

THE KASELEHLIE PRESS

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THE KASELEHLIE PRESS

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Driver charged with drunk driving after plowing through the front wall of E&6 Store



Photos by Bill Jaynes

On Tuesday, August 1st this Nissan Sunny driven by 61 year old Simion Welson, supposedly while under the influence of alcohol found an unusual parking place inside a store on Kaselehlie Street in Kolonia (above left). The store is in the AYS building which now carries the name of E&6, owned by Elehna Yamada. Employees reported hearing a car engine accelerating outside the store followed by a loud crash accompanied by flying glass and concrete. Welson was treated and released at Pohnpei State Hospital for the only injuries sustained in the crash. One employee said that the fact that there was only one injury was very lucky as far as she was concerned since she was sitting at a table inside the store inches from where concrete blocks from the front wall landed when the crash happened. Ironically, a popular picnic bench that usually sat in front of the car's entry point had been moved the night before the accident. State Police very carefully extricated the vehicle from the building (above right) to avoid knocking down the wall to the left of Mr. Welson's vehicle. Charges have been filed against Mr. Welson who is awaiting trial. A civil case has also been filed by Yamada to retrieve cost of repair damages from the accident which exceeded \$1000. At press time there had been no contact between the Yamadas and Welson.

Search called off for party of Deputy Mayor

By Staff Reporters
The Kaselehlie Press

Extensive search and rescue operations were called off on Friday, August 11 for four Chuuk residents who disappeared Aug. 2 while en route by boat from Satowan to Oneop in the Mortlock Islands.

According to FSM National Police, aboard the missing 19-foot boat were Denter Rickysam, 40, deputy mayor of Oneop, his wife Ritako, 37, and boat operators Aisel Johnny, 42, and Jeremy

Jennyu, 18.

Passengers were reportedly returning from a funeral service in Satowan. The craft according to sources carried no navigational equipment, radio or lifejackets.

When the boat and its four passengers did not return to Oneop as expected on the afternoon of Aug. 2, police say Oneop residents alerted the atoll's mayor, who in

continued on page 3

"CEC" Airs Tough Issues

by JESSICA CHAPMAN
The Kaselehlie Press

Top FSM government officials convened last month to discuss major issues confronting the nation, chief among them delays in infrastructure development, negotiations on the fuel supply agreement and mismanagement of the Compact Trust Fund.

The Second Meeting of the Chief Executives took place in Palikir, July 17-20.

Participants included President Urusemal, Vice President Redley Killion, Chuuk Gov. Wesley Simina, Kosrae Gov. Rensley Sigrav, Pohnpei Lt. Gov. Jack Yakana and Yap Lt. Gov. Joseph Habuchmai.

The conference - an offshoot of the Economic Policy Implementation Council (EPIC)- brings FSM leaders together in order to provide them unified briefings on topics of national interest and to allow for collaboration and collective action on crucial matters.

Sigrav chaired this year's conference.

According to participants, concern was uniformly expressed about delays in the progress of Compact-funded infrastructure development. This issue seems to have predominated during the conference.

Continued on page 3

WHAT'S INSIDE	Chuuk FEMA Financial Inspection Not Great	Lease Approval Struck Down	Guidelines from the Center of the Universe
	Internet Fraud Scheme	Coconut Powers Pohnpei Mandatory Insurance Bill-Governor Says No	Betel Nut No Good in Kolonia
	DC Embassy Recall		SPORTS! Minginfel Wins Again

NEWS

Chuuk FEMA financial inspection results give the "appearance of the misuse of funds"

By **BILL JAYNES**
The Kaselehlle Press

A recent inspection of FEMA expenditures in Chuuk conducted by the Office of the National Public Auditor revealed several transactions that as the inspection words it, "contribute to the appearance of the misuse of these funds". The funds were intended as disaster relief from typhoons Chataan, Pongsona and Lupit. The inspection covered the 2004 and 2005 fiscal years. According to National Public Auditor Mr. Haser Hainrick an inspection is strenuous and thorough but has slightly different requirements than what he called a "yellow book audit".

FEMA funds in the amount of \$4,961,952 were allocated for recovery from the three typhoons. \$1,195,278 of those funds were given for "hazard mitigation" projects; infrastructure projects designed to remove or prepare against future hazards should another typhoon hit Chuuk.

\$76,575 of the money given to the FSM National Government for disbursement to Chuuk was intended for Administration expenses. The remaining \$3,690,099 was intended for direct public assistance projects related to the three typhoons.

As part of an inspection it is standard practice for public auditors to take a random sampling of vouchers when reviewing financial information. In the case of the FEMA review public auditors took a random sampling of 115 vouchers reflecting \$1,088,069. Of those vouchers 22 (18%) could not be found. The missing vouchers represented \$444,491 or over 40% of the value of the 115 sampled vouchers. The inspection document says that since 22 vouchers were missing they could not be examined for their propriety.

16 travel vouchers were inspected. Of those it was found that 3 of them totaling \$4,635 did not have supporting

documentation for the actual cost of the airline ticket. According to the inspection document, inconsistent filing practices for travel documentation may have been the cause for this discrepancy.

According to the inspection, "checks were made payable in the name of the official in office giving the appearance of misuse of FEMA funds... Most checks to office holders were to mayors, but we did see several that were written to officials in the state government such as the director of a department." The inspection goes on to say, "Prudent business practice requires that checks should be written to the entity that is to receive the funds. For example, payments for goods received at the hardware store are made payable to the store, not to the president of the company."

The public auditor goes on to say in the inspection document that, "since the check could be intended for the official's personal use and not the office he/she represents, it is harder to prevent and/or identify when funds are

actually misappropriated by government officials... The official could commingle government and personal funds by depositing the check into the official's personal account."

The Chuuk Department of Administrative Services (CDAS) in its response to the finding that checks were issued to office holders said that the payments, made mostly to mayors and officials of the municipalities, were due to the fact that many of the offices had no bank account for their municipality or office. CDAS said that in order to avoid the appearance of misuse of funds in the future it would no longer offer exceptions to the rule that payments not be made to office holders.

Several other internal control issues were listed as items of concern in the inspection document which can be downloaded by the public at www.fsmpublicauditor.fm.

A follow up inspection will be conducted in 6 to 9 months to insure that internal controls have been corrected.

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First Pohnpeian citizen admitted to the police force in Guam



Pohnpei Chief of Police Joe Roby (left) congratulates the first Pohnpeian Police Officer in Guam, Sarapino Artui

Sarapino Artui is the first to have passed all of the requirements for admission to the Guam Police force. Artui graduated from Guam Community College and majored in Criminal Justice-Law Enforcement. He said then, "In order to achieve your goals and dreams you have to work hard for it. It takes commitment, determination, dedication, and positive attitude to accomplish your goals and dreams. But above all, you have to believe in yourself."

Other Pohnpei citizens have been admitted to the Academy but Artui is the first to have been commissioned.

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Chief Executive's Council

continued from front page

"People are kind of frustrated over the case of the implementation of infrastructure projects," commented Yakana.

So frustrated that, in fact, the state of Pohnpei has halted several pending projects, including the construction of at least two schools. Yakana said the state is dissatisfied with, in addition to delays, what it views as unnecessarily rigorous—and costly—standards imposed by the country's project management unit (PMU).

"We believe it is more cost than we can afford," said Yakana regarding the expense to support GMP Hawaii, Inc., the PMU. "The huge difference in cost is something we can not understand."

Sigrah cited setbacks of up to three years on some projects in his state of Kosrae, mentioning schools and roads in particular. "That is definitely impacting on the economy. We are not providing people with what they should be getting right now," he said.

