

THE KASELEHLIE PRESS

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THE KASELEHLIE PRESS

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RESCUED after 33 days!

by **JESSICA CHAPMAN**
The Kaselehlie Press

After more than a month lost at sea, four Mortlock Island residents were recovered Sept. 4 in Marshall Islands waters by a Chinese longline fishing vessel.

Passengers Denter Rickysam, Ritako Rickysam, Aisel Johnny and Jeremy Jennyu were found in good health and spirits.

The four subsisted on copra, fish and rainwater during their 33 days adrift.

"We're tired, but ok," said Denter Rickysam.

Rickysam is the deputy mayor of Oneop. Ritako, his wife, and family members Johnny and Jennyu were also aboard the 19-foot craft, set adrift after becoming disoriented Aug. 2 by rain and darkening skies.

The rescuing vessel transported the four, including their small-boat, to Majuro, arriving the morning of Sept. 6. They flew back to Chuuk Sept. 9.

The group was reported missing by Oneop residents Aug. 2 when they did not return as expected from a funeral in Satowan.

A massive search effort involving the U.S. Coast Guard, U.S. Navy, FSM National Police and Chuuk State aircraft and watercraft was called off Aug. 11.

The group reported sighting aircraft and several vessels during the month but was unable to make contact.

The boat carried no navigational equipment. They were assisted by only a flashlight and a small mirror. In order to conserve their gas supply, they started the engine only when they saw passing vessels or a school of fish.

"We always encouraged each other not to be thinking negatively," said Denter Rickysam.

Once safely aboard the Chinese vessel Rickysam contacted the Oneop mayor by radio to notify



Four Chuuk residents adrift at sea for over a month during a brief stop in Pohnpei Sept. 9 en route back to Chuuk. From left, Aisel Johnny, Denter Rickysam, Ritako Rickysam and Jeremy Jennyu. The group smiled and waved eagerly to friends waiting outside to greet them. They were picked up in Marshall Islands waters by a Chinese fishing vessel Sept. 4.

him of the rescue.

FSM police were subsequently alerted, upon overhearing the communication.

At press time, it was not clear what events led to the boat's failure to return to Oneop.

The boat was reportedly picked up about 120 miles southwest of Majuro.

USDOJ Investigator Gives PMU, GMP an 'F'

by **JESSICA CHAPMAN**
The Kaselehlie Press

A U.S. Department of the Interior memo circulating on Pohnpei offers a blistering critique of FSM national government conduct in relation to its management of Compact-funded infrastructure development projects and contract arrangements with an engineering firm based out of Hawaii.

In response, the memo's content and the efforts made to complete it have received an equally blistering assessment from GMP Hawaii, Inc., the agency contracted by the FSM government in 2005 to provide design, engineering and construction consultation on infrastructure projects.

In a written statement, GMP attorney Andrea Hillyer indicates the memo is "seriously misleading

and is based upon false assertions, insinuations, and in some instances, false and altered documentation."

"As a result," the communication continues, "the memorandum is defamatory in nature and is a tortious interference of the contract between the parties."

At press time, Hillyer said she expected to release a complete,

more detailed response from GMP on Sept. 11. Hillyer has already written the DOI requesting an internal review of the memo and its author's professional conduct.

The July 31 memo is addressed to David Cohen, chairman of the Joint Economic Management Committee (JEMCO) from Ben Privitt, an insular area field liaison for the DOI.

Privitt visited the FSM in May, purportedly in response to a re-

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UNESCO's Pongi in Pohnpei

Dr. Visio Pongi, seated right, director of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) field office in Samoa, was in Pohnpei for a courtesy visit Sept. 2-7.

Pongi applauded the country's efforts to pursue designation of several of its cultural and natural areas as UNESCO World Heritage sites. "In FSM I would like to say I think it is taking the lead as far as World Heritage is concerned," he said.

Selection makes a site eligible for UNESCO assistance and conservation and protection measures and

would likely boost tourism. The FSM is currently seeking grant assistance in order to initiate the lengthy nomination process.

Pongi, who is from Tonga, is the first native of a small island developing state to hold his position.

The office's jurisdiction counts 16 Pacific islands - including Australia and New Zealand - in its membership as well as associate member Tokelau.

Pongi sits with Dr. Rufino Mauricio, secretary-general of the FSM National Commission for UNESCO. The FSM joined UNESCO in 1999.

PMU

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quest from JEMCO staff Stephen Savage for a review of the FSM government's contract with GMP.

In the resulting memo, Privitt levels an array of claims, essentially amounting to accusations of national government mismanagement of the Compact-issued infrastructure funds and numerous conflicts of interest.

It includes accusations of improper attempts by GMP to modify its contract with the government, questions regarding the professional capabilities of government agencies - including the Department of Transportation, Communication and Infrastructure and the Department of Justice - and suggests questionable involvement and possible improper political influence of Sen. Peter Christian.

"... we concluded," the memo says, "that the contract [with GMP], taken as a whole, is not necessarily in the best interest of the Federated States of Micronesia."

It proceeds "... we suggest that you ... seriously consider ... [s]uspending the Compact Public

Infrastructure Sector Grant" and "[d]iscussing the identified issues with the President of the FSM; to include suggesting that the FSM National Government consider terminating the contract between the FSM and the GMP. . ."

Some FSM leaders - particularly in Pohnpei and Yap - have expressed dissatisfaction with the progress on and handling of infrastructure development that echoes the contents of the memo.

According to GMP Project Manager Fred Gutierrez, some projects in Pohnpei remain stalled due to their concerns.

Secretary of the FSM Department of TC&I Andrew Yatilman and FSM Secretary of Justice Marstella Jack were unavailable for comment.

Hillyer said DOI officials have indicated they are proceeding as normal with no expectation of taking action in response to the memo's recommendations.

Gutierrez pointed out the agency's progress on projects in Kosrae and Chuuk.

"So far, we're moving on," said Gutierrez. "Nothing has changed with regard to what we're doing at this point."

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Micronesian Islands Step Up to the “Challenge” as Threats Mount

Saipan hosts 8th meeting of region’s environmental leaders.

By **OLIVIER WORTEL**
MIC Media Coordinator

SAIPAN, CNMI – Nearly one-third of the world’s biodiversity – its natural wealth and the services and sustenance that it provides – can be found in the islands of the world. Nowhere is this declining biological richness more apparent than in the awesome islands of Micronesia, stretching across a seascape that rivals the size of any continent on earth.

In the long shadows of Banzai and Suicide Cliffs and the spectacular flare of the clustered red flame trees that dot the rugged hills of Saipan, conservationists from around the region collected themselves to collaborate on the explosive Micronesia Challenge and strategize on how best to implement an agenda of environmental consciousness for the region’s policy makers, hoping to set a precedent for the rest of the world to follow.

The group is known as Micronesians in Island Conservation (MIC), and this was the 8th meeting since 2003 for the ever expanding partnership between the Federated States of Micronesia, the Republic of Palau, Guam, the Republic of the Marshall Islands, and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

For sure, the CNMI is blessed with a geographic excellence that is unmatched. Deep underground caves filled with stalagmites and ancient Chamorro petroglyphs in the native, forested mountains, limestone cliffs that drop into long, white sand beaches and aqua-blue coral reefs, and massive red rock canyons that jut out of the deep, blue sea near the shore fill the landscape.

The natural setting is also racked with major development, from concrete and tin sweatshop-style garment factories, to massive skyscraping hotels with a myriad of world-class golf courses, to giant monolithic U.S. military “pre-positioning” ships parked off the reef holding all the equipment, hardware

and supplies needed to supply an Army.

Amidst this setting, the MIC grouping shared, through formal presentations, informal discussions and field visits, local environmental successes and threats and the regional environmental programs and international partnerships that are increasingly being implemented.

Land use policies, mitigating and

adapting effectively to climate changes, invasive species, marine protected area development, regional environmental granting programs and a focus on culturally and biologically important migratory species such as the highly endangered sea turtle – of which Micronesia has more nesting sites than anywhere else in the world – were other major topics that were considered and discussed.

A primary issue in the region is the

willingness of decision makers to muster the political will and gear their thinking toward environmental protection. Palau and the FSM appear to be leading the way, with Palauan President, Tommy Remengesau and FSM Vice President, Redley Killion stumping for environmental protection at various international forums in recent years.

Remengesau introduced to the world at a recent global environmental meeting in Curitiba, Brazil, what has come to be known as the Micronesia Challenge, a historic proclamation by the islands of Micronesia to fully protect 20% of their forests and 30% of their reefs by the year 2012. What the President called, “a simple stroke of genius,” is a program of work that, “not only recognizes that island biodiversity is a critical foundation for sustainable development and cultural integrity on each of our islands, it also comprehends that island ecosystems are critical to the welfare of our planet’s environment as a whole.”

Healthy reefs produce tons of protein, help regulate global temperature, and act as massive absorbers of atmospheric carbon.

“My friends, the clock is ticking on all of us,” started Remengesau. “At no time in the history of our planet have the consequences of our national and global actions had such dynamic implication for the future of our planet. Decisions that we make today, commitments that we make today and programs that we implement today may truly stem the tide of our current environmental disintegration.”

