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October 22-28, 1993

Again— 5th attack in Sacramento: agency hit with firebomb

In a frightening continuation of violence against minority targets in Sacramento, the Fair Employment and Housing Department office was firebombed Oct. 14—the fifth attack since July, reported the *Associated Press*. The Fair Employment and Housing Department office, which received only minor damage, is a state agency responsible for handling discrimination claims. Two

Molotov cocktails were thrown through a glass door but only one of the devices ignited and was extinguished by the building's sprinkler system.

California Gov. Pete Wilson promised a quick reopening of the agency as a signal that racial violence will not be tolerated.

"We have a single message for the thugs who have engaged in the cowardly act of firebombing in the

night: There is no place in California for hatemongering," said Wilson.

A group calling itself the Aryan Liberation Front, a white supremacist group previously unknown to law enforcement, has claimed responsibility for the recent firebombing as well as the earlier attacks.

All of the attacks have occurred in the early morning hours. No

one has been injured, although the latest incident has forced many to take precautions against the possibility of more violence.

The *Rafu Shimpo* reported that the Sacramento Chapter, JACL, has planned to move out of its temporary offices at the Human Rights/Fair Housing Commission out of fear that that agency will also be attacked. Mike Sawamura, board member, Sacramento Chap-

ter, also reported that the home of Rep. Robert Matsui is being guarded by police.

Sacramento Police Chief Arturo Venegas said that his department is working with other law enforcement agencies on the attacks, but wouldn't disclose any details.

"I can assure you progress is being made, albeit a little bit slowly. However, we will prevail," said Venegas.

JACL press releases

Impacting Wards Cove Act

The United States Supreme Court heard argument Oct. 13 on two cases, *Landgraf v. USI Film Products* and *Rivers v. Roadway Express*, concerning the issue of whether the Civil Rights Act of 1991 should be applied to cases that were already pending on the date of enactment of the legislation. The Supreme Court's decision on these cases could affect *Wards Cove Packing Co. v. Atonio*, which was filed in 1974 and is currently pending in the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals.

Even if the Supreme Court rules that the 1991 act is retroactive, the workers in the Wards Cove case would still be excluded from coverage because of the special exemption in the 1991 act for the Wards Cove Packing Company. The workers will not benefit from the passage of the act unless Congress repeals the exemption by passing the Justice for Wards Cove Workers Act currently pending in Congress.

Karen Narasaki, Washington, D.C., representative of the Japanese American Citizens League, said that "Wards Cove has been arguing that their special exemption should not matter because the entire 1991 act does not retroactively apply anyway. The attorneys for the plaintiffs in the cases before the Supreme Court have argued, if that was the case, why was an exemption necessary?"

Daphne Kwok, executive director of the orga-

nization of Chinese Americans, commented, "It is unfair that should the court rule that the 1991 act is retroactive, that 2,000 Asian Pacific Americans and Native Alaskans will still face a legislative battle to gain their civil rights entitlement."

Solicitor General Drew Days argued that courts should apply the 1991 Civil Rights Act retroactively to pending cases. This represents a reversal of the Bush Administration's position. Under the Bush Administration, the Justice Department and the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission refused to apply the 1991 act to incidents that happened before the law was signed.

The Lawyer's Committee for Civil Rights Under Law and the

NAACP Legal Defense and Educational Fund represented the plaintiffs in the two Supreme Court cases. In *Landgraf*, the plaintiff is seeking to have her sexual harassment case retried to a jury. Before the 1991 act, jury trials were not available. In *Rivers*, two black mechanics alleging race discrimination caused their dismissals, are seeking to have their case reinstated since the 1991 act restored coverage of a statute that had been narrowed by one of the Supreme Court rulings overturned by the 1991 act. Employment discrimination attorneys believe that thousands of cases could be affected. The Supreme Court is not expected to render its decision until next April or May.

Support for hate crime sentencing

The Japanese American Citizens League (JACL) commended U.S. Sen. Dianne Feinstein (D-Calif.), along with Sens. Barbara Boxer (D-Calif.), Ben Nighthorse Campbell (D-Colo.) and Carol Moseley Braun (D-Ill.), for introducing the Hate Crimes Sentencing Enhancement Act in the Senate recently.

The legislation is a companion to that sponsored by Congressman Charles Schumer (D-N.Y.) in the House of Representatives. It would allow federal judges to increase jail time and fines for individuals convicted of committing a hate crime. Similar legislation passed the House of Representatives during the last session of Congress, but Sen. Jesse Helms (R-N.C.) killed it in the

Senate.

JACL Acting National Director Carole Hayashino said, "Sen. Feinstein moved quickly last week to denounce the firebombing of the office of the Sacramento Chapter, JACL, by a group calling themselves the Aryan Liberation Front. Her sponsorship of this bill signals her commitment to fight such acts of racial terrorism."

JACL Washington representative Karen Narasaki noted the diversity of the bill's Senate sponsors, stating that Sen. Inouye is one of the first cosponsors. "JACL urges Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders to let their senators know that they want them to support this important legislation," she said.

A firestorm . . .

Here is the chronology of firebomb attacks:

- July 26—A Molotov cocktail was found burning outside the B'nai Israel Synagogue.
- July 27—The Sacramento office of the NAACP was destroyed by a fire started by a Molotov cocktail.
- Oct. 2—The office of the Sacramento Chapter, JACL, was destroyed by a fire started by a Molotov cocktail thrown through the front window.
- Oct. 4—The home of Sacramento City Councilman Jimmy Yee was damaged when a Molotov cocktail was thrown through a bedroom window.
- Oct. 14—Sacramento Fair Employment and Housing Department, an agency handling discrimination claims, receives minor damage from firebomb.

JACL discusses attacks with federal law official

The Associate Attorney General for the United States, Webb Hubball, met Oct. 14 with Sacramento community leaders, including representatives from the Japanese American Citizens League (JACL), to discuss the FBI investigation into the recent firebombings in Sacramento by a group calling itself the Aryan Liberation Front. Sacramento City Council member Jimmy Yee and representatives from the NAACP, the Jewish Federation and the B'nai Israel Temple were also present.

The associate attorney general reassured the community that the Department of Justice is working closely with the FBI and Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms to coordinate their investigations with local law enforcement. Hubball declined to provide details because of the ongoing nature of the investigation, but stated, "You have the attention of the federal government, and the fullest extent of federal resources are available to assist in bringing this to a speedy conclusion."

JACL Acting National Director Carole Hayashino attended the meeting. She stated, "JACL commends the Department of Justice for its swift response. The fact

that the associate attorney general took the time to meet with us in Sacramento is an indication of the seriousness with which they are viewing the situation.

"We are also grateful to Sens. Dianne Feinstein (D-Calif.) and Barbara Boxer (D-Calif.) and Congressman Robert Matsui (D-Calif.) for their support."

Past Sacramento Chapter president Mike Sawamura said, "We have been very heartened by the outpouring of concern by the local community and the commitment of Police Chief Arturo Venegas Jr. and Mayor Joe Serna to finding the perpetrators. The pledge of federal resources provides additional reassurance to the community that there will be an end to these attacks."

The Oct. 14 firebombing of the California State Office of Fair Employment and Fair Housing is believed to be connected to the earlier bombing.

The Aryan Liberation Front has taken credit for the firebombing of City Council member Jimmy Yee's home several days after the attack on JACL, and the July firebombings of the Sacramento office of the NAACP and the Congregation B'nai Israel synagogue.

Nisei angle to Reginald Denny trial in Los Angeles

As the multi-tiered verdicts to the almost two-month-long Los Angeles County trial in the Reginald O. Denny beating were read Oct. 19, "Count 7 and Count 8" dealt with victim Takao Hirata, the Gardena Nisei who had stopped at the same violent corner, Florence and Normandie, the opening night of the 1992 L.A. riots.

On Count 7, defendant Damian Williams was found innocent of assault with a deadly weapon; but guilty of lesser charge of misdemeanor assault. Punishment would be a maximum of 6 months and/or \$1,000 fine for misdemeanor assault. As a felony assault with deadly weapon, it could have been 2 to 4 years.

On Count 8, Williams was found

innocent of felony robbery that carries a penalty from 2 to 5 years.

During the trial, Hirata had testified that like most victims he could not identify his attackers: "Someone on the passenger side asked me for my money. I start to reach in my pocket to give him my money. That's the last thing I remember."

