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Federation Scrambles as JEMCO Quashes Budgets

Three years into Compact II and harsh reality of stringent US oversight into FSM affairs truly begins.

By **OLIVIER WORTEL**
The Kaselehlie Press

FSM, Micronesia – Welcome to Pohnpei, the gateway of the nation. This is what the banner above the entrance to the 70's era wooden-domed Pohnpei Legislative chamber says. If we're talking about this federation today, it may as well say: Welcome to Pohnpei, the gateway of Pink Slip nation under Compact II.

The Joint Economic Management Committee (JEMCO), the group responsible for allocating U.S. grant assistance under Compact II through the US Office of Insular Affairs (OIA) since 2004, as promised, is tightening the faucet on the flow of dollars. A result of course of decreased cash streams, and exacerbated now as a multitude of FSM government agencies and divisions across these 607 islands of Micronesia fail to measure up to the stiff push toward hard and fast economic pacing under the High Growth Strategy originally adopted by the FSM at the nation's 3rd Economic Summit.

Slated to be cut from government payrolls throughout the FSM were 352 employees from various departments utilizing funds from the Private and Environment sector grants, the two lowest priority sectors of a total of six under OIA purview.

"I don't know if I'm going to have a job next week," said a director of one of the divisions within Kosrae's Department of Agriculture, Land, and

Fisheries, here for a national conference last week.

The sentiment is shared across the federation, where uncertainty over whether seriously reduced Environment and Private sector funds for 2007, has led to some nervous hand wringing and halted travel plans as directors, governors, legislatures, and budget officers work frantically to re-allocate money from local revenue and general fund accounts to maintain payroll.

There are a whole brew of problems that have led to this, with so many different agencies, government bodies, committees, economic policies, development plans, and task forces of variable levels that it can make your head spin, even for an experienced journalist trying to read between the lines and connect the dots.

The OIA, in a report entitled *JEMCO Resolutions Adopted on 5 October*, states that the various state budget submissions given it were "extremely unwieldy and hard to use in the manner of a jigsaw puzzle." In other words, incorrect.

"A meat axe was taken to it," said a knowledgeable source inside OIA (wishing to be referred to only as an "OIA Official") on the budget submitted to JEMCO in September, continuing, "That's what happens when you don't have a strategic plan." The Official admitted that, yes, there are several overarching plans such as the

nation's extensive 866-page 20-year Strategic Development Plan (SDP), but that it does not appear to actually be tied to any on-the-ground activities for many offices. There is no linkage.

"This illustrates the key problem with implementing the Compact," states the widely circulated report, "the FSM National Government's inability to assure compliance with Compact requirements and JEMCO resolutions."



Epel Ilon, Director of the Office of Compact Management

Alisa Talesey

See "Federation" on page 4

Pohnpei Farmer's Fair a Success



The Pohnpei Farmers' Fair coincided with World Food Day this year, and was held at the Pohnpei Botanical Gardens in Kolonia. The overall ceremony consisted of display booths as well as a Crop Competition, where a couple of breathtaking 210-pound yams were entered (pictured above) by farmers Khep Peniou and Khep en Dol en Wai, an Essay and Art Competition, and a Healthy Cooking Competition. Both Lt. Governor Jack Yakana and Speaker Nelson Pelep gave remarks. An abundance of fruit and vegetable crops and an impressive variety of banana and sugar cane entries highlighted the significance of locally-grown foods in Pohnpei.

Kosrae Debates Heat Up Election Races Story on Page 3



Yosiwo George

Robert Weilbacher

Gerson Jackson

Kosrae Chamber of Commerce

NEWS

FSM Holds 1st Environmental Summit and Comes Out a Step Ahead

Realizing a need for collaboration, Government invites NGOs as essential partners to the event.

By **OLIVIER WORTEL**
The Kaselehlle Press

PALIKIR, Pohnpei – Visits from some of the biggest benefactors to this nation outside of foreign governments was not the only excellent outcome of the recently concluded FSM Environmental Summit, where a major mixing of NGO leaders and government officials gave presentations and held strategic meetings in a continuing effort to maneuver the country in a sustainable direction.

The purpose of the meeting, in the words of Marion Henry, Assistant Secretary for Resource Management and Development, and lead facilitator of the Summit, was for the FSM government “to essentially organize our efforts and continue building partnerships” with the nation’s leading NGOs, communities, and international donors.

Representatives from national, regional, and local NGOs such as the Micronesia Conservation Trust, Micronesians in Island Conservation, The Nature Conservancy, the Micronesia Small

Grants Program, the Conservation Society of Pohnpei, the Kosrae Conservation and Safety Organization, the Yap Community Action Program, the Chuuk Conservation Society, the Federated Alliance of Non Government Organizations, the Island Food Community of Pohnpei, as well as others added a measure of interest and energy to the proceedings.

Collectively, these private sector partners are growing in importance, stature and effectiveness, belying long-held values that have made government and civil sector wary of each other over the years. The distinctions, especially as government agencies turn to the NGOs to assist with the demands of “project based” budgeting under the auspices of Compact II and other requirements of donor nations and institutions, are becoming blurred.

The project-based approach is part and parcel of the life of any NGO. Results must be achieved and shown, or the doors close. Being effective with goals, objectives, and activities must be exhibited in both words and action for any funded program or project. As a result, the NGO mentality is ideal for any

bureaucracy to adopt in one form or another.

The success of the collaborations and increasing partnerships across the

FSM and indeed, Micronesia, between all environmentally-related institutions, regardless of persuasion, can be seen clearly in the newly-hired Protected Area Network Coordinator, Alissa Takesy, just last year. Funded by The Nature Conservancy, but posted within the FSM Department of Economic Affairs’ Sustainable Development Unit, the major environmental institution in the nation, Takesy is a hybrid employee. Takesy plays an important and necessary new role nationally.

“Right now, we have the same focus,” said Henry in a short interview after the Summit, speaking to the concerted effort of The Nature Conservancy – one of the biggest environmental NGOs globally, basing its’ Micronesia program out of Kolonia, Pohnpei for two decades – and the FSM National government to work toward similar goals.

One of those is the Micronesia Challenge. FSM Vice President Redley Killion committed the highest-level support possible to the hot initiative earlier in the year in Brazil. TNC, for its part, supported the effort with both technical and financial support, pledging \$6 million dollars.

“The Micronesia Challenge is really going to be the core of our efforts, and everything else will fall underneath the Micronesia Challenge,” said Willy Kostka, Director of the Micronesia Conservation Trust, and part of the core group assembled by the DEA. Cindy Ehmes, principal staff in the SDU, Lucille Apis-Overhoff, TNC Partnership Coordinator, along with Takesy round out the remaining members.

“I think there is a realization on the part of the government now that we need



Marion Henry
FSM DEA

communities. And NGOs are our representatives in this area,” added Henry.

Broad-based environmental movements such as the Challenge are a galvanizing force for a meeting such as the Summit, and for mainstreaming environmental ideas into the political and development process.

Roger Mori, Acting Secretary for DEA, delivered remarks where he noted the “laudable efforts” of NGOs to work with governments and communities to set aside protected areas and “pursue an overall program for responsible resource stewardship.”

“Micronesia,” he said with confidence, has “commanded international attention... (and has been) catapulted to the forefront of island biodiversity conservation worldwide.”

As examples, representatives from major international organizations such as the South Pacific Regional Environment Program, the Pacific Islands Forum, the United Nations Development Programme, the Global Environment Facility, the South Pacific Consortium, and SPC.

Conservation is a good thing for many reasons. It builds trust and partnerships, it connects communities and people, and it allows for sections of ecosystems to provide continuously sustenance and food, as well as an important buffer to climate change. These were some of the themes of the meeting.

“When you’re talking about climate change or biodiversity conservation, you’re talking about poverty alleviation,” said Jackson Soram, Assistant Secretary of Foreign Affairs, in a discussion over the Rio Conventions, treaties signed by the FSM in the ‘90’s requiring it to join the world in protecting ecosystems, adapting and mitigating climate change, and working against land degradation.

The FSM Summit will be held every two years. The next meeting may be in either Chuuk or Kosrae.

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NEWS

Governor Debate Hits Hards Issues, Reveals Character

The stage is set in Kosrae as Yosiwo George, Gerson Jackson, and Robert Weilbacher square off.

By **OLIVIER WORTEL**
The Kaselehlie Press

TOFOL, Kosrae – The words of Yosiwo George, current Administrator for the FSM health insurance system, looking confident, calm, and thoroughly capable of helping this most majestic island of the Caroline federation move into a better future, set his tone early, and marked the entire purpose of the event from the get go.

“This debate is meant to educate the people. It may be unorthodox – and I credit the courage of the Chamber of Commerce for their effort – but it is the right move at this time to move the political process away from the emotional motivation of the past and into a modern era of transparency and issues-based dialogue and campaigns... It is my hope that the people will be able to hear the issues and help the democratic process.”

Joining the veteran George in the precedent-setting debates for the gubernatorial hopefuls, organized through a more open, publicly engaged manner than in years past, were current Lt. Governor of Kosrae State, Gerson Jackson, and newcomer to the political landscape, Robert Weilbacher, who heads up the day to day operations of the vast dry dock and noni processing operation known as SEMO.

