. Melio Center at Watsonville High School, E. Beach St. and Lincoln Ave. Sun. May 29—Salmon festival benefit, 4-6 p.m., El Estero Presbyterian Church. Sat. June 4—Monterey Nisei VFW Post's 40th anniversary dinner, 6 p.m., Monterey Beach Hotel. Sun. June 11—JACL Monterey Peninsula's Japanese School variety show, JACL Hall.

Stockton

Sat. May 28—JACL Stockton community picnic, 10 a.m.-5, Mickie Grove, site changed to southwest corner of the park, info: Dick Fujita 209/478-6569, George Bahe 209/478-6917

Fresno

Sun. June 19—Japanese Union Christian Church benefit fashion show, "Travel for 30 Days in One Suitcase," 12-4 p.m., Airport Holiday Inn, 5008 E. Clinton Way, Fresno, info: Kanako USA 800/404-2250. NOTE—Kanako USA produces.

Los Angeles-Orange

Closing May 30—Strength & Diversity, Japanese American Women's exhibit, 10 a.m.-5 p.m., Western Heritage Museum, Los Angeles. Fri. May 27—JACL PSW Membership coffee tasting/memoir, 7:30-9:30 p.m., Burton Chase Park, Marina Del Rey, call Wayne Nagata 310/390-7387, Shari Uyeda 809/660-8148. Sat. May 28—Ryuichi Komada lecture, "Conquering the Mountains," 1:30 p.m., 1203 W. Puente Ave., West Covina. info: 213/657-6111.

Sat. May 29—JANU Video Showcases on Japanese Women, 1-4 p.m., JANM, 213/825-0414. NOTE—Re: musician June Kuramoto, activist-historian Aki Yoshinaga-Herzig, "Issei Wahine," Art to Art Expressions of Asian American Women" and "Family Gathering."

Sun. May 29—"A Lyrical Garden: selections from the Etsuko and Joe Price Collection of Japanese Art," The Bowers Museum of Cultural Art, Santa Ana, info: 714/567-3680. Sun. May 29—Shirayuki Japanese Catholic Center celebration of pastor Father Joe Kieha's 25th anniversary of ordination, noon, Maryknoll, 1000 N. Broadway, 213/626-2279. NOTE—RSVP by May 19.

Sun. May 29—East San Gabriel Valley Japanese Community Center dedication of the Nikkei veterans war memorial, 1:30 p.m., 1203 W. Puente Ave., West Covina.

Mon. May 30—Annual Memorial Day services, 11 a.m., Evergreen Cemetery, L.A. Wed. June 1—Japan Area Society lunch talk by Dr. Arthur Alexander, pre-Japan Economic Institute, "Japan as a No. 3—Problems facing the former Rising Sun," Western South Coast Plaza, 323 Anton Blvd., Costa Mesa. RSVP: 714/480-3333.

Thurs., June 2—Marina/Scam Chapters, JACL meeting, 7:30 p.m., Burton Chase Park, Marina del Rey, call Wayne Nagata, Kathleen Zuhda, founder, director of Hemosa Beach Healing Center. Information: Isaac Hirano, 310/682-3566.

San Diego

Sat. June 4—Tutu tassing and cooking demonstration, 2-4 p.m., Kiku Gardens, 2060 Third Ave., San Diego, info: 619/588-3072. Sun. June 5—Buddhist Temple of San Diego Bazaar, 11 a.m.-5, 2929 Market St., San Diego.

Gwen Muranaka

Small kid time

SMALL KID TIME PRESENTS:

NATURAL ELEMENTS

APRIL 15

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MOMMY! DADDY'S PICKING ON ME!

NOH! KIMMY'S BEING A TOTAL BAST!



In-sight

BY LILLIAN C. KIMURA

Stamp out hate

Several months ago, I had an opportunity to endorse a full page ad placed in the *New York Times* by the American Jewish Committee. The ad was in response to the increasing rhetoric of hate promulgated by certain groups. It read in part:

"We are Americans, whose diversity of faith, ethnicity and race unites us in a common campaign against bigotry."

"We are Americans, who know the rights and dignity of all of us are jeopardized when those of any of us are challenged."

"We are Americans, who reject the ugly slanders of the hatemongers seeking to lift up

ligence, understanding and vision. It separates us from other species of animals."

"Hateful language is destructive, it hurts its object and denies our common humanity."

For several years, the New York Chapter of JACL has been participating in a coalition of 22 ethnic, racial and religious groups in New Jersey in a "Stamp Out Hate" campaign. One of its projects has been "Stamp Out Hate Sabbath" in which churches and synagogues in New Jersey are asked to deliver an anti-hate message on a particular Sunday. Another project is the "Stamp Out Hate" billboards



some Americans by reviling others.

"We are Americans, born or drawn to this land, children of immigrants, refugees, natives and slave, whose work together honors the history of the civil rights struggle and makes it live, for all Americans."

This statement was signed by hundreds of American leaders including Norm Mineta, Ross Harano of Chicago and Ginny Gong, president of the Organization of Chinese Americans.