Habuchmai went a step further, supporting termination of the contract with the agency. "Yap has been very vocal on the present arrangement in trying to establish a model that will be sustainable in lieu of this one," he remarked.

Habuchmai voiced a fear-based he said on practices in the country during the Trust Territory days—of short-term arrangements with overseas companies that fail to build knowledge in the community.

Habuchmai said members expressed concern about lack of involvement in projects by the individual FSM states. In the past, he said, it has

been customary for states to handle infrastructure projects on their own. Their concurrence on the subject led to an official request for the government to hire additional engineers to be placed in each state in an effort to build capacity and to hasten progress on projects.

The men said there were also murmurs of discontent about possibly improper application and bidding procedures that led to selection of GMP to oversee implementation of infrastructure projects.

Urusemal, Killion and Simina were unavailable for comment.

GMP signed a five-year, \$1 million contract with the national government to be the PMU in May 2005, with funding applicable only for the first two years. According to the agency, it completes projects on a turnkey arrangement. This means it designs and fully prepares projects—including fully furnishing and outfitting them, if applicable—for immediate use by clients. The agency has a contractual commitment to train local contractors. It abides by U.S. and international building codes.

Currently GMP has 20 projects in the FSM including the stalled Pohnpei projects. Separately, the agency also has a contract with the U.S. Federal Aviation Administration to rehabilitate and improve FSM airports to comply with its requirements.

Secretary of the FSM Department of Transportation, Communication and Infrastructure Andrew Yatilman acknowledges the conflicts over his department's selection of GMP to oversee implementation.

In fact, he says, the government

currently awaits a report based on a U.S. Office of Insular Affairs review of the contract with GMP. The review, which took place earlier in the year, came in response to a letter OIA received concerning the matter. The OIA is a division of the U.S. Department of the Interior, responsible for administration and oversight of the Compact.

While Yatilman points out that each state endorsed the idea of a centralized PMU during the country's 3rd Economic Summit in 2004, he agrees the country would benefit from having more of its own people closely involved with the process.

On other matters, conference members also voiced concern about rising fuel costs and fuel arrangements with Exxon Mobil Corp., the region's sole provider. As a result, they wrote a letter to the corporation voicing objection to the company's alleged third-party pricing negotiations and proposing possible buyouts of the country's fuel farms.

"There is definitely need for more suppliers," said Sigrah. "I think the current negotiations are trying to get to that point." Sigrah expressed optimism, however.

"The discussion on fuel, I saw movement forward to reaching something," he said.

Conference members also conveyed dissatisfaction with administration and oversight of the Compact Trust Fund. A recently issued report of the FSM National Public Auditor's office indicated significant shortcomings in management of the funds.

"We found that the TFC [Trust Fund Committee] has not provided

needed leadership, communication and coordination to meet the requirements of the Agreement [the Compact]," the auditor's report details.

"These actions resulted in a lower than expected income for the first years of the Trust Fund," it continues. "Specifically, for Fiscal Years 2004 and 2005 the Trust Fund only earned a 2.23 percent rate of return, while even a conservative investment strategy in 2003 forecasted a 6 percent rate of return."

The Compact Trust Fund was established to provide an ongoing source of financial assistance to the FSM upon termination of Compact II in 2023. The TFC is composed of the same membership as the Joint Economic Management Committee, or JEMCO.

According to Habuchmai, a letter is in circulation among conference participants that they intend to send to JEMCO with their concerns.

Conference participants were also briefed on topics such as the Pacific Island Countries Trade Agreement, a recently signed extradition treaty, the grim financial status of MiCare and significant grant opportunities available through China and Japan.

Sigrah said he has already noticed change. "There is speed now," he said. "Involved departments are after people to get things moving."

"I can sense things moving to better places," said Sigrah. "I think we should never stop coming together and seeing eye to eye about issues"

"Whatever is sensitive, let's get it out in the open," said Habuchmai.

Oneop Deputy Mayor Lost

continued from front page

turn reported the incident to Chuuk state government officials. According to police, Chuuk Gov. Wesley Simina's office contacted the Coast Guard.

A U.S. Coast Guard (USCG) aircraft C-130 deployed from Hawaii Aug. 3rd. The next day a US Navy P-3 aircraft also joined the search effort. A second USCG C-130 joined the search on August 10. The FSM National Police Maritime Wing dispatched one of its patrol boats on August 6 to provide additional assistance. The FSM's *Independence* was forced to return to Pohnpei Aug. 8 due to lack of fuel. Police reported that a Chuuk State boat was also involved in the search for the miss-

ing people.

Lt. Commander Steve Matadobra, the Commanding Officer of the USCG Buoy tender "Kukui" who, along with the USCG Patrol Boat "Galveston Island" joined the search on August 8, said that conditions were less than ideal for a search because of atmospheric disturbances and ocean conditions in the western and southern Pacific. During the search there was a tropical depression coming out of the southern Pacific and at least two typhoons in the western Pacific the results of which made for a difficult search. For at least two of the days the combined efforts were hampered by severe white chop on the ocean and a visibility

"ceiling" below 200 feet at times.

Regardless of the weather and visibility problems, the aircraft and Coast Guard vessels were able to complete several searches of the area during the 7 days of the search but none found a trace of the missing individuals or the small vessel in which they were passengers.

The Coast Guard headquarters in Hawaii is reported to have told the US Embassy that the US military cost of the combined search operation was approximately \$966,000.

A memorial service was held at the Pacific Missionary Fellowship in Pohnpei on Sunday, August 13.

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US Warns of internet fraud scheme

US EMBASSY PRESS RELEASE

Residents of the Federated States of Micronesia have recently reported an unusual fraud scheme circulating on the internet. Email messages claiming to originate from the U.S. Department of State offer congratulations to "lucky winners" of the U.S. DV 2006 National Visa Lottery Program. The United States Embassy wishes to warn all individuals who receive such emails that these are not legitimate messages from the United States Gov-

ernment.

The fraudulent messages assign a "serial net visa" number and direct the recipient to "forward the following requirements": present contact address, recent passport photograph and payment of "clearance/acceptance fees" in the amount of USD \$989.67, payable by "Western Union Money Transfer and Money Gram Transfer as the ONLY payment method due to some reasons from our past experiences."

These emails state that "providing the above requirements will assure you of getting your Visa Lottery Acknowledgment Card and Visa Lottery Security Code which we shall send to your email address." They also advise the recipient to "please make sure you report and forward your Visa Lottery Code and Acknowledgement Card to the USA Embassy in your individual country for your Green Card and other necessary claims".

The U.S. Department of State does not use hotmail.com or yahoo.com email addresses to conduct official business. It would not direct responses to be sent "ONLY to" such an address "for security reasons". It does not require money transfers as "the ONLY" acceptable method of payment for its fees. Individuals receiving such messages should ignore them. Payment of the suggested fees will not in any way make it easier to get a visa to the United States.



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Funding appropriated for Marehalau recall

by **JESSICA CHAPMAN**
The Kaselehlie Press

The FSM Congress during its recent special session took decisive action in response to reported problems at the country's embassy in Washington, D.C.

Public Law No. 14-68 appropriates more than \$131,000 to fund repatriation of FSM Ambassador to the United States Jesse B. Marehalau as well as an audit of embassy operations and an FSM Department of Justice investigation.

President Urusemal signed the bill

July 17. He has yet to issue a recall of the ambassador, however.

Concerns arose in January when, according to government officials, a former driver for the embassy was arrested and charged with conspiracy to import illegal aliens to the United States using altered FSM passports.

The man, identified by authorities as Rico Calderon, allegedly procured sample copies of FSM passports and distributed them.

A subsequent FSM Department of Finance investigation revealed other

problems, including the absence of an embassy check registry spanning four fiscal years as well as the embassy's failure to submit timely reports to the department.