See NISEI/page 4

How to help

Those with information on the crimes are asked to call the Sacramento Police hotline, 916/443-HELP.

A reward fund which has grown to approximately \$50,000 has been set up for information leading to the capture of the perpetrators. Donations may be sent to: "Hate Crime Reward Fund," Union Bank, 700 L St., Sacramento, CA, 95814.

The Sacramento Chapter has set up a recovery fund to offset the destruction of their office, which caused approximately \$20,000-\$30,000 damage. Send donations to: Sacramento Chapter, JACL, Recovery Fund, 2124 10th St., Sacramento, CA, 95818.

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Calendar

Northeast U.S. New York City

Sat. Nov. 6—100th Anniversary exhibit and Thanksgiving open house, Japanese American United Church, 255 7th Ave. (24th St.), New York City, Information: 212/242-9444.

Washington, D.C.

Thu.-Sat. Oct. 21-23, MIS / Washington, DC Reunion — Crystal Gateway Marriott, Arlington, Va. THU- Panel discussions, golf tournament, sightseeing, buffet mixer, FRI - morning rites at Arlington National Cemetery, luncheon at Capitol Hill and tour of Congress, reception at the Japanese Embassy; SAT - boat cruise with lunch, grand banquet, presentation of Philippine campaign medals; Information: Japanese American Veterans Association, PO Box 391, Vienna, VA 22183. NOTE: Oral history workshop with Dr. Glenda Nogami, U.S. Army History Institute at Carlisle, Pa., to assist.

Florida

Del Ray Beach

Through Nov. 7—Smithsonian-NJAHS-Oakland Museum, exhibit: "Strength and Diversity, Japanese American Women 1885-1990," The Morikami, west of Jog Rd. (btwn Linton Blvd. and Clint Moore Rd.), 407/0233, closed Mondays. [Permanent exhibit on "Yamato Colony" to be added this fall.]

Missouri

St. Louis

Sat.-Sun. Nov. 6-7—International Folkfest of 60 ethnic and international groups, Webster University, St. Louis. Information: International Institute, 314/773-9090.

Colorado

Denver

Tue. Nov. 2—Japan America Society dinner, 7 p.m., Westin Hotel, Downtown Denver, Information: Barbara Kelly (303) 295-8862. NOTE—Yukio Okamoto, former director of National Security Affairs Division, speaker, "Questioning the Fundamentals: Political or Economic Reforms in Japan and the Implications for U.S.-Japan Relations."

Alaska

Anchorage

Week of Nov. 7-13—Veterans Day conference, symposium, Anchorage Museum of History and Art and Sheraton Anchorage Hotel, Information: Georgie Reynolds, 907/753-2712. NOTE—Registration for "Alaska at War", 1317 Northern Lights #522, Anchorage, AK 99503-2306.

Washington

Seattle

Sun. Dec. 5—JACL Lake Washington Christmas-installation dinner, West Coast Bellevue Hotel, 116th NE, south of NE 8th. Information: Shox Tokita 206/641-6512.

Through Sun. Dec. 12—Wing Luke Asian Museum exhibit, "Snapshot: Our World, Our Children;" Permanent exhibit: "One Song, Many Voices" on history of Asian communities in state, 407-7th Ave. S., Admission: \$2.50, adults; \$1.50, students/seniors; 75c children under 12, closed Mondays. Information: 206/623-5124.

Oregon

Portland

Through Jan. 16—JANM exhibit: "Japanese Pioneers of Oregon," Oregon Historical Society, 1200 SW Park Ave., Portland. 503/222-1741. Thu. admission free to seniors over age 60. Monthly

lecturers, all Thursdays, 7:30 p.m. Nov. 18—"Memories, Visions and Realities [with Hood River Issei]," Dr. Linda Tamura; Dec. 9—"Spacious Dreams [of growing up in Hood River]," Dr. Lauren Kessler, Dr. Homer Yasui; Jan. 13—"Between [Minidoka] Camp and Home," Dr. Robert Sims.

Utah

Salt Lake City

1994: Aug. 3-6—33rd Biennial National JACL Convention—Downtown Marriott Hotel. Information: Floyd Mori, conv. chair, 801/572-2287.

Nevada

Las Vegas

Fri.-Sun. Nov. 5-7—JACLPSWDC Conference, Boardwalk Hotel, 3750 Las Vegas Blvd South (btwn Flamingo and Tropicana), 702/735-1167; SAT: dinner. Information: PSW JACLOffice 213/626-4471, Bill Endow 702/878-1589.

California

Sacramento Valley

Sat. Oct. 23—Senator Lions "Kanojo Fall Kollection" fashion showing, 1-5 p.m., Sacramento Buddhist Church; information Steven Hatamiya 916/391-1441x271; June Kurano 916/422-7906.

Thu. Nov. 18—JACL Sacramento 1994 installation dinner, 6 p.m., Hoi Sing Restaurant, 7007 S. Land Park Dr., Lillian Kimura, speaker; information: 916/447-0231. NOTE—This will be Lillian Kimura's first visit to the Sacramento-San Joaquin Valley.

Sonoma-Marin

Sun. Nov. 7—JACL NCWNP session, 9 a.m., Enmanji Temple, Sebastopol, hosted by Sonoma County Chapter. Information: Patty Wada 415/931-4671.

Peninsula

Sat. Oct. 30—JACL San Mateo Monster Bash, 9 p.m.-1 a.m., music by Gary Mora's "KYA Road Show," Central Park Recreation Center.

Fri. Dec. 31—JACL Sequoia New Year Eve's dance, 7 p.m. social hour, 8 p.m. dinner, Holiday Inn, Palo Alto. Information Hiroko Yoshida 415/854-1392.

Eastbay

Sat. Oct. 30—JASEB Awards dinner, 5 p.m. no host cocktails, 6 p.m. dinner, Oakland Airport Hilton; information JASEB 510/848-3560. NOTE—George Yasukochi, JASEB Community Service Award honoree.

Stockton

Fri. Oct. 22—JACL Stockton Fall mixer, 6:30 p.m. Stockton Buddhist church, 2820 Shimizu Dr., Stockton, information: Lee Kusumoto 209/466-2315, Aeko Yoshikawa 209/4787-7474. NOTE—Alan Nishi, speaker.

Fresno-Central Cal

Sat. Nov. 6—VFW Sierra Nisei Post dinner, Lt. Col. Barry Saiki (ret.) of MIS, speaker; 7 p.m., Airport Holiday Inn, tickets \$25, information: Frank Isogawa 209/896-1738, Nob Togioka 209/897-2002, Hiro Isogawa 209/222-7083, Tom Teramoto 209/227-1293.

Sat. Nov. 13—Pre-Holiday Kanojo fashion show, 11 a.m.-4 p.m., Fresno chapter Professional Secretaries International, Airport Holiday Inn, 5090 E. Clinton, Fresno. Information: Jeanne Nagao, 209/224-6258.

Los Angeles-Orange

Sat. Oct. 23—Little Tokyo Service Center conference: International/Interracial Marriages and Relationships, 8 a.m.-5 p.m., JACCC, #411, 244 S. San Pedro St., L.A.; information: 213/680-3729. NOTE—Limited registration, speakers include Dr. Harry Kitano, 8:30 a.m.; Sumi Haru, Amy Hill, luncheon; and three workshops.

Sat. Oct. 23—Book party/lecture: "Generations and Identity: the Japanese

American," with Dr. Harry H.L. Kitano, 2 p.m., JANM, 369 E. 1st St., Little Tokyo, 213/625-0414.

Sat. Oct. 23—Community Health Fair, 9 a.m.-1 p.m., Union Church, 401 E. 3rd St., Los Angeles, information: Little Tokyo Service Center, Bill Watanabe 213/680-372. NOTE—Flu shots for seniors citizens and those with special medical conditions offered.

Sat. Oct. 23—Friends of Little Tokyo Branch Library auction-luncheon, Centenary United Methodist Church, Little Tokyo. Information: Tomi Yonemoto 818/359-2789. NOTE—\$12 bento, auction donations needed, call: 818/968-1336 for pick up of items.