Jackson, who over the course of the last 16 years has been part of an Executive branch that has at times tested the people’s faith in an open and accessible government, appeared on edge early toward the Chamber. Just after thanking them for the forum to debate, he made this opening statement, “I hope that the Chamber will ask only relevant questions on the current issues of the state,” and not

queries that could be construed as personal in nature, or aimed at individual candidates.

The 10 questions pitched to each candidate – over the course of just under three hours – were selected from an open process by the Chamber from the public at large.

Robert Weilbacher, occasionally glancing down to his notes, looking Governor-like in physical appearance and manner, was generally direct, not hesitating to use common sense in his answers, and not shying away from quashing his opponents’ remarks, particularly those of Jackson, who was seated center stage, to the left of George and to the right of Weilbacher.

“If we are talking about a deficit, what I want to say is this is a real issue,” the former Director of Public Works

said to the Chamber panel in defiant rebuttal to the statement made earlier by Jackson on the apparent fiscal deficit of the state. “We have to find out what’s causing it,” added Weilbacher directly.

The bomb of the evening was certainly the revelation that a 2005 investigation by the FSM Public Auditor showed Kosrae State Government to have a nearly \$4 million deficit. An incredible figure given the state’s relatively small operating budget and gross domestic product of around \$13 million.

Jackson, previously iterating expansively on his vast experience in budgetary matters, said in response to the new information that the deficit was a “paper deficit.”

See “Debate” on page 5

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...Federation

Continued from page 1

In addition, the FSM, against the requirements of the Compact contract, which is for the U.S. principally a militarily strategic agreement, "submitted an Infrastructure proposal that did not meet the 30% floor established by JEMCO."

Epel Ilon, Director of the FSM Office of Compact Management (OCM), who made a trip last week to the OIA Hawaii Field Office, noted in a presentation on the first day of the FSM's 1st Environmental Summit earlier this month, that underperforming agencies would have 30 days to submit reworked budgets to JEMCO. Outside of that, Ilon stated, slim is the chance for more Compact funds to be allocated for FY '07

If so, and this is what is already happening, state governments will have to tap into increasingly burdened lo-

cal revenue accounts to maintain government operations and employment at current levels. Either that, or start hacking jobs, a wholly indigestible political, financial, and cultural condition for the majority in the FSM.

FSM President Joseph Urusemal, in letters to Governors and department heads over the last several months, has warned of the current budget crunch and the futility in FSM efforts to negotiate, noting that "our JEMCO representatives tried to dissuade their colleagues from supporting (reductions), explaining that there would be drastic financial and other impacts on our governments and people, but with no success."

JEMCO consists of Vice Chairman Epel Ilon and Sebastian Anefal, Secretary of the FSM Department of Foreign Affairs from the FSM and Chairman David Cohen, Deputy Assistant Secretary of Interior for Insular Af-

fairs, Steve McGann, Director of Australia and Oceania Division, Department of State, and Bill Steiger, Special Assistant to the Secretary of Health and Human Services from the United States.

For the entire federation, the U.S., after retooling FSM-submitted budgets from last month to include under-budgeted essentials like electricity, fuel, supplies, and communication costs for the education and health sectors, amongst others, has allocated a balance of just over \$2 million for all of the agencies funded under the Private and Environment sectors. It is a reduced sum, according to President Urusemal, that is "drastic to us."

The FSM, under budgets submitted to JEMCO, asked for a total of nearly \$7 million under the two low-ball sectors. The difference of nearly \$5 million clearly shows a brutal rift in how the two countries, collectively, view how priorities and the management and flow of dollars should be arranged.

The list of chop-blocked government institutions is long and includes in Chuuk the Division of Commerce and Industry, relying solely on Private and Environment sector funds to operate day to day, which requested that 36 employees be funded to the tune of \$353,298. OIA gave them a huge zero on both counts. The Marine Resources and Agriculture Departments, with a host of sub-divisions, the Land Commission, the Chuuk Visitors Bureau, the Health Care Plan, and COM Land Grant, as well as other agencies asked for over \$2.5 million to fund 264 employees in all; JEMCO approved just over \$1 million for 49 employees.

Chuuk Governor Wesley Simina unilaterally stopped travel authorizations for key personnel within the Chuuk State Departments of Agriculture and Marine Resources so that they could work on amending and redoing budgets to the satisfaction of JEMCO.

See "Federation" on page 10

Skywalker's Mom: "He's a nice son..."

Meippen pleads "Not Guilty to murder conspiracy charges"

By **BILL JAYNES**
The Kaselehlle Press

Skywalker Meippen who goes by the name Walker plead not-guilty to murder conspiracy charges leveled against him. According to police sources, Walker had been asked by his brother, Time Richard Meippen to kill witnesses to a burglary he stands accused of committing.

Cigar Land employees, Daniel Hong and Hannah Yang are prepared to testify against the younger Meippen. According to sources within King County Jail, Meippen concocted the plan to kill Hong and Yang after a visit with his lawyer who told him that the evidence in the June robbery and assault was strong and that his only hope of avoiding a trial was a situation in which the witnesses did not show up to testify.

Time had tried on many occasions to buy cigarettes at the Cigarland store where the crime was committed but was refused because he was underage, according to police. He is accused of shooting Hong after Hong, a clerk at the Cigar Land cigar shop on Fifth Avenue Northeast, refused to sell him a cigar

because he was underage. According to Hong, Meippen waited for the cashier to open the cash drawer before shooting him after which he allegedly took about \$350. Meippen, 16 has been charged as an adult with first-degree robbery, first-degree assault and second-degree unlawful possession of a firearm.

This is not the first time that Time has been in trouble with the law in Washington State. In May of 2005 he plead guilty to two counts of third-degree assault when he shot two classmates of Lewis and Clark High School in Spokane, WA with a slingshot from which he fired metal ball bearings knocking out several teeth of one of his victims.

He originally was charged in the crime with two counts of second-degree assault in the May 12, 2005 incident but plea bargaining brought the charges down to third-degree assault.

He was sentenced to 40 days in detention. Spokane County Juvenile Court Judge Ellen Kalama Clark also sentenced Meippen to 70 hours of community service and a year of probation. The court agreed that if the "interstate compact" allowed, Meippen could re-

turn to Chuuk where his father, Johnny Meippen still lives and serve out his sentence there.

Just over a year later he was in King County Jail in Seattle, WA accused of a far more serious crime and if police have it right, was planning an even bigger crime.

Police who set up the sting operation that led to the arrest of brother Skywalker Meippen said that before they arrested him, he allegedly confirmed to the undercover officer that he was planning to kill the witnesses in his brother's case. One officer offered to pay him \$10,000 to \$15,000 to kill three more people in New York, and he agreed to do that, too, according to court documents.

Police arrested Walker and impounded his car. They also arrested a second man accused of acting as a lookout for the gun sale, though he has not been charged with any crime.

Detectives are still investigating whether anyone else was involved in the alleged conspiracy.

His mother says Walker's a good kid.

"He's a nice son, he's not capable of doing such things," said Merency Farata.



A carefree Skywalker Meippen "flies" in a relay race held in Chuuk on May 7, 2004

...Debate

Continued from page 3

"It's not a real deficit," and "I don't think the audit findings are accurate," said the current Lt. Governor, which, according to Jackson, could be due to a \$10 million Infrastructure Development sector fund that remains unused, as well as "other factors", that could be having some effect on the findings of the audit report.

The Deloitte and Touche audit report for the ending of fiscal year 2005 shows total revenues for the state at \$11,027,022 (the vast bulk of it from US Compact sector grants), while total expenditures amounted to \$14,711,929, a difference of \$3,684,907.

For his part, George was incredulous at the statement, stating that he could not "comprehend" the amount, and that the root causes would need to be scrutinized.

Interest from the people was high, crushing the small gallery in the legislature's meeting hall and overflowing outside into the cool, clear night, listening to the debate inside on loudspeakers bellowing over the freshly cut grass court yard under the stare of Kosrae's highest peak, Mt.

Finkel, rising some 2,000 vertical feet beyond.

The throng of interest was probably a combination of factors: a desire to see change at the top, an intriguing mix of able candidates, from a respected former Governor, to a crafty and intelligent Lt. Governor, to an earnest and direct newcomer to the political scene, as well as an attempt for the various constituencies to make a strong showing in what could turn into a very competitive race, and ultimately, a public that is genuinely interested in hearing the biggest issues addressed by leaders of the state.

The subjects—although not as diverse as some expected—were both revealing and timely, and mostly centered on economic issues and procedural matters of the state's executive branch.

Along with the bang-up deficit issue, other key questions centered on the real but painful reality of needing to trim up to 15% of the government workforce under the stringent auspices of Compact II, the need to revisit and regulate the bruised bidding and procurement system of the executive branch, examining the private use of government vehicles, government support and acquiescence toward the private sector, boosting the export

base of the island, whether so much travel by government officials is actually necessary, and other "most pressing issues" of the state related to employment, the economy, health and education essentials, transparency, and more public input into the political and strategic development agenda of the island.

When asked to respond how they would cut 15% from the government budget, this is how the various candidates responded:

"It's not easy to just look at a budget and cut 15%," said George, former Chief Justice of Kosrae State and also once the FSM Ambassador to the United Nations, "but certainly travel is a primary target for cuts." George said that drastic cuts in travel would allow essential operations of a service-oriented government to continue, particularly in the priorities of education and healthcare and the promotion of a strong government-supported and private-sector led economy.