“Unfortunately,” added the environmentally minded President, “islands are not the simple paradises often portrayed in popular literature. They are extremely vulnerable political entities that often are the first to feel the consequences of careless treatment of our planet’s environment. As such, they are a test case for our seriousness in initiating global responses that will effectively stem the tide of global environmental degradation. But they

see “Challenge” on page 6



Willy Kostka commented recently on a major issue of discussion at the 8th Micronesians in Island Conservation meeting in Saipan: “I’ve been asked why I support the Micronesia Challenge and my answer is, small islands are the most fragile and the most under resourced, so what we lack in resources, we must make up for in innovation. And to me, the Micronesia Challenge is innovation at its finest.”

President Urusemal accredits Britain's Ambassador Beckingham

FSM Information Services

Palikir, **POHNPEI (FSMIS)** – Ambassador Peter Beckingham has been accredited as the Representative of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland to the Federated States of Micronesia.

On August 29 2006, President Joseph J. Urusemal received Ambassador Beckingham's Letters of Credence during a credential ceremony held in the President's Cabinet Room.

Ambassador Beckingham highlighted the fact that United Kingdom has launched a new set of International Strategic Priorities. He emphasized three key issues of significance to the FSM: Climate Security, Sustainable Development and Prevention of Terrorism.

Particular priority was given to the Climate Security considering its "immense significance to all countries." The Ambassador also touched on Britain's continuing efforts in the Kyoto Protocol to which he was looked forward to working closely with the FSM on issues of climate change.

The issue of Sustainable Development will continue to be a discussion to which the Ambassador said he looked forward to working on with the FSM.

Referencing the Prevention of Terrorism, Ambassador Beckingham noted that the United Kingdom put great importance on the international fore and the rule of international law. He stressed that on the international fore "Britain put great store on the work of the United Nations."

On a more regional note, the Ambassador applauded the works of the Pacific Islands Forum and its important role in the region, a role to which the United Kingdom extends its support.

Ambassador Beckingham concluded his remarks by commending the two members of the President's Cabinet who had studied in the United Kingdom: Marstella E. Jack, Secretary of the Department of Justice and Lorin S. Robert, Deputy Secretary of the Department of Foreign Affairs.

The Ambassador encouraged the participation of more FSM students in the British educational institutes.

President Urusemal thanked the Ambassador for his kind remarks and welcomed him and Mrs. Beckingham to the FSM, especially to the Nation's capital – Palikir.

The President paralleled his remarks to the issues presented and concurred with UK's priority on Climate Security noting that all island nations face the challenges of global warming and sea level rise. He applauded UK's continuing efforts in meeting the Kyoto Protocol to help combat the effects of global warming.

President Urusemal noted Britain's seat on the Security Council and commended Britain on the Security Council's role of highlighting the need to combat terrorism. As nations with shared democratic principles and values, the President said the "spin of events in the global arena, with respect to the acts of terrorism in all its forms and manifestations, are all the more reasons our community of democracies must continue to collaborate."

Sustainable Development remains an area to which the FSM seeks to learn from the experiences of the more developed nations of the international community.

The President concluded his remarks by encouraging Ambassador Beckingham to also visit the rest of the States in the Federation during his tenure as UK's Ambassador to the FSM.

Ambassador Beckingham is concurrently posted as the United Kingdom's Ambassador to the Republic of the Philippines where his is stationed. He entered the UK's Foreign and Commonwealth Office in 1979 and has since served in a range of post in various countries.

The Ambassador is married with two daughters.

Diplomatic ties between the FSM and the United Kingdom were established on August 9, 1992.



Ambassador Peter Beckingham, (right) with FSM President Joseph Urusemal immediately following the accreditation ceremonies in the President's conference room. The British Embassy whose responsibility included the FSM was formerly in Suva, Fiji. Consular responsibilities for the FSM have shifted from Fiji to Manila, Philippines under the charge of Ambassador Beckingham.

Pohnpei State Police Officers Get Ethics and Integrity Training



Police staff during a break in a seminar under the tutelage of Bob Shaw. The conference covered many policing issues including the topic of the day--ethics and integrity in police work. Pohnpei State Police Chief Joe Roby requested that this particular subject be covered for his top staff so that the concepts could be passed along to line officers.

Pohnpei Visitors Bureau Gets New Leadership

by **JESSICA CHAPMAN**
The Kaselehlle Press

Edgar Santos assumed leadership of the Pohnpei Visitors Bureau Aug. 17. Formerly a tourism development officer with the FSM Visitors Board Santos has also worked with the Department of Land's division of parks and recreational facilities and as a dive shop operator, bringing years of experience to the position. Santos recently spoke with *The Kaselehlle Press* about the tight-rope walk of pursuing tourism for the state while also protecting its assets. The following is an excerpt of the conversation.

The Kaselehlle Press: What are your goals as the new director of the PVB?

Edgar Santos: There are a lot of areas to go into. Our office is basically set up for marketing of tourism on the outside. We're still struggling to set ourselves in the myriad of government institutions. Right now they're [the governor's office] trying to put PVB under the [state] Department of Economic Affairs. I think that would be a setback for the office because they will lose some liberty to move outside and that would create a disadvantage for the state. That's one of the things that I would like to, if not change, make people understand. Right now the industry can not support itself in the market so the government must assist. Annually tourism brings into the state \$4 million plus a year and our marketing share of that revenue is very minimal. People need to understand that we substantially bring in some money.

KP: Do you have a goal of, for example, doubling the \$4 million in annual tourism revenue?

ES: Ideally, money is nice, but we have to look at tourism in a sustainable manner. I don't see tourism as the sole provider or the answer to our current economy. It should be contributing, but unlike other places, like Palau. I've asked them how much tourism they want, and they're open. Pohnpei is our home and tourists are guests and they should enjoy as much as they can just like a home. They should not change cultural values and impact the environment negatively.

KP: What is the general sentiment toward tourism in the state and national government?

ES: Of all the industries that are currently possible and cheapest I think tourism is the easiest thing for us to do without a lot of investment into it. There are definitely requirements and needs for us to update certain product areas in the state but in terms of investment it's not so big. We're getting an average of \$100,000 a year [from Pohnpei State] for marketing and that's nothing compared to what it brings in.

KP: Some are reluctant to have increased tourism to Pohnpei. What are your thoughts on that?

ES: Well I think I'm in line with that, with what we term "carrying capacity," the maximum limit that a certain area should be able to carry. We should try to use the potential as much as we can, but not to the extent that it would damage the environment and undermine the cultural values. Right now, I would like to drive the industry as an ecotourist destination.

KP: What about other Pacific islands, like Guam? With the upcoming influx of military personnel there isn't that a possible outlet for marketing tourism to Pohnpei?

ES: The influx of military into Guam is definitely a matter that we're looking at seriously - to attracting these people to get away from the mental warfare mode to come out here, drink sakau, relax. There's a trade show coming up and I'm sending one staff to go and look at it.

KP: Do you think it's a good model to be focusing on trade shows or would you like to look at other things, such as, for example, attracting more cruise ships?

ES: Eventually the strategic positioning of what tourism ought to be will change. Right now there is a thing about the airport [runway] being extended. Direct flights will definitely influence how we look at tourism.

KP: There has been some expression of concern that Pohnpei doesn't have enough suitable ac-



New director of Pohnpei Visitors Bureau Mr. Edgar Santos

commodation for tourists, like luxury hotels. What do you think about that?

ES: Those are the Catch 22 issues. Occupancy rates are very low. It's not more than 50 percent, so there is definitely enough hotel rooms. Going back to the issue of class of rooms I think we definitely need to improve these things. But I think if we market honestly what we got, it may get filled. Definitely the beauty of it is we have a lot of room for improvement and we can do it right because we're not in a hurry to do a quick job just to accommodate influx of tourists. We have time to think about what we need to develop. Sometimes I get frustrated for being slow in the way we handle tourism but then there are also times that I am grate-

ful that we are not going too fast.

KP: Has the funding gone down?

ES: It has definitely fluctuated over the years. That has been very difficult in determining what kind of marketing issues you will do. By comparison, other visitors bureaus in the FSM, for example Yap, regularly get half a million marketing funds every year. That has shown in their arrival statistics, continuously climbing. About 10 years ago they were the worst in arrival. Now their increase rate has been very impressive, the best in FSM. That money comes from the Yap legislature. Pohnpei is still the largest [number of] arrival in the FSM, averaging around 10,000 a year. Yap continues to climb, Pohnpei remains 10,000 average.



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NEWS

Challenge

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are a much bigger test case than many imagine.”

Further, he highlighted some vital statistics to support his country’s landmark proclamation: “The islands of this world represent more than 600 million people, one quarter of the nations of the world, 16% of the planet’s known plant species and more than half of the world’s tropical marine biodiversity. And they are currently under attack. Thirty percent of our world’s coral reefs are severely damaged and, without immediate action 60% may be lost by 2030. These are real statistics with expanding dangers.”

Covering 6.7 million square kilometers of ocean, the Micronesia Challenge represents 5% of the largest ocean in the world. The Challenge will help protect at least 66 threatened species, 10% of the global total reef area and 58% of all known corals. It is the equivalent of setting aside an area the size of the entire coastline of the Gulf of Mexico under protection.

Galvanized by the powerfully written and delivered taped-delayed speech, the group agreed to continue to press and advise policy makers across the region to adopt the environmental ethic so vital to the economies and quality of life of islanders.

Not only is Palau leading the charge for global environmental protection, it is also the center of the universe in marine biodiversity. Coral reefs globally represent about 10% of the earth’s surface. Micronesia has the healthiest and greatest diversity of reefs in the world.