Sun. Oct. 24—South Bay Forum: U.S.-Japan Relations: "What's in It for You?", 1:30 p.m., Nakaoka Community Center, 1700-162nd St., Gardena, sponsored by Carson, Gardena Valley, Greater L.A. Singles and South Bay JACL chapters; information: Ed Mitoma 310/377-8581. NOTE—Panelists: Dr. Fred Notehelfer, UCLA; Dr. Michael Mochizuki, Rand Corp.; Dr. David Arase, Pomona College; Dr. Peter Burton, USC; moderator, Steve Clemons, Institute for Independent Japanese Studies.

Mon-Sat. Oct. 25-30—L.A. County Music Center's Cultural Diversity Week, information: Diane Liu Miller 213/972-7272.

Sat. Oct. 30—Asian American Journalists Assn. skills training conference, 8:30 a.m.-6 p.m., USC Annenberg Bldg., 3415 S. Figueroa St. RSVP / Information: Julia Kim 213/217-1561. NOTE—"Breaking the Silence: Censorship in the Asian American Ethnic Press," Paul K. McMasters of Freedom Forum, Vanderbilt; Ling-Chi Wang, UC Berkeley, speakers.

Sat. Oct. 30—Cultural performance, "Beside Myself" by Amy Hill, 2 p.m., JANM, 369 E. 1st St., Little Tokyo, 213/625-0414.

Sun. Oct. 31—Kanojo fashion show, noon-5 p.m., St. Mary's Episcopal Church hall, 961 S. Mariposa Ave., L.A., Information: Ida Kunitzugu 818/765-4473. NOTE—Guest artist Leslie Yee-Murata of San Francisco.

Sun. Oct. 31—Storytelling: "Japanese Ghost Tales" with actor Gedde Watanabe, 2 p.m., JANM, 369 E. 1st St., Little Tokyo, 213/625-0414.

Mon. Nov. 1—Japan America Society/ Japan Foundation presents "The Poignant Story of Japan's First Vassar Graduate," 6-7:30 p.m., Water Garden, 2425 W. Olympic Blvd., Santa Monica, RSVP 213.627-6217x15.

Tue. Nov. 2—Environmental walk at Soka University, 10-11 a.m., 26800 W Mulholland Hwy, Calabasas. RSVP 818/880-4649. NOTE—Future walks on first Tuesday; the Soka school system maintains five environmental preserves throughout Japan.

Tue. Nov. 2—Photo exhibit re-opening: California Historical Society's "Executive Order 9066," JANM, 369 E. 1st St., Little Tokyo, 213/625-0414.

Canada

Toronto

Sat. Nov. 7—Tribute dinner for the late Japanese Consul in Kovno, Lithuania, in 1940, Senpo Sugihara (1900-1986), 6 p.m., Regal Constellation Hotel, 900 Dixon Rd., Toronto, Co-sponsors: Canadian Jewish Congress, NAJC Toronto. NOTE—Dr. David Suzuki, keynote speaker, Mrs. Yukiko Sugihara and her son and daughter-in-law Mr. and Mrs. Hiroki Sugihara in attendance. Information: 4600 Bathurst St., Willowdale, Ont M2R 3V2.

Japan

Tokyo

Thu. Nov. 18—JACL Japan chapter elections, 7 p.m., Tokyo Union Church, Omotesando. Information: Kenta Takamori, (03) 3585-3211x1737.

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Small kid time

SMALL KID TIME
DAD! LOOK WHAT ME AN' BACHAN MADE!
WELL, THEY'RE VERY... HALLOWEENY.
Gwen Muranaka



IN-SIGHT

By LILLIAN C. KIMURA

Around and about

As I go about the country, JACLers remark to me that I must be the "travelingest" president. My reply is, "not really. Others have traveled but in recent years they just hadn't time to write about it."

I want to bring you up to date on my travels in the past few months over and above the several trips to Washington, D.C. In mid-August the Tri-District Conference took me to Cleveland where the chapter put on a great meeting under the leadership of Hank Tanaka and Kathy Akiya-Vaughn. The opening mixer featured a great spread of o-gochiso (like it was New Year's); we learned to dance the "achy-breaky"; the workshops were stimulating. The conference was well covered by the *Pacific Citizen* so no further comments are necessary except to thank Hank, Kathy and the chapter members for doing such a great job.

Over Labor Day weekend, along with several hundred others I was in Chicago for the JACL Singles Convention. Those singles are really "swingers." They know how to have a good time; every possible moment they are on the dance floor. One of the workshops was on "Clutter." I was happy to see I'm not the only one that has a problem of being a pack-rat. I clip articles from the newspapers, let magazines pile up for later reading and can't pass a book store or the recycle books at the local public library without making a purchase. Chicago's New Horizons Singles were the hosts for this year's event under the leadership of Merle Kaneko.

In the last weekend of September, the meetings of the National Board and the Search Committee took me to San Francisco. I'd like to thank the Personnel Committee for the efficient manner in which the search process was conducted. The chair of the committee is Neal Taniguchi, VP of General Operations, with Gary Mayeda of PSW, Karen Suzuki-Okabe of IDC, Bob Sakamoto of MPDC and Patty Wada from the staff completing the membership. In addition, I had appointed an advisory group to help identify the kind of skills and experiences we felt were necessary for the position. Dale Ikeda of CCDC, Lucy Kishiue of NCWNP, Dave Okimoto of PNW and Ron

Osajima of PSW were extremely helpful to the process. My thanks to all.

A YWCA assignment in Los Angeles allowed me to attend the Japanese American National Museum's annual dinner in Century City and PSW's Biennial Awards Luncheon. Both were elegant affairs in their own way. The museum's dinner was a "black tie (optional)" fund-raiser and the Nikkei not only of Southern California but elsewhere were out in all their finery. PSW's recognition of outstanding volunteers from each chapter and an outstanding chapter should be replicated in all the districts. JACL's strength and vitality depend on the committed volunteer leadership in each of the chapters. And since it is a labor of love on their part, they deserve all the thanks and recognition we can bestow.

After a few days at home, I was off to the West Coast again to Olympia Chapter's 10th anniversary celebration and the PNW District meeting. Originally, JACLers living in the Olympia area were members of the Puyallup Valley Chapter. About 15 years ago, Olympians encouraged by Emi Somekawa, John Kanda and other leaders started to talk about a chapter closer to home. Thus the Olympia Chapter was born.

The 10th birthday event was a fun affair, family-style, attended by many civic leaders (after all, Olympia is the state capital of Washington) and JACLers from other chapters in the area.

Dorothy Sato Brooks is its dynamic president and Hisami Yoshida who stepped down at this district meeting as governor is a past president. A relatively small chapter, it is the resource in the community on things Japanese American since there are no other Nikkei groups in town. They have a busy agenda all year long. My thanks to Hisami, Dorothy and others for their hospitality during my visit.

That's thirty for now.

National JACL President Kimura's column appears regularly in the Pacific Citizen.