The dapper Jackson, Chairman of the Government's Budget Review Committee for the last 12 years, and noting his four years as Director of Budget for the state prior to his becoming Lt. Governor, stated off the top that he would rely on the facts at hand, rather than his own feelings on the issue.

we had to reduce 25% of the budget," said Jackson, Chairman of the Micronesia Petroleum Corporation, the state's independently owned fuel distributor, referring to the Compact's step downs in the mid-to late 90's. "We did it and it was easy." Jackson, noting his intimate involvement in the FSM's Joint Compact Negotiating Committee, added that cutting travel alone would not take care of the 15% problem in the future, and that the state's budget, under recent JEMCO maneuverings, has already cut the state budget to the bone.

Weilbacher, former Secretary of the FSM Department of Transportation & Communication, agreed that travel is an obvious target for trimming, but moreover that any reduction in government must be carefully considered, as cuts "will impact employees and people." Weilbacher furthered his theme by stating that laying people off is a "last resort."

George, known for his honest and fair approach to leadership, and generally showing a thorough knowledge of the myriad issues, was emphatic on maintaining the rule of law equally for Kosraean society, when he broached the subject of bidding on government contracts and procurement of goods and services from the private sector. The process has come under fire in recent years.

"In the past, under the first Compact,

See "Debate" on page 10



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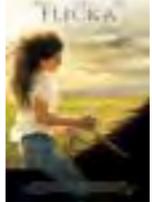
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NEWS

Congress Passes a Captive Insurance Bill

New bill seeks to bring in millions to the FSM Government

By **BILL JAYNES**
The Kaselehlie Press

Perhaps lullabies should be replaced by talk of insurance. The slightest mention of it in social settings except in the rarest of cases is sure to send eyeballs rolling heavenward but a bill sitting on President Urusemal's desk awaiting his signature has a few eyebrows raised and some thoughts turn to visions of offshore bank accounts, money laundering, and shady deals just like in the movies. The bill, passed by Congress in the recently concluded fifth regular session would provide for a captive insurance industry and its regulation in the FSM. Bill 14-221 which amends title 37 of the code of the FSM was introduced by Senator Dohsis Halbert and steered through the Committee on Resources and Development chaired by Senator Manny Mori. At 25 pages it is a surprisingly small document considering that the legislation is designed to institute and establish law for what is internationally considered to be a series of complex financial arrangements.

Micronesian Registry Advisors, Inc. says that captive insurance is simply "a form of self-insurance, in which an organization forms a subsidiary company to insure its own risks. The captive insurance company then will purchase reinsurance to insure the risk [on] the amount which the captive insurance company chooses to retain." Large corporations could choose to purchase regular corporate insurance from outside sources but it is generally not advisable to do so if the corporation has the resources to self-insure. Regular insurance policies utilize actuarial tables (mathematical formulas that define risk levels) that cover insurance risks for broad industry. Two corporations operating in different geographic areas might have significantly different risks but regular insurance policies would use the same tables for both corporations. Captive insurance and self insurance allows one corporation to insure its own risks based on its own exposure to those risks and generally offers substantial savings to the corporation.

Captive insurance agencies do not have employees so the FSM cannot expect new jobs from this legislation. Captive insurance agencies do utilize the services of ac-

countants, lawyers, captive managers, fund managers, actuaries, and other insurance professionals. At least one captive insurance management company based in Hawaii is looking at the possibility of setting up a company in the FSM. Another international company has said that once there are six captive insurance companies established in the FSM they will set up an office here. Other competing firms will likely follow. There will eventually be a need in the FSM for more accounting and legal services over time which will provide jobs if the right expertise can be found here.

Captive insurance agencies do not

Senator Dohsis Halbert



Senator Manny Mori



pay tax in their home country on the earnings of an offshore agency but they do pay tax in the host country, in this case the FSM. In Micronesia the tax on earnings would be capped at 25.5%. MRA pointed out that captive insurance agencies in Hawaii have earnings that average in the 4 to 6 million dollar range annually. FSM corporate tax on those earnings is capped at 25.5%. If FSM captives perform at the same level they would incur tax of as much as \$1.53 million dollars annually. Add the fees for regulation of the captive insurance agency, reinsurance premium tax (a flat rate of .05% with a \$20,000 cap) as well as annual registration and you're almost talking about real money for the FSM government.

MRA paid Tony Schmidt of Pacific Risk Solutions to draft the Captive Insurance Bill. It was drafted to be competitive especially in the Japanese market. There are currently 67 other jurisdictions that offer captive insurance throughout the world

which are commonly called captive domiciles, with the largest being Bermuda and the Cayman islands. Most of the world's domiciles are focusing their energies on serving companies based in North America and Europe.

Utilization of captive domiciles by Japanese corporations is projected to explode in the next 10 years. Insurance experts in Japan have speculated that the number of companies utilizing captive domiciles will increase from the current level of 62 companies to as many as 1000 companies by the end of that time.

Japan passed an anti-tax haven law in 1978 which said that captive domiciles offering a tax rate of less than 25% are tax havens and therefore illegal for companies to utilize in Japan. MRA says that the FSM legislation is designed to be the lowest cost domicile for the Japanese market worldwide while also maintaining capital adequacy standards (standards to insure its risks). They say that virtually every other domicile has a 35 or 42% taxation rate. This feature of the bill alone would help to sell the scheme to Japanese corporations looking to utilize the services of a captive domicile. Add to this the fact the FSM Legislation allows for required annual board to be conducted by telephone rather than by expensive travel. Also, the FSM would be the only domicile that specifically states that Japanese actuaries and accountants are qualified to provide services.

According to Senator Mori, Congress staffers who advise on legal matters wanted him to wait for the

next session of Congress before he introduced the captive insurance bill in order to give time to more thoroughly review and understand the issues surrounding it. Micronesian Registration Advisors strongly urged Senator Mori to expedite the bill in order to accommodate Japanese businesses who want to set up captive insurance agencies in Micronesia very soon. The fact that the FSM stands to gain a significant amount of money in taxation revenue almost certainly aided the process.

Mr. Kenneth H. Kang of the International Monetary fund said that he doesn't think that the Captive Insurance plan will add much to the FSM economy. He cited relatively low numbers of participants in captive insurance regimes as part of his reasoning. He said that the governments of those registering corporations as captive insurance companies tend not to look too kindly on the domiciles and that the plan could hurt relationships between the FSM and those countries but he also admits that his function at the IMF does not involve political analysis.

Regardless, FSM citizens should be able to put their eyebrows back down and relax as long as the industry is well regulated and it apparently will be. In addition to scrutiny by the home jurisdictions of the captive insurance agencies, which will require that the agencies conform to guidelines set forth by the International Association of Insurance Supervisors, the banking board, headed by Willy Hawley has acquired the additional task of regulating insurance. This is not unusual. Banking boards all over the world often have the dual task of regulating insurance companies. The FSM Board has been tasked to have full regulations and systems up for monitoring both regular insurance companies and captive insurance companies within 6 months. Captive insurance is a very specialized field and regulations to handle it along with the personnel to monitor it may be difficult to quickly develop but Wilson Waguk professional staff of the Banking and Insurance Board says regulations will be up in time. Waguk seemed undaunted despite the enormity of the job. "It's a big task but we will do the best we can with what we've been given."

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NEWS

Farewell and Welcome to JICA Senior Volunteers

Through requests forwarded by the Government of the Federated States of Micronesia, the Government of Japan dispatches JICA Senior Volunteers to assist various agencies within the FSM in diverse areas. Ms. Kazuko Nomachi is one of such volunteers dispatched to assist as a Pharmacist. She has completed her one-year tenure on October 10 of this year and has returned to Japan.

Ms. Wakako Nakajima (Left) and Ms. Kazuko Nomachi (Right) paying courtesy visit to Deputy Assistant Secretary for Asian Affairs, Mr. Carl Apis.

During her assignment with the Department of Health, Education, and Social Affairs, she assisted Pohnpei State Hospital in dealing with capacity building of the pharmacy/supply staff, formulating

easy access surveillance system to monitor incoming and outgoing medicines/drugs, and other assignments relating to her field. Ms. Nomachi has expressed her gladness to be able to direct her energy and skill to where they are most needed.

Meanwhile, Ms. Wakako Nakajima, the successor of Ms. Nomachi, has arrived to assume her post at Pohnpei State Hospital, which has commenced on October 4, 2006. Her tenure in the FSM is a two-year term.

JICA Senior Volunteers have helped achieve the goal of strengthening contacts between FSM Government and Japan Government and have contributed to technical cooperation and mutual understanding between the two governments.



Ms. Wakako Nakajima (Left) and Ms. Kazuko Nomachi (Right) paying courtesy visit to Deputy Assistant Secretary for Asian Affairs, Mr. Carl Apis.

A Partnership in Peace since 1966. Peace Corps to Celebrate 40th Anniversary in FSM and Palau

Kolonia, Pohnpei October 20, 2006 - Peace Corps, the Federated State of Micronesia and the Republic of Palau will celebrate 40 years of partnership on November 6, 2006. The occasion will be marked by a Presidential Proclamation from His Excellency Joseph J. Urusemal and anniversary postage stamps for each state and Palau commemorating the event. The new group of Peace Corps Volunteers, who will have completed 9 weeks of language, cultural and technical training at PATS, will also be sworn in to service on this day.