Questions were also raised about possible improper procedure regarding the renovation of part of the embassy facility.

Subsequent public hearings convened in Palikir by the Special Committee on FSM Washington Embassy Oversight revealed concerns about the financial feasibility of recalling Ambassador Marehalau.

Therefore, according to Legislative Counsel T. Lam Dang, Congress pursued the legislation to encourage timely response to the issue and to preclude a failure to act based on lack of funds.

That the president has yet to act on the legislation is a source of frustration among senators said Dang.

Congress originally passed a resolution proposing the recall during its 4th Regular Session in May.

The 4th Special Session took place July 10 - 14.

Funding is to be appropriated from the country's General Fund.

Pohnpei Supreme Court Strikes Down

Lease Approval

Pohnpei State Information Services
- August 3, 2006

The Pohnpei State Supreme Court, in a landmark decision, declared unconstitutional the provision of the Pohnpei Fishing Corp. (PFC) Law requiring legislative approval to lease the financially-distressed state firm.

The Court also struck down two Legislature resolutions, one declaring unconstitutional the Emergency Executive Order (EEO) issued by Gov. Johnny P.

David on the PFC issue, the other approving the lease of the PFC.

The August 3 oral judgment of the Court represented a signal to victory for the Executive branch in the cases Legislature v. Governor, PCA No. 302 and 307-05, even though it also declared unconstitutional the EEO on grounds that the "financially distressed" reason is not included within the four causes enunciated under Article 13, Section 9(1) of the Pohnpei Constitution. The four reasons allowed are: civil disturbance, epi-

dem, natural disaster and immediate threat of war. The court reasoned that "financial distress" is not one of the authorized grounds to declare emergency.

On the issue over the constitutionality of PFC law requiring legislative approval of its lease, the Court said that a decision to lease is not a legislative function. To allow the Legislature to decide on the issue is an unlawful delegation of power. Therefore, insofar as the law requires legislative resolution over PFC lease, that provision of law is unconstitutional.

In striking down Legislative Resolution No. 82-05 which was a legislative declaration of unconstitutionality of the Governor's EEO, the Court said that the power to declare as unconstitutional the act of one branch of government does not belong to the Legislature.

Moreover, the Court declared Legislative Resolution No. 85-05 unconsti-

tutional because it is based upon an unconstitutional provision of PFC law, therefore, also unconstitutional.

On another constitutional issue, the Court ruled in favor of the Legislature as to the question of whether the Legislature violated the Constitution when it refused to take up the nominations for PFC board at the Special Session called by the Governor in November 2005. The Governor complained that the Legislature should have considered those nominations either by approving or disapproving the same. The Court's view was that while the Legislature was apparently slow in giving action to the Governor's nominations of January 2005, there was some indication that the Legislature finally acted thereon in November 2005 by deferring any action because of the lawsuit it filed against the Governor

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NEWS

Ponape Coconut Products powers Pohnpei engines

by **JESSICA CHAPMAN**
The Kaselehlle Press

The rich, smoky-sweet smell of cooked coconut hangs in the warm air at Ponape Coconut Products, Inc. In a large shed, employees tend to ancient-looking machines that grind, stir and process copra - dried coconut kernel - into oil. A row of small spigots drains the pure oil into a basin.

With a bit more processing, the oil can be made into scented body oil or soap. As is, it is ready to power island vehicles as a replacement to diesel fuel. Since last October, when PCP began offering coconut fuel, close to 20 vehicles - owned by businesses and private citizens alike - have converted.

PCP is the only business in the FSM engaged in the manufacture of coconut oil for use in vehicles. Following the lead of other regional coconut fuel producers, namely the Marshall Islands and Vanuatu, the business is pursuing the unconventional energy source as a cheaper, cleaner and local alternative to petroleum-based diesel fuel.

"The fuel is our main business," says PCP Manager Peterson Sam. "I think we have a good chance now." Just two years ago, he says, the business considered closing its doors due to stagnating sales of its body oil and soap products. In an effort to invigorate business PCP not only altered the marketing scheme for its products but also began to actively pursue fuel production. The effort paid off.

Sales are slowly increasing says Sam. "I am very hopeful," he comments. The business currently sells more than 200 gallons of oil per month from its Madolenihmw headquarters and a service station along the waterfront in Kolonia. Sales of PCP's other products have increased as well. The business exports its body oil and soap to Hawaii and Saipan.

PCP was established in 1974 under the direction of the former Ponape Agriculture and Trade School to encourage ongoing copra production in the state. A refinery and soap plant were built in 1979. PCP incorporated as an independent, private enterprise in

1989. The business currently employs eight, including Sam, and has developed its own website, www.ponapecoconut.com.

Sam's interest in the industry follows that of his father. Catalino Sam is currently the president of PCP. He also chairs the board of the FSM Coconut Development Authority, an agency of the national government established to develop a viable private sector copra industry and to provide technical assistance.

Coconut oil currently costs \$2.35 per gallon when purchased in large quantities, as opposed to \$3.95 per gallon for diesel. Its exhaust is less polluting than the chemically-laden petroleum product. That copra is an abundant, locally available product - able to provide income to area farmers - make it an attractive, sustainable option.

Local consumers are also pleased. The conversion saves them approximately 40 percent on fuel costs. Local businesses, including Do-It-Best Hardware, Pacific Survey, Pohnpei Port Authority, Pohnpei Waste Management Services and the Village Hotel have converted vehicles and other machinery to run on coconut oil.

Fuel efficiency of coconut oil is reportedly similar to regular diesel.

The conversion of a diesel engine to coconut oil is straightforward, involving only a thorough flush of the fuel system and installation of a new fuel filter. It is also inexpensive, costing less than \$70 total - \$50 for the cleaning and \$10-\$20 for a filter. Presently, PCP is contributing \$20 to each conversion, making the conversion cost closer to \$50 total.

The FSM comprises one of the only areas on earth - the Marshall Islands are another - able to support conversion of diesel-powered engines to straight coconut oil. Other locations, such as Vanuatu, which has a more variable climate, must combine coconut oil with diesel fuel to prevent the coconut oil from congealing. The oil solidifies rather readily, a factor that does not affect warm island loca-

continued on page 9



PCP employee John Peter tends to an expeller, which extracts oil from heated copra. The oil is then directed to a filter press where it is refined even further.



Coconut oil drips from a filter press used to extract any remaining impurities from the processed oil. From here, it will be transported to storage tanks where it awaits purchase. PCP is able to produce 150 gallons of coconut oil in one day.

Coconut Oil Dollars and Sense

By **DOUG KELLY**
dakelly@comfsm.fm

Using locally produced coconut oil instead of imported diesel fuel can save you money, and is good for the local economy, the local environment, and the world environment.

When you pay \$4 for a gallon of diesel fuel, most of that money immediately goes off-island to ExxonMobil; only a tiny fraction is kept by the local fossil fuel dealer. When you buy coconut oil, most of the money goes to the coconut oil processor and the local coconut farmer, who then spend that money in the local economy.

Diesel fuel cannot be made in the FSM; it must be imported from other countries that have fossil fuel resources. Coconut palm trees can be grown on every island in the FSM, and in sandy or saline environments that other crops can't tolerate.

continued on page 9



PCP's facilities in Madolenihmw, adjacent to the former PATS campus. PCP also operates a service station along the waterfront in Kolonia for customers to refuel with the business's coconut oil.

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NEWS**Governor Vetoes Mandatory Vehicle Insurance Bill****Pohnpei State Information Services – August 10, 2006**

Pohnpei Governor Johnny P. David has vetoed a bill passed by the State Legislature that would make vehicle insurance mandatory, saying it “discriminates against natural persons who own automobiles” and “worse...devalued the worth of Pohnpeians as human beings.”