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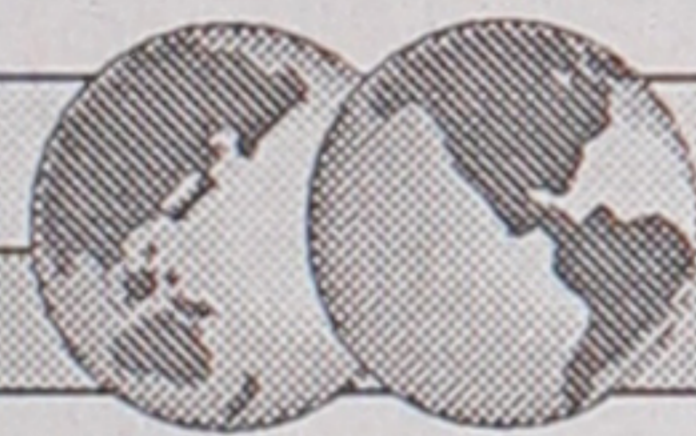
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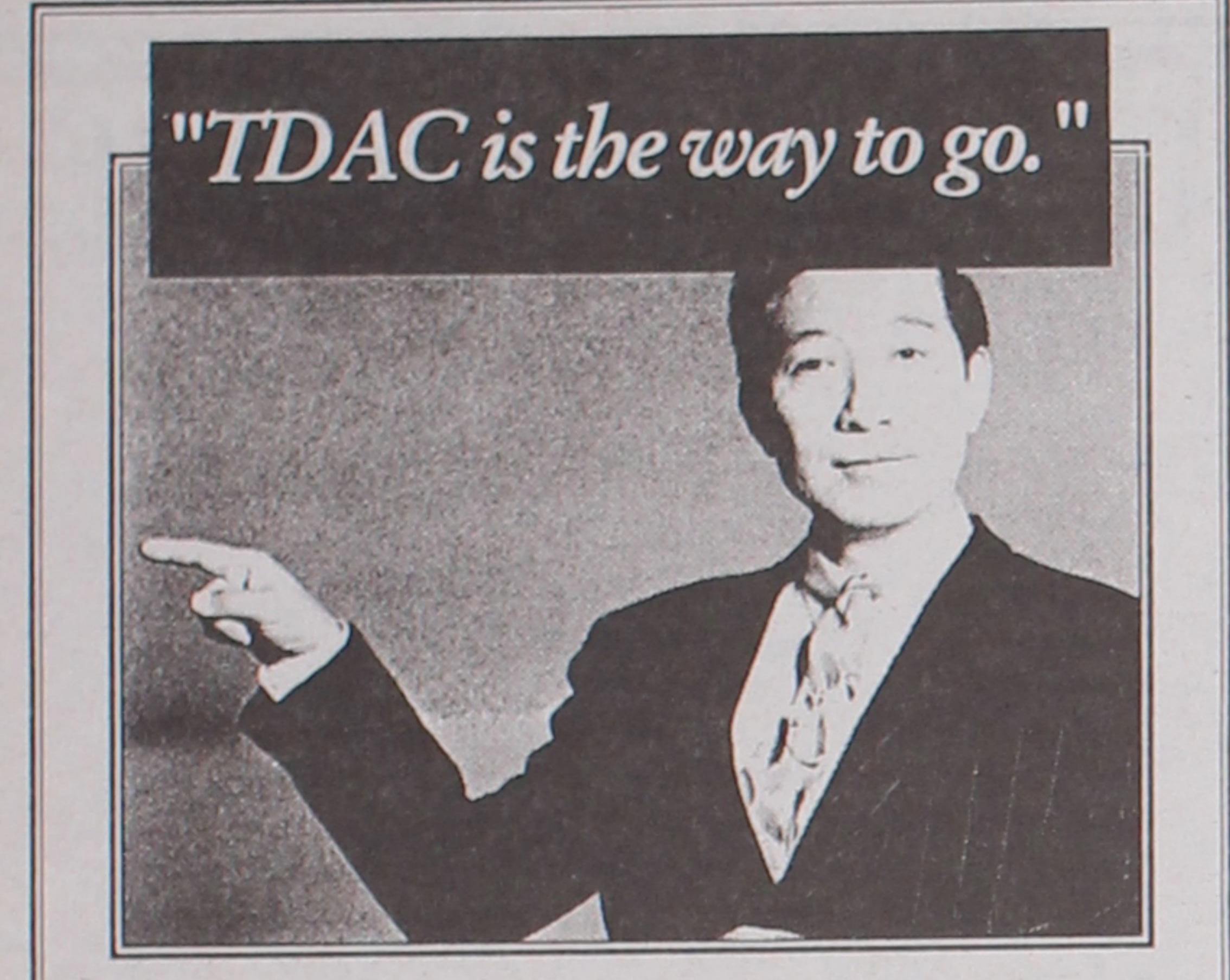
Short takes

Mother Sato's manju recipe well guarded
 A prime attraction in Wailuku, Maui, is "Mother Sato's manju" at the family grocery store, Sam Sato's, which opened in 1933 at Spreckelsville Camp 3. Mainstay during WWII, because of Sam Sato's wife, Grace, the enterprise was on its way to becoming a landmark. Around 1964, the camp was shut down and the business relocated to Puunene, where its fast-food Chinese restaurant was started. It quietly celebrated its 50th anniversary in October by opening a modern restaurant and manju-ya in a brand new building in Wailuku Millyard. The recipe of the manju created by Sam's mother, Mite Sato, hasn't changed since and is as well guarded as the Colonel's fried chicken.

ing crowd of some 200 with remarks by the Rev. Diana Akiyama, Sansei Episcopal priest and associate dean of Memorial Church, Ray Lyman Wilbur III, whose grandfather was president of the University in 1942, and Prof. Sylvia Yanagisako, a Sansei anthropology professor.

Navy shuts down Midway Island base
 The Navy shut down Midway Island Naval Air Facility on Oct. 1 at 9 a.m. (Midway time), although five or six years remain for clean-up and then turning it over to the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, according to Roger Au, Defense Department coordinator at Midway. The island is best remembered as the site of the first decisive U.S. naval victory over the Japanese in WWII, at the Battle of Midway June 4-6, 1942. Aside from the few Navy and a handful of Americans, the contracted labor force of roughly 180 residents are from Thailand and Sri Lanka today.

has been farming it the past 65 years, relying on a spring-fed oasis and on land leased from the Bishop Estate, which stubbornly refuses to sell the plot, according to David Sumida, 44. The farm was founded in the 1930s by his grandfather Moriichi who came from Hiroshima at the turn of the century, carried on by his son Masaru, now 75, and ready to retire. When the diamond-back moth pest infested the crop in 1982, David left his work as carpenter to install an overhead sprinkler system which did the trick, washing off the female scent from the leaves.... A tasty watercress recipe from Antonio Nolasco, 70, who's been with the farm since the '70s, calls for 1000 Island dressing and shoyu.



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Stanford honors interned alumni

On Oct. 1, Stanford University President Gerhard Casper acknowledged the past discrimination and wrongs that sent 24 Japanese American Stanford students to WWII internment center in the spring of 1942. "It was not the Constitution that failed, but the institutions that failed the Constitution," he intoned. The reunion ceremony was held at Campbell Recital Hall before an overflow-

Oahu AJA farm harvests watercress
 What is a piece of greenery amidst the concrete structures of Pearlridge is the 10-acre Sumida Farm, which produces more than half of Hawaii's watercress. The family

Time Warner funds Asian Studies

Time Warner pledged \$500,000 to launch the James A. Linen III Fund for Asian Studies at Williams College, Williamstown, Mass., which instituted its Asian studies in 1986. Longtime college trustee, Linen, '34 alumnus who died in 1988, was publisher of Time magazine and later president of Time, Inc. He also chairs the Japan-U.S. Friendship Commission. Williams College is among the founding members of the Doshisha University internship program in Kyoto.

Groups meet with education official on issues

Representatives from the Japanese American Citizens League (JACL), Organization of Chinese Americans (OCA), Asian Pacific American Labor Alliance (AFL-CIO), National Asian Pacific-American Legal Consortium and National Asian Pacific American Bar Association met Oct. 14 with Assistant Secretary Norma Cantu, who heads the Office of Civil Rights for the Department of Education.

OCA Executive Director Daphne Kwok said, "We look forward to working with Ms. Cantu as education is one of the foremost issues facing the Asian American community."

"Educational civil rights issues are even more critical for our community to address because we are often forgotten in the civil rights arena."

JACL Washington Representative Karen Narasaki added, "We have confidence that under Ms. Cantu, the Office of Civil Rights will recommit itself to defending the rights of all children to a quality education, regardless of race, color or national origin. She is an expert in the area of discrimination in education and is sensitive to the issues facing Asian Pacific Americans."

The Office of Civil Rights has responsibility for enforcing Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, which prohibits schools receiving

federal funding from discriminating on the basis of race, color or national origin.

The Office also enforces Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, which prohibits gender discrimination; Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, which prohibits discrimination on the basis of physical and mental disability; and the Age Discrimination Act of 1975.

NISEI
 (Continued from page 1)

The crises-riddled jury, toward the final days, included an alternate Japanese American juror.

The prosecution had maintained Williams pelted Hirata's car with rocks and punched him after he was dragged from the vehicle. Hirata was saved by a Good Samaritan, Greg Alan Williams, an African American actor. Williams was recognized during the Japanese American National Museum delayed-grand opening. The opening in Little Tokyo had to be cancelled with the city curfewed by the riots.

The Hirata name appeared in the P.C. last week in the PSWDC recognitions luncheon story, as the dental team of Dr. Yamaguchi, Toguchi, Barron and Staff of Los Angeles was hailed for their unhesitant response to help Hirata, and their display of restorative skills and talent.
 —HARRY K. HONDA

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Opinions



From the frying pan

BILL HOSOKAWA

Bridge builders across the Pacific

When the Nisei generation first began to appear on the scene, their proud Issei parents saw them as one day bridging the formidable understanding gap between the United States and Japan. The idea of Americans with Japanese faces in the role of mediators and conciliators was heartwarming because the Issei looked with misgivings on the continuing friction between the land of their origins and the land of their residence.