National and State officials, agency partners, former and current Volunteers and others who have actively supported Peace Corps will be invited to a ceremony on November 6 marking this occasion. Peace Corps Country Director, David Reside, noted that, "the 40th Anniversary is a great opportunity to thank the people of Micronesia and Palau for their support of the Peace Corps program, recognize the great accomplishments of the past four decades and recommit to the high ideals that John F. Kennedy espoused in 1961."

To date, more than 4,000 Volun-

teers have served in Micronesia and Palau in the fields of education, agriculture, health, natural resources, small business development, appropriate technology and vocational education, among others. Peace Corps Volunteers are now returning to the classroom to team-teach with local teachers and continue to actively support health and environmental education.

There are presently 42 Volunteers working with partner agencies to teach English, organize youth summer camps and activities, support conservation and agriculture programs, and deliver health education. In 2006, Volunteers worked with 133 organizations in 144 communities to serve more than 12,500 men, women and children.

In greeting the new Peace Corps group that arrived in September, President Urusemal asked them to "encourage our youth to appreciate and understand what they have, while preparing them to move on to a career or to higher education." The new Peace Corps Volunteers will carry his words with them as they embark on their service and will continue the great legacy of those who served before.

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FAA Emergency Exercise at Pohnpei International

Airport

A commercial airliner with 130 passengers and crew on board is headed for landing at Pohnpei International Airport. The airplane has a mechanical problem during approach and the captain declares an emergency. As the aircraft touches down, the right main landing gear collapses. The airplane skids down the runway spilling fuel. It explodes in flames and comes to rest near the end of the runway. Dazed survivors are walking around the accident site. Quick action by the Pohnpei Port Airport Rescue and Firefighting (ARFF) station and other local emergency response agencies minimizes further injury to the surviving passengers. Injured passengers are quickly evaluated and rushed to the local hospital where the highly trained medical staff has been alerted and is ready to treat the survivors.

This fictional and highly unlikely event was the scenario for the recent airport emergency training and live exercise conducted in Pohnpei on the October 5, 2006 by the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA). The training and live emergency exercise program was designed to prepare local emergency responders to deal with aviation incidents at or near the airport. Simulation of an airplane crash took place on the runway with 70 volunteer victims from the College of Micronesia, and the ARFF team putting out the fire, setting up triage areas, and transporting victims by injury categories to the hospital. Not

only were ambulance vehicles shuttling volunteer victims back and forth in between the hospital and the airport, but the hospital staff, nurses and doctors also set up beds, and emergency room simulations.

Agencies participating in the training included the FSM Department of Transportation Communications, and Infrastructure, Bioterrorism, Postal Service, Customs, Immigration, and Quarantine, Pohnpei Port Authority, Red Cross, Pohnpei Department of Public Safety, Environmental Protection Agency, Emergency Management Office, Pohnpei SWAT team, Pohnpei State Hospital, Kolonia Town Police and Nett District Police. Other participants included Continental Micronesia Airlines, and Caroline Island Air. Approximately 250 participants contributed to the success of the exercise.

Barry Brayer, FAA Micronesia Program Manager from Los Angeles, and Ron Simpson, Manager of the FAA Airports District Office in Honolulu, were assisted by the National Transportation Safety Board, and Fire Chief from the Commonwealth Ports Authority and from the Hawaii Department of Transportation Division of Airports. Similar training and live exercise are planned for Kosrae and Chuuk in 2007. This year FAA has also provided management and leadership training in Florida to the FSM National government, and airport certification training in Oklahoma to airport personnel from Pohnpei and Chuuk.

Food Safety Highlighted

Northern Pacific Environmental Health Association

Food Safety Highlighted at Regional Meeting

Environmental Health professionals from around the Northern Pacific met in Guam (Sep. 17-19, 2006) to discuss ways of strengthening food safety in the region at a meeting sponsored by the World Health Organization (WHO).

The meeting of the Northern Pacific Environmental Health Association has brought together representatives from the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI), Federated States of Micronesia (FSM), Guam, Kiribati, Republic of the Marshall Islands (RMI), Republic of Palau (ROP), and WHO. Representatives from Nauru, who were also scheduled to attend, were unable to make it to the regional meeting but have been actively involved in ongoing discussions. The meeting was held to coincide with the Guam Food Safety Education Month which included a Food Safety Conference and Training on Food-borne Illness Outbreak Investigation (Sep. 11-15) that concluded with a Food Safety Fair at Micronesian Mall on Sep. 16, 2006.

Food-borne illness is a very important health topic. Each year there are approximately 2-4 billion cases and thousands of deaths glo-

bally, mainly occurring in young children. The President of the Association, Mrs. J-Maireng Sengebau Kingzio, from Palau stated "We are very excited to be able to work together as a region on these food safety issues. By sharing ideas on programs and identifying common priorities for the region we can continue to improve our ability to address food safety issues and protect the health of our nations."

"I think this is a good opportunity to have the representatives from the Pacific countries to strengthen food control systems in the region through the review of countries food legislation. WHO would like to continue to work with the Northern Pacific countries, particularly to assist with technical support in the region and protect consumers" says Dr. Jinjing Zhang, the Food Safety Representative from WHO Western Pacific Region Office, who attended the meeting.

Some of the topics highlighted at the meeting included food safety legislation, food contamination and regional sharing information on food-borne illness.

The meeting also marked the completion of a poster competition in CNMI, FSM, Guam, RMI and ROP on the "Five Keys to Safer Food". These keys are the main way that people can make sure food they prepare is safe to eat. They are:

1. Use safe water and raw materials
2. Separate raw food from cooked
3. Keep hands clean
4. Keep the food at safe temperatures
5. Cook food thoroughly

Overall winners of the competition were (displayed at the Food Safety Fair):
CNMI- Benikina Ann A. Lizama
ROP- Karlo D. Castillo
RMI- Sneha Paudel
GUAM- Noel Bien T. Carlos
FSM- Marlynn Hagilmai (Pohnpei) and Elijah Mori (Chuuk)

Partnership in Peace Since 1966

On November 6, 2006, Peace Corps and the Federated States of Micronesia will celebrate their

40th Anniversary

Honoring the more than 4000 Peace Corps Volunteers who have served in Micronesia as well as the families and communities who have hosted them during their service and celebrating the bonds of friendship and peace which they created and which future Volunteers will build upon.

NEWS

...Federation

Continued from page 4

The state of Kosrae submitted a budget for the two sectors of \$955,000, supporting 71 employees. JEMCO gave them an early Christmas present in the form of \$285,000 for 17 employees.

Yap requested 83 government employees at just under \$2 million. JEMCO, after restructuring the state's submitted budget allocated just over \$1.4 million for 63 employees. Notably, the Yap State Visitors Bureau submitted a budget solely under the Private sector grant for eight employees at just over half a million dollars and received nothing from JEMCO.

It appears that all of the states have squeezed sufficiently for the time being to make payroll, at least for now. Most local revenue funds cannot withstand one or two quarters of the current situation, let alone on a permanent basis. At least not yet. The message is clear though, or should be by now: conform to the demands of OIA and comply with the Compact agreement, or, as Aren Palik, Director of the FSM Development Bank, said almost three years ago at the 3rd Economic Summit, make the "painful adjustments" necessary.

The phrase, "Who's your daddy?" suddenly has great relevance in the FSM.

The official option is of course to follow the "sustained economic growth" theory continuously espoused by David Cohen. "The nation's leaders committed to a strategy of sustained economic growth," the JEMCO Chairman stated at the last JEMCO meeting held in Honolulu on August 31. "In fact, it does not appear that the FSM (has) any choice but to commit themselves to the pursuit...there is simply no escaping the imperative."

In Pohnpei, Governor Johnny David has labeled the current fiscal crunch a full blown "crisis", pleading to the 9th Pohnpei State Legislature (PSL) to accept certain amendments and vetoes to the state's budget bill in order to avoid, as he tersely put it, "an act of desperation" in order to side step "the enormous challenges" to state agencies that will be "seriously hampered" if they don't receive funding soon.

Pohnpei, as an example, submitted a budget under the two sectors in limbo for a total of approximately \$1.6 million for FY '07. After JEMCO adjusted the budget, deleting a certain number of "non-performing" divisions and shifting other monies over to other essential services that were under-budgeted, it will receive just under \$500,000, a shortfall of over \$1,000,000. Non-performing, according to the OIA Official, is a combination of both a lack of recognition of any discernable outputs, colluded with an inability to report them clearly.

The 23-member 9th Pohnpei State Legislature (PSL) reacted swiftly to Governor Johnny David's request – in his Comprehensive Budget Act (CBA) veto letter of October 3, and again in his October 11 response to the PSL's overriding his vetoes – that they forego their personal allowances of \$5,000 each, reduce each of the seven standing committees' allowances from \$7,000 to \$2,000 and cutting \$50,000 from the PSL's buildings and grounds maintenance appropriation for FY '07 in order to pay in part for the budget shortfall.

The justification by Governor David, who wrote that the Executive Branch had already had slashed \$112,000 from its own overall budget, came in the form of "preventing lay off of employees and closing down the doors of the affected offices" who have been underperforming under Environment and Private sector grants.

