



Pacific Citizen

National Publication of the Japanese American Citizens League

Board members
defend same-sex
position—p. 6

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Photo: LEY OKURA

Memorial Day service

The 46th annual JACL Memorial Day service was held Sunday, May 29, at Arlington National Cemetery's Columbarium Ceremonial Courtyard. Among those attending were, from left, K. Patrick Okura, past national JACL president, John C. Mettler, Jr., superintendent, Arlington National Cemetery, Phil Ishio, president of Japanese American Veterans Association, and Turner Kobayashi, chairman of the event. In addition to gravesite visitation, JACL members placed a wreath at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier.

House subcommittee includes \$5 million for redress education fund

The House Appropriations Subcommittee for Commerce, State, Justice and the Judiciary voted June 8 to include a \$5 million appropriation for the Civil Liberties Public Education Fund. President Bill Clinton had included a request for the \$5 million in the budget he sent to Congress earlier this year.

The Japanese American Citizens League (JACL) has made appropriations for the Education Fund a priority for this year and were very concerned after Congressman Harold Rogers (R-Ky.)

made a series of disparaging remarks during the hearings this year. Rogers has been an opponent of redress from the beginning. Congress failed to pass any appropriation last year.

JACL National Director Randy Senzaki praised the subcommittee for recognizing the importance of the fund and for working to fulfill the commitment of the Civil Liberties Act of 1988, saying, "Chairman Alan Mollohan (D-W.V.) has long been a staunch supporter of redress, as has Neil Smith (D-Iowa), Bob Carr (D-

Mich.), David Skaggs (D-Colo.) and David Price (D-N.C.). We commend them for their continued commitment to fulfilling the spirit of the Civil Liberties Act, particularly in this tough time of budget retrenchment."

Senzaki added, "Congressmen Norman Mineta (D-Calif.) and Robert Matsui (D-Calif.) have done an enormous amount of work in ensuring that the subcommittee members know how important this fund is to the Japanese American community. Mineta and Matsui personally talked with the leadership. Congressman Mineta was successful in persuading even the ranking minority subcommittee member, Congressman Rogers, to support the full appropriation. The community owes them an enormous debt of gratitude for their efforts."

"The grassroots effort has been extremely helpful to date, but we still have a long way to go," cautioned JACL Washington Representative Karen Narasaki. The vote in the full Appropriations Committee was scheduled for June 15 and the vote on the House floor was scheduled for June 21. Then it's on to the Senate where we will need to overcome any opposition by Sen. Ernest Hollings (D-S.C.). We urge the community to keep contacting their members of Congress."

California Asian incumbents fare well in primaries

By HARRY K. HONDA
Editor emeritus

Despite the fact that the turnout for the June 7 California primaries was the lowest turnout in history at 32.9% of the state's 14.2 million registered voters, Asian American incumbents and several challengers managed to stay for the November runoff.

Congressional incumbents, Reps. Robert Matsui (D-5th Dist., Sacramento) and Norman Mineta (D-15th Dist., San Jose), were unopposed, garnering 56,048 and 45,369 votes respectively. Rep. Jay Kim (R-41st Dist., Diamond Bar) fended off four challengers to win with 13,304 (41%). "Despite the negative publicity I had, the voters had faith to send me back," the first Korean American congressman said. "I tell you, I am deeply touched."

In a second bid, Mark Takano (D-43rd Dist., Riverside) will again run against Ken Calvert (R) in November. The Riverside Yankee finished with 20,394, a 70% margin in the two-way race.

Of note: In the 8th and 9th Congressional district primaries, Elsa C. Cheung (R) of San Francisco



MINETA



MATSUI



KIM



TAKANO



TAKASUGI

and Emma Wong Mar (Peace & Freedom) of Alameda were unopposed respectively. Also-runs were Doris Liu (15th Dist.) of San Jose, Sang Korman (24th Dist.) of Calabasas and John A. Furutani (26th Dist.) of San Fernando, all Republicans.

In the statewide races, Matthew K. Fong of Hacienda Heights was unopposed for the Republican nomination for the open treasurer's spot. A member of the State Board of Equalization, Fong scored with 1,565,360 votes. Former Los Angeles city councilman Michael Woo was second 38 to 32% to the Democratic nominee for another vacant post as secretary of state. Woo had 637,824 votes. March Fong Eu had vacated

the post when President Clinton appointed her U.S. ambassador to Micronesia earlier this year.

In the 40-seat California Senate, Torrance City Councilman George Nakano, who sought to unseat State Senator Ralph Dills (D) in the 28th District Democratic primaries, came in second (17,114 - 34% to Dills' 23,366 - 47%). Dills is a longtime Gardena Valley JACL Life member. Yong Tai Lee of Los Angeles was the lone GOP candidate in the 22nd District and had 5,880 votes.

In the 80-seat California Assembly, lone Asian American incumbent Nao Takasugi (R-37th Dist., Thousand Oaks, Oxnard) was unopposed for nomination and will face two challengers, who were

also unopposed. Takasugi polled 23,282, while the Democratic candidate had 16,454.

Perhaps the first-Nikkei to be "re-elected" to office even though he had died May 5, a month before the election of June 7, the late San Jose City Councilman George Shirakawa won with a 62% majority (3,323 of the 5,362 cast). His family and son George Shirakawa, Jr., kept on campaigning in order to seek a special election early next year. Three have applied, including Shirakawa Jr., to finish out the term ending the end of this year.

The second part of PC's election coverage will appear in the July 17 issue.

Yamashita seeks to correct U.S. Navy appeals process

Continuing his fight against racial discrimination in the Marines Corps, Bruce Yamashita June 8 filed new appeals with two Navy personnel boards in Washington, D.C.

"These actions are aimed at guaranteeing that those who suffer racial harassment and discrimination in the course of military training have a forum where their complaints can be heard," said Yamashita. "My experience with these boards revealed a system that is unconstitutional. We

are acting to correct an injustice that requires those who choose to serve their country and defend the Constitution to forsake the very rights afforded under the Constitution."

Yamashita filed appeals with the Board for Correction of Naval Records (BCNR) and the Naval Discharge Review Board (NDRB), asking both to rule on whether they have jurisdiction to consider the issues raised by his case. Those issues involve his "disenrollment"

See YAMASHITA/page 3

JACL opposes Clinton welfare reform proposal

Charging that the measures discriminate against legal immigrants, the Japanese American Citizens League (JACL) expressed its opposition to certain provisions in the welfare reform proposal announced June 14 by President Bill Clinton. To find money in the budget to pay for reform measures, the bill makes non-citizens legally ineligible in the U.S. ineligible for a minimum five-

year period for Supplemental Security Income (SSI), Aid to Families with Dependent Children (AFDC) and Food Stamps. It also would allow states and local governments to deny general assistance to these legal immigrants, a provision that presents a constitutional issue that may be challenged in the courts.