It was made clear that roads, particularly those of the unpaved variety, are perhaps the greatest local threat to the environmental integrity of these islands today. Roads quickly bulldozed on beaches, through marshes and wetlands, and up into watersheds, have a disastrous effect on island ecosystems through soil compaction and reef runoff and the disruption of water flows. Building of roads and importation of cars continues as development presses

on unabated in the CNMI and throughout the region.

Often the need to build is due to population pressures, which is the case in Saipan, with has an approximate population of 80,000, with more than half of those being immigrants from SE Asia.

Other islands build roads for the sake of building, often due to the financial imperative of politicians and industrialists, coming through the form of international agreements, such as the Asian Development Bank’s Omnibus Act, or the United States’ Compact of Free Associations, which view linear infrastructure buildup as improving the quality of life of the locals. Environmental integrity of pristine and rare island ecosystems is generally given last notice in these developments.

The island of Kosrae, though not alone, is a classic case. With a small population of 8,000, and nearly the same land mass as Saipan, an infrastructure project in the form of a connected circumferential road threatens one of the most magnificent tropical freshwater forests remaining in the world.

Dr. Tholman Alik, physician, conservationist, and one of the landowners of the Yela Ka Forest in Kosrae, gave a presentation where he outlined his families’ efforts to organize themselves and protect the forest from being destroyed. The group calls themselves the Yela Environment Landowners Authority (YELA) and are committed to the mindset of conservation.

“Is there a need for this road?” Dr. Alik asked a congregated group of environmentalists present. “Perhaps, there is, perhaps there is not,” he stated emphatically, “But I submit to you that we are committed to seeking alternatives and we are seeking a dialogue with our government, our people, and the international community to assist in the preservation of this most unique forest and its surrounding ecosystems.”

The meeting was joined by leaders from around the globe, most notably, Dr. Spencer Thomas from the island of Grenada in the Caribbean, who gave the keynote speech within the gentle gaze of the culturally and environmentally important Managaha Island, one of four protected areas on Saipan.

Dr. Thomas, the Economic Policy Advisor to the Ministry of Finance of Grenada and also the Caribbean focal point for the global Convention on Biological Diversity was focused in his oratory on the Challenge and its world-wide implications.

“The Micronesia Challenge is an inspiration for every island nation and group of islands throughout the world. In fact, it is an example for every country in the world...made against the backdrop of resource scarcity coupled with demands in an increasingly globalized space. The challenge is about livelihood. The challenge is about reduced vulnerability. The challenge is about increasing the resilience of our people. It is about our sovereignty, our hopes and aspirations and our dreams. The challenge is about our survival.”

The articulate Dr. Thomas added on a more political note: “The economic, social, cultural, ecological and environmental realities must be viewed in the total space and cannot be taken in isolation in the context of small island developing states. Conservation issues must be mainstreamed into everything that we are doing.”

It will not be an easy task, financially, socially, or politically. But if realized by the local community groups, leading conservation NGOs, and national and international government institutions, it will be a monumental milestone that will help protect and sustain the historic quality of life here, and indeed, everywhere. Micronesia is leading the way.



Tiare Holm, Director of the Palau Conservation Society (Left), and Lino Olopai, Board member of the Mariana Islands Nature Alliance, at the recent Micronesians in Island Conservation meeting in Saipan

In an article in Issue 13, July 19 we erroneously listed Peter Rebeuluch as president of the FSM Youth Council. Rebeulich is VICE president..

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NEWS

FSM overhauls Election

Law

FSM Information Services

President Joseph J. Urusemal has signed **Public Law 14-76**, enacting a new election law for the Federated States of Micronesia.

Repealing the entire Title Nine of the FSM Code, the newly signed law detailed procedural requirements for elections in the FSM.

A significant amendment to the election law is the elimination of the overseas polling places. The new law allows for only two special polling places for FSM citizens abroad - one in Honolulu and the other in Guam.

President Urusemal noted in his transmittal letter to Speaker Peter M. Christian that the overhaul of FSM's election law is "indeed an historic occasion because both the Executive and the Legislative branches collectively acknowledged the flaws in the current election regime" and cooperated extensively to finalize the new law.

He expressed confidence that the detailed procedural requirements in the new law would help "prevent fraud and election irregularities in future elections." The President further requested Congress's continued support in the implementation of FSM's new election law.

An election related measure has also been signed into law. **Public Law 14-69** appropriated a sum of \$695,650 towards several pressing national needs among which includes funding of the upcoming National General Elections in March 2007.

As stated in P.L. 14-69, the sum of \$ 695,650 is to be apportioned as follows:

268,700 –	National General Elections of March 2007
205,000 –	Towards PUC overdue bills
131,950 –	Caroline Air: overhaul and cost of insurance only
60,000 –	Executive travel to outer islands of the FSM
30,000 –	Assistance to former President Tosiwo Nakayama

The other measures signed into law by the President include: **P.L. 14-70**, which appropriated a

Supplemental Budget of \$ 623,442 for the FY-06.

P.L. 14-71, which changes the use of certain funds previously appropriated for capital improvement projects and programs under P.L. 12-50.

P.L. 14-72, noted certain technical changes to P.L. 14-67, a recent measure signed towards projects and programs in the four States. The President has, however, noted that certain funds may not be dispersed until the FSM Department of Finance and Administration has appropriately designated an allottee.

P.L. 14-73, authorized overtime compensation for Food Inspectors and National Police Officers.

The two final legislations referenced appropriations authorized under a previous law (P.L. 14-35) to fund the State Projects in Fiscal Year 2006. **Public Law 14-74** appropriated \$57,454 to fund public projects and programs in the State of Yap, while **Public Law 14-75**, appropriated \$29,815 to fund public projects and programs in the Pohnpei State's Election District 1.

Referencing the previously noted law (P.L. 14-35) for FY 2006 Project Funds, President Urusemal vetoed two Congressional Acts requesting appropriations for Public Projects and Programs in Pohnpei State's Election District 3: **C.A. 14-96 & C.A. 14-97**.

The President noted that appropriations from the FY-2006 Project Funds law "shall be made 'only' as permitted by the balance of funds in the account maintained for each Election District or State at large needs."

Veto of the two measures was therefore based on the report from the Department of Finance and Administration that the project funds for Pohnpei's ED-3 have "already been expended," therefore additional appropriations can not be allowed.

The vetoes and the newly signed laws were measures from the recent Fourth Special Session of the 14th FSM Congress held July 10 – 14, 2006.

One billion lack clean drinking water: UN

*ABC
PACNEWS*

06 SEPTEMBER 2006 GENEVA (Pacnews) - More than 1 billion people still have no clean water to drink as the international community falls far behind in its plan to halve their number by 2015, two UN agencies say, *ABC* reports.

UNICEF and the World Health Organisation (WHO) say six years after the goal was set, 1.1 billion people still have no access to safe drinking water and 2.6 billion lack reasonable sanitation.

"The world is in danger of missing targets for providing clean water and sanitation unless there is a dramatic increase in the pace of work and investment between now and 2015," the agencies said in a joint report.

UNICEF and WHO estimate that, in order to meet the Millennium Development Goals, infrastructure must be built to provide sanitation services to a further 1.6 billion people and better access to drinking water for another 1.1 billion.

"The situation is becoming particularly acute in urban areas, where rapid population growth is putting great pressure on the provision of services and the health of poor people," the report said.

"A huge amount of work will have to be done simply to maintain the proportion of those living in cities with access to improved drinking water and adequate sanitation."

From 1990 to 2004, 1.2 billion people gained improved access to drinking water but this was almost entirely offset by population growth.

About 80 per cent of those lacking access live in sub-Saharan Africa, Eastern Asia and Southern Asia.

The agencies define clean water as water from a pipe, public tap, borehole, protected dug well, protected spring or rainwater collector.

The number of people without basic sanitation - toilets that flush into piped sewers or septic tanks, composting toilets or ventilated pit latrines - has fallen by only 98 million since 1990.

Sanitation is available to just six in 10 people worldwide.

The other four in 10 "are obliged to defecate in the open or use unsanitary facilities, with a serious risk of exposure to sanitation-related diseases," the report said.

Some 4,500 children die every day from the consequences of unsafe water and inadequate hygiene, according to WHO's 2005 figures.

US terminates postal money order service for FSM

FSM Information Services

Palikir, **POHNPEI** – The Federated States of Micronesia Postal Services announces that beginning September 1 2006, the nation's Postal Services will no longer include US Postal Money Orders.

According to Postmaster General Bethwel Henry, the FSM Postal Services efforts to secure a Postal Money Order service with an interested Bank were not able to be finalized before the deadline.

The US Postal Money Order is among various services accessed by the FSM under the amended Compact of Free Association between the FSM and the United States. Postal Money Order was on the list of services proposed for termination by December 31 2005, but was renegotiated for a limited extension.

The Pohnpei Utilities Company welcomes two new members to its management team

Mr. David Hawkins has returned to his former position as Assistant General Manager for the Department of Transmission & Distribution, following a four year absence where he served as the Principle and chief Engineering of Micronesian Engineering Services. He has a Bachelor of Science Degree in Electrical Engineering from Portland State University, Portland Oregon and an Associate of Arts and Science Degree from Clark College, Vancouver, Washington. Mr. Hawkins is a Licensed Professional Electrical Engineer from the State of Washington, USA. He has had 20 years of professional experience 12 of which were spent in the Federated States of Micronesia where he has actively been involved with the development, operation, and management of the island utilities on Pohnpei and Kosrae. Mr. Hawkins has managed a variety of engineering and design projects throughout his career including; power systems development and maintenance plans, energy conservation plans, and design and construction management of commercial, government, municipal, education and health care facilities. Mr. Hawkins has dealt with government agencies and regulations, grant writing, contract negotiation, business development, project and staff management, and all aspects related to engineering design.