Finding "no compelling reason" to concur with Governor David, the PSL quickly convened a special session that commenced on October 16 with a flurry of activity and marathon sessions all week, ultimately passing, amongst other appropriations and resolutions, amendments to the CBA that appropriated over \$1.2 million for the money deficient agencies.

For under performing offices and programs in the FSM that have received the green light from JEMCO, and accepted the recent grant fund levels set out by the OIA, they will have 30 days to submit "revised budgets" and "must demonstrate that personnel costs do not exceed 70%." Many, if not most or all, government divisions within the nation have personnel line items in their budgets that easily exceed 80%.

The well-placed OIA Official stated by phone that some agencies that were reviewed in the summer of 2006 dragged along an operation where personnel constituted 98% of the total budget. The Official, again wishing to remain anonymous as that individual does not "know what I can say officially to the media", stated that this was totally unacceptable. The 70% threshold for personnel costs is meant, the Official said, to guarantee that money is spent on actual projects and outcomes, rather than just people "punching time clocks and showing up for a pay check."

Ironically, the actual *Environment*, the vast and supremely awesome heritage of Micronesia, may well take a pounding as a combination of enforcement and conservation personnel in those government departments to be potentially fired, and other suddenly unemployed workers work the reefs, forests, and watersheds even more aggressively to make a living.

"I guess I'll have to do more fishing and farming," says one of the members of the Chuuk State Marine Conservation Unit slated to be slashed. "What choice do I have?" He added, before another swill of beer: "I could start a small business, but that takes money too."

The private sector may yet grow by leaps and bounds. Then again, out-migration may also become more severe. With 30% of all Micronesians already living off-island, the number is increasing fast.

What is apparent is that these are desperate stop-gap measures by the states, and a longer-term plan implemented to replace declining revenues is needed to employ people and maintain essential services if this federation wants to maintain the quality of life of its citizens in all aspects.

Is it too soon to claim a widening gap between rich and poor, the hall mark of all capitalist democracies? A double whammy of social and environmental degradation in economies that are already in trouble, despite, as Cohen says, the "important competitive advantage" of the influx of Compact dollars to the FSM?

"Eighteen years may seem like a long time," waxed Cohen in a speech to FSM Government leaders in 2005, "for the FSM economy to grow suffi-

ciently to survive without Compact grants. It is actually an alarmingly short period of time, given the distance that we have to travel and the institutions and policies that would have to change in order to make the journey possible."

Cohen stated that the FSM economy "is unsustainable" and called for the "Trust Territory mentality" to be left "behind once and for all," shrugging off claims of locals that the FSM and U.S. were stepping back toward colonialism-style geopolitics. The "hard decisions and short-term sacrifices" that he called for then are no longer just fancy words floating in the air over coffee and a nice chair: they are now reality.

Move, hustle, scramble, produce, build, or you're gone.

...Debate

Continued from page 5

"People who violate the laws should be punished. We need to tell departments that are responsible for these problems, don't do it that way, that you people will be punished, so that the general public will know that (government officials) breaking the law, breaking the regulations are something very serious."

Jackson, who also heads up KEPIC, a group overseeing the all-important infrastructure projects and planning for the island, revealed his keen political awareness when he noted that recent and ongoing measures have been implemented to ensure that the government bidding and procurement process remains transparent, timely, and fair.

Weilbacher was direct and appeared to agree with George on the issue: "There are National and State regulations in place (for procurement and bidding). What we need to do is comply with the regulations."

The Kosrae Chamber of Commerce, in an effort to maintain its effort of promoting transparency, sent out both audio and video recordings of the proceedings. The Chamber has received wide support for its work to assist the voters in this year's elections, to be held on November 7.

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DAY AND TOMORROW****KP-Perspective****Stealers, Punks, & Thieves**

Sometime on the evening of October 10, someone or several someones took it upon themselves to enter the Pwohmaria Beach Resort rooms of several Pohnpei visitors and relieve them of their belongings. Police are looking into the matter. The visitors left for home on Saturday, October 14 without their belongings, which included all of the film footage shot for a video while the cameraman was in Pohnpei. Stolen were cameras, both still, and video cameras, and cash—plenty of cash!

One of the visitors here for a first time visit was the Australian national champion in the 21 and under Australia Surf Competition, winning just 10 days before his arrival here. All of his travel cash was stolen.

When he discovered the theft he was so upset that he tried to book an early flight out of Pohnpei. Who wouldn't? I'm sure that Pohnpei and Pohnpeians will enjoy the fantastic publicity that will likely be printed in a magazine about their special trip to this island paradise.

I could have written a fact piece about the theft but then I could only have said something like, "Pohnpei State Police think they know who committed the crime and an arrest is just round the corner."

What I couldn't have told you in a "fact article" is exactly what kind of scumbag I believe the "stealer(s)" to be.

I couldn't say things like, "If your family member suddenly has a pretty good amount of cash or is

driving around in a rental car and you can't figure out where he or she got the money, they may have stolen it from one of Australia's surf kings (or they may have stolen it from a prestigious office where another theft by an employee took place recently). It might be embarrassing to turn them in but it would be the right thing to do."

I couldn't say things like, "If you are offered high quality camera equipment for about the cost of a bottle or two of 151 don't buy it but do call the Police rather than thinking that you got a killer deal" See, if this were a fact article I couldn't say any of those things.

But this is not a fact article. This is an opinion piece. The facts in this article are that the burglaries took place and that they were not solved before the visitors left the island. No arrests were made before they left and the owners of the stolen property experienced one of Pohnpei's worst sides, thanks to the "Center of the Universe" type thinking of the "stealer(s)".

The Pohnpei Surf Club's spokesperson was right when he wrote in an email that this kind of thing happens all over the world. I may be wrong but he was probably trying, when he said that, to find a way to deal with the theft that didn't involve a rampage with a machete. You're a better man than me, Gunga Din. Perhaps the thieves were thinking about Edward Bulwer-Lytton's quote involving the "almighty dollar" but Bulwer-Lytton also said, "The pen

see "Stealers" 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

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Guidelines from the Center of the Universe

Special guidelines for Tobacco Users

Here's a conversation I had recently at a store. "Can I get a pack of Dorals?" I pronounced it like the company does which for some reason sounds like "corrals".

Big pause and a blank look on the face of the cashier while she processed my request, "Oh, you mean Dorals", which is how most people pronounce it here and sounds more like "corals".

"No, actually I meant Dorals (corals). That's what RJ Reynolds, the tobacco company calls them."

"Really?"

"Oh, yeah. I remember the commercials when I was a kid when cigarette companies could advertise. They always pronounced it Doral like corral, which makes no sense because really it should be Doral like coral because there's only one "r", but that's the way they pronounce it." *Wasn't that the "Taste me, taste me. Come on and taste me" ad? I know it's not, "You can take Salem out of the country but...you can't take the country out of Salem" ad.*

"Dor-all? Dor-aal...Dorral. I think I got it—Dorral, right?"

"Yep, you've got it! Have a great day!"

That clerk may have thought that I was a world class blowhard but I smiled as I drove away knowing that

I had taken one more step in my journey to the Center of the Universe. Of course, people at the center of the universe who grew up on islands much bigger than this one, such as the U.S. or Australia know that they are greatly advantaged because of their place of upbringing. We always take every opportunity we find to set those of you from small islands straight so that you can maintain the proper course in life which is, of course, the course that we're on.

I digress. What I really wanted to talk about is only for those of us who made the fantastic choice to start using tobacco in all its forms. Whether you smoke it, chew it, put it in your nose, or shove it in your ear, tobacco products are great tools for establishing yourself at the center of the universe. I know the smoking one best as you can tell from the above conversation so I'll start there.

The first one will only work if you're married to a militant non-smoker like I am. If you've been smoking for a long time you've by now developed a very nice rattling cough. I have the best of all the worlds because my wife and I share a water bed. I usually wait until just after my wife goes to sleep and then work up a great coughing fit. It's not hard to do. It works best if I do it in her direction. The water bed is great because if I time things just right I can eject her from the bed to full standing position. That special

look in her eyes when I do this is the recognition that I am at the center of the universe. Occasionally she does exert her position and I end up sleeping on the living room floor but I can handle it. Coughing during conversations or during quiet portions of movies is also a good tool.

I've got a couple more for the "unequally yoked" situation. If I'm out in the evening I find that if I have a cigarette just before I come home my wife is even happier to see me than she would otherwise be. She says that kissing me is like licking an ashtray but it's a small price to pay for helping her husband establish himself at the center of the universe.

Onward! Never mind "No Smoking" signs or laws about smoking in public places like restaurants. I probably don't even need to talk about this one. Apparently, smokers have practiced this guideline long enough that FSM restaurateurs, rather than continually sweeping up your ashes from the floor have given in and placed ashtrays on nearly every table. Food always tastes better when consumed in an environment similar to a 70's rock concert before arena smoking bans were put into place. (Speaking of which, concerts are just no fun anymore.)

Betelnut, chewing tobacco, and snuff...Now that the Kolonia town laws against public spitting are in place and tickets are being issued,

spitting out your car window is a little more daring than it used to be. I do notice that things along that line are getting a bit better. People are being more careful and I appreciate that since I'm a militant non-chewer. I even swallow my food whole.

There's a small trash can outside the K-Press office. Rather than be issued a ticket for spitting on the ground or the walls, some chewers on the second and sometimes the third floors use that trash can in combination with their chewing obsession to establish themselves at the center of the universe. Spitters from the third floor are able to hit that trash can 90% of the time. Occasionally one of us from the bottom floor accidentally interrupts the payload from hitting its target by stepping out a bit too far and it's at those times that I know for certain the bombardiers are truly at the center of the universe.