Before their hopes could be realized, the two nations were at war. But at that stage the concept of Nisei bridges was an unrealistic dream. In their developing years most Nisei were so busy becoming Americans that the idea of bridging the Pacific wasn't particularly attractive. As a group they understood so little of Japanese language or culture that they were no more prepared for a bridging role than other Americans.

Perhaps more important, they had yet to win the respect and confidence of either Japanese or Americans necessary to play such a role. The Evacuation, the result of racist suspicion of the loyalty of Japanese Americans, reveals all that needs to be known about U.S. unreadiness to accept them as bridges.

It was nearly as bad in Japan. Mostly, Nisei were seen as the uncouth and uneducated offspring of people, primarily of low social status, who had abandoned their homeland.

It took a long time to change those attitudes, but the time has come. The change began with Nisei in the U.S. Occupation who worked with Japanese officials to help revive that country.

As time went on Nisei attorneys and others were asked by Japanese business firms to serve as consultants. (Mike Masaoka was one of the earlier consultants, sought out for his knowledge of Americans ways and his ability to open doors in Washington. But even he faced discrimination from the Japanese. In his biography, *They Call Me Moses Masaoka*, he tells of Japanese clients paying him less than they paid their white American consultants for less important services.)

Little by little the bridge grew stronger. Nisei like Henry Goshu were given important State Department assignments in Japan. Several others served as consuls general.

A major breakthrough came nearly a decade ago when Glen Fukushima, an at-

torney and son of a Nisei career soldier, was named director for Japan in the office of the United State Trade Representative. It was a sensitive assignment at a critical time but Fukushima had extraordinary qualifications. His performance quickly overcame misgivings among some Americans that he might be too easy on the Japanese, and Japanese concerns that he might be too tough on them.

A few weeks ago another Japanese American was named to represent a U.S. government entity in Japan: Jonathan Kaji was appointed director of the California Foreign Trade Office in Tokyo. It is a high profile post, under the critical scrutiny of both the U.S. and Japanese press—as it should be—as he seeks to promote two-way commerce between Japan and its most important trading partner among the 50 American states.

The bridge is not yet a broad highway. But after so many years it is firmly in place.

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

Letters

At issue for JACL is freedom of speech

A real Japanese American dilemma. Basic American ideas relating to our society are again being tested. The ideal of freedom of the press, the idea that for a democracy to work, all sides of an issue should be illuminated and explored.

Opposed to this are Japanese cultural ideas that being a member of a group means go along or be shunned, and in keeping any disagreement within the group (whether family, company or organization).

There are many positive aspects of Japanese culture which could be on display in the JACL. Like the old song, "emphasize the positive and eliminate the negative." It might even make the *Pacific Citizen* more interesting.

I have paid membership dues for many years to the JACL because of unconstitutional and unfair treatment of Japanese Americans during World War II. It appears another constitutional issue must be dealt with (relating to freedom of speech) by the JACL.

Richard T. Schultz

Hayward, Calif.
Eden Township Chapter, JACL

First Amendment is key to democracy

The dismissal on September 26 by JACL president Lillian Kimura of Paul M. Shinkawa as chairperson of the *Pacific Citizen's* governing board was followed by a comparable dismissal on Oct. 1 by the Texas branch of the NAACP of attorney Anthony Griffin as its volunteer general counsel. Mr. Griffin had the exceptional courage to represent Michael Lowe, grand dragon of the Waco-based Knights of the Ku Klux Klan on a First Amendment case. At issue was whether the state could order the Klan to produce its membership lists for prosecutorial purposes. According to Gary Bledsoe, the Texas branch's president, "When he [Griffin] represented the Klansman in court Wednesday [September 29], he voluntarily relinquished his post. By representing the Klan, he is in direct conflict with the mission of the NAACP." According to Mr. Shinkawa, he was dismissed for refusing "to instruct PC staff not to publish any report of the PC related discussions which occurred on these two days . . ." In short, Mr. Shinkawa was dismissed for refusing to censor the *Pacific Citizen*. Both dismissals were over First Amendment guarantees and protections.

What the JACL and NAACP need to understand is that the First Amendment is more than legalism; it is a linchpin to democratic self-rule. A free and responsible press

See LETTERS/page 7

Come-on Sense

KARL K. NOBUYUKI

The September JACL Debacle

What most JACLers privately acknowledge is that along with the membership card comes a certain degree of risk. It is the risk that Americans of Japanese ancestry take to stand-up for what is right and proper in the nation we call home. JACL membership is not one that all *Nikkeibeijin* take, it is totally voluntary. For many, the willingness to place oneself at risk is rooted in an understanding of Japanese American history, and one's belief that there is "Security through Unity."

As a civil rights group, members assume that its leadership will adhere to a code of conduct rooted in the organization's by-laws and that its national leaders will act in good faith to preserve the integrity of the National Council. Members, in my opinion, stand strongly in their belief that principle must withstand raw power and simple convenience. That is until now . . .

The recent actions of the national board and staff have cast a deep shadow on the traditions of trust that were the benchmarks of the JACL. The National Board's collective decision to censure the *Pacific Citizen*, has jeopardized the validity of the JACL as a civil rights organization. Demanding the resignation of the *Pacific Citi-*

zen board chair, on the basis of his stand on organizational principles, has thrust the JACL into a position of hypocrite.

At the local level are we expected to "rationalize" how a civil rights organization can suspend its own rules of free speech to its own publication? We are told on one hand how "national staff" cannot go to work in fear of their efforts being criticized, and at the same time we read (in the P.C.) how freely they elect to criticize the staff at the *Pacific Citizen*. Are members supposed to read the "official statement" of the National Board and believe that the board's press release is gospel?

COME-ON SENSE: Actions speak louder than words. The National Board over-stepped its boundaries by violating its fiduciary obligation to the organization. In requiring Paul Shinkawa's resignation as chair of the *Pacific Citizen*, the National Board impeached its most valuable asset, trust. It exposed a vulnerable JACL without checks-and-balances, and placed its membership at greater risk by belonging to an organization that does not respect its own civil rights.

The impact of the National Board's action should not be underestimated. Some

long-standing members are seriously considering not to renew membership in protest of the board's handling of the P.C. Even among the more conservative members there is mention of "recall" and withholding national and district dues. It appears that our national board has redefined the so-called "Plan of Action" to "damage control."

The comments that I have read from members of the national board and staff in the aftermath of the JACL Debacle are embarrassing. Placed in perspective, we are expected to behave as "some other" organization (e.g., YWCA) that does not have our chemistry. We are told to expect our national newspaper to mimic a "public relations" newsletter rather than a National Japanese American Newspaper. I say "bunk!"

Whether, one belongs to the JACL or not, when it comes to the *Pacific Citizen*, clearly the P.C. is a National Japanese American Newspaper. We should expect no less . . .

Nobuyuki, a former JACL national director, is a member of the San Fernando Valley and Greater Los Angeles Singles Chapters, JACL. His column appears regularly in PC.



Pacific Citizen
Policies

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National JACL staff editorial

By CAROLE HAYASHINO

PC must choose its contexts better

This is my first, and most likely, last PC column written as the JACL Acting National Director. It has been a challenging four-month interim which began with the *Rising Sun* protests, continued with the intense and yet to be resolved debate on the role and responsibility of the PC, and finally the firebombing of the Sacramento JACL Chapter Office.

These are three major issues, distinctly different, yet sharing a common thread which have required, and will continue to require, a great deal of attention and resources from the national organization.

But of the three, it is the Oct. 2 bombing of the Sacramento Chapter, JACL, office that places all issues into perspective and is a reminder to us of our priorities as a national civil rights organization.

Among the recent news stories reporting on the Sacramento Chapter incident, and the subsequent firebombing of the home of Sacramento City Council member Jimmy Yee, was a commentary by *San Francisco Chronicle* columnist, Jon Carroll.

I was surprised to read Carroll's column titled, "What Went Wrong — The Prequel." For the record, Jon Carroll and I are not friends. In fact, Carroll disagreed so strongly

with our protest of *Rising Sun* that he devoted an entire column criticizing our efforts.

But on Oct. 8, Carroll wrote:

"I have made invisible mistakes mostly . . . A column gets published, but the thinking does not stop. What's missing is as important as what's included. The real power of the press lies in the selection of context.