Mr. Jenson Santos is the Assistant General Manager for the Department of Power Generation. He is currently working towards a Masters Degree in Electrical Engineering at the Department of Electrical Engineering at the University of Hawaii at Manoa. Mr. Santos has a Bachelor of Science Degree in Electrical Engineering from the University of Hawaii at Manoa, and an Associate of Arts Degree in Liberal Arts/HCOP from the College of Micronesia – FSM. He is a Xavier Graduate. His elementary schooling was completed at Nanpei Memorial Elementary School.

Mr. Santos has concentrated on building on his professional experiences obtained in Hawaii before his arrival in Pohnpei. In the State of Hawaii, he worked at Pacific Machinery, Inc. as an Assistant Sales Engineer. He also worked at the State of Hawaii Department of Accounting and General Services as an Inspector and as an Assistant Area Engineer. Mr. Santos also worked for Pacific Engineering and Research (PER), Inc. and LYZ, Inc. as the Project Engineer, Project Manager, Quality Control Manager and Estimator, and as an Assistant Safety Officer.

The Pohnpei Utilities Corporation wants to thank all of the people of Pohnpei who are using and supporting the power, water, and sewer services.

In order to maintain quality and affordable services, PUC continues to expand its services and to introduce new technology through grants and loans from foreign governments, international financial institutions as well as US Federal Programs.

Pohnpei Utilities Corporation has operated without direct subsidy from local government from tax dollars since 1996.

To reduce government, commercial and residential arrears, PUC has introduced cashpower meters which have been very effective in assisting customers to budget and to reduce arrears.

In order to protect cashpower hardware and software from tampering leading to costly replacement and modification costs, the Board of PUC on August 11, 2006 approved delaying the effective day of the minimum vend of \$5.00 to October 1, 2006. Single phase meters like those found in most households cost \$300 each. Three phase meters like those found in industrial applications each cost \$8,000.

The total arrears have decreased substantially but the remaining arrears still need to be cleared:

Government	\$1.4 million
Commercial	\$800,000
Residential	\$1.4 million
TOTAL	\$3.6 million

The direct price of fuel is over \$2.50 with the new oil supply contract while added costs of a line of credit, insurance, and other fuel related costs will bring our fuel cost to nearly \$3.00 per gallon. The tariff for power will necessarily rise to thirty-seven cents per kWh in the near future.

The PUC, as a member of the FSM Fuel Task Force, is working hard to ensure that fuel prices are affordable.

The PUC Board and Management are prepared to assist the general public by providing a detailed explanation of the costs of running the utility.

Your continued support and understanding of PUC's efforts to provide reliable and cost-effective utility services to the people of Pohnpei is solicited.

Should you have any questions, please contact:

Pohnpei Utilities Corporation
Telephone (691) 320-2374
Fax (691) 320-2422
Email puc@mail.fm

PACIFIC WORLD NEWS

Chuukese community in CNMI to file protest against new election law

MARIANAS VARIETY
PACNEWS

05 SEPTEMBER 2006 POHNPEI (Pacnews)- The Chuukese community in the Commonwealth of Northern Mariana Islands(CNMI)will file a formal complaint against its own government for failing to include the CNMI among the designated polling areas in next year's senatorial election for the State of Chuuk., *Marianas Variety* reports

On 30 August Federated States of Micronesia (FSM) President Joseph Urusemal signed Public Law 14-76 establishing a new election law for the Federated States of Micronesia.

Repealing the entire title nine of the FSM code the newly signed law details procedural requirements for elections in the Federated States of Micronesia.

A significant amendment to the election law is the elimination of overseas polling places.

The new law allows for only two

special polling places for FSM citizens abroad—one in Honolulu and the other on Guam.

Mitasy Mark the president of the Chuuk community in the CNMI said about 2,000 members of the community expressed "disappointment and frustration" with the passage of the law.

"We will appeal and file our complaint against this law. We will ask their consideration for the 2,000 citizens who are here in the CNMI," Mr Mark said

He said the group will submit a petition demonstrating the willingness of FSM citizens to participate in the election which would choose the two-year term senatorial slate for congress.

"It's our constitutional right. I believe everybody should be fairly accommodated in this activity," Mr Mark said.

He said under the new law, members can only cast votes if they fly home to Chuuk.

NGO says many Pacific sex workers brought into region illegally and forced into prostitution

RNZI
PACNEWS

05 SEPTEMBER 2006 SUVA (Pacnews)-The Fiji-based Women's Crisis Centre says many women forced into the sex trade are in the region illegally, *Radio New Zealand International* reports.

Officials say more and more women mostly of Chinese origin are being moved into the Pacific and then forced into prostitution.

In a new suspected case in American Samoa a Chinese couple faces

multiple charges including promoting prostitution and kidnapping five Chinese women.

The five Chinese sex workers are in custody because they were found to have questionable documents as their visas were duplicated and had also expired.

The Fiji Womens Crisis Centre's coordinator Shamima Ali said this happened too often.

"Our immigration department has been under the spotlight for the past two or three years about how people got in here. A lot of it has to do with our own corrupt officials who allow people in."

However the Pacific Immigration

Government callous to sufferings of women: Amnesty International

PACNEWS

05 SEPTEMBER 2006 PORT MORESBY (Pacnews)- Violence against women is becoming so pervasive that it impedes national development and contributes to the spread of HIV/AIDS, *National* reports.

This is because the Government has been unable to tackle the issue, a report by Amnesty International, a global human rights group, said.

The report showed that violence against majority of women and girls is endemic in Papua New Guinea.

Gang rapes, knife attacks on wives, beating and sexual abuse of girls and torture and murder of female "sorcerers" are among the many forms of violence against the women.

The report said the threat of sexual assault and other violence is great that women and girls could not freely move around the communities.

High levels of sexual violence also increase the risk among women of being infected with HIV/AIDS.

The report said on average, two-thirds of women had been hit by their partners.

Amnesty International noted that very little had been done in the past 20 years to help women despite numerous conferences and policy papers and regular media reports of torture, rape and other violence against women on the issue.

"A lack of political will and the government's tendency to dwell on difficulties and to dredge up old excuses meant that very little had changed for women in the last 20 years," Purna Sen, Amnesty International Asia Pacific director, said at the launch of the report.

Ms Sen said the Government needs to snap out of its inaction and deliver its responsibilities.

"Insufficient resources is not an excuse – the Government must recognise the negative impact that violence against women is having on the whole population, communities and economy, and must prioritise action against this anomaly, making the best use of funds it has," Ms Sen said.

Fiji and Tahiti strengthening bilateral ties



Fiji's Foreign Affairs Minister Kaliopate Tavola with French Polynesian President Oscar Temaru.

Mr Tavola is in Tahiti leading a trade delegation from Fiji

Directors Conference's Matthew Gibbs said these people mostly have the papers, but it was the additional coercion into prostitution that makes things illegal.

Samoa Press Vandalized

RADAUS
PACNEWS

01 SEPTEMBER 2006 APIA (Pacnews)- Police are investigating a possible case of sabotage at the *Samoa Observer* newspaper, *Radio Australia* reports

A vital hose on the printing press was cut through and several other bits of machinery were found to have been tampered with.

The paper has featured some strong editorials on Samoan politics recently and has received threats over its reporting.

The *Samoa Observer* newspaper's editor Keni Lesa said if the sabotage had not been discovered in time the attack could have crippled the newspaper.

"The press would have been in bits and pieces," he said.

"It would have just broke, simple as that."

A Pest to Pohnpei: The “Flying Rat”

By **RYAN TEELANDER**
Pohnpei Invasive Species Task Force

Feral pigeons have been on the island of Pohnpei for about 25 years, but with the increasing urbanization of Pohnpei they are becoming a concern. The pest is known by many names: the “rock pigeon”, “Flying Rats,” “Rats with Wings,” and “Sky Rats.” The feral pigeon is similar to the one that is known around the island as “kinuet” in Pohnpeian, and as “paluma” by the Mortlockese community but it is a different breed entirely.

The native pigeon prefers to stay in trees and avoids residential areas while the feral pigeon enjoys the city life. Feral pigeons live in buildings, homes and other manmade structures, where they can find food and are able to commune with other pigeons. Feral pigeons tend to nest in areas where people are because they can find the greatest amount of food and shelter there. Local pigeons are brown whereas feral pigeons are gray and sometimes appear to be iridescent, with shades of blue, purple and green. The diet of the two types of pigeons is completely different; the local pigeon eats fruits, flowers and other natural things. In contrast, the feral pigeons prefer to eat what people eat. They are scavengers eating scattered rice and many other food scraps—things that the native pigeon would not consider. The difference in diet also makes for a difference in size; the local pigeon is smaller than the feral pigeon. A survey of the pigeon population was recently conducted by the COM-FSM Land Grant on behalf of the Pohnpei Invasive Species Taskforce* (PIST). During that survey the birds were found in various locations around Kolonia town including the areas surround-



ing Ray & Dor’s store, True Value, Napa and Bernard’s, as well as the United Church of Christ’s main office. It has also been reported that they have been seen at the Catholic Mission. Other pigeon populations include, Tamworo, U, and Arika, and Meitik in Nett. The task force suspects that pigeons were brought to Pohnpei without a permit some time ago and that they were not contained. They may have escaped captivity into the wild where they bred and reached their present numbers. The task force is making preparations for a program to control the population and possibly to eradicate them before they become an unmanageable nuisance. They hope to receive full cooperation from residents who have feral pigeons on their property. Feral pigeons are known as ‘sky rats’ because of the diseases that they can carry and spread, while the pigeons themselves remain resistant to most of those diseases. The droppings of pigeons can cause damage to buildings as well as causing unsightly stains on those buildings. Fresh pigeon droppings don’t pose any real health risk, but when they dry, they have the ability to spread disease

and infection. When dry, spores from the droppings can be inhaled or carried by the wind. Airborne spores can cause a flu-like illness in otherwise healthy people. Among the many diseases that pigeons are capable of spreading, Hepatitis and Avian Influenza (also known as Bird Flu) have health officials the most concerned.