In an August 3 letter to 6th Pohnpei Legislature Speaker Nelson N. Pelep, Gov. David said L.B. No. 141-04, L.D. 3, would “create an undesirable classification of people subjected to the vehicle mandatory insurance act” because it appeared to be “an engrossment of the property right of a few class(es) of people” and would be “difficult to implement.”

Among others, the Governor noted

that the bill does not give a specific definition of the term “person.” This, he said, would limit coverage to “natural persons, exempting firms, co-partnerships, associations or corporations like PUC, FSM Telecomm, and even the government.”

“The persons left to be subjected to the bill if becomes law will be: fishermen, farmers, and private citizens of Pohnpei,” he said. “This classification is constitutionally unfair and without rational basis.”

He also said the bill, if enacted, would make the registration of vehicles confusing since the L.B. No. 141-04’s provisions run counter to the existing Pohnpei Traffic Law, which simply requires the payment of a fee to make a vehicle legally registered.

Should the bill become law, the Governor said, it would effectively amend the Traffic Law without going through the proper constitutional process of amendment and, thus, be unconstitutional.

“The bill, if (it) becomes law, amount(s) to a private legislation enriching a few insurance companies, providing undue regulation of private property by government, and criminalizing owners of vehicles who may not be willing, much less able, to buy insurance, notwithstanding that tort law still is available to address property and personal injuries sustained in an automobile accident,” he said.

Gov. David also pointed out that setting a \$100 annual premium was “a legislative attempt to regulate insurance premium, which is highly questionable” and would also amount to a “sharp increase in costs

to own a vehicle” given the fact that most vehicles in Pohnpei are used cars imported from Asian countries.

“They are used vehicles not worthy to be insured in those Asian countries,” he noted. “L.B. No. 141-04, if becomes law, is mandating our own citizens to insure their “un-insurable” used vehicles in Pohnpei which vehicles are no longer worthy to be insured in the countries of their origin.”

While commending the Legislature for wanting to “assist those concerned with the security of their vehicle,” Gov. David nevertheless said the bill “should take into consideration the social and economic impact that it will have on all Pohnpeians.”

“Perhaps,” he said, “Pohnpei needs to prioritize its effort to establish a Health Care Plan for its citizens.”

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NEWS

PCP Power

continued from page 6

tions like the FSM and RMI.

The ability to use straight coconut oil decreases maintenance.

PCP is just one business experimenting with the economic viability of various coconut products. The FSMCDA currently produces virgin coconut oil – extracted from fresh coconut as opposed to dried – as well as jam and ices. The agency also serves as a middleman between copra producers and buyers like PCP.

Currently, FSMCDA purchases copra from area farmers for 10 cents per pound.

Local businesswoman Herolyn Movick began producing body oils and lotion from her home late last year. Inspired by growing international popularity of all-natural coconut oil products, Movick began purchasing FSMCDA's virgin oil and blending it with famil-

iar local fragrances. She currently sells products, under the name CenterPac, with ylang ylang, plumeria and sampwokihda scents.

And Movick says she can barely keep her products on the shelves. Though she only offers them locally at present she is interested in expanding to the export market. She views the future with optimism.

Copra and coconut oil processing have yet to flourish in the rest of the FSM, though the potential is reportedly there. Local government officials and leaders convened earlier this year to discuss barriers to production and potential solutions. The price for copra in the world marketplace will impact the industry's ability to profitably pursue exporting products.

The industry also depends on government commitment. For example, FSMCDA's ability to purchase copra from farmers fluctu-

ates depending on the annual appropriations it receives from Congress. According to FSMCDA Chairman Namio Nanpei funding has more than halved in recent years to \$75,000 per year from \$200,000.

A shortage in the availability of copra and fresh coconut could affect businesses like PCP, CenterPac and others.

Peterson Sam of PCP is cautiously optimistic. Though PCP has yet to truly profit from its new endeavors, the business recently received a small loan to assist with its operations. Sam hopes to reintroduce products like laundry soap and tanning lotion in the near future and to replace aging equipment.

He also knows the great possibilities for expansion of the coconut diesel market.

According to the state Department of Finance, Pohnpei consumed more than 4 million gallons of diesel fuel in 2005, more than 5 million gallons in 2004.



Copra heats in a large "cooker" after being broken down into small pieces. Once the oil is squeezed from the copra, PCP sells the remaining coconut, called "copra cake" as pig feed.



Peterson Sam, manager of Ponape Coconut Products, Inc.

Dollars and Sense

continued from page 7

Moving fuel long distances is wasteful. Just moving diesel fuel from Indonesia or Singapore to the FSM burns a lot of that fuel. Locally produced coconut oil uses very little fuel to move it from the production facility to the consumer.

Diesel fuel must be produced by a multimillion-dollar refinery, operated by a large corporation. Coconut oil can be produced with a hand press costing a few hundred dollars, operated by an individual or a family.

Coconut oil is useful as food, medicine, cosmetic, cooking fuel, lighting fuel, and engine fuel. Diesel oil is only useful as engine fuel.

Local production of coconut oil for local use bypasses the volatile copra trade, making coconut oil a stable part of the local economy.

Fossil fuels are toxic. A diesel oil spill makes the earth and water into toxic waste. Coconut oil is a naturally healthy food product that will not poison the earth or water.

An engine burning diesel oil produces clouds of foul-smelling, toxic black smoke. An engine burning coconut oil produces a

pleasant smell of roasting coconut and no visible smoke.

Burning fossil fuels releases carbon that has been fixed in the earth for millions of years into the atmosphere, contributing to global warming. Burning coconut oil releases only a part of the carbon fixed by the coconut palm tree, for a net reduction in carbon in the atmosphere.

At present, the large coconut oil processors on Pohnpei are using electricity from diesel-fueled generators to produce coconut oil. It is possible (and will soon be economically necessary) to power the process using a part of the coconut oil that is produced. This will make the coconut oil process self-contained and independent from outside fuel or electricity costs.

A coconut palm tree starts producing nuts in three to five years, and can continue producing nuts for up to 65 years. During that time, the tree anchors soil against erosion, and produces a year-round harvest of meat, shell, coir, and fronds. Plantations can yield up to 230 gallons of oil per acre per year. Coconut palm trees are one of the lowest-maintenance, highest-return agricultural crops in the tropics.

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3. Send message to 266.
4¢ per message successfully sent.
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PACIFIC WORLD NEWS

Manus islands sinking

**PNG:POSTCOURIER
PACNEWS**

27 JULY 2006 PORT MORESBY (Pacnews)- Several small islands in Manus Province in Papua New Guinea are sinking and the provincial disaster coordinator, Wep Kanawi is seeking alternatives to relocate people from the affected islands to the mainland.

Many of the small islands have become sandbars and Mr Kanawi is looking at the national government to buy land for the relocation exercise, *Post Courier* reports.

Mr Kanawi, during the third provincial disaster co-ordinators conference in Port Moresby yesterday, said the islands were sinking mainly due to the rise in the sea level.

"Several human activities are also contributing towards the weaken-

ing of the corals surrounding the islands and this is also contributing to sink the islands," Mr Kanawi said.

He said people are using bombs, electronic nets and ropes to catch fish on the reefs and this has weakened the reefs.

"People are also building houses close together and the holes for the posts have allowed water to rise from under the ground and this has also weakened the soil on the islands," Mr Kanawi said.

However, he said the provincial disaster office is prepared if any emergency occurs. "We have communication network linking all the islands which is monitored 24 hours."

He said there are 212 small islands with several already under water while others are on the brink of sinking.