It was a speech given at a New Jersey college late last year that triggered this new wave of hate mongering. In question is the right of free speech. In an address to a group of high school students, Sen. Bill Bradley said, "Hatred expresses itself in action and in words, but it starts with words. Verbal abuse often precedes with physical abuse. The demagogue will pump up himself and his crowd with hateful speech before a riot explodes. The common street criminal will taunt his victim before pulling the trigger. The husband will assault his wife with words before he uses his fists..."

"Language is how we communicate with each other. It's a way to express joy, to give orders, to demonstrate anger and affection. It's a means by which we show intel-

ligence, understanding and vision. It separates us from other species of animals. It's a means by which we show intel-

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Kimura is JACL National President. Her column appears regularly in Pacific Citizen.

Like Father Like Son



Of course, you don't want your children to smoke. But, if you smoke, the chance of their becoming smokers doubles compared with those children whose parents do not smoke. You are the model to your children. And they learn from you. Not what you say. What you do.

In the United States, over 1,100 people die of smoking-related diseases everyday. And countless more are tortured by smoking-related illnesses, such as lung cancer, heart attack, stroke, and emphysema...

Don't let your children inherit this deadly habit.
If you don't want them to start, **It's time to stop.**

California Department of Health Services



Grads

Recently honored Snake River Chapter, JACL, high school graduates included, from left, Yumi Tamura, Kelly Anderson, Jennifer Schaffer, Vin Nakada, Kisa Iseri, Tyler Amano, Erica Hiramatsu, Chris Nishihara, Ayako Hori and Jamie Kurata. Fifteen students were honored at the chapter's 49th annual banquet May 6 in Ontario, Ore. Keynote speaker for the event was Linda Tamura, professor of education and chair of the Education Department at Pacific University. Students not present were Jennifer McClelland, Guy Urui, Makiko Ishikaji, Michelle Hessler and Kate Pressley.

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I am not a member of JACL. Please send me membership information. I understand JACL membership is required to obtain this coverage.

Name _____ Age _____

Address _____

City/State/Zip _____

Phone (____) _____ [] Work [] Home

Send to: Frances Morioka, Administrator

JACL-Blue Shield of California Group Health Trust
1255 Post Street, Suite 805, San Francisco, CA 94109

SAME-SEX

(Continued from page 1)

in the PC where individuals within chapters and also individual chapters and districts are objecting very strenuously to this. It is a very divisive issue, I don't understand why this here before us. As I understand it, the NAACP won't touch it."

Itami said that he polled IDC district officers and they had indicated that "some chapters are adamantly opposed, some chapters are wishy-washy and one chapter is for it."

Ruth Mizobe, governor, Pacific Southwest, whose district earlier voted to support same sex 17-0 with 2 abstentions, said the district had discussed the issue thoroughly.

"As far as our district is concerned, we had a chance to fully discuss it. We spent more than an hour talking about it. All the chapters had an opportunity to express their opinions," said Mizobe.

Teresa Maeboi, governor, Eastern District, said that when she took the issue back to her district, both the Southeast Chapter (formerly the Georgia Chapter) and the Washington, D.C. Chapter had a ballot on the issue. Maeboi said that while both chapters supported same-sex, it was a very close vote. Maeboi also said the Seabrook Chapter felt the National Board should make decisions on civil rights issues.

Terry Yamada, governor, Pacific Northwest, said that while some opposed it, the district supported the same-sex issue and noted that the Portland Chapter had drafted a resolution of support.

Larry Ishimoto, governor, Central California District, whose district voted against same-sex, questioned the culpability of elected officers to the membership, noting that the governors have to answer directly to their districts. Ishimoto later requested a roll call vote.

"I can understand what Jeff is saying. He's got a valid point (Na-

tional Council) would get a vote by the chapters there, but here you've only got eight districts, you've got how many possible votes per district. It does have an impact, because what you're saying is this is what the membership wants," said Ishimoto.

Mizobe responded, "I think it's kind of the nature of the beast. If you want to look back to the National Council, and you're looking at numbers of chapters, PSW has 33 chapters, Northern Cal has 35 chapters. That's a majority right there."

Ishimoto then said that in the PC, the PSW position on same-sex had been supported by only 12 chapters.

Mizobe said, "Every governing body has pros and cons, about how you vote so you can't look at one without looking at the other."

Allen Kato, legal counsel, said the decision may end up having to go to National Council. "It would be my opinion that if the National Board renders a decision it would not be binding the organization. It would have to go to the National Council," said Kato.

Ishimoto asked about the fiscal impact of the decision. "When you sign on something will it come up early? Will it have some fiscal impact, that's another question that's going to be asked. Because everything you sign on to, it may come back to bite you."

Speaking as an elected officer, Neal Taniguchi, national vice president, general operations, responded, "I think those considerations are further down the line. From an elected official's point of view, I think elected officers have a responsibility to the membership and the entire organization but also to the principles of the organization. This board is elected in a leadership position and should not necessarily push it off to the National Council especially when we've had districts already discuss it. I don't think that's responsible either."

Itami responded, "My district council meets June 4. I don't think it's 'pushing off' but giving mem-

bers the opportunity to voice their opinion. I would rather have them have the opportunity to vote rather than hoist off a decision from a small group."