The SSI program provides
See WELFARE/page 3

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Calendar

- ### Hawaii Honolulu
- Sun. Mon., July 3—Solidarity for Sovereignty torchlight parade, 5-6 p.m. Sun. from Diamondhead to Ala Moana Center Park through Waikiki to Kapoli Park. Re-enactment of the Republic of Hawaii 100 years ago, workshops, 10 a.m.—sunset Mon., Iolani Palace. NOTE—JACL Honolulu Chapter is among co-sponsoring 25 groups. June Shimokawa, organizer.
- ### East Coast U.S. Washington, D.C.
- Sun. June 26—JACL Washington DC law well dinner for Leslie Hatayama, 4 p.m., China Garden, 1100 Wilson Blvd., Rosslyn, Va. 703/525-5317. NOTE—Hatayama is Stanford Law School board in July.
- Fri. July 22—Application deadline for 4th annual Okura Mental Health Leadership Foundation program, "Week in Washington," Sept. 11-17. Open to Asian Pacific Americans in social work, mental health, substance abuse and related health and human services between ages 25-40 interested in assuming a leadership role in the community and nationally. Contact: Okura Miki, Foundation, 6303 Friendship Court, Bethesda, MD 20817.
- ### Midwest Chicago
- Fri. July 22—JACL Chicago golf tournament, 9 a.m., Pinecrest Golf Course, Algonquin Rd. east of Hwy 47, Huntley. NOTE—\$38 per person lunch & refreshment included. Info: JACL Office, 5415 N. Clark St., Chicago, IL 60640; 312/728-7170.
- ### Dayton
- Sun. July 10—JACL Dayton picnic, 1-4 p.m., Wilson Park Pavilion, West Carrollton. Info: Danil Salada, 513/208-1252. NOTE: Cincinnati and Hoosier chapter members expected.
- ### Milwaukee
- Sun. Aug. 14—JACL Wisconsin picnic, Deer Park.
- ### Mpls.-St. Paul
- Sun. June 26—JACL Twin Cities summer picnic at Lake Cornelia Park, Portland. Info: John Nakasone, 612/846-6999.
- ### Intermountain Salt Lake City
- July 8-16—JANM-UCLA Exhibit, "View from Within: Japanese American Art from the Intermountain Camps, 1942-45." Salt Lake Art Center. NOTE—The JACL Convention opening social Aug. 3 will be held at this locale.
- ### Pacific Northwest Seattle
- Sat. June 25—Festival of Fashion Kanoo show, 1-5 p.m., Seattle Buddhist Church, 1427 S. Main St., additional try-ons Sun. 12-3 p.m. Adm \$3, info: 206/772-4843, 784-3624. Co-sponsors: Seattle JACL and Seattle Adult Buddhist Ass'n.
- Sat. Aug. 20—Countryside League reunion, SeaTac Rec Lcn. Info: Jugu Hata, 206/481-9119, 4819 S. Spencer St., Seattle, WA 98118.

JACL national conventions highlights

- Following are activities scheduled for the JACL biennial convention, Aug. 3-7 in Salt Lake City.
- **Youth activities**—Events for the youth include a youth luncheon Saturday, Aug. 6, hosted by the JACL National Youth Council. Cost: \$15 to daily registrants and convention package purchasers. (Luncheon included in the youth package.) In addition, representatives from the FBI, the Department of Transportation and the U.S. Secret Service will be on hand to discuss minority employment opportunities.
 - **Topaz**—A bus trip to Topaz and a workshop entitled "Topaz remembered" are scheduled to present the history of the internment camp. The trip is on Sunday, Aug. 7 and includes transportation to and from Delta, Utah, and lunch. Cost: \$20.
 - **Tennis**—The National Convention Tennis Tournament is looking for tennis playing conventioners. The tournament is scheduled for Wednesday, Aug. 3, 8 a.m. Participants in the round-robin doubles competition must arrive by Tuesday evening, Aug. 2. So far, only one out-of-town JACL member has signed up. The committee wants a minimum of 20 convention players to be matched by local players to hold

- ### Portland
- Sun. July 24—JACL Gresham-Troudale picnic, Blue Lake Park.
- ### Nevada Las Vegas
- Sun. June 26—JACL Las Vegas shopping spree at the Flamingo, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Info: 702/877-0251.
- ### California Sacramento Valley
- Sat. July 16—Obon Festival, Marysville Budd Temple.
- ### San Francisco
- Fri. June 24—Granddaughter Kim Kodan Hill side-lecture of her grandfather's book, "Obata's Yosemite," 7:30 p.m., Book Passage, 511 Taniel Vista Blvd., Corte Madera, 415/927-0990.
- July date (TBA)—JACL San Francisco benefits screening: Pat Saunders and Raj Tairi video, "Yuri Kuroki: Passion for Justice," and world premiere of Ken Kashima's "Note on a Scale" featuring Tamlyn Tomita. AMC Kabuki Theaters, 1481 Post St., San Francisco, info: 415/678-6785. NOTE—Proceeds for Brucke Yamahita Legal Defense Fund.
- Sun. July 10—Nikkei Widowed Group, 2-4 p.m. Info: Elaine Udochi 415/221-0268. Yuri Monks: 510/482-3280.
- ### Peninsula
- Sat. Sun. June 25-26—San Mateo Buddhist Temple bazaar, 2-5 Claremont St.
- Sun. July 10—JACL San Mateo/Yoshiko Kojima memorial golf tournament, Muni course at Coyote Point. RSVP by June 26. Info: Arai, 745 Pico Ave., San Mateo, CA 94403, 415/549-3590.
- ### Eastbay
- Sun. June 26—JACL Berkeley-Crocker Costa-Dalmeida Valley picnic, 10 a.m.-6:30 p.m., Pleasant Hill Community Park, Gregory Lane, Pleasant Hill. Info: Scott Yokoi 510/685-4225, Don Delillo 510/223-1352. Mike & Leah Hamachi 510/461-4021.
- Mon. June 27—East Bay Nikkei Singles (EBNS) mochi-making demonstration by Tokyo Nikkei, 7 p.m. Union Bank, 800 Harrison St., Oakland.
- Sun. July 2—EBNS fund-raiser, Midway's Country Field, 2200 Gravenstein Hwy South, Sebastopol. Info: Joe Korematsu 510/355-1855, May Takashima 510/531-1789.
- Sun. July 10—EBNS champagne brunch, 10 a.m., Alameda NAS Officers' Mess, Bldg 60, RSVF. July 1, EBNS: Ross Imazumi, 14533 Acapulco Rd. San Leandro, CA 94577.
- Mon. Aug. 15—JASEB/Union Bank invitational golf tournament, Round Hill golf course, Alamo. Info: 510/488-3590.
- ### San Jose
- Wed. July 6-Sat. 7—Couples ballroom dancing, 7-9 p.m., Yu-Ai-Kai/Japanese American Community Center Services, 588 N. 4th St. San Jose. Info: 408/284-2505. NOTE—Ballroom line dancing class meets 2-4 p.m. Thurs.
- Sat. Sun. July 9-10—Obon Festival, San Jose Buddhist Temple.
- Sat. Aug. 20—JACL West Valley Dharma