There are many more guidelines that tobacco users can utilize to establish themselves at the center of the universe. I'll leave the rest of to your creativity.

Bill Jaynes
Center of the Universe

"I'm glad I don't have to explain to a man from Mars why each day I set fire to dozens of little pieces of paper, and then put them in my mouth"

Mignon McLaughlin

...Stealers

continued from previous page

is mightier than the sword." If no one's going to go about in thrust and parry mode with a sword, or a machete, I must do it with a pen.

This next bit is directed to the thief(ves). All of you readers, who were not involved, please grant me pardon:

What is wrong with you? What is it that made you think that behavior like that was okay? Did someone at some point in your life tell you that you are owed something, just by virtue of your existence? Are you aware that your actions have not only hurt the people you stole from but Pohnpei's international public image as a tourist destination, at least in terms of ad-

venture travelers and wannabe adventure travelers who read about exotic destinations?

You may think that your current financial situation is bad, and that may well be, but are you aware that the tourists you stole from have to pay to eat, to travel, and even to sleep? Did you know that every penny a tourist spends in Pohnpei goes into the FSM's economy from outside of the FSM, and that a robust (healthy/not sick) economy means jobs, possibly even for you if you have the gumption (desire/follow through/ lack of laziness) to do it?

I understand that the "stealer(s)" probably won't read the last two paragraphs and that I, by my ranting and raving have not changed a thing. I write the "Centers of the Universe" column and I usually can't park in my parking space at the newspaper office though I have

written about it. I have written about "stealers" in the past and still the theft goes on. I get it. I'm not so megalomaniacal (deranged illusions of importance) to think that if I say that I think theft is wrong in the newspaper that theft will stop, BUT (and it's a big, hairy, BUT) the theft problem has reached epidemic proportions in the FSM. It's the same ol' dull saw I'm using. When will it stop?

As far as I am concerned, the theft will never stop until the 20 or 30 people who know about every theft on Pohnpei experience some kind of conversion where one or more of you decide that what you are doing is wrong and that it is time to stop it (yep, I know you're here in the form of an underground company. I even know the name of your "company"). The theft problem will never stop until justice is quickly served in the court system. It won't stop until gov-

ernment officials, whether they are Police Department detectives, or Justice Department officials start turning up for work and doing their jobs quickly, efficiently, and with a passion and concern for the FSM and its citizens. It won't stop until the people of the FSM begin to understand that they are a part of the solution and that they have a voice. Occasionally that voice might be used to say, "Alright, here's who did it and here's where the stolen stuff is." I know it won't stop just because I say it should, but here it is anyway: Hey stealers, punks and thieves, stop it now!

Bill Jaynes
Managing Editor

"What no wife of a writer can ever understand is that a writer is working when he's staring out the window"

Burton Rascoe

ART IN THE FSM

Art Competition Promotes Local Foods

By **AMY LEVENDUSKY**
Island Food Community

Rusty Primo of Awak Elementary School won 1st Place in the World Food Day 2006 Art Competition, depicting the theme "How can you and your family promote local foods for ensuring food security?" Marvin Donre also from Awak took 2nd Place, followed by Kosaksy Phillip Jr. from Saladak Elementary for 3rd Place, and D.J. Martin from Nett Elementary for 4th Place.

There were a total of 19 entries from the 8th grade students attending Awak, Saladak, Nett, and Sapwalap Elementary Schools and the Calvary Christian Academy. All drawings entered were displayed at the Farmer's Fair World Food Day celebration held on Friday, October 20th, 2006. The winners were announced at the World Food Day ceremony and each was awarded a gift certificate for school supplies.

The World Food Day Committee would like to extend its appreciation to all the participating schools. The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) is thanked for funding the World Food Day 2006 Art Competition.



Marvin Donre from Awak School wins Second Place in the World Food Day 2006 Art



Rusty Primo from Awak Elementary School wins First Place in the World Food Day 2006 Art Competition

College of Micronesia Art Teacher is Sculptor Changchun, Beijing accepts Koisimy Rudolph's Bronze casting

By **BILL JAYNES**
The Kaselehlie Press

COM's only visual arts teacher, Mr. Koisimy Rudolph spent 40 all expense paid days over the summer in Changchun City, at "The Changchun China 8th Sculpture Symposium" composing a sculpture that now proudly and permanently stands in the World Sculpture Park in Changchun City, China. He was one of 42 sculptors from around the world.

The sculpture he composed which was designed around the symposium's theme "Friendship, Peace, and Spring" is intended to represent Micronesian culture and is based on a story about a relative from his Nukuoron home that was said to have been rescued from the sea by a creature of the sea. Rudolph heard that story over and over as a child.

Koisimy teaches 50-60 students at the College of Micronesia under the auspices of the Department of Education. He always asks his students, "What is art?" Almost invariably, the answer he gets from his beginning students is that art is drawing with a pencil and paper. Koisimy is quick



to point out that "Art is more than just pencil paper and drawing.". Art and art training "provides...skills that enables you to skillfully communicate your thoughts, feelings, and emotions as you respond to circumstances within your environment. In the mirror we see our face but a piece of artwork reflects the soul of man. Micronesians are musically and artistically inclined, but they lack the skills to enhance their creativity."

"Those in education should develop and include art as part of the curriculum from K to O (Old). Art is beautiful!"

See the story of the creation of Koisimy's sculpture at <http://www.mahamahaarts.com>

GUEST VIEWPOINT

Emerging from the nuclear shadow

By **DAISAKU IKEDA**

“At any given moment in history, precious few voices are heard crying out for justice. But, now more than ever, those voices must rise above the din of violence and hatred.”

These are the memorable words of Dr. Joseph Rotblat, who for many years led the Pugwash Conferences on Science and World Affairs, a global organization working for peace and for the abolition of nuclear weapons. Rotblat passed away last year in August, the month that marked the 60th anniversary of the atomic bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki. He was 96. In the final phase of his life, he consistently voiced his strong sense of foreboding about the chronic lack of progress toward nuclear disarmament and the growing threat of nuclear proliferation.

The startling development of military technology has entirely insulated acts of war from human realities and feelings. In an instant, irreplaceable lives are lost and beloved homelands reduced to ruin. The anguished cries of victims and their families are silenced or ignored. Within this vast system of violence, at the peak of which are poised nuclear weapons, humans are no longer seen as embodiments of life. They are reduced to the status of mere things.

In the face of these severe challenges, there is a spreading sense of powerlessness and despair within the international community, a readiness to dismiss the possibility of nuclear abolition as a mere pipe dream.

Peace is a competition between despair and hope, between disempowerment and committed persistence. To the degree that powerlessness takes root in people’s consciousness, there is a greater tendency to resort to force. Powerlessness breeds violence.

But it was human beings that gave birth to these instruments of hellish destruction. It cannot be beyond the power of human wisdom to eliminate them.

The Pugwash Conferences that were Rotblat’s base of action were first held in 1957, a year that saw



Daisaku Ikeda

a rapid acceleration in the nuclear arms race that came to engulf the entire planet. On Sept. 8 of the same year, my mentor, Josei Toda, issued a call for the abolition of nuclear weapons. The day was blessed with the kind of beautiful clear sky that follows a typhoon, as Toda made his declaration at a gathering of some 50000 young people in Yokohama:

“Today a global movement calling for a ban on the testing of atomic or nuclear weapons has arisen. It is my wish to go further; I want to expose and remove the claws that lie hidden in the depths of such weapons. . . . Even if a certain country should conquer the world using nuclear weapons, the people who used those weapons should be condemned as demons and devils.”

Toda chose to denounce nuclear weapons in such harsh, even strident, terms because he was determined to expose their essential nature as an absolute evil, one that denies and undermines humankind’s collective right to live.

Toda’s impassioned call issued from a philosophical understanding of life’s inner workings; he was warning against the demonic egotism that seeks to bend others to our will. He saw this writ large in the desire of states to possess these weapons of ultimate destruction.

The idea that nuclear weapons function to deter war and are therefore a “necessary evil” is a core impediment to their elimination; it must be challenged and dismantled.

Because Toda saw nuclear weapons as an absolute evil, he was able to transcend ideology and national interest; he was never confused by the arguments of power politics. Today, half a century later, the language of nuclear deterrence and “limited” nuclear war is again in currency. I am convinced that Toda’s soul-felt cry, rooted in the deepest dimensions of life, now shines with an even brighter universal brilliance.

If we are to eliminate nuclear weapons, a fundamental transformation of the human spirit is essential. Since the bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki more than 60 years ago, the survivors have transformed despair into a sense of mission as they have continued to call out for nuclear abolition. As people living today, it is our shared responsibility—our duty and our right—to act as heirs to this lofty work of inner transformation, to expand and elevate it into a struggle to eliminate war itself.

In 1982, as Cold War tensions mounted, the Soka Gakkai International (SGI) organized the exhibition “Nuclear Arms: Threat to Our World” at the United Nations Headquarters in New York. It toured 16 countries, including the Soviet Union and China and other nuclear weapons states. It was viewed by some 1.2 million visitors in total. SGI members also actively participated in the global Abolition 2000 campaign. The purpose of these and other efforts has been to arouse the hearts of people seeking peace.