Ron Ohata, PC board chair, said, "This board has a responsibility, how far ahead of the eight-ball do they want to be? The next question is, if we're going to do it, let each chapter go on record. Otherwise somebody else says this should be an issue this board decides without the chapters. Paradoxically, but I disagree with that I feel the decision should come from the bottom up."

"If the board is going to vote on this resolution I hope you understand the feeling on the issue is probably around the ratio of 55/45. I don't know if it's healthy to make those kind of decisions where you end up with a very large disagreement, and we're not talking apple pie or peach pie, we're talking about something that is very deep-seated. To do it at this level without doing a lot of homework, this could end up, whichever way the board goes, to have a negative effect either way."

Kaneke said he felt comfortable with the board voting on the same-sex issue. "This discussion came up early on at our district and national board meetings. We prepared documents, put together packets with summaries of the whole issue. To my understanding, I feel confident the district governors have done what they said they would do."

Speaking as a chapter member, Reid Tateoka, member, Mt. Olympus Chapter, JACL, expressed concerns that the issue would negatively affect their membership and asked that it be brought to the National Council.

"Our chapter has very strong feelings regarding this issue and would like to put on the record that they feel it is a situation where it ought to be brought before the general membership."

Currently at work on the national convention, Tateoka said he had received questions about whether the same-sex issue would be brought before the convention.

"It was our intent if there was that much interest in it, the convention ought to discuss it and deal with it and have an opportunity for voices to be heard. It has to be something well-thought out, well-studied because it is a divisive issue. Many people think it is not a civil rights issue; many think it will have repercussions on our organization generally. People in our chapter are very concerned about what effect it will have on our chapter personally, the membership and leadership of the chapter, because many feel so strongly about it that they're making statements that they don't want to be affiliated with an organization that's going to present those kind of views."

SUIT

(Continued from page 1)

Liggett asked if Uyeda had filed a cross complaint for constructive eviction seeking to recover costs of moving and damages as is customary in lawsuits of this nature. Uyeda said, "Opposing counsel brought up the issue of settlement. It was settled prior to filing a cross complaint."

● Kato claimed that he hadn't been consulted either about the move or the signing of the new lease.

"I was not consulted. I never would have counseled this without a paper trail," said Kato.

Liggett responded, "What should not have happened is a lease should not have been signed without a security provision in the most dangerous part of Los Angeles." As former PC board chair, Kimura said that he had signed the lease on the Little To-

See SUIT/page 5

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SUIT

(Continued from page 4)

kyo office.

Speaking to *Pacific Citizen*, Liggett said, "It is inconceivable that Kimura, a non-lawyer, would have signed the lease without having it reviewed by legal counsel."

"I have been advised by Kato that he had had no 'meaningful opportunity' to review the lease. I interpret that as he received it but did not properly review it prior to Kimura signing the lease," said Liggett.

Jonathan Kaji, secretary/treasurer, blamed PC for the settlement costs and questioned why PC had not negotiated with the landlord. Earlier, in his report, Kaji had alluded to "extraordinary expenses" incurred in 1994.

"I talked about extraordinary expenses. That's an expense no one anticipated. As an organization, we have suffered loss," said

Kaji.

"I need to have an explanation what went wrong. The PC board minutes are unclear whether individuals had action to break the lease. There was no communication with the National Board, legal counsel, and the PC board."

● Liggett said that the National Board was represented at the PC board meeting by Kimura, who participated in the discussion to move the PC staff.

"The National Board was represented by the president who led the direction of the vote. So that is what the record reflects," said Liggett.

Kimura refuted Liggett's allegations, saying that she did not direct the discussion and thought that the PC would be entering negotiations. "When the executive committee met I said they were negotiating with the landlord. Then later I heard of the move to a new location," said

See SUIT, page 8

Shinkawa: safety of staff was reason for lease termination

Safety of the staff was the prime concern behind the PC board's decision to terminate the lease, said Paul Shinkawa, former PC board chair.

"Basically, the chair and PC board were aware from the outset that there was a risk of a lawsuit if we broke the lease. I weighed the possibility of a lawsuit and paying out money against a potential for risk of harm to the employees," said Shinkawa.

Throughout the two years that PC was at the Little Tokyo location, staff cars had been broken into and the office burglarized. In separate incidents, several staff members had been physically threatened by vagrants who often slept in the doorway of the building.

Shinkawa said he was aware of the possibility of a lawsuit. "We were aware of both risks. We made the decision on the side of staff safety. We did that after hearing all the accounts on safety and after visiting the location. From my personal viewpoint, human safety comes far above the cost of a business decision such as breaking a lease," said Shinkawa.

In the minutes of the May 1993, PC board meeting, Peggy Liggett, Central California representative, PC board, said, "We (the PC board)

are responsible for providing a safe workplace. We've been put on notice."

Others present at the meeting were: Kim Tachiki, Pacific Southwest; Cathy Maeda Yasuda, Intermountain; Lillian Kimura, JACL national president and Cressey Nakagawa, former JACL national president.

At that time, the PC board authorized Richard Suenaga, PC editor/general manager, to make preparations to move the newspaper out of its Little Tokyo office. The motion was made by Les Hata, Northern California Western Nevada Pacific representative, PC board and seconded by Ron Shibata, Mountain Plains representative.