Avian Influenza has not arrived in the FSM yet, but if it does, and there is a large pigeon population the results could be catastrophic. Avian Influenza, or Bird Flu, is a major cause of concern to health officials around the world. It is believed that this type of the influenza virus could be the next worldwide pandemic killing many millions of people.

If actions are not taken immediately the population of these pigeons could quickly be very large. Feral pigeons are able to hatch anywhere from 2 to 12 eggs in one year. Their life span is anywhere from 3 to 5 years in the wild. They can live 15 years in captivity, although some have been known to live as long as 30 years. If a pair of birds successfully manages to produce just 6 viable offspring per

year over 5 years, 30 reproducing birds would be introduced into Pohnpei by the end of that time. Each of the offspring would be able to accomplish the same task as its parent and assuming that the food supply is constant, in a short period of time thousands of “flying rats” might be spreading diseases in Pohnpei.

Feral pigeons have become a very large problem in cities in the US and Great Britain. The pigeons live in large flocks and only rarely are solitary. In the US and Great Britain, the residents and/or authorities try to “scare” the birds away, which essentially moves the problem to another location. The situation in Pohnpei is completely different. Pohnpei does not have the large land mass and population of larger countries. “Scaring” pigeons away will not work for Pohnpei and the only real option is eradication or containment. Whatever must be done must be done quickly before the pigeons spread around the island and containment or eradication is no longer possible.

If you see any of these invasive birds, please call COM-FSM Land Grant at 320-5731, SPC, Regional Office North Pacific at 320-7523, or CSP at 320-5409. For more information on Avian Influenza, please contact the SPC office at 320-7523

**The Pohnpei Invasive Species Taskforce has the goal of identifying, controlling and eradicating invasive species on Pohnpei. PIST is a cooperative group including the Secretariat of the Pacific Community (SPC), the Conservation Society of Pohnpei (CSP), the COM-FSM Land Grant, Pohnpei, Public Safety, FSM Department of Economic Affairs and others*



Konrad Englberger (left) officer in charge SPC Regional Office for the North Pacific handing keys to Director of Health for Pohnpei State, Mr. Wincener David

The FSM (Pohnpei State is one of the 10 countries to benefit from the regional Adolescent Health Project funded by UNFPA and UNICEF and managed by the Secretariat of the Pacific Community (SPC). The projects started in 2001 and aims to enable young people to gain knowledge and skills in order to take responsibility in protecting their health and welfare. The project vehicle is provided by SPC with funds from NZAID. SPC is keen to support the project in expanding adolescent services through school-based clinics and community outreach

Some women hold up dresses that are so ugly and they always say the same thing: “This looks much better when it’s on.” On what? On fire? — Rita Rudner

Pohnpei Banana Market Study Presents Baseline Data

By **Dr. Lois Englberger**
Island Food Community

An impressive total of 48,251 pounds of banana was purchased by 14 local markets from farmers during an 8-week period June to August 2006, as documented in the Pohnpei Banana Market Study. This project was coordinated by the Island Food Community of Pohnpei (IFCP) and the Pohnpei Office of Economic Affairs, with initial assistance by the College of Micronesia-FSM Land Grant Program.

Most of the bananas marketed were *Utin Menihle* and *Utin Ruk*. Only 12% (5888 pounds) of the total consisted of the beta-carotene rich yellow-fleshed varieties. Still, the study showed that a diversity of banana varieties was marketed, including 17 in all.

The purpose of the study was to provide baseline data on both the volumes and varieties of banana marketed. This will be useful for the campaign in promoting local food and the rare yellow-fleshed banana varieties, which are particularly rich in nutrient content.



Angela Parvanta, University of Hawaii student doing an internship with IFCP, led the data collection and analysis, along with Lymer Yamada, assisting as part of the WIA student program. Angela said, "The market people were friendly and helpful. I went every day to the markets, Monday through Friday, and the market staff provided the information as recorded in their receipt books."

Adelino Lorens, Chief of Agriculture, pointed out, "As most local markets are open 6 days per week, this 8-week study shows that about 1000 pounds of bananas are being supplied daily to the local markets, and this does not include all markets. Also this is during the slower summer months. The study is also important as it provides the first recent data on Pohnpei food crops marketed locally."

The market study documented the volume of banana purchased by variety and market, and also showed how many markets were marketing each specific variety.

Karat, the State Banana of Pohnpei, was marketed by eight markets (over half), which is quite an achievement as no market was selling *Karat* in 1998 when the campaign started.

Data were also collected on the volume of marketed giant swamp taro (*Cyrtosperma*), which is another highly nutritious local food. In total for a five-week period, 1037 pounds of this food crop were marketed by five markets.

As a token of appreciation, *Let's Go Local* t-shirts were provided to market staff members participating in the study, as well as color photographs, showing their respective markets. Thanks are again extended to the 14 participating markets, University of Hawaii, WIA Program, Sight and Life and the New Zealand Embassy supporting this study.

Hazardous chemicals shipped to Australia for safe disposal

*Media Release from the
Australian Embassy, Pohnpei*

Nearly 13,450 lbs of pesticides, PCB contaminated oil and transformers were recently transported to Australia for safe disposal as part of a 10-year, AUD\$6Million AusAID regional initiative, called the "POPs in PICs" (Persistent Organic Pollutant in Pacific Island Countries) project.

The South Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP), in collaboration with the state Environmental Protection Agencies of Pohnpei, Chuuk and Yap, the Kosrae Island Resource Management Authority, and the FSM Environmental and Community Health Section in the Department of Health, Education and Social Affairs identified, collected, and temporarily stored the POPs on each of the four islands until se-



Photo taken at the Yap Agricultural Research Station

cure transport to Australia for proper disposal was arranged. The overall goal of the AusAID POPs in PICs project was to assist in upgrading the capacity of Pacific Island Countries for the management, including disposal, of these harmful chemicals.

POPs are toxic man-made chemicals that do not break down quickly in the environment. They accumulate up the food chain and pose serious health risks to humans and the environment.

Exposure to POPs results in ner-

vous system damage with impacts on learning and intelligence, liver damage, some cancers, and endocrine disruption or interference with hormone functions. Since most POPs are soluble in fats, as opposed in water, women tend to accumulate them more readily in their body tissues than do men. Pregnancy and breast-feeding draw on maternal bodily fat reserves, so POPs are readily transmitted to infants as well.



Australian Government
AusAID

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR**Condoms and Sensitivity**

Dear Editor:

When I was in college the dean of students stood up in a public forum and said: Free speech needs to be responsible speech. I have no problem with Michael Treacy expressing his views in a public forum concerning the distribution of condoms, as no doubt those views are sincerely held. I do, however, question how responsible he is in expressing those views.

One, I was very offended with Michael Treacy's use of the word condomania, implying that people who believe in the distribution of condoms as a means of combating the spread of HIV/AIDS, STIs, and unplanned pregnancies are mentally ill. According to the Diagnostic Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders people with mania have a problem with irritable moods and racing thoughts. To the contrary, I have found people who advocate the use of condoms to be quite friendly and easy going. Furthermore, I have also found that these people take the problems associated with HIV/AIDS, STIs, and unplanned pregnancies very seriously. On religious or moral grounds I may not necessarily agree with people who are strong advocates of handing out condoms freely and easily. At the same time, however, I am under no compulsion to publicly call into question the mental status of people who disagree with me on the subject of condom distribution. Michael has a right to free speech, but using derogatory psychobabble to demean and to degrade people with opposing viewpoints is not responsible free speech.

Two, I was likewise very much offended with Michael Treacy's use of the loaded catch phrase secular humanism. The term secular humanism implies an "us versus them" dichotomous view of

people and issues, which is overly simplistic. People are not necessarily evil, anti-God, anti-religion, anti-marriage and anti-family simply because they supposedly ascribe to a secular humanistic worldview. Furthermore, an idea should not be dismissed simply because a religionist has attached the label secular humanism to it. In a public debate concerning a sensitive topic we need to hear all points of views, including Michael's. However, dismissing people as secular humanists and dismissing what they have to say as secular humanism is not a form of responsible free speech.

Three, it is definitely not responsible free speech to cite statistics and studies without naming sources. Anyone can throw statistics around and say "research has proven . . ."