"It is not an equal relationship; I have a column and you don't. It's up to me to figure out what we should be talking about. Too often, I have gone for the throat of a harmless field rodent and left the big beast to ravage the countryside.

"So like this *Rising Sun* deal; there's a fine example. I was right in my most narrow point . . . that people had attacked the film without seeing it . . . the people who had attacked the film had done so because of a perceived climate of explosive racial intolerance.

"They had chosen the movie as a forum for their concerns. Perhaps it was a bad forum, but the concerns were real . . .

"The larger and more important point is that racial violence is real. The larger and more important point is that houses are

being firebombed and racism is among us and within us and we have no tools to deal with it except denial. "So I owe an amends, but I'm not sure to whom. I was right except I was very wrong. I did my job, but it was the wrong job . . ."

While Jon Carroll and I continue to disagree on *Rising Sun*, we have reached a level of understanding. Carroll recognizes the power he wields as a journalist, the responsibility which accompanies that power and is not afraid to admit mistakes. It's been two months since the release of *Rising Sun*, but with the escalating racial violence in Sacramento, Carroll finally got our message — that hate violence is a very real and legitimate concern to our community.

But what's more interesting, is the relevance of Jon Carroll's column to the JACL. His timely remarks offer a perspective for all of us to consider.

For example, like Carroll, maybe the *Pacific Citizen* needs to figure out "how to choose its contexts better." The *Pacific Citizen* needs to learn how to reconcile being editorially independent and "an educational and public relations project" of the JACL. And maybe the *Pacific Citizen* needs to

figure out how it intends to support, as well as, join in the National JACL's efforts to carry out the Program for Action.

And if we are to have thoughtful public debate on the role and responsibility of the *Pacific Citizen*, we need balanced and responsible reporting. Critical analysis and criticism can be constructive and productive. But we need to cut the dramatics — claims of censorship, quotes taken out of context and published with a reporter's own spin — do not help to clarify the issues being addressed. Remember: "What's missing is as important as what's included."

The question of *Pacific Citizen's* relationship and responsibility to the JACL will not easily be resolved. The JACL-PC controversy is not simply an "either/or" — "watchdog vs. mascot" — "them or us" — debate. We are faced with the challenge of clarifying the role of the PC as the "official publication of the JACL" and defining our needs as a national organization. How can we improve communication with our members, our coalition partners and supporters? How can we more effectively and efficiently inform our members and community of our

See HAYASHINO/page 8

By the board

By NEAL TANIGUCHI

A different perspective of the PC controversy

In the past several weeks, the *Pacific Citizen* has printed a series of articles and editorials surrounding the dismissal of Paul Shinkawa as PC Board Chair. The National president was completely justified in asking for Shinkawa's resignation. Nevertheless, the PC has chosen to cloud the issues with an argument of editorial independence and failure of leadership.

Short of confusing most of our membership on the issues, the PC staff has proceeded to make a mockery of objective and responsible reporting. The editor has chosen to express his opinion in the PC about an issue, about which most of the membership, I believe, do not have the foggiest idea. The editor withholds important facts to sway readership opinion in his favor. In my opinion the editor is only trying to divide the JACL further between those who "like the PC" and those who "do not like the PC."

The whole PC controversy stems from a series of articles the PC published this past summer. The first article, published in June of 1993, reported on the activities of the May 22 PC Board meeting. At that meeting, the PC Board decided to develop and maintain its own personnel manual for the PC staff. Members of the National

Board, including myself, raised several objections to having two personnel manuals, one for the national staff and one for the staff at the PC.

First, the PC is part of the JACL corporation. The PC staff are JACL employees. They should not and cannot be treated separately, if we are all part of one corporation. All JACL employees, whether at National Headquarters, in the Regional Offices or at the PC, must be treated equally, subject to the same terms and conditions of employment, benefits, and rules and regulations. A separate personnel manual for the PC staff would have allowed the PC staff to be employed under different terms and conditions of employment and not subject to the same expectations we have of the national and regional staff. Allowing employees to be treated differently within one organization, as the PC Board and staff wanted, can lead to significant morale problems, and hinders the National Board's ability to carry out the Program for Action.

Second, the National Board, as the delegated body of the National Council responsible for the affairs of the entire corporation, also has a fiduciary duty to ensure good management control. Management

control, in my opinion, includes the personnel matters of the corporation. It does not make good corporate policy sense to have two personnel manuals. Yet, the PC Board chose to ignore that National Board responsibility, and proposed its own manual.

It should also be noted that the PC Board also discussed the notion of becoming completely independent of the JACL, such that the PC could truly be an independent operation. PC Board members, as well as staff, complained of instances where budget allocations were slow in being transmitted to the PC; parts of the national personnel manual did not really apply or address the working conditions of the PC staff. All of these complaints could have been remedied administratively.

The second article the PC published dealt with the Jap Road controversy in Texas. In that article, the editor reported, in a critical manner, the failure of the National Director, Dennis Hayashi, to contact and reassure the local membership working on the issue. Some national board members objected to this article, because it unfairly criticized the National Director and did not report all of the facts. What the editor did not report was that, at the March Board

meeting in Washington, D.C., Paul Shinkawa expressly disagreed with the strategy being used by the National Director, and further asked Dennis to "lay low" and let him take care of the situation. If the editor was trying to objectively report the controversy, as he pointed out to me in an internal memo, why wasn't this direction of the PC Board Chair reported? For that matter, why didn't the PC Board chair mention this information to the editor?

Furthermore, if the intent of the article was to editorialize and criticize National's handling of the matter, why didn't the editor find out about the sentiments of other JA's living in the vicinity of the road? My understanding is that other JA residents preferred to not have the road sign changed. Why didn't the editor investigate this possibility? Why didn't the editor research and suggest other approaches of trying to get the sign changed? THE PC'S JUNE ARTICLE ON THE JAP ROAD CONTROVERSY WAS NOT BALANCED REPORTING!

When I served as Governor of the Northern California-Western Nevada-Pacific District, I always encouraged our delegates to

See TANIGUCHI/page 8

Pacific Citizen editorial

Response to Taniguchi, Hayashino

Most of the matters raised in Vice President Taniguchi's editorial were actually sent to former PC Board Chair Paul M. Shinkawa in a July 13, 1993, memo. Shinkawa prepared a response which was approved by the PC Board. President Lillian Kimura, however, requested Shinkawa on Aug. 21, 1993, not to send the letter to Taniguchi or publish it in the PC. The PC has honored that request until this time. The following is Shinkawa's and the PC Board's response to the vice president. Other responses to the editorials of Taniguchi and Acting National Director Carole Hayashino follow Shinkawa's letter.

Shinkawa's response to Taniguchi

I would like to address each of the points raised in your memorandum.

1. The PC Board approved the creation of a separate PC personnel manual only after serious and thorough discussions which deeply touched on the basic premises of the JACL and the law. After careful deliberation among the Board which includes two lawyers who practice employment and civil rights law, the JACL president, and the immediate past president (also a lawyer), a consensus decision was made to create a new manual for the PC staff. There were two principal reasons for

this.

First, the National Bylaws place the responsibility for PC staff on the PC Board. The PC Board cannot legally delegate nor can it ethically abdicate this duty to the National Board under the current Bylaws. Such a change can only occur as a result of National Council action and action by the National Board to the contrary is a violation of the JACL Constitution.

Second, the national personnel manual which was conditionally approved at the Washington, D.C., National Board meeting in March of this year, while serving the needs of headquarters staff, does not allow a weekly newspaper to be competently or efficiently published in a business-like manner.

For example, according to the National personnel manual, headquarters staff work a 35 hour week. Therefore, hours worked in excess of 35 each week are compensated by additional time off from another 35 hour week. This work regimen renders it impossible to produce the current newspaper on a weekly basis.

The needs of the PC require its staff to work a 40-hour week. Production of each weekly PC requires at least 240 work-hours a week (6 people X 40 hours). Therefore, if it operated on National's schedule, PC would run at a cumulative deficit of 30 work-hours each week (6 people X 5 hours). The PC would have to

shut down periodically to allow everyone to use up their accumulated time, pay extra money for overtime, or hire more people at a greater cost. None of this would result in a better product or greater value for JACL members.