"I don't think that it's at all a dollars and cents decision when put in terms of human life. The (PC) board's feeling was that the board was incurring potential liability exposure both for JACL and personally as well as incurring a moral obligation to act on behalf of the staff," said Shinkawa.

Commenting on the settlement, Shinkawa said, "In terms of \$30,000, the whole moral obligation only costs \$1.50 per JACL member. It's hard to explain to a jury that an employee's life isn't worth \$1.50 per member."

Problems PC encountered at old facility

Following is a partial listing of problems which led to the decision to move the PC offices from Little Tokyo to Monterey Park.

● The weekend of June 14, 1992—PC offices was broken into twice, resulting in loss of two computers, fax machine, camera and personal possessions.

● Cars of PC employees broken into. Gwen Muranaka's car was broken into twice. She lost a radio, tools and had to replace a dashboard, cost: \$300. Andy Enomoto's window was broken, cost: \$120. Richard Suenaga's windshield was broken, possessions stolen, cost: \$300. Joyce Kato's car was broken into twice, causing extensive damage to the ignition system, cost: \$1,250. Harry Honda's car was broken into once, cost: \$91. Jim Hensley's car was broken into twice, cost: \$250.

● January 1993—An attempt is made to break into the PC office, hinges were removed from the doors.

● Staff members had been hassled and accosted by vagrants sleeping in the alcove entrance to the building. Suenaga on several occasions was called names and threatened. Honda was threatened by vagrants who came into the building.

● December, 1992—Muranaka was accosted by a vagrant who said he would "bash her face in."

● The bathrooms were not kept clean. On two occasions, feces had been smeared in the men's bathroom. In another incident, blood was found on the women's restroom floor.

● Frequent power outages resulted in a loss of computer data.

● The outside of the building was often filthy. Staff had seen vagrants urinating on the building, sidewalk, and alcove. On May 31, 1993 human feces was found in the alcove entrance.

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Opinions



From the frying pan

BILL HOSOKAWA

The myth of Asian affluence

The academics and specialists understand that all Asians are not alike, but much of the American public and the newspapers that serve them still don't understand.

Case in point: The way the press recently reported findings by UCLA's Prof. Paul Ong that there's a lot of poverty among Asian Pacific Americans. Ong found that while many are economically successful, many others (mainly Vietnamese, Cambodians and Laotians) are impoverished and depend heavily on welfare. The headline over the story in one newspaper declared: "Study says Asian affluence a myth."

Unfortunately, in the popular mind all Asians are lumped together as one people. In reality, there is as much difference among various Asian groups as there is among the people of Europe. We are aware of the difference between Swedes and Bosnians, for example, or Germans and French. Yet we don't understand that Japanese are different from Malays who are different from Koreans who are different from Thais in culture, history, language, etc.

Aside from these differences, the time they've had to adapt to American civiliza-

tion varies widely. Some Chinese Americans can trace their ancestry to the men who helped build the transcontinental railroad soon after the Civil War. Some Japanese Americans are of the fourth and fifth generations of their families in the U.S. And some, like the Southeast Asians who fled the Communists in Indo-China, have been here less than a decade.

Inevitably the newest of the newcomers start at the bottom of the economic ladder, working long hours at low-paying jobs while they scratch out a livelihood, learning the language and the customs and saving a few bucks to invest. At this stage of their history in the United States many no doubt are impoverished, but chances are they won't stay that way. Some may be washing dishes or waiting tables today in a Chinese restaurant, but you can bet that many of them will be running their own places before long.

Members of a Korean immigrant family might start out as hired hands in a motel, working and saving until eventually they can buy the place and go into business for themselves, run a grocery store on the side, and make enough money to send their kids

to college. The great grandparents of affluent Japanese American professionals—doctors, lawyers, scientists, business executives—probably started as railroad section hands and moved in time to farming or small business.

That's the way it was, and is, with all immigrant groups. Yet many Americans express surprise that the descendants of long-ago immigrants from Asia today are "affluent," and that the most recent immigrants from Asia are having a tough time. Why? Because they see all Asians not as individuals or of different ethnic groups, but as a single people with a single history. The stereotype of the inscrutable Oriental dies hard.

One of these days, I suppose, our country will quit seeing stereotypes, be Asian or whatever, and understand that all of us are individuals significantly different from each other. ☐

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



East Wind

BILL MARUTANI

Psychic freedom

COUPLE MONTHS AGO I saw a brief item reporting on insights of African Americans residing in Japan. The phrase that caught my eye was "psychic freedom," a state of mind reportedly experienced by some of these African Americans. As expressed by an African American who spent some three years in Japan, "Japan offers you a form of psychic freedom. You don't have to think about race on a daily basis." This psychic imprint recalled a passing sensation I once experienced in Japan some 25 years ago, more specifically as I was waiting to board a trolley in Tokyo. With fare in hand, I stood in line with the Japanese waiting for the trolley; upon its arrival, I boarded, paid my fare and sat down. As I casually gazed about, it suddenly struck me that absolutely no one was paying the slightest attention to me. My race was totally irrelevant, a non-factor; neither a plus nor a minus.

It was a brief, flashing, euphoric sensation. But it was not real; it was merely "psychic freedom."