Pacific forum downplays disruption threat for Tonga meeting

**RADIO AUSTRALIA
PACNEWS**

01 AUGUST 2006 SUVA (Pacnews) - The Pacific Islands Forum is playing down an implied threat to disrupt the next forum leaders meeting in Tonga, *Radio Australia* reports.

A political reform committee has indicated it is planning a series of demonstrations against the government around the time of the summit in October.

A letter from the committee chairman, Akilisi Pohiva, warned the demonstrations can not be guaranteed to be peaceful.

The committee is seeking changes in Tonga's monarchical political system to make it more democratic.

Forum Secretary-General Greg Urwin said he was confident in the Tongan government's ability to handle security for the leaders

meeting.

"The safety and security of a group of 16 leaders is always a factor," he said.

"We will continue to look at it with the Tongan government and make whatever arrangements are necessary as the time of the Forum comes upon us."

Pacific nations need freedom of information legislation

PACNEWS

04 AUGUST 2006 SUVA - Pacific Island Countries need to put in place legislation that guarantees Freedom of information (FoI).

According to the deputy secretary general of the Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat, Iosefa Maiava only two of its 16 members - Australia and New Zealand, have freedom of information legislation.

"No Forum Island Country has any information disclosure or freedom of information law. But, there is already some constitutional protection for freedom of information.

"Papua New Guinea constitution recognises, "the right of reasonable access to official documents, subject only to the need for such secrecy as is reasonably justifiable in a democratic society."

In Solomon Islands, the draft federal constitution includes a specific right to access information.

The Federated States of Micronesia, Fiji, Kiribati, Solomon Islands and Tuvalu constitutions recognise the freedom to seek and receive information.

"FSM, Fiji, Palau, PNG, Marshall Islands and Tonga guarantee the freedom of the press; but the constitutions of four PICs, the Cook Islands, Nauru, Samoa and Vanuatu do not guarantee freedom

of the media or freedom to communicate ideas and information.

Mr Maiava said Fiji has committed to table a Freedom of Information Bill shortly in parliament.

Solomon Islands Government, which came into power early this year, has a freedom of information legislation in its legislative programme.

"The Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat is putting together an information disclosure policy because we believe if we are going to convince our members, we need to start with ourselves at the Secretariat."

"If Pacific countries are going to successfully implement information disclosure policies or freedom of information legislation, it is imperative that there is wide consultation and education.

"Our leaders, including politicians must be given the opportunity to understand the need for the freedom of information legislation. And the public must be given the opportunity to want to have and use laws and information, to have the political maturity that is needed in order to make use of what information disclosure policies and FoI legislation we will put into place." Mr Maiava said.

Two Chinese women fined for using fraudulent passports

**Tongan Broadcasting Commission
PACNEWS**

02 AUGUST 2006 NUKUALOFA (Pacnews) - Two women are among four Chinese nationals charged in connection with using fraudulent passports. They have been each fined \$1700 Pa'anga (US\$830), *Tongan Broadcasting Commission* reports

Chief Police Magistrate, Samiu Palu who presided over the trial said the two women, who had children, were charged with using fake Japanese passports to leave the island kingdom.

Justice Palu imposed a fine of 850 Pa'anga (US\$415) each for the two women.

In delivering his sentence this morning, Justice Palu said the women's two daughters were innocent victims who were only fol-

lowing their mothers.

He said he did not believe that they intended on coming to Tonga for their children's education. Instead, the court believed they used Tonga to transit to the U.S.

The court also suspected that the four were part of a human trafficking operation.

They have been ordered to remain in the Kingdom until they paid their fines.

Tuna scientists preparing for major Manila meeting

*Press Release
Western and Central Pacific
Fisheries Commission*

Pohnpei, Federated States of Micronesia, 28 July 2006. Tuna scientists from around the world are preparing for the second session of the new Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission's Scientific Committee which will meet over two weeks in Manila from 7th August. The Scientific Committee advises the Commission on harvesting levels and the status of tuna and other non-target species taken in fishing operations in the western and central Pacific Ocean (WCPO). The meeting, involving more than 120 scientists and others associated with the conservation and management of the WCPO's valuable tuna resources, is being hosted by the Government of Philippines. As the harvest of tunas

from the WCPO in 2005 is likely to be the highest ever recorded, again exceeding 2 million tonnes, the scientists will have a key role in advising the WCPF Commission if this level of harvest can be sustained. The Commission will meet at Apia, Samoa in December this year. The Scientific Committee brings together scientists from more than 30 countries that include all Pacific island countries and territories, the major fishing nations, including Japan, Chinese Taipei, Korea, the European Community, the US, and observers from other fisheries management institutions and non-government agencies from within the region and around the globe. In addition to assessing the current status of the region's main target tuna resources (skipjack,

yellowfin, bigeye and albacore) and impacts of fisheries on the sustainability of current harvests, the Scientific Committee will begin to give increased attention to those non-target species that are taken incidentally in tuna fishing operations. Andrew Wright, the Executive Director of the Pohnpei-based Commission Secretariat noted that the December 2005 meeting of the WCPF Commission adopted several conservation and management measures relating to target tuna and non-target species such as sea birds and sea turtles. The Commission called on the Scientific Committee, at its 2006 session in Manila, to prepare further advice for reducing bycatch – particularly of juvenile bigeye and yellowfin tuna and other non-target species.

LAST Issue's Solution

PEAL	CAPER	SOBS
ERNE	AGILE	ERIE
GANG	PLANK	BRAKE
SSE	ALIT	NAILED
	OPEN	PARA
SLAVED	GAMBLERS	
LEVER	SITES	LAW
AVER	LURED	LUNA
PER	PULLS	PUDGY
SETBACKS	ALLEYS	
	AIRY	OVAL
RAVINE	IRAN	BOA
EXALT	ADDITIONS	
ELSE	STEEL	ROCK
DEED	TEARS	EKES

Interesting Exam Answers

The Greeks were a highly sculptured people, and without them we wouldn't have history. The Greeks also had myths. A myth is a female moth.

Queen Elizabeth was the "Virgin Queen." As a queen she was a success. When she exposed herself before her troops



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POHNPEI STATE GOVERNMENT

Department of Education
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Kolonias, Pohnpei State, FM
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Request for Proposal Specifications

October 1, 2005 to September 30, 2006

The Department of Education has received funding under the Pacific Island Entities State Grant to provide special education and related services throughout Pohnpei State. Within the application for funding, the Pohnpei component identified activities that will require contracted technical assistance and training services for completion.

The information below provides specifications for proposal to meet the needs identified within the approved grant application. All proposed activities should commence within the time frame from October 1, 2005 and should be completed by September 30, 2006.

Interested parties must submit written proposals to Mr. Casiano Shoniber, Director, Department of Education, P.O.Box 250, Kolonia, Pohnpei 96941. Proposals must be submitted by September 30, 2006. For more information, please contact Casiano Shoniber at telephone (691) 320-2103 or at E-mail shoniberc@mail.fm.

Project Scope

P6.1.1. To renovate existing classrooms, office and libraries to be accessible to children with disabilities.

Evidence of Persistent Organic Pollutants

*Division of Environmental Health
FSM HESA*

When a person accidentally cuts his or her finger with the knife, there is an obvious and unambiguous connection between the causing event (the erroneous stroke of the knife) and the resultant health problem (the cut finger). It is clear and straightforward, cause and effect.

When doctors and scientists examine the causes and effects related to Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs) and other hazardous substances, there is sometime a clearly understandable connection and sometime there is not. The type and severity of the harmful effects of exposure will be influenced by many factors: the dose (how much), the duration (how long), the exposure pathway (breathing, eating, drinking, or skin contact), the effects of other chemicals or substances to which you may also have been exposed, and your individual characteristics such as age, gender, nutritional status, and the general state of your health. For a "low" direct exposure to many of the POPs substances, the resulting conditions

may include one or more of the following symptoms: a skin rash or irritation, severe acne, eye irritation or burning, dizziness, headache, vomiting, convulsions.