To further deepen this type of grassroots solidarity, I would like to call for the creation of a U.N. Decade of Action by the World’s People for Nuclear Abolition and for the early convening of a World Summit for Nuclear Abolition. Such steps would both reflect and support an emerging international consensus for disarmament.

Needless to say, it is young people who bear the challenges and possibilities of the future. It would therefore be valuable to hold a gathering of youth representatives from around the world prior to the annual U.N. General Assembly, giving world leaders an opportunity to hear the views of the next

generation.

Affording young people such venues and opportunities to engage as world citizens is critical to building the long-term foundations for peace.

Crying out in opposition to war and nuclear weapons is neither emotionalism nor self-pity. It is the highest expression of human reason based on an unflinching perception of the dignity of life.

Faced with the horrifying facts of nuclear proliferation, we must call forth the power of hope from within the depths of each individual’s life. This is the power that can transform even the most intractable reality.

To emerge from the shadow of nuclear weapons we need a revolution in the consciousness of countless individuals—a revolution that gives rise to the heartfelt confidence that “There is something I can do.” Then, finally, we will see a coming together of the world’s people, and hear their common voice, their cry for an end to this terrible madness of destruction.

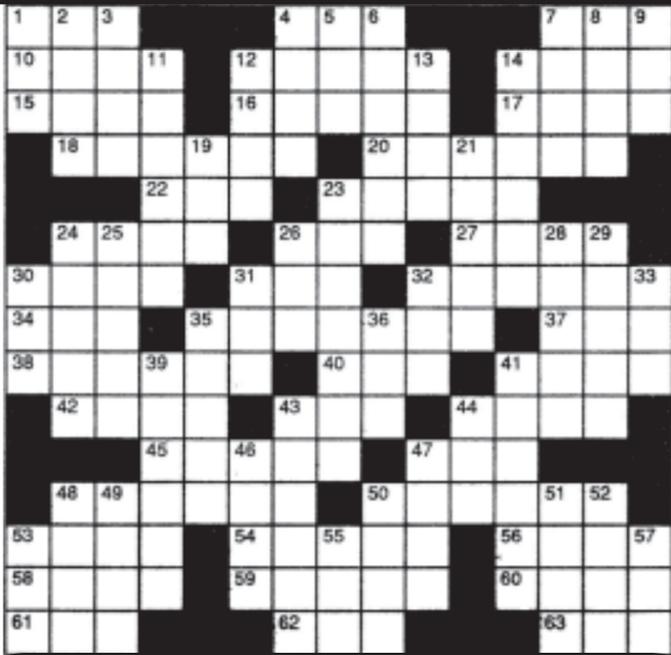
Daisaku Ikeda is president of Soka Gakkai International, and founder of Soka University and the Toda Institute for Global Peace and Policy Research. The Japan Times

The deadline for submission of items for the next issue of the Kaselehlie Press is 6:00 PM November 3, 2006

LAST Issue’s Solution

ABET	RABID	CPO	
ROAR	ELUDE	SLAM	
MUSE	NADER	NAVE	
STEAMER	ABDOMEN		
	SEW FLYER		
ASCOT	ELS	NESTS	
LIEN	PRO	ASSERT	
TED	ARRANGE	TEE	
AGENCY	TOE	ITEM	
RESET	RED	PLODS	
	GORED	PAL	
SHEARED	POTENCY		
EAST	LOBES	GALE	
RIPE	INANE	AMEN	
FRY	CENTS	LEOS	

CROSSWORD PUZZLE



SOLUTION IN NEXT ISSUE

ACROSS

- 1. ___ DeLuise; comedian
- 4. Camper's need (abbr.)
- 7. Drill sergeant's shout
- 10. State positively
- 12. Bequeaths
- 14. Any
- 15. Female horse
- 16. Man-made fabric
- 17. Stumble over
- 18. Lewd man
- 20. Empty
- 22. Long period of time
- 23. Royal
- 24. Window part
- 26. ___ Beatty; actor
- 27. Slash
- 30. Acrid
- 31. Big ___; London tower
- 32. Man's name
- 34. Past
- 35. Cut off
- 37. Environmental agency (abbr.)
- 38. Far away
- 40. ___ and Magog
- 41. Prayer ending
- 42. Pro
- 43. Mend
- 44. Being (Lat.)
- 45. Becomes sleepy
- 47. Overweight
- 48. Ogled
- 50. Hardship
- 53. Burn
- 54. Urns
- 56. Paper measure
- 58. Lapse
- 59. Fur piece
- 60. Heroic narrative
- 61. Liable
- 62. House addition
- 63. Lease

DOWN

- 1. To hold back water
- 2. Round
- 3. Simple
- 4. Prevaricator
- 5. Fold
- 6. With covered hands
- 7. Warning device
- 8. Discharge
- 9. Vigor (colloq.)
- 11. New
- 12. Singing bird
- 13. Grab quickly
- 14. Mangers
- 19. Garden tool
- 21. Boxed
- 23. Fails to follow suit
- 24. Hotel messenger
- 25. Fragrance
- 26. Western state (abbr.)
- 28. Articles
- 29. Wigwam
- 30. Sailor
- 31. Honey maker
- 32. Table support
- 33. Operated
- 35. Step
- 36. Line
- 39. Water animals
- 41. Fall flowers
- 43. Calm
- 44. Hearing organ
- 46. Races an engine
- 47. Weld together
- 48. Jump
- 49. Orient
- 50. Glen
- 51. Lick envelope
- 52. Seasoning
- 53. Health club
- 55. Sun
- 57. Cushion

Word Search - TOOLING AROUND

There's a tool for every job, and we've listed the names of many of them below. The only tool you'll need to find them is a pencil!

- ADZ
- AUGER
- AWL
- BACKSAW
- BAND SAW
- BEVEL SQUARE
- BIT
- BOLT
- BRACE
- BUCKSAW
- BURIN
- CHISEL
- CLAMP
- CROWBAR
- DRILL
- FILE
- HACKSAW
- HAMMER
- HANSAW



- HATCHET
- KNIFE
- LEVEL
- LOCKING
- PLIERS
- MALLET
- NAIL
- PINCERS
- PLANE
- PLIERS
- ROUTER
- SCREWDRIVER
- SWAGE
- TRY SQUARE
- WISE
- WASHER
- WING NUT
- WRENCH

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Mother Margarita Maturana (1884-1934) Opened Cloister Doors

In the Year 1884 on July 25, in Bilbao, in the Northern part of Spain, twin sisters were born, Pilar and Leonor. Their mother, later enrolled Pilar, to attend school with the MMB cloistered Sisters in Berriz. Pilar was only 16 years old. It meant leaving the ordinary life of a young girl. Probably the most difficult part was the separation from her beloved twin.

During her two years as a student, she heard God calling her to live a special way of life with the Mercedarian Sisters. She was ready to spend her whole life behind the convent walls. On her 19th birthday, she joined the MMB Sisters and changed her name Pilar, to Margarita Maria. After a year, she made her first vows and began her school work.

The seed of her missionary vocation was first planted in 1919, when two missionaries visited the school to ask the students to pray for their missions. Every day, prayers for the missions filled the whole school and the desire to help the missions was overwhelming. Margarita Maria started a group for young girls dedicated to helping missionaries. As they all grew in their love for Christ, and in the missionary spirit, Jesus' words, "go and teach all people" echoed throughout the walls of the cloister. They prayed and raised money to help the people in those distant countries. The Sisters and the girls continued asking themselves, "what more can we do?"

As Sr. Margarita prayed each day she could feel a strong call to open the doors of the cloister so that Christ's love could flow out and be felt in more distant places. She loved Jesus and she wanted others to know and to love him. A tremendous risk was in front of her; a very new and



Mother Margarita Maturana

difficult calling! After many prayers and much trust in God, she felt the call more clearly and finally decided that this was a very special invitation from God. Her perseverance in prayer gave her the daring missionary spirit she needed. She always felt that if this call was from the Lord, it would be successful and He would make it possible.

The dream came true! In 1926, the doors of the cloister in Berriz, were opened. The first group of Sisters were sent to Wuhu, China as their mission. Six young women courageously stepped out of the cloister walls to be the compassion and mercy of Jesus to all people. God would lead them in this new life, as they boarded the ship for their new life in China.

The second expedition was to Saipan in the year 1927. Many people of Saipan were awaiting them on the shores of Garapan, amongst them a young girl, Remedios Castro who later became an MMB and still lives and works on Saipan. Sr. Castro is now 91 years old. She is well known for her educational work on Saipan and will be attending the Beatification ceremonies in Bilbao, Spain, on October 22.

In 1928, Pohnpei welcomed the third missionary expedition led by Sr. Margarita Maria herself. She brought with her Sisters Conception, Belen, Dolores, and Serapia. Since those early days, the

Sisters have helped Pohnpeian women and young people to know the Lord. Many have passed on to their children the faith they have experienced.

Today, Pohnpei still needs Sisters. We have now only three MMBs from Pohnpei, Srs. Rita, Dasko and Marlihsa. Is Jesus inviting you to be his partner in this way of life? Do you hear him?

As Margarita prayed and opened the doors of Berriz, many of her Sisters have opened doors here in Micronesia and in many other countries: Japan, Philippines, Latin America, United States, Congo and Zambia.