IN POST-WAR JAPAN, there were ironic incidents relating to this American's Japanese ancestry. Having some military matters to attend to at the British Army Headquarters in Tokyo, I proceeded to the headquarters building. As I went up the steps to the front door, two armed British guards blocked my way. In full military uniform as a 2d Lieutenant (I had been commissioned just a few months before) I informed them that I had some military matters that needed to be discussed, but that I did not satisfy them. I demanded to know why I was denied passage, to which one of the guards replied that under general orders, no one of Asian ancestry was permitted inside the British Army headquarters. Of course, I did not pursue the matter by challenging the two armed guards. It struck me how ironic it was: my Japanese ancestry barred me from many spheres of life in my country of America, and now in the land of my ancestors, that same Japanese ancestry operated as a bar.

There's no relief. Anywhere.

IT WAS INTERESTING that in the

eyes of Japanese children, I was viewed and identified as a "gai-jin" (foreigner). The fact that the gai-jin had a Japanese face (inherited from his Hiroshima parents) and spoke nihon-go did not alter their view: they saw a gai-jin as they looked upon this uniformed AJA. Today, in Japan some Japanese children reportedly look upon African American youngsters as being "different" and subject them to teasing. "Teasing" may be a mild characterization since it can, and does, take the form of negative, incessant ostracism which, at times, is converted into outright physical confrontation. At the age of five years, I accompanied my mother on an extended visit to Hiroshima where I was subjected to taunts and physical challenges from gangs of Japanese youngsters simply because I was "different." I know first-hand

See MARUTANI/page 8

After leaving the bench, Marutani resumed practicing law in Philadelphia. He writes regularly for the Pacific Citizen.

Letters

Deficit, other issues, more important than same-sex

Northern Cal (NCWNP) District Council has joined the Pacific Southwest (PSW) District Council and the Honolulu Chapter, JACL, in endorsing same-sex marriages on the premise that non-endorsement would mean the denial of civil and human rights and the equal protection and due process clauses of the 14th Amendment of the U.S. Constitution.

The Mountain Plains District Council, while admitting that the civil rights aspect of the issue deserves consideration, took the position that it is "an issue we don't feel we should take a position on." Central California (CCDC) took the same position.

The position of the endorsers seems to be that JACL as a civil rights organization MUST take a position in favor of the issue. We disagree.

We feel that there are more important matters that directly concern JACL. We need to worry about decreasing membership. The Nisei generation is fast fading out of the picture. The Sansei and Yonsei are not becoming JACL members in significant numbers. We do not believe that the advocacy of certain civil rights is going to attract the younger members. We believe that there are many conservative thinkers among them. We cannot follow the lead of the ACLU in some of their extreme positions on individual civil rights based on technical grounds.

We need to worry about the deficit budget picture. We need to look into the problem of overhead that may be just too top heavy for the size of JACL. We cannot operate on a deficit budget for too long.

We must face the problem of who controls JACL? Is it the paid staff? Control of JACL policies must come from the bottom up. Individual chapters and chapter members must be considered when policies are set.

National must seek means to strengthen weak chapters. There are many which exist only on paper. They have the problem of dwindling membership and few, if any, chapter activities.

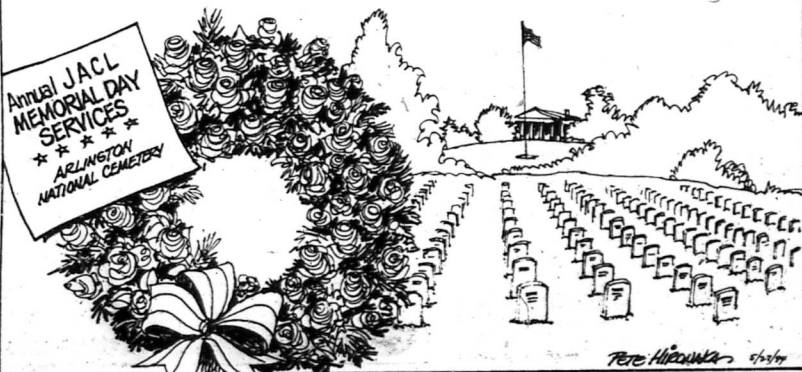
In the recent quarterly meeting of Northern Cal, with 33 chapters and 9,506 members, there were reportedly about 30 delegates attending. The vote on the resolution supporting same-sex marriages was 12/17 for, 3/2 against and one abstention, a total of 17 votes. The question arises whether this constituted a quorum and the feeling of the entire district council.

We believe that a similar situation existed at the Pacific Southwest meeting. A very few made the decision for the entire district council. We understand that atten-

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"THE HEROES ARE THE MEN AND THEIR FAMILIES WHO DEMONSTRATED THEIR FAITH IN AMERICA."

MIKE MASAOKA



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From the director

By RANDY SENZAKI

Tell and re-tell our stories

As Asian Pacific American Heritage Month is celebrated in communities across the nation, we are reminded of and inspired by the contributions that APAs have made to the rich cultural mosaic of our society. At the same time, I am also reminded of the need to establish and document these contributions and stories within the infrastructure of our society through our educational system. We must continue to advocate for curricular empowerment and cultural literacy through all segments of K-12 and higher education. It is so important to reach the minds of young people and adults to combat the xenophobia and cultural stereotyping that prevail in America today, and which contribute to a climate that encourages hate crimes and immigrant-bashing. The development of the JACL Curriculum and Resource Guide and the May 28 seminar on "Teaching the Japanese American Experience" are examples of an educational strategy to address these problems.