I do not object to Michael stating his views on the subject of condom distribution, which he is most certainly free to do. I do, however, object to the use of derogatory language, e.g. condomania, dismissing people as secular humanists and discounting their ideas as secular humanism, denouncing large global institutions, such as the United Nations, and the people that work in such institutions as being devoid of moral guidance. Michael Treacy is welcomed to enter the public debate on the issue of condoms or any other issue for that matter. Nonetheless, I also believe that the community has the right to expect that those who do enter the public forum to debate sensitive topics will do so with a fair degree of respect and consideration for those whose views may be contrary to their own. Free speech, after all, needs to be responsible speech.

*Scott Nicloy***More on Condoms**

Dear Editor,

We write in response to the "Condomania?" letter to the editor by Michael Treacy of the Universal Peace Federation published in the last issue of this paper. Mr Treacy quotes a number of (unreferenced) research studies which he claims prove that condoms are ineffective, that "responsible" (quotes added) abstinence-based sex education programs

were the cause of the decrease in HIV prevalence in Uganda and that "giving condoms to everyone is to send the wrong message".

For the benefit of your readers, we wish to clarify the issues Mr Treacy raises from the large body of evidence which has accumulated in the 25 years since the be-

*see Condom on page 17***KP-Perspective****How Now, Cash Cow?**

The other day I mentioned to a friend that I may be travelling soon. His eyes lit up. "Are you going to get a per diem?" Ah yes, the sacred cash cow-per diem; they're nice to get but are per diems, which is Latin for per day, really the way to go for government travel?

For eleven years I worked for a very large and financially ethical non-profit corporation that each year was entrusted with millions of dollars of donations. They wanted to be certain that their financial accountability was beyond question and so they issued stacks of Board meeting minutes to be certain that we, who were helping them to maintain their ethical standards for financial activities would know what we were and were not allowed to do and how to account for what we did do. It is those standards that maintain their reputation even today as one of the most trusted non-profits in the world.

The task of maintaining financial accountability in that organization and ensuring that its thousands of employees continue the good work in an ethical manner is still, I'm certain, a daunting challenge administratively; after all, people are people everywhere with the same temptations.

Just like the FSM governments, the administration knew that travel was a necessary part of the task and that meetings kept us all going in the same direction. They budgeted funds for travel to those meetings even though the cost was high. The one thing they never allowed, however, was any appearance of the abuse of travel funds or for that matter, any other kinds of funds.

The system as it is in operation in the Governments of the FSM seems to have built into it a possibility for personal gain for travel that shouldn't exist for a public servant traveling on public funds. Every one at every Sakau bar and backyard party has been saying this for years. Would you travel unnecessarily or plan your travel poorly at a high cost if it meant that you could put money into your own pocket?

What would be wrong with paying only the actual receipted cost of travel rather than some daily amount designed to pay for undetermined expenses. This would insure that public officials would be cared for while they are necessarily traveling on governmental business which is only fair. They would probably be even better cared for than they are now since it seems that many public servants would rather sleep standing in a closet than pay for a reasonable hotel room which would leave them less money to take home. That's probably overstated but not by a lot.

There're many ways to skin a cat, in this case the necessity that public officials must travel. Per Diem arrangements are only one of the ways travel expenses can be covered fairly for public officials. Here's what we were required to do in the non-profit I was talking about and it's another way to skin the travel cat. Once travel was approved my accountant would issue a reasonable travel advance by check. I would cash the check and use the money to pay for all of my meals, hotel, fuel, and other costs from the advance, keeping the receipt for each expense. Reasonable levels for each

See "Cash Cow" on next page

Letters to the Editor are not researched in the same manner as articles. They are simply opinions and views of our readers. However, the policy of the paper is that we have your name, address and phone number in order to have it in print. The Editor has the right to edit Letters to the Editor. We still appreciate all tips and letters sent but just can't print them without a name.
Thank You. The Editor

SEND US TIPS
phone 320-6547,
fax 320-6571 or kpress@mail.fm

More Guidelines from the Center of the Universe

They, whoever “they” are, say that time is money so it makes sense to deal with both of these powerful tools for establishing yourself at the center of the Universe in one column.

Time is a great subject because we all have it and whether we have money or not, whether we’re powerful or not, whether we’re an employee, employer, or unemployed we can still use it to establish ourselves at the center of the universe. It takes practice to use this powerful and universal tool to its best effect. Here are some guidelines:

Time

If you always show up on time for everything and don’t like to keep people waiting you are not at the center of the universe and need to get a grip. If you want the world to revolve around you, you must always be the last one to show up at any gathering, whether it be a meeting, or just time for fun with your friends. Fishing is exempt. You get extra points if you are the one that called the gathering and bonus points if you have the key to the place where you will meet. Nothing says, “I am the Center of the Universe” like a crowd of people waiting outside a locked door, for you.

You lose points if you drive up and

hurry to the door to unlock it begging your guests’ forgiveness along the way. People at the center of the universe know that their apologies get lost in the vacuum of space and so they never bother with them. Instead make sure that everyone can see you sitting in the car waiting for the song on the radio to end. Slowly get out of the car and saunter to the door. (You know sauntering don’t you? It’s a relative of shuffling.) If anyone, trying to assert their own position at the center of the universe dares to ask you why you were late just smile in as big a way as possible and shrug. You gain points for that.

If you are an employee, saunter through the door at your job as if it was perfectly natural for a person to be 4 and a half hours late for work. If anyone gets angry at you for being late whether it is your boss or your co-worker who had to stay an extra four and a half hours at work waiting for you, the appropriate response is in the last paragraph. Your boss may want to fire you for being late and you may need to back off just a little. Beg for your job and promise never to be late again. You might not be able to practice your “time skills” for a week or so but if you



are committed you’ll start asserting your position at the center of the universe after a week or so of letting your boss control your time.

“I’ll be right down.” Practice saying that if you are a boss. It’s an important phrase. What it means if you are the center of the universe is, “it’s time to take a shower, grab a bite to eat, stop and get some gas, catch up on some gossip and then head ‘right down’.” Be as unconcerned as you can when you arrive. After all, you pay the employee. It’s their job to wait on you and you are a busy person.

That brings us to money. I’ll make this quick:

Money

Employers – Make your employees wait for their paycheck. Never give an employee a paycheck until they have asked for it in whining tones. Pay the minimum amount allowed, less if you can do it.

Employees – Steal from your boss. They have plenty of money anyway. If you do this often enough you may even get a write up in the

newspaper as the center of the universe. Alternately, if you’re not so committed to being the center of the universe to risk jail even though that risk is apparently low, you can ask for an advance a day or two after being paid every time you get paid.

Charge customers – This one is so obvious I thought about not listing it. Never pay for anything that you don’t have to and only then after you have promised to “come tomorrow” with payment for at least 6 tomorrows. You get extra points for this if the bill is owed to a small business with almost no cash resources.

Business owners – When it comes to bill disputes remember, the customer is always wrong. Customers are in fact thieves. Make sure they feel that way when there is a dispute. After all, in Pohnpei there are 29,999 other potential customers to choose from.

Everyone – Borrow as much as you can from as many people as you can and then avoid all of those people you borrowed from. This makes for a small universe but at least you’ll be the center of it.

I think that’s plenty for this issue. Why? Because I said so.

Bill Jaynes
Center of the Universe

Cohen

Continued from page 13

conomic growth means a commitment to developing a work force that is healthy, well trained and well educated.

· A commitment to sustained economic growth means a commitment to spending Compact funds not for short-term political gain, but to build the solid foundation necessary to give our children hope for the future. A commitment to sustained economic growth means recognizing that there is not enough money in the Compact to do both.

· A commitment to sustained economic growth means having the wisdom and self-honesty to recognize that we are way behind schedule, and that further delay threatens the future of our children.

· Most of all, a commitment to sustained economic growth means having the courage and the political will to face reality and do what’s right.

We now look forward to hearing your vision for fulfilling all of the commitments that are necessary to secure the future of your nation and its people. I’m sure that we will have plenty of questions, but our main questions will be these: What can we do to help? How can Compact funds best be deployed to support your vision? How can we work together to make your vision a reality?

It is now up to you to articulate a credible vision for sustained economic growth, and to take ownership of that vision. We are here to listen and to lend support. The vision is yours. The future is yours. The floor is yours.

Thank you.

Cash Cow

continued from previous page

type of expense were detailed in policies and procedures. For instance, in that organization employees of the non-profit were expected to stay at low to mid-priced hotels rather than 5 star resort hotels.

When I returned from travel I had 30 days to be reimbursed for my expenses and to clear up the travel advance. If I didn’t clear it up before that time the expenses were no longer reimbursable but the travel advance still had to be personally reimbursed. I would categorize each expense; give it to my accountant who would then issue me another check for the amount of those expenses. I wrote a personal check for the entire amount of the travel advance. Everything was clear and there was a solid paper trail. No money went into my pocket and only those expenses that were valid and approved were paid for by the non-profit

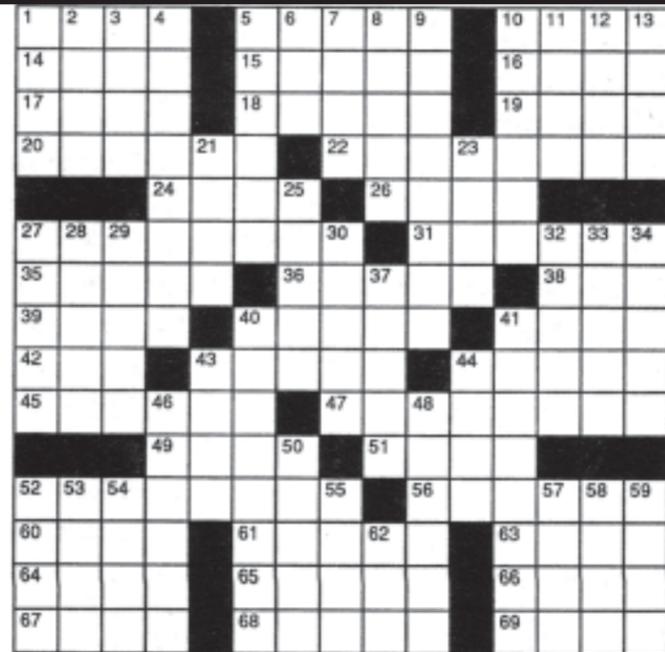
corporation.