Accidental spills of POPs containing pesticides have killed and seriously sickened workers on farms and gardens. The connection between the spill and the resultant injuries and deaths can be easily documented. In the days following the worst industrial disaster in history (on the night of 3 December 1984, in Bhopal, India, a cloud of deadly gas leaked from a tank at a pesticide manufacturing facility and killed over 2,000 people and injured as many as 200,000 others), the investigators of the tragedy were easily able to determine the course of events. However, the harm caused to the environment, to animals, and to human beings, by low levels of POPs chemicals can be very difficult to prove in many cases.

All of the serious illnesses that result from low level POPs exposure, such as cancer, immune system disorders, central nervous system damage, liver malfunction, memory loss, birth defects, other

reproductive difficulties, learning disabilities, are conditions that for the most part have a very gradual build up of symptoms and then at a certain point it becomes evident that something is "wrong". Since the time between exposure and the awareness that a health problem exists may be several years, the connection may never be made, and the culprit substance never identified.

Many of these connections are impossible to link. It is difficult to prove that a person's immune system may be weaker than it might have been, or that a child is a slower learner than it might have been. So the evidence must be gathered from wherever and whenever it can be discovered. Scientists are gathering more evidence all the time. In the St. Lawrence River (in eastern North America between the US and Canada) beluga whales have been observed to suffer several kinds of cancers, twisted spines and other skeletal disorders, and various afflictions that are seldom, if ever, seen in beluga whales living in other areas with less polluted waters. Alligators living in the US state of Florida have stunted re-

productive organs and cases of infertility not found in alligators elsewhere.

There is growing evidence that POPs cause cancer, and in Sweden, Canada and other countries studies have strongly suggested that food with very low levels of contamination are causing immune system abnormalities. Mexican and US studies have shown that children exposed to pesticides, including those containing POPs, have significantly more problems with learning and physical coordination than children living in cleaner locations.

It is not yet possible to measure the overall, world-wide burden of POPs, and it may never happen. Control efforts from the global level down to the neighborhood level, should follow the guidelines of the Stockholm Convention to eliminate and/or reduce the use of POPs substances as quickly as possible. As the first twelve POPs chemicals are successfully addressed the Convention has mechanisms in place to initiate efforts to identify the next set of POPs.

Upward Bound Students Study Health and Nutrition

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

The first Health and Nutrition class for the Upward Bound (UB) program was taught from June 19 to July 27, 2006, for 25 students. The 6-week course was taught by Dr. Lois Englberger of the Island Food Community of Pohnpei and Angela Parvanta, a student from the University of Hawaii doing an internship with IFCP.

Churchill Edward, Director of Upward Bound, explained, "It is the first time that Health and Nutrition has been taught in our program. There is a growing interest in this and a real need for young people to have more information about their own local island foods."

Topics covered included "Personal Food Choices" and "Nutrients and Use in the Body," from a set of modules developed by the Secretariat of the Pacific Community (SPC) Community Education Training Centre based in Suva, Fiji.

The teachers sought to keep the learning experience interactive by incorporating hands on activities. Such classroom activities included



The Upward Bound 2006 Health and Nutrition class students, showing their name cards, pose with their assistant teacher Angela Parvanta (far left)

height, weight and waist measurements, reading –and understanding– nutrition labels on imported foods, and playing Pohnpei Banana Bingo (bingo with banana varieties rather than numbers).

"We really wanted the class to be fun for the students," said assistant teacher, Angela Parvanta. "We also wanted to teach them useful things that they could apply to their ev-

eryday life. For example, we tried to get the students to think about their food choices. To get them to think beyond their just filling their stomachs with something, but to fill their stomachs with foods that will keep them healthy and strong, especially local food."

Special guests Ms. Meriam Prens and Ms. Welsiher Hagilmai, taught how to make Three-Banana Fruit

Salad (using orange-, yellow- and white-fleshed varieties), breadfruit & peanut butter slices, and skipjack fish liver with vegetables. Mr. Richard Croft, another UB instructor, demonstrated his own unique recipe, Banana Ramen Sandwich.

Students also took a field trip to Pohnpei Agriculture's rare banana collection. During the field trip, Adelino Lorens, Chief of Agriculture, provided the tour to Pohnpei Agriculture's Kolonia collection of rare bananas (*Karat en Iap*, *Utin Iap*, *Karat*, *Mangat*, *Ihpali* and others). He explained that each variety has a number of distinct identifying characteristics and that the color of the flesh is one of the most important of these.

On the last day, colorful "Let's Go Local" t-shirts were awarded to Leah Tulensru and Jesse Roberts, both of Kosrae, for earning the top scores in the class.

We thank all the students for their enthusiasm and interest in island foods and to Upward Bound for the opportunity of working with them! Thanks are extended to the New Zealand Small Grants for funding support and to SPC CETC for their training modules.

GUEST VIEWPOINT

Planting Seeds of Hope

By *Daisaku Ikeda*
By permission

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

The bright laughter of children is the true measure of society's health.

Ten years ago, I was in San Jose', Costa Rica, for the opening of an exhibition on the reality and threat of nuclear weapons. Even as participants began a dignified rendition of the national anthem, through the wall that separated the venue from the Children's Museum next door came the sound of free and raucous voices—elementary school pupils waiting for the exhibition to open. As the ceremony proceeded, the noise generated by the children at the times came close to drowning out the speeches of the invited guests.

The ceremony participants exchanged smiles. It seemed that the cheerful and vibrant voices of the

children were the symbol and embodiment of peace. Their voices conveyed a sense of hope capable of countering even the threat posed by nuclear weapons.

As adults, it is our responsibility to ensure that these pure voices resonate loudly throughout society. An yet, in Japan in recent years, hardly a day passes without news of tragic and disturbing incidents involving children. It is painful in the extreme to learn of children and young people falling victim to or becoming otherwise entangled in violent crime.

The lives of children are a mirror on society. These incidents reflect an underlying pathology, one that justifies indifference to others, the casual disregard of their pain.

I am intensely concerned that by offering young people only the example of an uncaring and brutal way of life, we are extinguishing from their hearts the light of hope. The unfulfilled hearts of children become desolate. They are then rendered even more vulnerable to a distorted value system that—by the single, arbitrary measure of wealth—coldly separates society's

"winners" from its "losers".

We need to initiate an earnest and principled rethinking of what it means to win in life and what a genuinely affluent society would look like.

The members of my generations also experienced the pain of finding the values offered us by society empty and meaningless.

I was seventeen when World War II ended. There was among young people a tormented sense of spiritual void. It wasn't just the physical landscape that had been reduced to ashes. The bizarre system of values drilled into us in the wartime years had been exposed as fraudulent and razed to the ground.

It was only nature that many young people fell into a state of desperate skepticism, convinced there was nothing in which they could believe. Like them, I found it impossible to trust the intellectuals and politicians who, having sung the praises of war and driven large numbers of young people to their deaths, overnight became apostles of peace and democracy.

I feel deeply fortunate that at this most difficult juncture in my youth, I was able to encounter a person who was willing to engage with me and other people head-on and whom I would come to regard as my mentor in life.

When I first met Josei Toda at a small gathering of Soka Gakkai members, he was 47, almost 30 years my senior. And yet he responded to my questions with unadorned directness and sincerity. Toda had resisted the militarist regime that stripped the Japanese people of their rights and freedoms, plunging the country into a war of invasion. As a result, he had endured persecutions and a two-year imprisonment. The words of a person who had suffered imprisonment for his convictions carried a special weight. I felt intuitively that I could trust him.