Another major JACL effort in the area of education is the struggle to secure from Congress the appropriation of \$5 million for their Redress Public Education Fund. This fund was intended to be used for publishing the transcripts of the redress hearings and for implementing programs for teaching present and future generations of Americans the lessons of civil rights history through the tragic experiences of the Japanese American internment. I ask all districts and chapters to get involved and write letters of support for the fund, if you haven't already done so.

As one of the oldest and largest Asian American civil rights organizations in the country, JACL must continue to defend and uphold the civil rights of Japanese

Americans and all people. As a civil rights organization that mirrors the principle of democracy within the larger society, we must remember that the principles of freedom and democracy include that right of individuals to bring forth into the marketplace of free discussion their ideas and issues. Whatever the issue may be, it is incumbent that we allow these ideas to be discussed throughout our organization without attacking or denigrating the individual who brings the idea forth. We must learn to separate the message from the messenger. It is the intelligent and principled thing to do.

As I finish my sixth month as national director, I have attended six out of eight district council meetings. My goal is to visit all of the districts before the year is out. In meeting the membership, I have heard ideas, suggestions and criticism from differing geographical and ideological points of view. Some of the emerging topics revolve around the challenge of juxtaposing and balancing Japanese American issues with Asian Pacific American and people of color issues. Others revolve around the perception of regional and local issues versus national issues.

It is my belief that these issues should not be dichotomized nor made mutually exclusive. As approximately 60 percent of our Japanese American population continues to "marry out," the face of our culture is becoming truly multicultural. It is moving beyond even our definition of "pan-Asian" or "Asian Pacific American" to a richer mosaic embracing many other ethnic groups.

Does this necessarily mean we will "lose" our Japanese American culture or disappear as a community? I don't think so. As long as children continue to ask for and seek information about their parents' and grandparents' heri-

tage, and as long as we continue to tell our stories and institutionally pass on traditions and culture, I think we will be an ever-expanding culture that consciously includes Japanese American roots and history. I have noticed more and more children of multicultural Japanese American heritage who have come together to actively share their voices and vision, and who celebrate their Nikkei heritage. And, they do so with an enthusiasm not always present in those of us who may sometimes take our heritage for granted.

On another level, our society continues to react to APAs and often sets policies that are based on a monolithic, stereotypical view of all Asians. For APA communities to successfully become full participants in society and live in harmony among ourselves will depend greatly upon many factors—our ability to recognize how we are viewed by the larger society, how many of our concerns and cultural values are commonly shared, and how we are able to work together through coalition building to secure civil rights for all. A national presence is necessary to focus our advocacy where these issues and priorities intersect for JAs and APAs.

As we move closer to August and our National Convention in Salt Lake City, the tempo picks up daily for me and the National staff. I am looking forward to our 33rd biennial convention with enthusiasm and hope. The issues and challenges we face and the way in which we collectively manage them will establish the tone and lay the foundation for JACL as we move towards the 21st Century.

Senzaki is the national director of the Japanese American Citizens League.

rors much of what is wrong with our country. Like big government, JACL leadership refuses to examine restructuring, downsizing and goals reexamination. They cannot promote or defend every issue on every front. Unlike Nazi Germany the JACL can recover its image and financial survival by focusing on those issues that are directly Japanese related. The JACL is not the "Rainbow Coalition." It is not the United Nations Human Rights Commission. It is the Japanese American Citizens League.

The vote of the PSW is indicative of a leadership that is marching to the drum of an agenda that was not intended by the original leaders of the JACL. Referencing the JACL Constitution and its recent amendments, only reinforces the suspicion that there are those who have an agenda to promote that lies outside the original document or intention. If it does not fit under the purpose of the original Constitution must we "sway with the crowd" on every moral or ethical issue that becomes the fancy of the JACL leadership? Continue on your "yellow brick" road if you want to further divide an already discontented membership and further erode your financial base.

The future of the JACL is in jeopardy. As a past chapter president and Sasei, I will continue to be supportive locally, but if the National JACL continues on its Don Quixote crusade I for one will no longer support it. It is time that the JACL be led by leaders who will listen to the member-

ship, not a radical minority in leadership, and who will operate the National organization with fiscal responsibility and prudent accountability.

Patrick Takasugi
Wildler, Idaho

PSW official: Negligent to publish remarks

Respectfully, in regard to Mr. Beans Sogio's letter that appeared in the PC May 6-12 edition, I find gross negligence with the editorial decision to publish Mr. Sogio's question about Ms. Trisha Murakawa's marital status and the question which asks, "is she a lesbian?"

First, to address the homophobic appeal to prejudice that Mr. Sogio's letter may foster about Ms. Murakawa—it's no one's business.

Second, the question of Ms. Murakawa being a lesbian for supporting same sex marriages is no different than the prejudice ethnocentric whites exacted upon white supporters of the black civil rights movement.

Third, Ms. Murakawa's sexual orientation has nothing to do with the issue of supporting same sex marriages unless one permits the exploitation of political debating tactics that foster malice, hatred and intolerance.