Of course it meant that if I wanted to go out in the evening or maybe stay an extra day and go to an amusement park those expenses had to come from my pocket. But that was no hardship. I’d have paid for those personal expenses if I had been at home. It also meant that there was no personal monetary motivation for me to schedule an official trip or to travel inefficiently. It was a lot of bookkeeping but it worked and it still does.

Travel is necessary especially in an island nation whose entities are separated by thousands of miles of ocean. I just wonder if the system in the FSM as it currently stands fosters the possibility of unnecessary trips and even rewards it. I’m not saying that every time public officials travel that it is abuse of travel funds but I do know that it has happened and that occasionally it still happens. Should it?

Bill Jaynes
Managing Editor

CROSSWORD PUZZLE



SOLUTION IN NEXT ISSUE

ACROSS

- 1. Green seedless plant
- 5. Oily part of milk
- 10. Foot covering
- 14. Leave out
- 15. Large moving crowd
- 16. Thick string
- 17. Tardy
- 18. Young owl
- 19. Highway
- 20. Walks on
- 22. In joyous way
- 24. Eat limited food
- 26. Fencing sword
- 27. Creator of patterns, etc.
- 31. Spreading mint plant
- 35. Bad things
- 36. Climber's metal spike
- 38. Playing card
- 39. —, Queen of Scots
- 40. Postpone
- 41. Broad smile
- 42. Lyric poem

- 43. Actor Garbo
- 44. Satellites of planets
- 45. Cuddle
- 47. Hunt around to get (colloq.)
- 49. Communists
- 51. Mr. (Ger.)
- 52. Unknown person
- 56. Person belong to party
- 60. Weaving machine
- 61. Silly
- 63. Female singing voice
- 64. On highest part
- 65. Long work of fiction
- 66. Acorns and pecans
- 67. N.Y. baseball team
- 68. Welcome
- 69. Endure (Scot.)

DOWN

- 1. Shed
- 2. Actor Sharif
- 3. Location
- 4. In uniform manner
- 5. Selected
- 6. Use oars
- 7. Writer—Stanley Gardner
- 8. Woman's name
- 9. Figure of speech
- 10. Mesh-covered window frame
- 11. Cowl
- 12. Spoken
- 13. Small whirlpool
- 21. Spades
- 23. Adolescent
- 25. Indian tent
- 27. Evil spirit
- 28. Avoid doing
- 29. Fathers
- 30. Fissures
- 32. Nobleman
- 33. Frosting
- 34. Jittery
- 37. Instruct
- 40. Cleaning river channel
- 41. Hearty eater of good food
- 43. Narrow valley
- 44. Additional
- 46. Hobos
- 48. Dissolve again
- 50. Mr. (Sp.)
- 52. Shut noisily
- 53. Carry (colloq.)
- 54. Underground plant part
- 55. Talk wildly
- 57. Smear
- 58. Little (suff.)
- 59. Fragrant flower
- 62. Before marriage

Word Search - Missing Vowels

Before you can loop the words in the list below, you must first fill in the circles in the diagram with the missing vowels A, E, I, O, and U. We have filled in one word for you.

- APPRISE
- AQUATIC
- ARMOR
- AUCTION
- AVERT
- BETTER
- BLOUSE
- BOULDER
- CANDLE
- CONE
- CONQUER
- CURTAIN
- DIESEL
- DOSAGE
- EARFUL
- EVERYONE
- FEATHER
- FLEET
- FORMAT
- FRIEND



- GOAT
- GROOVE
- HAUL
- HOPE
- IMBALANCE
- INFINITE
- ISLET
- KARMA
- LAGOON
- LEAP
- LOITER
- MALLET
- MASON
- MINNOW
- OVERSEE
- OYSTER
- PARSON
- QUICHE
- SENSOR
- TUNA

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Condoms

continued from page 14

gining of the AIDS epidemic. In doing this, we wish to stress that condoms are by no means the only protection against HIV and other sexually transmitted infections (STIs). Abstinence and faithfulness can be appropriate preventive choices for many, but they do not suit everyone - often for reasons outside their immediate control (or ability to control). We also need to have different choices available to suit people at different life stages. *Everyone* - including youth - have a right to be informed about all their options to protect themselves against HIV, other STIs and unintended pregnancies. Condom use is but one of these options.

1. Effectiveness of Condoms

No method is 100% effective in preventing the transmission of HIV and other STIs. ¹ This includes abstinence, because while it is claimed abstinence-only programs are 100% effective, their effectiveness approaches zero as people become non-abstinent. ² With condoms, if they are used consistently and correctly, they significantly reduce the risk of transmission of HIV and many other STIs such as genital Herpes simplex virus 2, syphilis, Chlamydia and gonorrhoea. ¹³

Protection from Human Papilloma Virus (HPV) is a slightly different story - as the infection is caused by contact with infected

fluids and skin, condoms can only protect against infections caused by skin covered by the condom. ¹ It is not correct to say that condoms provide "no protection against HPV" as stated by Mr Treacy, rather condoms have been associated with some degree of protection but cannot provide protection from all potential sites of HPV infection. ⁴ Years of experience have shown that the best preventative measure against cervical cancer - often believed to be caused by HPV infection much earlier in life - is regular pap smears to detect cellular changes in the cervix before they become cancerous. ⁵

2. Abstinence-Based Education & Uganda

In Uganda, the success in reducing the HIV prevalence was attributed to a number of factors, not solely abstinence promotion - and the most critical factor was the rapid, consistent and determined response of high-level political leadership. ⁶ Combined with this leadership was a multi-sectoral response (including faith based organizations), decentralized planning, personal communication networks where sex and sexuality were discussed increasingly openly, a vibrant and independent media, local expertise AND an education program involving the "ABCs" (Abstinence, Be Faithful, Condom Use). ⁶ ⁷ ⁸ Furthermore, the ABC approach in Uganda is now criticised for failing to prevent marital infidelity - resulting in one marriage partner (most often the wife) being at risk of infection despite following the "ABCs" by being faithful to her un-

faithful partner. ⁹

3. Distribution of Condoms

Mr Treacy states that distributing condoms to everyone sends the "wrong message". Is the "wrong message" that people should protect themselves from unintended pregnancies and HIV and other STIs when having sex? While it is important to respect the cultural and social contexts, when an individual is sexually active, appropriate options *must* be available. The provision of condoms has conclusively been shown to not increase the amount of sexual activity, ¹⁰ including when condoms are distributed in schools. ¹¹ ¹² Furthermore, Mr Treacy objects to provision of detailed leaflets of how to use condoms - is he concerned that people will be using condoms correctly and thus protect themselves from HIV and other STIs?

The Pacific Islands, including the states of the FSM, consistently report very high rates of STIs and teenage pregnancies. Whether Mr Treacy approves or not, people are having unprotected sex. Providing condoms does not "condon[e] sexual activity at any age with no responsibility" or "contribute... to the breakdown of marriage and family life" - it merely offers a life jacket to those already swimming.

But individual choices and actions as specified by the "ABCs" are not enough to stop the spread of HIV and other STIs. We also need to get serious about increasing community education and behaviour change, empowering people - particularly women - to negotiate safer sex, and to increase promotion and provision of counselling, testing and treatment services. We need a strong and determined leadership on this often sensitive issue. We also need to involve as many people as possible in the response to HIV and other STIs - and faith based groups are a crucial part of this response. Vaccines and microbicides are unlikely to be available for many years - and we need to act now if we are to halt the spread of HIV in the Pacific Islands. ¹³

Life-saving HIV treatment has recently been made available free of charge in the FSM by the Global Fund - fortunately just in time to save an HIV positive pregnant woman in the FSM from passing the infection onto her unborn child. Testing and treatment for HIV and other STIs, as well as condoms, are available free of charge from public health in all FSM states, and condoms are also available to purchase at MedPharm in Kolonia.

We encourage readers to contact us at the email addresses and websites below if they would like any further information and resources about these issues, including copies of all sources cited in this letter.