Mother Margarita is still the model for the Sisters. As we celebrate her holy and meaningful life, we are grateful to

God and to her. We pray that we too, can hear the call and bring the word of God and his love to people who do not yet feel His love and that we will be able to have the faith, courage and strength to do things the way that Margarita did them.



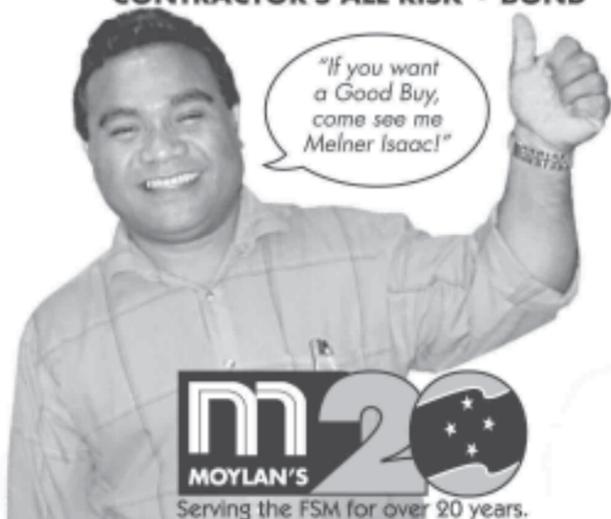
Sr. Dasko William, MMB
PO Box 73
Kolonias, Pohnpei, FM 96941
Ph: 320-4014

TIDE TABLE October 25 - November 7, 2006

	POHNPEI, KOSRAE		CHUUK	
Wednesday	25	1	25	1
	04:03AM 3.2	06:42AM 1.3	02:40AM 0.6	07:00AM -0.2
	09:39AM 1.1	01:08PM 3.4	07:32AM 0.0	02:24PM 1.2
	04:21PM 4.7	06:41PM 2.0	03:11PM 2.2	06:47PM 0.9
	11:07PM 1.3		10:48PM 0.1	11:52PM 1.4
Thursday	26	2	26	2
	04:28AM 2.9	12:39AM 3.9	02:40AM 0.4	06:59AM 0.0
	09:55AM 1.3	07:08AM 1.2	07:28AM -0.1	01:52PM 1.4
	04:50PM 4.6	01:28PM 3.9	03:35PM 2.2	07:27PM 0.6
	11:49PM 1.5	07:26PM 1.5	11:57PM 0.1	
Friday	27	3	27	3
	04:54AM 2.6	01:23AM 4.0	02:08AM 0.2	12:41AM 1.3
	10:09AM 1.5	07:34AM 1.1	07:20AM -0.2	06:56AM 0.1
	05:23PM 4.4	01:53PM 4.4	04:02PM 2.1	01:43PM 1.7
		08:07PM 1.2		08:09PM 0.3
Saturday	28	4	28	4
	12:48AM 1.8	02:02AM 4.0	07:10AM -0.3	01:22AM 1.1
	05:23AM 2.3	08:00AM 1.0	04:31PM 2.0	06:52AM 0.2
	10:15AM 1.7	02:22PM 4.8		01:48PM 2.0
	06:05PM 4.0	08:46PM 0.9		08:52PM 0.1
Sunday	29	5	29	5
	02:57AM 1.9	02:38AM 3.8	07:03AM -0.3	01:57AM 0.8
	06:28AM 2.0	08:26AM 0.9	05:03PM 1.8	06:47AM 0.1
	09:19AM 1.9	02:52PM 5.0		02:02PM 2.3
	07:21PM 3.7	09:25PM 0.7		09:38PM -0.1
Monday	30	6	30	6
	05:40AM 1.7	03:13AM 3.6	07:00AM -0.3	02:26AM 0.5
	10:03PM 3.6	08:52AM 0.9	05:46PM 1.5	06:43AM 0.1
		03:24PM 5.1		02:21PM 2.4
		10:05PM 0.7		10:26PM -0.2
Tuesday	31	7	31	7
	06:15AM 1.5	03:46AM 3.3	07:00AM -0.3	02:43AM 0.2
	01:05PM 3.0	09:17AM 1.0	03:41PM 1.3	06:39AM -0.1
	05:36PM 2.5	03:57PM 5.1	06:06PM 1.2	02:44PM 2.5
	11:42PM 3.7	10:47PM 0.9	10:44PM 1.5	11:25PM -0.1

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COMMUNITY BULLETIN

Alcoholics Anonymous meets every Wednesday at Cantor Hall at the Roman Catholic vicariate office at 7:00pm. Public Welcome. For details, call 320-2123.



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 a.m.-12:30 p.m. 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



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HEALTH & NUTRITION

Pohnpei is Featured on Indigenous Food Poster

By **Dr. LOIS ENGLBERGER**
Island Food Community

Pohnpei and the people of Mand Village in Madolenihmw were closely involved in the development of the Pacific Indigenous Food Poster, the fourth in a series by the Food and Agricultural Organization (FAO) of the United Nations, Centre of Indigenous Peoples' Nutrition and Environment (CINE), and the International Development Research Centre (IDRC). The poster can be found at http://www.fao.org/infoods/index_en.stm. Go to the Biodiversity Section (left frame) and then to the Indigenous Food link (left frame).

Banana, taro, coconut, fish, breadfruit, greens, and pandanus are the seven foods presented on the Pacific Food poster. A wealth of information is presented, including names, number of species and varieties, and cultivar-specific ranges of nutrient content of selected nutrients, in addition to the stunning photos, of which all were taken in Pohnpei and many from Mand.

The other posters in the series so far include the global one (where the State Banana of Pohnpei, *Karat*, is also presented), and the Africa and Asia food posters. All posters have side sections focusing on the values of indigenous food: exceptional nutritional value, taste, economical, available, and culture. It is hoped that the posters will assist in raising awareness on the importance of biodiversity and the great range in nutrient content among the many cultivars.

Barbara Burlingame of FAO led the development of this poster with technical development and photo selection by Harriet Kuhnlein and Lois Englberger as acknowledged on the poster. Others in the Pacific region contributed information for the poster. The photos were mainly by KP Studios.

A few preliminary hard copies of the poster were received, laminated, and shared with key institutions in Pohnpei. Iris Falcam, heading the Pacific Collection of the College of Micronesia-FSM Library, has informed the Island Food Community of Pohnpei that she has had her copy framed and has hung it with the Pohnpei Banana poster and Pohnpei Carotenoid-rich Foods poster. She said, "I notice ... that the posters are attracting attention of the students."

Many thanks to the agencies involved, FAO, CINE, IDRC/CRDI, Barbara and Harriet for their dedicated work, the photographers and those in the photos, those providing information for this poster, and also Iris and others who are now displaying and using the poster!! We look forward to its use in promoting the many values of local island foods!



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Spaghetti**
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NEWS

Pohnpei Fishing Club Results

By **BILL JAYNES**
The Kaselehlie Press

Anglers in the 11th annual Pohnpei Fishing Club's tournament fought it out for bragging rights and prizes sponsored by Pohnpei True Value. \$1400 in gift certificates at True Value were at stake in the contest which provided first, second, and third prizes in each of three categories, Biggest fish, Heaviest Boat Weight, Lady Angler Biggest Fish, and Junior Angler Biggest Fish.

Pauli Henry took first place in the Biggest Fish category taking home the \$200 prize in that category with his 43# wahoo. Khumer Panuelo took the \$100 second prize. Aminis David, Jr. received the third prize.

Khumer Panuelo's "Tygris" got the top spot for total boat weight. The Australian Embassy's boat "Boomerang 2" got the coveted

second prize and Konrad Englberger's "Bavaria" anchored the category at third place.

The lady's were out in force for the competition. Mary Tretnoff walked away in the first position. Resihna Mix angled her way to second place, and Tamme Jaynes found a spot in third place in the Lady Anglers - Biggest Fish category.

Zachary Jackson-Calway pulled up a fish almost as big as he is and won the top spot for the Junior Anglers - Biggest Fish category. Alex Tretnoff came in second in the category. In an unprecedented move Saimon Mix was awarded a very special third place prize for the lowest boat weight of any in the competition, a mahi mahi that weighed two pounds.

The Pohnpei Fishing Club is indebted to Pohnpei True Value for donating the prizes to the competition.

COM Students enducted into Phi Theta Kappa

By **BILL JAYNES**
The Kaselehlie Press

Four year colleges have the prestigious international honor society Phi Beta Kappa. Two year colleges which internationally includes the College of Micronesia, have the Phi Theta Kappa. Enductees into Phi Theta Kappa have excelled in their college education.

The enductees are presented with a Phi Theta Kappa key a representation of the fact that they have applied themselves to their education with valor. The enductees join 1.3 million members internationally. The organization was founded in 1918 by Missouri two-year college presidents.

Pohnpei enductees were:

Amanda Liza Nanpei, Andreas

Nelber, Antonio Actouka, Chistopher Gilimete, Cory Kustin, Dianne Tickel, Georgelina Reyuw, Jamesina Lemalisei, Jason Louis, Jereen Raymond, Jovian John, Lina Seymour, Lona Reuney, Madelina Rangailug, Megan Nichole William, Merleener Elias, Pernes Samuel, Raynard Martin, Roger Gilimete, Steezia Aldis, Swinglen Nelber, Tracy Tom, and Wefonne Billen



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