Toda was an educator with a profound love for the young. Puffing on a cigarette, his talks would range freely across different subjects as he shared insights into life's more intractable problems.

He organized outdoor study sessions for young people in beautiful natural settings that helped us regain a sense of expansive vitality. I recall an occasion when, around a campfire by a river, we spoke with him late into the night about the things that concerned us: our relations with our parents, marriage, our lives and futures...

Toda had a deep faith and trust in young people. He saw in them possibilities they themselves could not imagine. In turn they were transformed by the confidence, courage and hope he instilled.

From my own experience, I am convinced that few things are more crucial to the healthy growth of children than encountering someone who truly believes in them. Studies suggest that young people who act violently often suffer from the feeling that no one is interested or cares. The problem behavior of children is a harsh reflection on the heartless egotism and apathy of adult society.

The Lotus Sutra includes the following parable.

There once was a man who had a rich friend. One day the man called on his friend who entertained him until, sated on wine, he fell asleep. The rich friend was called away on business. Before leaving, as a parting gift he sewed a priceless jewel into the hem of the sleeping man's garment. Knowing nothing of this, the man awoke and went about his business. Falling on hard times, he wandered the world in poverty. Years later, they met again. The rich man, astonished at his friend's condition, told him of the gift he had given him, and which he had possessed all along.

Each young person possesses a precious inner treasure of infinite worth. To remain unaware of this and stumble about in spiritual poverty is a tragic waste. In contrast, a person fully awakened to the jewel-like dignity of their own life is capable of truly respecting that treasure in others.

We all have opportunities, in our families and communities, to interact with young people. I hope adults will take the time and make the effort to listen attentively to the voices of the young. Such small acts of caring can help refresh and replenish a young heart. We should each strive to be a consistent source of warmth and spiritual nourishment.

While this may seem laborious and time-consuming, I am convinced that from such efforts—the resonance and trust that arise between one life and another—emerge people keenly sensitive to the sufferings of others, people capable of empathetic action on others' behalf. This is the first step toward building the values that will support a genuinely healthy society. These are the seeds of future hope we can plant today.

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1. Create a new text message.
2. Key in the state name, zip code or first character of the state name.
3. Send message to 8433 (TIDE). 4¢ per message successfully sent.
4. You will receive a text message shortly with the tide predictions. Currently, this works only for Chuuk and Pohnpei.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR**What Democracy Means to Me**

By *Maylani Phillip, Xavier High School, Class of 2007*
Winning Essay - Essay Contest

What does democracy mean to me? The answer to this question is in the heart of every citizen in Micronesia. Coming across this question leads me into the thought of government. What would be the best type of government that you would want your nation or your country to have? I would have to say a strong government with good leaders. A strong government would be governed by generous and trustworthy leaders who are going to rule with total honesty, devotion and loyalty. In seeking equality among various type of government, democracy would be a perfect type since it is where every person has a voice. Also, here is where the people rule. Some people in the world are uncomfortable with their government because their leaders rule with absolute power and apply severe policy. On the other hand, there are governments with leaders who are compassionate, and this makes the people feel comfortable with their government. The meaning of democracy is a government that is made by the people, to be for them, and to represent them.

A democracy is a government made by the people. The people crave a supporting government, so they can join hands, stand together and lift up the government. In creating it, the people know what would be bad and what would be good about it. There will be some good effects and some bad effects when a government is made. However, while create it, a wise idea would be to have "one mind, one body, one eye, and one heart". The representatives of the people will need to agree on anything that they amend. In a democratic government, leaders are not chosen by their ancestral lines or their history. Instead, leaders are chosen by the people to work for them and to serve them. This is different from a monarchy where kings rule with supreme power over their country and their people. Since the people rule, it is also their job to be in charge of knowing the situation of the government. In order to make a good government, the people need to pick individuals from among themselves whom they think could lead the people well.

A democracy is a type of government that is made up for the people. Upon making decisions and arrangements we need to be aware of the government's situation. Since the government is made for us, everything that happens to it would affect us as well. The government is made to pro-

tect its people. A democratic government would be like a bird with its wings spread out shielding its people from harm and danger. A government is like a belonging to its people. The people are also like a belonging to their government; therefore, they must follow and be aware of everything that happens in it and to it. The laws, which are made for the betterment of the government and for the safety of the people, must be enforced by the people and must be obeyed by them. People of the country are making its law, therefore in every sense of the word the citizens must give it full consideration. In contrast to a monarchy where tyrants rule with absolute power, a democracy holds seats for leaders that the constituents elect to be servants of the government. These leaders are elected to serve the people as best they can. Together the leaders and the people make the best out of their government.

Democracy is a government made to represent the people. The people have to get involved in government to make it walk. The government is only a body. We, the people, are its hands and legs. We make it work and make it walk. The government cannot move on its own unless the people support it. Working and walking together would make it easier. The government and its people are meant to be together. A democratic government could be described as an empty sack. When it is empty, it cannot hold itself up. The government cannot stand up without the people in it. A sack needs to have things inside it to be able to stand alone. The government needs its people in it to function.

Democracy is a government made by the people, for the people, and of the people. A government makes up the backbone of a country. What would the people do without the government and what would the government do without the people? A democratic government provides equality and freewill to the people. There are equal amounts of power, authority, and right among its constituents. The people are bestowed with the free will to vote and to do what is right. A democracy gives people the right to rule over themselves, which gives all citizens the eligibility of voting and taking official seats. If one wishes to have a loud voice in his or her government, he or she must choose to have democracy. A government made by the people, for the people is the best answer to the question, "What does democracy mean to me?"

KP-Perspective**Shame on You!**

The front page of the last newspaper carried my byline with a story about an employee who had stolen over \$10,000 by processing fraudulent time cards for employees no longer employed at the Pohnpei State Government. One office told me the amount in question was over \$10,000 and another office told me that it was over \$20,000. I'm not certain, frankly, which one it is and so I was generous in my reporting. We won't know until the investigation is complete and charges are filed. It appears, however that it may not matter how much it was or when charges are filed. The alleged culprit seems to have driven her car to the airport, abandoned it, and left the island.

All indications lead me to believe that the problem of theft in the work place, not to mention burglaries and other theft has reached epidemic proportions in the FSM. Not only does theft occur in the National, State, and Municipal Governments, it occurs in every arena of the private sector as well. I probably shouldn't even mention the problem of theft of salary when an employee agrees to work for a certain salary and then rarely shows up at work except on payday. That's theft too. If you need to hang your head for a minute, I'll wait.

The Kaselehlie Press has been dealing with its own substantial loss from a series of thefts apparently committed by an employee that was unsupervised. We have heard stories about theft at Telecom also apparently committed by a long term employee. The thefts I hear about range in value from a couple of dollars into the

thousands. It's truly astounding!

Then there's the story circulating widely on Bermin's News Network about an employee who overcharged two travelers, apparently from the Marshall's, here, ironically for the Association of Pacific Islands Public Auditors Conference. Either that employee or that business walked away with \$70 of ill gotten income on the sale of two dresses that should have sold for \$15 each but sold instead for \$50 each. That's not an illegal practice. It has been said, let the buyer beware, but give me a break! Where is the honesty?

I love the way locals describe thieves in Pohnpei. It's straight to the point. You call them "stealers" whenever you speak to me about them in English. So I'll be just as direct. If you are a "stealer" you are the lowest of the low. You are the parasite growing fatter while the host is dying. I can't say it plainer.

The employee that allegedly stole money from the K-Press nearly single-handedly destroyed for everyone in the FSM the only consistent newspaper left here. If it wasn't for the patience of the people to whom we owe money, the generosity of a pediatrician in Fiji who loaned us money, and the willingness of a couple of us to work for free until we can dig ourselves out of the crater caused by a "stealer's" bombshell there would be no paper and you, the stealer should be ashamed of yourself. I truly hope that you got what you needed and I hope that it was worth it.