- Festival, Saratoga Lanes parking lot, San Jose.
- ### Salinas-Monterey
- Sun. July 31—Obon Festival, 11 a.m. Monterey Peninsula Buddhist Temple.
- ### Fresno
- Sat. July 23—Central Cal Nikkei Foundation casino night, 6 p.m., steak dinner, gaming and auction till 10 p.m., Fresno Buddhist Church Annex, 1340 Kern St. July 5 deadline for tickets available on pre-sale basis only. \$250 play money for \$25. CC Nikkei Fund, 912 F. St. Fresno, CA 93706; info: 209/237-4006.
- Fri. Sun. Sept. 9-11—Heart Mountain Reunion, Fairmount Hotel, Info: Reunion Committee, 780 Santa Rita, Los Altos, CA 94022. NOTE—Exhibits, golf, Class of 44 50th Anniversary social, mixer, banquet and Sayonara breakfast.
- ### Los Angeles-Orange
- Yat. June 27—JACL Nakano Nagano Shamsen recital, 8 p.m., Harbor Calicut Music Hall, 1111 Figueroa Pl., Wilmington, 310/515-4785. NOTE—"Potion Sorcery" with comedy: Gen. Houchu at the piano, Lilian Nakano shamisen.
- Sat. June 25—Orange County Sanku Singles/Tennis Convention, polo/pickup tennis, 11 a.m.-5 p.m., Centerra Park East, 169th and Ironbrook Rd., info: 310/434-4889.
- Sun. June 26—JACL South Bay Scholarship concert reception, 1-4 p.m., Merritt Park Community Hall, 58 Merritt Park Dr., Gardena. NOTE—Introducing Kristi Hayashida, chapter queen.
- Sun. June 26—JANM workshop, "Discover Your June 27," 2 p.m., 389 E. 1st St., LA. Info: 213/625-0414.
- Sun. June 26—"Rhythm of Ryukyu Islands" dance and music from Japan, 2 p.m., UCLA Woodworth Theater, Tickets: UCLA 310/625-2101 or M&T Uyenara Travel 213/860-2499.
- NOTE—Troupe led by Masao Shimabukuro living National Treasures grand master. NOTE—Previously held in San Francisco Bay Area showcasing computer graphics, animation industry and related art.
- Fri. July 2—Obon Festival, West Covina Buddhist Temple, 1-10 p.m., JPOV, Japanese Community Center, 1203 W. Puente Ave., West Covina, 618/339-6326.
- Thu. July 14—LEAP Leadership Awards dinner, 6 p.m., Hyatt Regency Ballroom, 711 S. Hope St., LA. RSVP June 27, Linda Akutagawa at LEAP 213/422 or fax 213/485-0050. NOTE—Rep. Norman Mineta, keynote awardees: Lucille Bowell, Dhyan Lal, Hon. Mineta, Angela Oh, East-West Japanese Frank Wain, etc.
- Sat. Sun. July 9-10—LA City Rec & Park's Lotus Festival, noon-9 p.m., Echo Park (end of lake). Information to set up—Community booths: Billie Carey 213/666-5058 or Henry Davis 213/527-1863, food booths: Peter Mammoth 213/955-4755.
- ### Riverside
- Sun. June 26—JACL community picnic, 11 a.m., Sylvan Park, Redlands.
- ### San Diego
- Sun. June 26—JACL San Diego community picnic, 10 a.m.-5, DelMar Cove, Mission Bay. Info: Mas Hironaka 619/230-0314.

Small kid time



Gwen Muranaka



San Francisco newspaper covers JACL split on same-sex

The ambience and warmth of a Sunday in San Francisco June 19 attracted thousands watching and frolicking with the gays and lesbians marching down Market Street. A similar celebration marking the 25th anniversary of the Stonewall rebellion was being held in New York.

Reading the Sunday morning *Examiner-Chronicle*, its major story on the Metro section by *Examiner* staff writer Steven A. Chin sported this headline: "Asian group split on gay rights — Japanese American Citizens League's counsel quits over board's support of same-sex marriage."

On news radio the rest of the day, listeners throughout Northern California heard

the gist of the 800-word story.

The *Examiner-Chronicle* carried legal counsel Allen Kato's reasons for resignation, National President Lillian Kimura's acknowledgment, background of the issue as presented by the Hawaii chapter, the *Boehr v. Lewin* case, then JACL's role in the passage of redress legislation and prospect of a lively national convention, Aug. 3-7, in Salt Lake City over a Mt. Olympus Chapter, JACL, proposal retracting the National Board's resolution. "It's a stage you have to go through as an organization," said Randy Senzaki, JACL national director. "You can choose to stay quiet, or you can move forward, being intelligent and

courageous on human rights."

Carol Hayashino, JACL assistant national director, explained, "The same-sex issue was a very natural progression in our direction as a civil rights organization. The rationale being used to oppose same-sex marriages is very similar to the arguments, once used to prohibit Asians from marrying whites: It's immoral, it would be harmful to society."

Senzaki said, "We want to stretch the envelope a little, but not break the bubble. Because of cultural factors, I think this is difficult for many members."

The *Examiner-Chronicle* also noted those who denounced the May 22 National Board

action (10 ayes, 3 nays, 2 abstaining), saying the leadership had taken JACL "beyond the scope of its original purpose."

Also included in the article were excerpts from Bill Hosokawa's column and Bart Shibata's letter from Redondo Beach in the June 10-16 P.C.

May Yamamoto, 30, of Los Angeles and a member of the APAN Chapter, JACL, speaking publicly as a lesbian for the first time, told reporter Chin, "It's become a war between the liberals and conservatives. It makes me really upset what a lot of the conservatives have written."

Harry K. Honda.

WELFARE

(Continued from page 1)

support for indigent elderly, blind and disabled Americans. Because many states tie eligibility for Medicaid to SSI or AFDC, many legal immigrants may also be cut off from health care. The income of the sponsors of legal immigrants would be counted in determining eligibility for these programs for five years (up from the current three years). Noncitizens, even those with Permanent Legal Resident status, would not be eligible even after 5 years if their sponsors have more income than the most recent measures of U.S. median family income (the latest is \$36,800), regardless of family size, geographic location or actual support.