Why did the PC oblige to print such biased questions from Mr. Sogio when the point of his let-

See LETTERS/page 8

PC's summer schedule

The Pacific Citizen's bi-weekly summer issue will be dated as follows: July 15-July 28 and July 29-August 11.

We will resume regular weekly issues effective from the Aug. 12-18 issue. Final weekly issue prior to the summer schedule is the July 8-14 issue.

Deadlines for advertising and

editorials are the Friday before publication.

Here is the complete summer schedule: Date of issue (Advertising/editorial deadline): July 1-7 (June 24); July 8-14 (July 1); July 15-28 (July 8); July 29-Aug. 11 (July 22); Aug. 12-18 (Aug. 5); Aug. 19-25 (Aug. 12); Aug. 26-Sept. 1 (Aug. 19).

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LETTERS

(Continued from page 6)

dance at district council meetings is very poor.

We need to attack and solve JACL problems.

Fred Y. Hirasuna
Fresno, Calif.

JACL leaders are off course, says member

Questionable use of funds and unpopular forays beyond the borders of common sense, these are the forces that are pulling at the very survival of an honored and weathered JACL. Unfortunately, JACL leadership continues to tell the membership that they just don't understand the issues. Open your eyes JACL leaders! You are now the proud owners of an organization that you have managed to divide, disrupt and deceive. The future does not hold a "business as usual" scenario for the JACL.

Before you, the readers of JACL, examine the "new ally" of the JACL today. In an era that is seeing a growing animosity towards Japanese or anything Japanese, the defender of our rights is stumbling over issues not directly related to these concerns. It appears that leadership has run to every possible cause to be "one of the guys," much like the Jesse Jackson entourage. Our once solvent organization is now facing financial hard times. Why?

Unfortunately, the JACL mir-

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Obituaries

Mikami, Mifue, 64. Morgan Hill, March 20. Survived by wife Sharon, son Harry, Kai, Dean, daughter Junko Crane, 11 gc., 4 great-gc.

Miura, George Hidemitsu, 60. Honolulu, March 27. Haleiwa-born president, CEO, semi-retired of Times SuperMarket, survived by wife Sharon, sons Kevin, Kenric, Galen, daughter Cindy Kawamoto, 2gc., brother Thomas (Calif.), sisters Irene Iwasa (Calif.), Peggy Kallit, Jane Oda, Grace Yamada.
Myioka, Tommy T, 68. Salinas, March 15; former produce company owner, survived by wife Tomiko, son Jeff, daughter Julia Andres (Buffalo Grove, Ill.), gc. brother Ben, sister Helen Yoneyama.

Mukai, Kiyono, 91. Selma, March 27. Hiroshima-born, survived by sons Makoto, Akio, daughters Sadako Sogioaka, Katsuko Matsumoto, 14 gc., 19 great-gc.

Nakamura, Helen S., 83. San Jose, March 25, survived by sons Charles, James, Harry, Donald, daughters Manori, Masada, May Morgan, 17 gc., 12 great-gc.

Natsuhara, Gilch, 67. Sacramento, March 20. Auburn, Wash. born, survived by wife Yoshi, son Glenn, sister Suwako Ogata, m-law Henry Natsuhara.

Nishikaki, Frank T., 88. Berkeley, March 4; Kanagawa-born, survived by wife Tamako, stepson Jimmy Ishida, son John, daughter Manko Helen, 1 gc.

SUIT

(Continued from page 5)

Kimura.
 In the PC board minutes of the May 22, 1993, meeting, it says, "Lillian pointed out that even if the building management makes changes, PC doesn't want to stay in its current situation."

● Ron Ohta, PC board chair, said that \$30,000 was probably a fair settlement, and that a negotiated buyout would probably have yielded similar results.

"Notwithstanding documentation, staff needed to get out. Looking at the figure I think we would have ended up at the same place," said Ohta, who became PC board chair at the February national board meeting.

"I know had proper procedure been followed, the National Board would have approved \$30,000. Is there a way to be made whole? The answer is no. But whether sued or through negotiations, we would still have had to get out," said Ohta.

Ohta said that mistakes were made on all sides, but the organization has to move forward.

"We either decide to rehash history or decide we are not going to make the same mistakes."

MARUTANI

(Continued from page 6)

what it feels like to be on the receiving end. The Japanese social order looks upon conformity as desirable and anyone who deviates from that "norm" can and does become a target. Even Japanese children who resided and were educated abroad, who then return to Japan, are often left out of the social loop.

I've heard Japanese refer to this as *shima-guni kon-jo*, literally "island mentality," i.e. small, parochial. "Psychic freedom" may provide a mental shelter, ephemeral as the high may be.

LETTERS

(Continued from page 7)

ter is clearly made without them? No one will deny that the PC should run Mr. Sogioaka's letter. However, Ms. Murakawa's marital status and sexual orientation have nothing to do with Mr. Sogioaka's complaint, except to involve the sentiments of prejudice against her.

If the PC is as professional as it claims, the editors would have to understand the effects and accusations that result from such ques-

tions and innuendos. It the PC does not understand these effects and accusations, the only conclusion I can come to is that they are incompetent.