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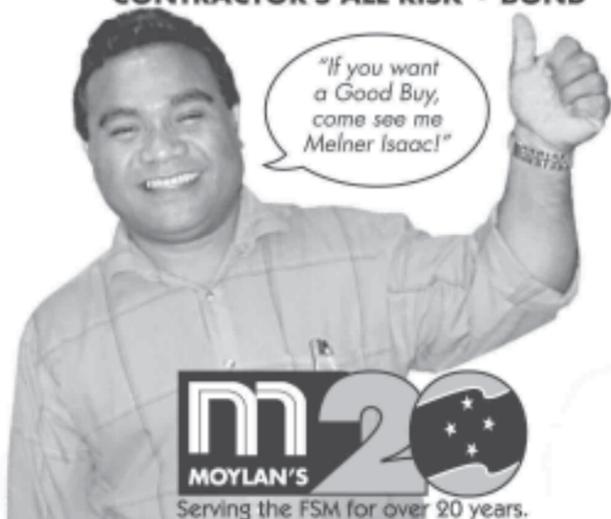
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TIDE TABLE September 13-26, 2006				
	POHNPEI, KOSRAE		CHUUK	
Wednesday	13 12:22AM 1.4 05:47AM 2.9 11:29AM 1.3 06:25PM 3.9	20 02:15AM 4.1 08:50AM 0.9 02:56PM 3.5 08:31PM 1.5	13 08:41AM -0.1 04:42PM 2.0	20 01:31AM 1.9 08:47AM 0.0 02:44PM 1.0 07:10PM 0.6
Thursday	14 01:22AM 1.9 05:51AM 2.4 11:23AM 1.6 07:10PM 3.6	21 02:39AM 4.2 09:04AM 0.9 03:10PM 3.8 08:57PM 1.3	14 08:35AM 0.3 05:05PM 1.8	21 01:48AM 1.9 08:44AM 0.1 02:33PM 1.2 07:41PM 0.4
Friday	15 10:04AM 1.7 09:22PM 3.3	22 03:01AM 4.3 09:18AM 0.8 03:26PM 4.1 09:21PM 1.2	15 08:37AM -0.4 05:32PM 1.6	22 02:05AM 1.8 08:42AM 0.1 02:35PM 1.4 08:11PM 0.3
Saturday	16 08:20AM 1.5	23 03:22AM 4.2 09:33AM 0.8 03:44PM 4.2 09:46PM 1.1	16 08:44AM -0.4	23 02:21AM 1.7 08:41AM 0.2 02:46PM 1.6 08:41PM 0.3
Sunday	17 12:21AM 3.4 08:16AM 1.2 02:55PM 2.6 06:52PM 2.3	24 03:43AM 4.1 09:48AM 0.9 04:03PM 4.4 10:12PM 1.1	17 12:15AM 1.6 08:50AM -0.4	24 02:36AM 1.5 08:41AM 0.2 03:00PM 1.8 09:12PM 0.3
Monday	18 01:14AM 3.7 08:25AM 1.1 02:41PM 2.9 07:34PM 2.0	25 04:03AM 3.9 10:03AM 0.9 04:24PM 4.4 10:39PM 1.2	18 12:48AM 1.7 08:52AM -0.3	25 02:50AM 1.4 08:41AM 0.2 03:16PM 1.9 09:44PM 0.3
Tuesday	19 01:48AM 4.0 08:37AM 1.0 02:46PM 3.2 08:05PM 1.7	26 04:23AM 3.6 10:18AM 1.0 04:46PM 4.4 11:08PM 1.3	19 01:11AM 1.8 08:51AM -0.1 03:25PM 0.9 06:37PM 0.7	26 03:00AM 1.1 08:38AM 0.1 03:34PM 2.0 10:18PM 0.3

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COMMUNITY BULLETIN

Pohnpei Lions Club meets monthly every 4th Tuesday at Namiki 2nd Floor Restaurant at 6:30pm. Public Welcome.



The Christian Ministerial Association of Pohnpei State meets the third Wednesday of each month at 10:00 a.m. in Cantor Hall at the Roman Catholic vicariate office.



FSM Veterans Association meets the first Friday of every month at 6pm at The Rusty Anchor.



Devotions every Sunday 9:30 a.m. at the Baha'i Center in Dolonier. For details, call 320-2182.



Habitat for Humanity Pohnpei holds their meeting every Tuesday from 11:30-12:30 at the Sei Restaurant.



Soccer practice/games at PICS field Monday, Tuesday, Thursday 5:30p.m. Everyone welcome.



The Rotary Club of Pohnpei holds its weekly meetings Thursdays at 12:15p.m. at PCR/Nantehlik.



St John's Catholic Church in Kosrae conducts services every Sunday at 9:30 a.m. For further information, call 370-3240 or 370-3209.

The Community Bulletin is a free message board exclusive to announcements. To post your announcements to The Kaselehlie Press

P. O. Box 2222 Pohnpei, FM 96941

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CONSERVATION CORNER

Forest Clearings for Sakau in Watershed Forest Reserve Endangering Pohnpei

Pohnpei is a forested volcanic island located in the north Pacific Ocean, about 3000 km east of the Philippines. Its size (354 km²), equatorial location, elevation range, and geographic isolation have led to high levels of species diversity and endemism of both flora and fauna. Pohnpei's climate is characterized by high annual rainfall, frequent tropical storms with periods of intense rainfall, and occasional typhoons. A long history of human habitation has modified the natural cover of tropical rain forest for the growing of tree and ground crops, initially in the coastal lowlands, but more recently in the foothills and rugged interior or watershed area. Between 1975 and 2002 agroforestry has reduced the area of upland forest, from 18,800 ha to 10,500ha. Although 30% of Pohnpei is still covered in upland forest, over half has been modified by the practice of making clearings to grow crops. The rate of modification of intact forest has reduced from 492 ha/yr between 1975 and 1995, to 153ha/yr between 1995 and 2002. At the current rate a further 1530 ha or 37% of remaining intact forest will be modified in the next decade. Area of agro forestry/forest gardens and secondary vegetation increased between 1975 and 1995, but has shown little change between 1995 and 2002.

Number of Forest Clearings in Pohnpei's Watershed Forest Reserve

Year	Number of forest cleared for sakau cultivation
2001	1741
2002	667
2003	174
2004	111
2005	22
2006	8*

**as identified in the first Qtr. Forest monitoring.*

In the last 40 years population growth has exceeded 3% per annum. Between 1975 and 1995 the population increased from 20,000 to 35,000, and by 2002 was about 38,000. A number of new roads extend inland, providing access to steep, unmodified forests in previously remote areas. The cultivation of pepper shrub for making a mildly narcotic drink called 'sakau' is the

primary threat to Pohnpei's upland forest. Traditionally grown in the lowlands, and for personal use, it is increasingly being grown in forest clearings in the uplands for commercial purposes. Canopy trees are cut down or ring barked and understory/undergrowth cleared before sakau is planted. Clearings, averaging 1.5 ha in area, are often abandoned and new clearings created, in the space of 5-10 years. Hibiscus, vines, and other secondary vegetation commonly indicate former sakau cultivation.

Environmental impacts of depleting the forest resources include:

- A decrease in biodiversity from a reduction in habitat for plants and animal.
- An increase in runoff, leading to increasing flood severities and reduced low flow discharges
- A decrease in water quality
- An increase in soil loss and sediment entering the lagoon
- An increase in landslides and associated risk to people, buildings and communities.

The island of Pohnpei still retains much of its forests. However, continuing forest clearing highlights the importance of community watershed management in preventing further forest loss in the coming decades.

Oops!
The tide tables for
the last issue were
outdated.
I apologize for any
inconvenience

The deadline for
submission of
items for the next
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Kaselehlie Press is
6:00 PM
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SPORTS

Pohnpei Fishing Club Wins Again

By Noel Boylan
Pohnpei Fishing Club

Two teams from the Pohnpei Fishing Club as well as members of the local press and supporters traveled to Majuro, RMI last weekend for the 14th Annual All Micronesia Fishing Tournament.

This tournament saw no less than 23 marlin caught in two days of fishing by 11 boats – an average of more than one marlin per boat per day! Twelve of the marlin caught were tagged and released to live to fight another day.

The Pohnpei – Continental Micronesia Team # 1, Captained by Alex Tretnoff and crewed by wife Mary and son Alex Jr., landed the biggest marlin of the tournament with a 395 pound Pacific Blue Marlin and collected the coveted cash prize for the biggest marlin caught by an Off-Island team.

The big Yellowfin Tuna were also biting and while 12 tuna were weighed, eight of them weighed-in at over 75 pounds each. The largest was 107 pounds

The Pohnpei – Continental Micronesia Team # 2, Captained by Noel Boylan and crewed by veteran Konrad Englberger and Andrew Jackson–Calway caught an 86 pound Yellowfin to collect the third place trophy in the Tuna category.

There were also seven wahoo caught in the tournament – four of those were caught by Team Palikir, captained by Bill Pendergraft. Team Gugeegue from Kwajalien won the tournament championship trophy with the 2nd largest Marlin, the 8th largest Marlin and three tag and released marlin for a tournament record total of 1,177 points.

The Pohnpei Fishing Club would like to express their sincere appreciation to Continental Micronesia for their support over the past 14 years and this tournament in particular.



Alex Tretnoff with his tournament winning Marlin

Little League Season Comes to a Close



Monday September 11, was an eventful day. It was press time at the K-Press, Liberation day and the championship game of the Pohnpei Baseball Association's Little League picture above. Five teams have been competing with games every Tuesday, Thursday, Saturday, and Sunday.

Volunteer coaches included: Molden Lepohn, Dr. Rally Jim & Ione of team TRITONS & POSIEDON; Mr. Bob Spegal, Councilman Perry Perman, Adely Marquez of team SCREAMING EAGLES & NIGHT-HAWKS; Weysin Pelep of team LEPINSED DIAMONBACKS.



Batter's up! Little Leaguer waits for the perfect pitch.

The Little League was sponsored by the LEO ETSCHHEIT FOUNDATION, PNI STATE GOVERNMENT-Office of Sports; the FSM National Olympic Committee

At press time standings were still unavailable.