JACL National Director Randy

Senzaki explained JACL's opposition saying, "While we applaud the administration for tackling welfare reform, we believe that this proposal discriminates against legal immigrants and their families. In addition to hurting the most vulnerable in our community, the proposal will add fuel to attacks on legal immigrants and those who look or sound foreign. It threatens to engulf serious discussion about welfare reform with a volatile debate over immigration policy."

JACL Washington Representative Karen Narasaki added, "The measure will be particularly harmful and unfair to Asian Pacific American immigrants who tend to live in larger households in high cost urban areas in California, New York, New Jersey, Massachusetts and Illinois. Be-

cause of the difficulty of learning English for elderly Asian immigrants, citizenship is often not a realistic option."

YAMASHITA

(Continued from page 1)

from Marine Officer Candidate School (OCS) in 1989 following ten weeks of racial and ethnic harassment.

In January 1993, the NDRB ruled that it lacked jurisdiction to decide four issues raised by Yamashita during an eight-hour hearing in November 1992. In its decision, however, the NDRB expressed doubt as to whether any federal agency had the authority to rule on those issues which dealt with whether the racial harassment directed at Yamashita violated military regulations, ad-

versely affected OCS evaluations, or comprised a conspiracy against minority OCS candidates. Two months later, the BCNR claimed it could not consider Yamashita's case because records from OCS are not "official."

"Clearly, there is a significant problem involving due process and equal protection under the law if no agency of the federal government has jurisdiction over these matters," said Yamashita. "We are filing these appeals as a step toward resolving once and for all the legal limbo that thousands of young Americans unknowingly enter once they enter in the military."

The appeal to the NDRB asks that a hearing take place on the merits of Yamashita's case and that the board act to resolve the issues of discrimination raised.

The BCNR appeal asks for recognition of the board's jurisdiction over the case, and seeks to correct or delete negative OCS evaluations because of the taint of racial discrimination and provide for an officer's commission retroactive to 1989 and subsequent service credit and back pay.

Yamashita was commissioned Mar. 18 as a captain in the Marines Corps Reserves. Under the terms of his commission, he is entitled to pursue further action to correct any remaining error or injustice that exists.

Reminder

Emergency resolutions and amendments must be submitted to the Resolution and Amendments chairperson at the JACL national convention site by Aug. 4.

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Report: 335 anti-Asian hate crimes occurred in '93

A year of violence. In 1993 according to the National Asian Pacific American Legal Consortium (NAPALC), there was an incident of anti-Asian sentiment for almost every day of the year. There were 335 reported anti-Asian incidents including at least 30 homicides where racism was either proven or suspected in 1993, according to a nationwide audit conducted by the NAPALC. The NAPALC, founded by the Asian Law Caucus (San Francisco), the Asian American Legal Defense Fund (New York) and the Asian Pacific American Legal Center (Los Angeles), is a non-profit civil and legal rights organization.

NAPALC noted that there is severe underreporting of anti-Asian violence and that comprehensive data is difficult to obtain. The first such study of its kind, findings included:

- Of the 335 anti-Asian incidents, 153 were demonstrable incidents of anti-Asian motivation and 182 where animus was suspected. Likewise, of the 30 homicides, 26 had to be classified as suspected rather than proven racial animus. NAPALC cited inadequate investigation by local law enforcement or lack of corroborating evidence as reasons for doubt about the motivation behind the homicides.
- In incidents where anti-Asian sentiment was proven, most commonly reported were: assault (31, or 20% of all incidents), vandalism (26 or 14%) and threats or intimidation (14 or 9%). In cases where

anti-Asian sentiment was suspected but not proven included aggravated assault (33 or 18%), assault (30 or 17%) and homicide (26 or 14%).

- Asian Pacific Americans are most vulnerable where they reside (42 or 28% of incidents), and at commercial business sites (16 or 10%).

According to the NAPALC, factors which contribute to anti-Asian violence include:

- Increases in Asian Pacific American population, amid a widespread perception of limited national resources.
- An ongoing economic recession that intensifies economic competition between racial and ethnic groups.
- Decreases in social services attributable to the recessionary economy but blamed on recent immigrants.
- Poor police response to hate crimes.
- Deep-seated racial hatred, exacerbated by organized hate group activities and scapegoating by politicians.
- Insensitive media coverage of minority groups and issues, leading to the perpetuation of stereotypes.

Recommendations made by NAPALC to help combat anti-Asian violence include:

- Hate crimes should be swiftly and completely condemned by political, religious, business, community, and education leaders.
- All suspected hate crimes should be thoroughly investigated.

- All federal, state, and local agencies charged with the collection of hate crime statistics under the Federal Hate Crimes Statistics Act and similar local laws should collect those statistics promptly and completely, with threat of economic disincentives for non-complying jurisdictions.
- More funding should be given to the Justice Department's Community Relations Service and other efforts to bring communities together before explosive incidents result in injuries and property damage.
- Greater attention on all levels of government should be paid to increasing economic redevelopment in impoverished inner cities.
- More Asian-language interpreters should be hired in courts and police stations located near Asian Pacific American communities.
- Ethnically and linguistically diverse police officers on federal, state, and local levels should be recruited, screened and given multicultural communication, collaboration and dispute-resolution training.
- Independent prosecutors should be appointed when local prosecutors are not adequately addressing suspected anti-Asian animus.
- Specialized hate crime units for prosecutor and law enforcement offices should be established where appropriate.
- Asian Pacific American victims should be more vigilant about reporting hate crimes.

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Opinions



From the frying pan

BILL HOSOKAWA

Will JACL reduce its spending?

In terms of family, Uncle Sam is a spend-thrift. Year after year he spends more money than he brings in. So he borrows to keep going and each year his debts grow larger and larger.

He knows he cannot go on this way forever. Regularly, he vows to reduce his spending and begin to pay off some of his debts, or at least not go so far into the red each year. But he hasn't succeeded. There are always too many things to spend on, and it is impossible to increase his income substantially.

Bankruptcy would bring about dire problems, but Uncle Sam isn't too worried about that because he is the government. He could simply print more money. That would bring about inflation and falling confidence in the economy and the government, but that is another matter.

It doesn't work that way with a non-governmental organization like JACL which, too, has been running in the red and is projected to continue spending more than it takes in. Unless it cuts its spending or increases its income, it will go broke and have to go out of business. That is inevitable.