Furthermore, the double standard practiced by the PC editors to respond in the same edition for criticisms against the PC, while exposing individuals like Ms. Murakawa to condemnation without the same opportunity to respond in the same issue is testament to the extent of how unethical the editorial practices are with respect to equal opportunity and fairness.

Ms. Murakawa's leadership, dedication and energy for the JACL civil rights mission deserves much better than the disrespect and irreverence paid by Mr. Sogioaka and the JACL's national publication.

Jimmy Takeshi

PSW Regional Director
 Los Angeles

Editor's response: The letters column of a newspaper is provided as a forum for reader views and opinions. It is offered in the spirit of free expression by a free press.

Editors believe readers have a right to comment—even when the comment is uncomfortable—even if it is sharply critical. It must not, however, be libelous.

The remarks in this case were not. The reader, Beans Sogioaka, asked Trisha Murakawa if she was gay and if she was married.

In one interpretation of the author's reasoning, whether comfortable or not, he is asking questions to which if the answers are yes then that might explain her support for this issue. If she is gay, in Sogioaka's mind, that explains her support, her personal interest and motivation in proposing this measure.

The bottom line is that Sogioaka's comments are phrased as questions and not statements or accusations.

And as Bill Hosokawa pointed out, Murakawa is a public official and must realize that as such she must expect criticism. She raised a controversial issue. Members have a right to take issue with her. Right, wrong, logical or stupid, readers have a right to be heard.

As editor I find many editorials and letters distasteful. In fact, I did not like Sogioaka's letter. But I have also printed letters from at least two National Board members that were personal attacks on me. But in the same spirit of free expression, I printed those attacks—no less uncomfortable or reprehensible in my view.

Sogioaka is narrow minded, says reader

I've been a silent member of JACL for a few years, but Beans Sogioaka's letter in the May 6-12 issue of PC regarding the "same sex" issue compels me to comment.

What difference does it make whether Trisha Murakawa is married? Is it important to know if she's a lesbian? Or is it his contention that married and/or straight people are not interested in protecting the civil rights of others? His thinly-veiled accusation implies you would think less of Ms. Murakawa if she were an unmarried lesbian. Let's have some disclosure and discovery here, and ask some questions of you: Is Beans Sogioaka... only interested in JACL for personal benefit? Perhaps it is this narrow-minded elitism that is driving many Sansei from JACL.

From the perspective of Sansei and Yonsei, JACL has been primarily an advocate for our parents' and grandparents' generations. We do not begrudge them that. JACL has served them well, and succeeding generations will continue to benefit from those ef-

forts. The time has come, though, to look beyond rectifying inequities of the past and beyond the present, and address the concerns of the future. By my reckoning, the "same-sex issue" is one of those concerns. Just as we have supported the redress of abridged civil rights in the past, we ask you to support civil rights guarantees in the future.

Steve Ikeda

Stockton, Calif.

Same-sex matter is really a gender issue

I am happy to see that the Honolulu Chapter's and Pacific Southwest District Council's expressions of support for same-sex marriage rights have created a lively exchange of ideas in *Pacific Citizen*. It is important that the underlying issues in this matter be addressed openly, regardless of the eventual outcome in the Baehr vs. Lewin case in Hawaii.

I would like to remind readers and writers, however, that the case itself is not, per se, centered on sexual orientation but on gender discrimination. There is, for example, nothing prohibiting a gay man and a lesbian woman from marrying each other in Hawaii (or in other states insofar as I am aware). There is no particular state-prescribed sexual orientation criterion for issuance of a marriage license. There is no requirement, of course, that couples agree to any particular type of sexual relations in order to obtain such a license. Sexual orientation and/or prospective sexual relations are, therefore, legally speaking, not relevant to the issuance of the license. People choose whether or not to avail themselves of the rights conferred by a state-legitimized relationship for a variety of reasons. Sex may or may not be one of the reasons. Generally speaking these days it is not among the more important reasons to get married. I would remind readers that not a few opposite-sex marriages are entered into and maintained for reasons other than sexual enjoyment or propagation.

That being said, the outcome of the case will of course predominantly affect persons who consider themselves gay or lesbian. But again, to the extent that the state considers private consensual relations between adults off-limits to state intrusion (which is constitutionally the case in Hawaii), how persons in same-sex marriages choose to occupy their private time is a non-issue. I am dismayed but not surprised by responses such as that of Mr. Sogioaka. He appears to be confusing what is most likely a church-derived concept of marriage with the government-supported social contract which, for better or for worse, is also called marriage. I hope he will eventually learn to this distinction, as well as realize the importance of protecting arbitrary or rank discrimination by government agencies. I would also point out to him that Trisha Murakawa's private life is no more at issue than his own.

Finally, with all due respect, I would like to enlighten Ruth Mizobe as to the phrase "gay lifestyle." It is, essentially, a code term cooked up by the radical right over the past decade or so, and seems to imply promiscuity (as if heterosexuals have never engaged in such). There is no more such thing as a "gay lifestyle" than there is a "straight life-style", unless associating with friends as a building and seeking to legitimize relationships is particularly "gay." Thanks for the support, Ruth, but please don't buy into the opposing side's jargon!

James J. Nelson
 Honolulu Chapter, JACL