2. The concept of operating multiple business entities under common ownership with disparate personnel policies is very common in private sector businesses and is not, in and of itself, inequitable. Personnel policies must be fair, they must comply with all applicable laws and labor regulations, and in the case of a JACL related entity, they should not be inconsistent with the underlying principles of the organization. There are many businesses operating wholly owned subsidiaries, which, because of inherent differences in the nature of their work (such as manufacturers versus service providers) have differing personnel policies in place.

Handicapping the PC with an inadequate personnel manual which diminishes the value of the JACL membership is in the PC Board's view, a gross disservice to its members and a breach of its trust.

3. You stated that, "the PC is supposed to be the official publication of the JACL." You are absolutely correct. The PC Board recognizes that as the status of the PC. However, the PC Board also recognizes that the National Bylaws mandate independent manage-

ment and editorial supervision of the PC from that of headquarters. The concept of being the official publication of the JACL is a separate and distinct concept from being the propaganda and public relations arm of the JACL. In recognition of that the founders of the JACL and the PC created the separation of roles and separate accountability tracks of Headquarters and the PC. Both headquarters and the PC are unquestionably accountable to the members of JACL. We on the PC Board see and hear this on a weekly basis from the members. We know whom we are ultimately accountable to. You must not equate being the official publication of JACL as the same as being the official publication of headquarters.

In counterpoint, the PC will not, and the PC Board will not tolerate, deviation from its role as an objective reporter of news of, about, and of interest to JACL members. Opinions in the form of editorials are clearly designated as such and are the opinions of the editorial writers, not the official position of the PC or the JACL. The PC will also not take a position which is calculated to undermine or contradict a duly adopted policy or position of the National Council or the National Board.

4. You state that, "National JACL must pay for the liability insurance of the PC when National JACL cannot control PC editorial

See RESPONSE/page 8

From a chapter president

An open letter to the JACL president

Dear Madame President,

On behalf of the San Fernando Valley Chapter, JACL, I am writing to express our concern over your recent action that resulted in Paul Shinkawa's resignation as chair of the *Pacific Citizen* (PC) Board. We do not question your authority in this matter. Your authority is clearly established by our Constitution. What we as a chapter question is your judgment.

One of the many strengths of our organization is the diversity in membership. Our membership is rich and poor, young and old, liberal and conservative. We are truly a reflection of American society. Because our members come from different walks of life, it should be expected and understood that from time to time, the membership will be divided on some issues that National has taken a firm position on. These differences should not permanently change the way that the JACL operates since the overriding force that binds us is our belief in JACL's purpose. We are an organization that seeks to enforce universal democratic principles. This belief empowers our volunteer organization to aggressively take on injustices related to discrimination and prejudice. From our chapter's point of view, the pursuit of equitable enforcement of democracy is the heart and spirit of our organization.

One could argue that the issue most material to the Shinkawa decision is whether the PC is an independent publication or a house organ. This distinction may be subtle as well as pertinent. If the PC is a house organ, should it be permitted to voice opinions which differ from positions that the JACL National Board has taken? On the other hand, if the PC is independent, what right does the JACL have in censoring the publication?

Because our membership base is diverse in background, we believe that the JACL and PC have an obligation to the membership to express a balanced perspective on all issues that the JACL value. Whether a counter viewpoint is expressed by a paid staff member or a "rank and file member" should be immaterial. Many publications and news agencies employ individuals with different opinions by design. What is important, is that the membership be exposed to all points of view, no matter how controversial. Solidarity can only be achieved if the membership makes a consensus determination on its own. This determination must not be driven solely by emotions. It must be intellectual as well.

Some officers have suggested that they cannot be effective if they have to worry about the PC expressing critical reviews of

their actions. This also seems inconsistent with our fundamental beliefs. All of us: members, chapter board members, officers, district officers and National officers are and should be held accountable for our actions. Can anyone argue that accountability of leadership is not a fundamental democratic principle? The title of office is always accompanied with responsibility. Criticism of leadership is not counterproductive. If the general membership agrees with the criticism, then perhaps, one should reconsider their actions. If on the other hand, the general membership disagrees with the criticism, one should feel uplifted for taking the correct action. Officers must make decisions based on the best interests of the general membership. Decisions cannot be based exclusively on their own interests. Individuals do not make the JACL strong. It is the combined efforts of the membership that makes our organization effective.

We recognize that you had the authority to act. In retrospect however, we believe that all chapters should have been consulted before any decision was made. District governors could have contacted each chapter for input. This would have provided a more democratic, participatory, and equitable decision.

Any form of censorship is in complete spiritual violation of our purpose as a civil rights organization. If we cannot practice democratic principles internally, we send a peculiar message to our members and the outside community. This message says that we are free to criticize others for their shortcomings, yet we are not obligated to maintain the same high standards for ourselves. Is this the desired symbolism that the JACL should be projecting?

Within our membership in the San Fernando Valley, some have expressed their disbelief in the entire incident. Those voicing their concerns are longtime supporters of our chapter, not recent members. The confusion is rooted in the spirit of the JACL, which to many of our members, unconditionally stands for the equitable application of civil liberties. These liberties include freedom from discrimination, freedom from prejudice, and freedom of the press.

I hope that this letter encourages you to solicit opinions from other chapters on this issue. We look to your response.

Respectfully submitted,

*Arnold Miyamoto*President
San Fernando Valley Chapter, JACL

LETTERS

(continued from page 5)

provides the information necessary to reasoned self-rule. Members of the democratic organization or society need to be informed in order to rule wisely. Readers of the October 1-7 issue of the *Pacific Citizen* only need compare the JACL's official statement on page 1 to Gwen Muranaka's ad-

joining story, Richard Suenaga's incisive editorial, and Mr. Shinkawa's statement on page 7 to see the difference between a controlled press and a free press. Nowhere in the official statement do we read the order that president Kimura gave to chair Shinkawa. Nor do we there read about the threat of resignation applied by JACL staff if the *Pacific Citizen* were not restrained from criticizing their actions.

It may be too much to expect

either the JACL or NAACP to reverse themselves. I do hope, however, that the JACL does not confront the PC staff with the difficult choice of submitting to censorship or sticking by their First Amendment rights and resigning. Strangle the *Pacific Citizen*, and you strangle democracy in the JACL.

William Hohri

Chicago, Ill.

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Pacific Citizen

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Pacific Citizen

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HAYASHINO

(Continued from page 6)

activities and the myriad of social and political issues which will affect us?

Until we figure this out, we have a shared responsibility to keep the PC debate in perspective and in its proper context. We cannot and should not lose sight of our primary obligation to address the larger issues facing the organization and the Asian Pacific American community.

If nothing else, take a cue from Jon Carroll and talk to the members of the Sacramento Chapter — hate violence is alive and well.

A final note: The JACL has a talented staff capable of juggling a work load which can include responding to national and local civil rights issues, carrying out JACL programs, addressing membership inquiries, handling press calls, and coordinating many other organizational matters.

During this interim period, the staff and board tackled a number of policy issues and activities — immigration, redress, anti-Asian violence, the March on Washington — while still managing the organization's programs and operations.

It's been a successful team effort. In addition to our civil rights agenda, we welcomed the Georgia JACL Chapter — our 114th chapter, completed the JACL Education Curriculum Guide, expanded the centralized membership program, conducted the national director search, awarded \$85,000 in scholarships, completed a financial audit, continued to refine the organizational restructuring proposal, planned for the 1994 national convention, selected the site for the 1996 national convention,

began plans for '94 national youth conference, and explored new strategies for fund-raising for Legacy Fund and the general operations of the organization.

The bottom line is that the staff and board have continued to promote the goals and objectives of the JACL Program for Action.

Recent PC editorials have unfairly criticized some members of the staff and board. I have chosen not to use this column to respond to the editorial comments which have maligned staff members for raising difficult, but legitimate, questions about the PC to the National Board. PC readers should understand that the statements attributed to staff members in recent editorials were taken out of context and misrepresented. I believe that the PC is not the appropriate forum to launch criticisms against JACL employees; nor does the PC editor have the right to chastise JACL staff members. There is a process to raise questions, criticisms and suggestions to the JACL staff. And we welcome your inquiries and suggestions to assist us in carrying out our responsibilities. Criticism offered in a professional manner and in a spirit of cooperation, can be beneficial to all. We are, after all, on the same team.

Hayashino is JACL Acting National Director.