The trend, as revealed by secretary/treasurer Jonathan Kaji, is not encouraging. He reported:

In 1993 JACL went in the hole by \$75,000. Already in 1994 spending is \$39,000 greater than it was at the same time last year, while income is down \$23,000. That's a difference of \$62,000.

Budget projections indicate a shortfall of \$64,000 in 1995 and \$118,000 in 1996.

It doesn't take an MBA to understand JACL to remain solvent must increase income or slash spending.

We are told that the National Board is considering dues increases of \$2 to \$36 in 1995 and another \$2 to \$40 in 1996. Assuming that 22,500 members agree to kick in \$2 each in 1995, JACL would realize an increase in income of \$45,000. This will help balance the budget if spending is kept in check, but the projected additional income still is less than past, present and projected future deficits in an annual budget that exceeds a million dollars.

While \$2 is small change these days, there is a question about how such a dues increase in each of two successive years will be accepted by the membership. There are

suggestions of staging benefits to raise funds, but benefits require popular support.

The proposal to increase the cost of JACL membership surfaces at a difficult time. Judging from the unusual volume of mail *Pacific Citizen* has been receiving, the national leadership's endorsement of same-sex marriages has upset many. Some readers, unfortunately, have decided not to renew subscriptions which is an unsatisfying but traditional form of protest.

Even the leadership is in disarray. Allen Kato, JACL's legal counsel, has resigned in protest. In the absence of solid indication that JACL can get its act together, a dues increase is likely to be all the excuse many need to leave the organization. Talk of an aggressive membership drive has a hollow ring to it.

Meanwhile, we await news about how JACL will reduce its spending. ☐

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

Letters

Member starts fund to support *Pacific Citizen*

Having been a columnist for the *Pacific Citizen*, my concern for the well-being of our JACL paper may be much warmer and stronger than that of the average JACLer.

Most PC readers are disturbed by the charges and countercharges made against the PC, its staff and its board over the past half year. The latest was the National Board vote on whether to facilitate the transfer of membership funds to PC. The board members knew that PC had fiscal problems, yet pettiness or peevishness decided this issue.

If the membership dues are to be raised to \$40 from \$36, this certainly should include a pro rata raise for PC from \$12 to \$13.25. Realistically, the increase should be larger, or say \$16 since this paper is the only material benefit that the average member is receiving today.

Of more immediate concern is the payment of the \$30,000 lawsuit settlement, stemming from the move from the 701 E. Third St. to Monterey Park. Although local residents warned me, I've walked the several blocks from Little Tokyo to Third Street but only in broad daylight, and ever cautiously. The faster PC moved out from this "no man's land" to Monterey Park the better. The alternative to \$30,000 could have been bodily harm to a PC staffer or a visitor. Who would have paid for that?

I recall that some years ago, the PC started a drive to raise some funds for typesetting equipment. In time the drive paid for the new equipment. Since there seems to be no initiative on the part of the National Board to resolve this payment, other than to criticize, I would like to propose a fund drive.

For the past 2½ years, I have been writing a weekly column for *The Record*, a Gannett paper with circulation of over 60,000, on topics of my choice. My monthly remuneration is \$140.

I am sending a check for \$150 as the starting contribution towards the expeditious payment of the lawsuit settlement, with the hope that other readers would also express their feelings with a contribution.

Barry Saiki
Stockton, Calif.

Editor's response: Thank you for both your written and monetary support. *Pacific Citizen* staff would also take this opportunity to thank the many members who have called with words of encouragement and support.

See LETTERS/page 7

Come-on Sense

KARL K. NOBUYUKI

Change for change sake?

I have recently reviewed national JACL's report from the Committee on Organization Structure (COS), and was impressed with the efforts put forth by the COS. However, the proposed amendments do not appear to stand up to scrutiny. Here is my summarized analysis of the COS recommendations:

In brief, it appears that the rationale for amending the Bylaws is based primarily upon subjective opinions. There is very little data to support the recommendations. There is no *prima facie* case for change. It appears the proposals will increase cost and add confusion.

Second, the COS plan calls for a reordering of Vice President assignments. However, one observes that often, Vice Presidents do not govern their functions as assigned under the current Bylaws. Under this pattern, it would make no difference if the titles and tasks change.

For example, under the existing bylaws, the study conducted by COS should be under the guidance of the Vice President of General Operations (BYLAWS, Art. VII, Sec. 1 (c)).

Third, the creation of Vice President for Fund Development suggests that one per-

son be designated as the principle fundraiser. We suggest that the issue of fund-raising should best remain with the entire Executive Committee and/or Board. More so, matters of fund-raising can be under the President, Treasurer and National Executive Director. We believe that the former and latter would be a more cost-effective method for effectuating the organization's fund raising endeavors. Further, the organization has several revenue producing ventures (i.e., *Pacific Citizen*, Endowment Fund, Legacy Fund, Scholarships): will these areas be under the guidance of the Vice President for Fund Development?

Fourth, the creation of District Representatives on the National Board is redundant. It creates another layer to the Chapter and is likely to pull valuable leadership resources away from the district. Since chapters are primarily linked to Chapters, it seems that to further accentuate the distance from national would be unwise.

Fifth, At-large National Board members are unnecessary and raise questions about their organizational accountability. Such members would be linked to the addition of two additional vice-presidents, but without specific duties. The cost for this addition

without substantiating data is unjustified.

Sixth, the proposed changes to the National Nominations Committee would politicize the nomination process. Presently, nominations come from the ground up rather than the top down. I disagree that a youth representative be included. The youth program has been unable to meet the Constitutional definition of "youth."

Seventh, the addition of several Standing Committees appears unnecessary unless the funding of such committees is addressed first. Standing committees are discussed under Robert's (Sec. 47) and it appears the functions of the proposed committees could well be standing committees of the National Board rather than the National Council. A mandatory standard for National Council Standing Committees should be funding.

COME-ON SENSE: If it ain't broke why fix it? ☐

Nobuyuki, a former JACL national director, is a member of the San Fernando Valley and Greater Los Angeles Singles Chapters. JACL's column appears regularly in the *Pacific Citizen*.



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The opinions, views and statements in the editorials, columns and cartoons appearing in *Pacific Citizen* are those of the authors and as such do not necessarily represent the Japanese American Citizens League. *Pacific Citizen* editorials, columns, and cartoons of staff will be clearly labeled as such.

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Voices

By R. MIKE HAMACHI

NCWNP same-sex decision a result of misleading actions

I would like to inform the JACL membership of what really happened at the May 1 NCWNP District meeting, hosted by the San Benito County Chapter. As one might expect beforehand, the same-sex marriage issue proposed by the Honolulu Chapter (draft resolution) was the "hot" topic of discussion.

After much discussion on the issue, a proposal was made by the Sonoma County Chapter to bring the question up for vote by limiting the Honolulu resolution to only numbers 1 and 2 and dropping number 3 which stated, as follows (See Honolulu resolution at right):

"3. Supports the concept of same-sex marriages as a civil right that should not be denied because of a person's sexual orientation."

The result of the voting on the modified version of the Honolulu Chapter resolution (i.e., minus resolve number 3) was 12 1/2 for, 3 1/2 against and one abstention—a total of 17 votes were cast. The Diablo Valley Chapter voted with the understanding that we were all voting only for resolve numbers 1 and 2, only for the sake of expressing how far we in the JACL organization had gone and to the extent we were willing to go in the area of civil/human rights—we certainly felt that we were not ready to vote in support of the concept of same sex marriages (resolve number 3) at the time of the San Benito District meeting. I believe the position of the 17 chapters present were very clear to John Hayashi, (NCWNP vice governor, who was chairing the session) because later he found it proper to try bringing back resolve number 3 for re-voting, but after some discussion a motion

Honolulu Chapter resolution on same-sex

1. Reaffirm its support for equal opportunity for all Americans with regard to race, creed, color, religion, age, sex, sexual orientation or disability; and

2. Finds that the prohibition of same sex marriages are a violation of civil and human rights and the Equal Protection and Due Process Clauses of the Fourteenth Amendment of the U.S. Constitution; and

3. Supports the concept of same-sex marriages as a civil right that should not be denied because of a person's sexual orientation.

was made to table it and the motion was so carried.

The position of the Diablo Valley Chapter at the time of voting on resolve numbers 1 and 2 can best be described by what JACL legal counsel Allen Kato, who subsequently resigned, is quoted as saying:

"As a lawyer, I believe there is a fundamental difference between laws which prohibit discrimination in employment and housing on account of someone's sexual orientation (i.e., a 'prohibitory' law) from a law which requires all law-abiding citizens to recognize the legal validity and sanctity of a homosexual marriage (i.e., a mandatory law)."

Since there are no laws (federal and state) approving (mandating) homosexual mar-

National Board resolution on same-sex

1. Reaffirm its support for equal opportunity for all Americans with regard to race, creed, color, religion, age, sex, sexual orientation or disability; and

2. Finds that the prohibition of same sex marriages are a violation of civil and human rights and the Equal Protection and Due Process Clauses of the Fourteenth Amendment of the U.S. Constitution; and

3. Supports the concept of marriages as a constitutional right that should not be denied because of a person's sexual orientation.

riages, we felt it was only appropriate to vote on the concept of a modified version (i.e., without resolve number 3) of the Honolulu Chapter resolution (draft)—knowing that the Hawaii State Legislature would take some action next spring 1995 on the issue by the Hawaii Supreme Court in *Boehr vs. Levin*, which declared that in the absence of any compelling state interest, a prohibition against same-sex marriages violates the equal protection provisions of the state constitution.

As it later turned out, the JACL National Board was presented with a "modified" Honolulu Chapter same-sex resolution at the May 21 National Board meeting. In the National Board resolution, number 3 was rewritten with the words *same sex* and *civil*

eliminated and in the place of *civil* the word *constitutional* was inserted. (See box for National Board resolution.)

I, as a chapter president and delegate, along with other delegates to the San Benito District meeting, feel that we were misled by our district vice governor and by our national officers when they and others voted: yes-10; no-3; abstentions-2 when we were not notified properly of the changes made in resolve number 3 and the inclusion of the modified resolve number 3, prior to voting by our JACL National Board. The action, presumably on the part of our district vice governor and national vice president for public affairs, in modifying resolve number 3 of the Honolulu Chapter same-sex resolution was, I believe, unethical and inappropriate.

Therefore, I urge that all chapters and their delegates to the National Convention review the changes that were made in the modified Honolulu Chapter same-sex resolution in the light of the JACL legal counsel Allen Kato's statement ("as a lawyer"), differentiating civil rights law ("prohibitory" law) on the one hand and a state law (not yet passed by any state) recognizing ("mandating") homosexual marriages on the other hand.

Also, I believe at the National Convention in August, 1994, we all should address our attention and direct our energy to the more important issues at hand (i.e., like dealing directly with the issue of recruiting more people into our general membership at the chapter level, and raising sufficient revenues to keep publishing the PC).

Hamachi is president of the Diablo Valley Chapter, JACL.

By the board



By WILLIAM KANEKO

Same-sex is an appropriate JACL issue

During the recent months, the JACL debated the issue of same-sex marriages. The topic created healthy discussion throughout the chapters and districts. Rightfully so, the National Board in February 1994 tabled its original motion to support gay marriages, to be discussed more fully amongst the chapter membership. The motion to defer the vote came at the strong urging of the district governors. Those opposing the measure argued that the National Board had no business addressing gay rights, that it is outside the scope of JACL. Those in favor saw it as a natural progression of the civil rights movement.

Within weeks of the February board meeting, a 20-page informational packet was mailed to all National Board members. Governors were instructed to lead discussions in their respective districts. As a result, South-east, Berkeley and Washington, D.C. chapters went as far as polling their chapter members.

In May, the National Board tallied the district results and voted to recognize the prohibition of same-sex marriages as a violation of the Fourteenth Amendment of the U.S. Constitution, by a 10-3 margin, with 2

abstentions. Only one district opined that they did not have time to discuss the issue. Ironically, that same district had moved to defer the initial vote in February. The seven remaining governors were able to coordinate a full and lively discussion within the three month recess.

The Board motion was spurred upon by a recent Hawaii Supreme Court decision that ordered a lower court to determine if there was a compelling state interest in prohibiting gay persons from the constitutionally protected right of marriage. When the issue initially came to the Board, members foresaw enormous Constitutional and civil rights implications arising from the Hawaii case. Sure enough, the *New York Times* and the *Washington Post*, two of the country's most read and respected news publications, recently ran in-depth articles about the impact the Hawaii decision could have on civil rights.

The JACL has been no stranger to sexual-orientation issues. In 1988, at the Seattle National Convention, the National Council (not the National Board) amended the JACL Constitution, to include that the JACL support people's rights regardless of sexual

orientation. In 1992, the Program for Action, again voted upon by the National Council, approved that the JACL uphold the rights of "all" people; not "all people except gays and lesbians."

The National Board has twice acted upon, gay rights issues—supporting gays in the military and voting in opposition to Washington and Oregon initiatives that would severely curtail the rights of homosexuals. The JACL, locally and nationally, have formed coalitions with gay and lesbian groups to combat hate crimes and violence.