TANIGUCHI

(Continued from page 6)

not just criticize an action or position, but to also suggest alternative approaches to solving a problem. In this way, the District would continue to move forward and not fight over the issue. The PC should, likewise, broaden its

investigation of issues and report on alternative ways to approach a controversy. The JACL, as a whole, does not move forward until everybody sees all sides of an issue.

Finally, the lid blew off the kettle when, in July, the PC published seemingly conflicting articles about the movie, *Rising Sun*, on the front page. Both National staff and National board members vociferously objected to the presentation, because the presentation made the JACL look disorganized, neutralized the good work of the National staff, and damaged our credibility with the coalition working on the *Rising Sun* issue.

Furthermore, the PC staff, with the knowledge of the PC Board Chair, refused to cooperate with the national staff and would not divulge the content of the newspaper until after the paper went to print. In my opinion, the actions of the PC staff and the PC Board chair directly undermined our efforts to carry out the Program for Action.

The PC Board chair and the PC editor defend their position by hiding behind their notion of the "members right to know," their first amendment right to express their own opinion about an artistic work, and their editorial independence. To some extent, I agree with all of their ideas. However, the reality is that, to the outside world, their presentation of the *Rising Sun* articles gave the appearance that the organization was divided on the *Rising Sun* issue.

The JACL is fortunate to have a top notch national and regional staff. They spend long hours on issues such as *Rising Sun*. With regard to the *Rising Sun* articles, Karen Narasaki is unequaled as our representative in Washington, D. C. She has worked hard to nurture our credibility and reputation on the hill. Yet the PC, by publishing Karen's article the way it did, forced Karen, as well as all of the JACL staff, to defend an organization that appeared to be in conflict. When the PC hit the streets, staff was forced to respond to inquiries from the *Los Angeles Times*, the *New York Times*, and the *San Francisco Examiner*. How can the National Board, in its best conscience, let the PC unravel all of the staff's hard work?

Since the publication of these three articles, the PC has printed a volley of editorials, written by PSW Board members, JACL members, and PC staff. All of this led to the heated discussions at the September National Board meeting, Paul Shinkawa's subsequent dismissal as PC Board Chair, and the series of editorial diatribes you have read over the past several weeks.

What is at issue here is the extent to which the PC has editorial independence to print what it wishes. I think everyone believes that the PC should have some degree of editorial independence. The National Council has given the PC editorial independence by incorporating the concept in the Constitution and Bylaws. However, by definition, the JACL is an advocacy organization, of which the PC is a part. As such, the positions and work of the organization must take precedence over the editorial independence of the PC. The PC is not an independent newspaper that can choose to agree or disagree with the direction of the organization. The PC derives its existence from the JACL's contract with its membership to provide the PC as the official education and PR vehicle of the JACL. The PC must temper and balance its objective of editorial independence with the policy and PR objectives of the organization.

Currently, the PC is answerable to the National Board through the PC Board chair, who is appointed by the president. The PC Board chair has a dual responsibility. As a non-voting member of the National Board, the Chair must balance the editorial independence objective of the PC with the overall management and policy

objectives of the National Board. In my opinion, the PC Board Chair did not respond to this dual obligation with respect to the issues mentioned here. He placed the editorial independence objective over and above the management and policy objectives of the National Board and, ultimately, the goals and objectives of the Program for Action. For these actions, I believe that Paul Shinkawa's dismissal as PC Board chair was justified.

In the end, the real long-term question for JACL members is whether or not you want a completely independent *Pacific Citizen*. If the membership wants a completely independent PC, then the PC must split off to form its own corporation. If, on the other hand, the membership wants a PC that is the official education and PR vehicle of the JACL, a publication that is part of the JACL corporation, the PC cannot be completely editorially independent. We cannot have our cake and eat it too.

Taniguchi is National JACL vice president of general operations.

RESPONSE

(Continued from page 6)

policy and now, PC personnel policy." The question I challenge you to ask yourself is, "who is the National JACL which is paying these bills?" Is National JACL the same as headquarters staff? Do the National Board members pay all of the liability insurance premiums? Or, is National JACL collectively the individual, grassroots members who, each year pay not only their membership dues, but sacrifice their time and time owed to their families to carry on toward the dream of making America a multicultural society of which Japanese Americans are a respected and integral part? Are we not all committed to making "Better Americans in a Greater America" together?

I submit to you that it is the members of JACL who pay for everything that you and I do for and with this organization. There are no entities known as National Headquarters or *Pacific Citizen* which have any significance in JACL greater than the value of each member who steps forward to help carry this burden. If the PC fails to measure up to its duties to the members, those customers have the means, the ability, and the ownership of this newspaper to step forward, tell us what is wrong, and expect a meaningful response.

The PC Board firmly believes in open and easy two-way communication with members. For that reason the PC has a toll free telephone number which can be used to communicate with the PC office in Los Angeles. PC is also the only part of JACL which reaches out and touches each JACL member in a meaningful way almost every week of the year. This is our measure of value-added membership service. It is our obligation to the real National JACL.

Your suggestion that PC be divested totally from the remainder of JACL is not an original idea. The PC Board has discussed this at great length and in deference to its obligations of service to JACL members, cannot endorse it. Ultimately of course, the decision to make such a profound change in the organization lies with the National Council and the members since both changes to the National Constitution and Bylaws are necessary to carry this out. However, the PC Board is convinced that the best interests of the members are served by the currently designed management and policy system together with its systems of accountability.

Other responses to Taniguchi's editorial

Regarding Taniguchi's version of what occurred at the March 21, 1993, Washington, D.C. National Board meeting: After the meeting Shinkawa reported to the PC editor that he and Dennis Hayashi had come to agreement on two

issues related to the "Jap Road" controversy. Shinkawa and Hayashi agreed that Hayashi would "keep a low profile" in contacting Texas public officials so that they would not be working at cross-purposes. Hayashi also agreed that he would return Houston Chapter President Betty Waki's telephone calls the following week. Shinkawa reported that Hayashi subsequently kept a low profile and Waki reported, as outlined in the June 25, 1993, PC article, that Hayashi never returned her calls.

Taniguchi also says: "Furthermore, if the intent of the article was to editorialize and criticize National's handling of the matter, why didn't the editor find out about the sentiments of other JAs living in the vicinity of the road? My understanding is that other JA residents preferred to not have the road sign changed. Why didn't the editor investigate this possibility?"

First, the stories on page one of the June 25, 1993 *Pacific Citizen*, were news stories, not editorials, a distinction Taniguchi needs to understand. PC has never written an editorial on the Jap Road controversy.

Taniguchi must have also missed this part of the story on Jap Road written by PC reporter Gwen Muranaka: "In defense of Jap Road, Denise Broussard, whose mother is Japanese American, said 'if it was discrimination and meant to be offensive, then yes, it would be bad. But it's not. It (Jap) was a bad phrase during and after the war, but the war is forgotten and we've become educated again. It's a good word again, unless it's used in a bad way.'"

Pacific Citizen would also question Taniguchi's message here, which seems to imply that if a person of Japanese ancestry says the use of a racial epithet is all right, that somehow mitigates the situation.

PC has attempted to elevate the discussion of the movie *Rising Sun* to broader and higher and less personal levels but some National staff and National Board members apparently wish to continue.

Simply put, the position on *Rising Sun* was not discussed or approved by the JACL National Board. It was not a sanctioned position. Therefore, PC and members alike have a right to ask questions and present alternative views and perspectives that allow for more enlightened discussion and decisions. PC would respect any official National Board position. This was not the case.

Taniguchi also says *Rising Sun* led to "heated discussions" at the Sept. 25-26 San Francisco Board meeting. It was only National staff and certain National Board members who raised their voices in an angry, hostile and threatening manner. Those who attended the meeting will verify that Shinkawa did not engage in emotional rhetoric at any time.

Response to Hayashino's editorial

In writing about *San Francisco Examiner* columnist Jon Carroll, Hayashino equates his column in which he criticized JACL for passing judgment without first seeing the film and PC's treatment which merely offered a view of the movie.

When Hayashino talks about misplaced contexts, this is an example. She is saying that Carroll apologized for his column, then so should PC. These are two different situations. PC provided a different view and for that no apology is required.

For JACL members, the issue of *Rising Sun*, once again, is one of the rights, role and responsibility of PC to print varying views on this and other timely matters. In that fashion, members may make their judgments about an issue.

Finally, Hayashino says that *Pacific Citizen* has taken National staff and National Board members statements out of context, yet never cites an example.

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