In our redress efforts, the JACL leaned heavily on the political clout of a chairperson of a House Sub-Committee on Judiciary, an openly gay member of Congress, in passage of the Civil Liberties Act of 1988. Did we question that person's sexuality as we opened our \$20,000 envelopes from the Department of Justice?

Some have confused the same-sex marriage issue as a moral rather than civil rights issue, asserting, that gay marriages are "unnatural" and "unhealthy" to society. Bear in mind that the same type of "morality" justified the prohibition of inter-racial marriages up until 1967. In total, thirty

eight states at one time prohibited Whites from marrying American Indians, Africans, Chinese, Japanese, Hindus, Koreans, and Malaysians. Inter-racial marriages were deemed as having "harmful social effects," resulting in the production of a "degenerate and bastard offspring" which would populate the states with a "degraded and ignoble population, incapable of moral, and intellectual development." How soon we forget.

No doubt that the same-sex marriage issue is a controversial one for some in this organization. And we shall continue to be confronted with difficult issues in the future. The pursuit of civil and human rights is an emotional, passionate endeavor. I was told that in the 1970's when the JACL began contemplating its role in the redress movement, a great debate raged amongst the members as to whether the JACL should pursue the matter.

As an organization of national scope, we may not always agree on everything. The strength of JACL is not only in its unity, but in its diversity that stretches throughout the country.

Kaneko is JACL vice president for public affairs.

By the board



By NEAL TANIGUCHI

Same-sex issue is a civil rights matter

Same-sex marriage, and a less comprehensive concept, "domestic partnership," attempts to allow all couples to take advantage of benefits and rights currently extended only to married couples in this country.

The concept of same-sex marriages does not promote or legitimize homosexuality, merely extends certain basic rights and privileges to couples who do not fit the "traditional" definition of a married couple.

Historically, marriage is a religious institution, but in this country, it has become a civil institution, as well. Couples must

obtain marriage licenses from the government. Married couples are entitled to certain tax and insurance benefits, certain visitation rights in hospitals, rights of conservatorship, and rights to will property to each other. These rights are unavailable to unmarried couples, both heterosexual and homosexual. This country has seen fit to create a special class of citizens by extending a variety of benefits and rights to a religious institution. This is unfair, this is unequal treatment of our citizens.

Remember, this organization, the Na-

tional JACL, argued against a similar inequality in the past, the miscegenation laws, which prevented Japanese from marrying Caucasians.

We must rid our society of this inequality. I voted for the concept of "same-sex" marriages because I believe it is easier to change marriage laws than it is to change the myriad of laws and private company policies, which govern the extension of benefits and rights to married couples. From a pragmatic point of view, it is the right thing to do!

Even if one believes that same-sex mar-

riages, or homosexuality for that matter, is immoral, as a number of editorial letters (including one from our former National legal counsel) have argued, a person in this country does not have the right to impose one's morals on another, much like we cannot impose one form of religion on everyone.

We must treat every individual equally, and afford every person(s) the same access to rights and benefits offered in this country.

Taniguchi is JACL vice president for general operations.

LETTERS

(Continued from page 5)

National Council should decide same-sex issue

Ruth Mizobe, PSW governor, in favoring the same-sex resolution, is quoted as saying: "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, JACL has 33 chapters, Northern Cal has 35 chapters. That's a majority right there."

We think that Mizobe is rather naive to think that the component chapters of these two district councils would vote solidly on one or the other side of this issue.

Again, in Northern Cal, the vote was 12% for, 3% against, and one abstention, a total of 17 votes. We do not know what the vote was at the PSW meeting, but we suspect similar numbers. In both cases, a very few seem to be setting the policy of their respective district councils with little regard for the opinion of its member chapters and their opinions.

It would be very interesting and educational if each of the two district councils would take a poll of its member chapters on this particular subject. We would not be surprised if a large number, if not the majority, of the chapters would vote against the resolution.

We see no need to take hasty action. There is no urgency or immediate need for this resolution. We agree with Jeff Itami, IDC governor, that the matter should be brought before the National Council at the National Convention, for a truly representative decision of the JACL chapters.

It should be noted that of the

governors of the eight district councils, three voted yes, three voted no and there were two abstentions. These votes are more representative of the entire JACL, certainly more representative than those of the National vice presidents and elected board officers.

Criticism of our JACL leaders is to be expected. It is a part of, or the penalty for, holding a public office. For better or worse, fairly or unfairly, standards of conduct are more strict for them. They are expected to set examples for the rest of us, especially the younger members.

Again, let us attack the problems that threaten the very life of JACL as an organization representing the Nikkei population, both young and old. We need more young members. We still need the financial support of the older generation. We need sound fiscal policies. We need to strengthen the entire organization by paying more attention to the problems of the weaker chapters. We need more regard for chapters and members in setting policies for the entire organization. We do not need a mad hunt for taking positions on civil rights issues which, at least for the present, have remote concern with the organizational problems of JACL. We are not the ACLU.

If we have a very weak JACL, or no JACL, our resolutions, no matter how well intentioned, will be of little avail and little influence on public opinion.

Fred Y. Hirasuna
Fresno, Calif.

JACL objectives lost in gay rights support

As a reminder, when selecting

a new project for the JACL, such as the current issue of gay rights, JACL members must always remember the objective of their organization:

JACL and its members should not concern themselves with "the issues" so much as the objectives of the JACL. The sole goal of the JACL is to ensure civil rights for Japanese Americans, period. The issues JACL decides to support are not necessarily the conviction of the organization, but merely the means of attaining JACL's long-term goals. The (im)moral issue of Gay Rights is, for the most part, irrelevant. What is of prime importance is whether or not the JACL can use the issue of Gay Rights as a stepping stone. JACL members should reason through this issue, step-by-step, and reach an objective decision that would be for the good of Japanese Americans.

Edward Takeuchi
Brown University Freshman
Providence, R.I.

West Valley: JACL lost in same-sex issue

In the name of equal rights another institution has been torn asunder. Is anything sacred anymore? Much has already been discussed and defined about sex, gender and marriage. But the real issue at hand is not about these things at all. The real issue is about the rights and benefits of spouses in a marriage. I can understand and sympathize with the discrimination and inequalities in a homosexual relationship. What I don't understand is why must

these sexually aberrated people desecrate the institution of marriage to achieve their goal? It seems more logical and acceptable for society to merely allow these people to announce, register or document their special relationships to the proper authorities and receive the same rights and/or benefits provided to conventional spouses.

I strongly suspect that JACL was skillfully manipulated to vote on this issue which eventually made JACL look foolish. To make a mockery of marital relationships is irresponsible. It gives a distorted impression to the innocent. The leadership of JACL must look beyond the microcosm of this bizarre issue and focus on what is best for the common good.

We are a small organization constantly seeking to be heard. For us to announce to the world our position on this issue is absolutely idiotic. We are on the path of not only losing our constituency but also our credibility.

Ray Uchiyama

president, West Valley Chapter, JACL

Same-sex not JACL issue, says Arizona

On June 1, 1994, the Arizona Chapter of the Japanese American Citizens League at its regular board meeting had considerable discussion of the "same-sex marriage" support decision by the Pacific Southwest District Council and the National JACL board. The Arizona Chapter Board voted to abstain in any future actions concerning the "same-sex mar-

riage" issue that may occur at the National JACL convention in August 1994 with the understanding that the Arizona Chapter board considers this issue as being beyond the scope of the JACL charter, constitution and by-laws.

Joe R. Allman
president, Arizona Chapter, JACL
Agrees with Allen Kato on same-sex issue

I would like to take my Christian stand with Mr. Allen Kato. The JACL National Board is off track. The same-sex issue is immoral, wrong, and unnatural. Let us get back to the REAL Asian American issues, putting aside this immoral issue. I would repeal the same-sex concept, reinstall Allen Kato as legal counsel, and fight for stronger heterosexual family values in our community!

Norman Masai
Buena Park, Calif.

Reader: same-sex issue not a civil rights matter

I am writing to you in response to your 5/21-22/94 headlines, "National Board passes same-sex resolution."

The term "same-sex" is euphemism for sodomy. Sodomy is not a civil rights issue. It is a spiritual condition of fallen man's sinful nature.

The Book of Romans says: "...they glorified him not as God, neither were thankful, but became vain in their imaginations, and their foolish hearts were darkened. Professing themselves to be

See LETTERS/page 8

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LETTERS

(Continued from page 7)

wise, they became foolish.
 Wherefore God also gave them up
 to uncleanness through the lusts
 of their own hearts, to dishonor
 their own bodies between them-
 selves.

For this cause God gave
 them up into vice affecting, for
 even their women did change the
 natural use into that which is
 against nature. And likewise also
 the men, leaving the natural use
 of the women, burned in their lust
 one toward another, men with men
 working that which is unseemly,
 and receiving in themselves that
 recompense of their error. God
 gave them over to a reprobate
 mind, to do those things which are
 not convenient." (Rom. 1:21, 22,
 24, 26, 27, 28).

Ancient history, too, is re-
 plete with the destruction and
 collapse of peoples and civiliza-
 tions. The Lord rained brimstone
 and fire from out of heaven on
 Sodom and Gomorrah. The ruins
 of those cities still lie submerged
 under the waters of the Dead Sea.
 The Medo-Persian, Grecian, and
 Roman empires were destroyed
 from within from homosexuality
 and bestiality.

In closing, may I respectfully
 and lovingly urge the National
 Board to rescind its decision. God
 loves the sinner but hates the sin.
 For this cause did He send Jesus
 to die on the cross for us, to die a
 substitutionary death.

Again I say that "same sex"
 is not a civil rights issue but sin of
 the perpetrator against his Maker
 and against his own flesh.

Masako T. Agari
 Stockton, Calif.
**Reader: National Board
 right on same-sex**

I am writing in support of JACL
 National's position in favor of
 same-sex marriages. I commend
 the fortitude and leadership of
 the JACL National Board in a
 matter which we as JACLers can-
 not ignore—the human and civil

rights for all Americans regard-
 less of race, gender, religion or
 sexual orientation.

It is more than perplexing to me
 why some people in JACL would
 deny such a basic human and civil
 right for gays and lesbians if they
 choose to marry and enjoy what
 ever benefits other married
 couples (male and female unions)
 enjoy. JACLers, of all people,
 should express tolerance and un-
 derstanding for gays and lesbians
 in their quest for equality in our
 democracy. Weren't Japanese
 Americans the target of vicious
 and inhuman discrimination
 throughout their presence in
 American history? Regardless of
 one's religious orientation, this
 matter is one of basic human
 rights. How many times in our
 history have we witnessed oppo-
 nents of this basic right espouse
 their rationale of why we should
 not sanction this or allow that. We
 have enough of that in our society
 as it is, but to see it in JACL
 makes me sick. To these people, I
 say "Get a life!" There are too
 many important issues on our
 agenda that need attention.

Gary R. M. Tasaka
 Honolulu Chapter, JACL

**Youth chair responds
 to Nobuyuki column**

I am writing on behalf of the
 National Youth Council (NYC)
 of the JACL, in response to Karl K.
 Nobuyuki's recent column, titled,
 "National Youth Program is Un-
 constitutional." At the outset, I
 would like to correct one error in
 Mr. Nobuyuki's column, regard-
 ing the ages of the two national
 youth officers. The National Youth
 Chairperson, myself, recently
 turned 23, and the National Youth
 Representative, Kerry Kaneichi,
 recently turned 22.

Secondly, I would like to ad-
 dress Mr. Nobuyuki's contention
 that the youth program is un-
 constitutional. The wording of the
 constitution, as it pertains to the
 NYC, is vague, thus providing

many opportunities for different
 interpretations. Mr. Nobuyuki's
 interpretation is one way to de-
 fine the NYC. However, we would
 like the opportunity to provide
 our definition. In examining the
 JACL Constitution and By-laws,
 we have found no instance in
 which election of the national
 youth officers is limited to indi-
 viduals under the age of 18. How-
 ever, Article X, Section 1, Sub-
 section C, does state that, "the
 elective officers shall be active
 members of the organization and
 shall be at least eighteen (18) years
 of age, except that the President
 shall be at least twenty-five (25)
 years of age."

One could argue that because
 the national youth officers are
 elected at the biennial national
 convention, in part by the JACL
 National Council, that these two
 officers also considered to be
 elected officers, and are therefore
 subject to the 18-year-old age re-
 quirement.

I would also like to note that the
 NYC has not established any ar-
 bitrary age limit. Participation in
 the NYC is open to anyone who is
 interested in participating in
 youth/student activities and in for-
 warding the Youth Program for
 Action (adopted by National Coun-
 cil). However, District Youth Rep-
 resentatives must be individuals
 who hold youth or student mem-
 bership.

In conclusion, I would like to
 thank Mr. Nobuyuki for his opin-
 ion and his interest in the NYC.
 Although his opinion differs from
 ours, it has opened the door for a
 lively rhetoric and an increased
 awareness of the NYC. However,
 I would like to say that in order for
 JACL to be a positive and produc-
 tive organization, we must all
 work together. Therefore, if any-
 one should have questions or con-
 cerns, I sincerely hope that you
 will not hesitate to contact the
 National Youth Council directly
 (through JACL National Head-
 quarters).

Kim Nakahara
 chairwoman, JACL National
 Youth

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