Bill Jaynes
Managing Editor

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
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fax 320-6571 or kpress@mail.fm

Guidelines from the Center of the Universe

I have begun to notice that a great number of us are struggling to be the center of the universe. As a community service this will be the first in a series of columns dedicated to helping you in your quest to gain your proper place at the absolute center of the universe. If you are already nearly at the center these first guidelines will be a bit too basic and I apologize in advance for this. It never hurts to go back to the basics.

Driving

1) No one wants to get their car wet or to drive over a bump in the road when they are the center of the universe. When faced with a puddle or bump in your lane of traffic never mind the oncoming traffic. Swerve right on out there. The other lane is just fine. The other guy will get out of your way and will know that you are the center of the universe. This is especially effective if done on a curve.

2) When those at the center of the universe are in a hurry they always drive through residential streets and on any straight stretches of road at the top speed available to them. After all, those at the center of the universe never have traffic accidents. Keep this in mind.

3) It's important that you not buy a car seat for your baby but carry them on your lap while you drive. Since people at the center of the universe never have car accidents you are not likely to crush baby's skull with your chest.

4) If there are several parking spaces available in any given parking lot be certain to angle your car across two and a half of those spaces. Also leave at least two small children or your great-grandmother inside your car and make certain that you stay away for at least half an hour. This



This is an advanced maneuver. The two small children and the great-grandmother were removed from the vehicle for safety purposes. The driver lost points by only being gone for 15 minutes. However, he did demonstrate his ability to block in two vehicles, cover an empty parking space, and a piece of the street simultaneously. This maneuver takes years to perfect.

works equally well if there are no parking spaces. In that event park behind three vehicles and follow all of the above. No one will doubt that you are the center of the universe if you follow these rules.

5) When getting out of a car in traffic those of us who are truly the center of the universe will always swing our car doors into the lane of traffic without looking behind us first. When this causes a loud screeching sound and black marks on the asphalt but does not result in our door being ripped from the hinges we know that we have followed this guideline to its greatest effect.

6) If there is a sign in a parking space that says, "Reserved for John Dingleheimer" remember that the sign really means, "Reserved for those at the center of the universe". It's best if you additionally follow rule four above.

7) If you can beat traffic by cutting through any space whatsoever, even a state senator's lawn, take the opportunity to prove that you are truly the center of the universe. Howl wildly with laughter as you pass the vehicles waiting at the stop sign you bypassed.

8) Pylons (those orange cones in the street) or signs saying "no left turn" are merely guidelines for those not at the center of the universe.

Sakau and Betlenut—both Sakau en Pohnpei and Sakau en Wai

1) When you have been at the sakau bar it is important that you wait until rush hour to get into your vehicle. Drive at a top speed of 5 kph. This ensures that you will not lose your buzz and that everyone behind you will know that you are truly at the center of the universe. This can also be

done without the sakau but it's not as much fun.

2) When they have been drinking 151 proof rum and find that it's 4:00 in the morning, people at the center of the universe always put the world back into its proper orbit by walking up and down a residential road, screaming at the top of their lungs. If you decide to do this, breaking your bottle in the center of the street makes for a really good effect. If you can involve a friend you could stage a shouting match involving the character of each other's mommas. You can do this by yourself as well but then people just think you're weird rather than the center of the universe. Keep in mind that this guideline only works very late at night. During the daytime the police are around and they get a little grouchy about this whole idea.

3) Walls and sidewalks look great covered in red goo when you are the center of the universe. Nothing says, "I am the Center of the Universe" quite so well as a big glob of betel nut spit on the wall. Windshields look great with betel nut spit on them too but never your own.

4) If you have been having a "good time" with a bottle be sure to beat up someone that you a) love, b) like a little, or c) never saw before in your life. People at the center of the universe really know how to have a good time.

I only have room for one more guideline though there are so many more. Practice these for the next two weeks when I'll give you some slightly more advanced guidelines.

Bonus guideline: Never forget that lines (queues) are only for those with orbits somewhere near Pluto, or maybe just a bit beyond that. People at the center of the universe don't have time for lines.

That's it from the center of the universe until next time.

Bill Jaynes
Managing Editor and
Center of the Universe

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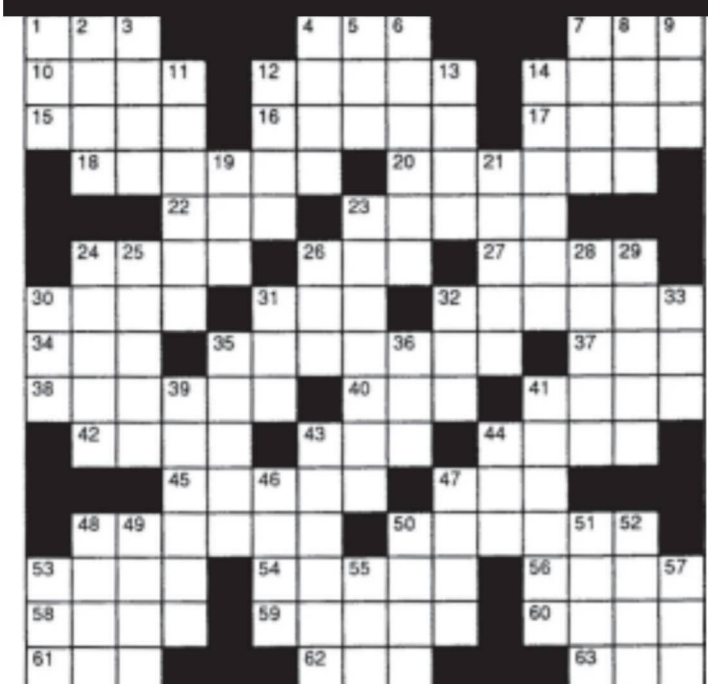
THE

KASELEHLIE PRESS

JESSICA CHAPMAN
REPORTER AT LARGE

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96941

CROSSWORD PUZZLE



SOLUTION IN NEXT ISSUE

ACROSS

- 1. Waste Piece of Cloth
- 4. Owns
- 7. Afternoon Repast
- 10. Give forth
- 12. Canonized person
- 14. Pooh's species
- 15. Shout of approval
- 16. More aged
- 17. Take a break
- 18. Sincere
- 20. After July
- 22. Do wrongly
- 23. Trapshooting
- 24. Passenger fee
- 26. Negative vote
- 27. Apiece
- 30. Stable
- 31. Caldron
- 32. Dormant
- 34. Yes (Fr.)
- 35. Redenbacher
- 37. Chopping Tool
- 38. Convince
- 40. Be ill
- 41. On the briny
- 42. Care
- 43. Consumed
- 44. Summer coolers
- 45. Thick
- 47. By way of
- 48. Tasks
- 50. Taste
- 53. Person, place, or thing
- 54. Joint lines
- 56. Carry
- 58. Tree trunk
- 59. Characteristic
- 60. Drunkards.
- 61. Accountant (abbr.)
- 62. Tit for
- 63. Young dog

DOWN

- 1. Revolution of a motor
- 2. Among
- 3. Donate
- 4. Stop
- 5. Assist
- 6. Furtive
- 7. Golf aids
- 8. Orient
- 9. Skill
- 11. Pub
- 12. Tart
- 13. Honest
- 14. Savage
- 19. Mine yield
- 21. Quackers
- 23. Fill
- 24. He sold soul to devil
- 25. Ascend
- 26. Winter month (abbr.)
- 28. Stop
- 29. Bad luck spells
- 30. Constricting snake
- 31. Before (pref.)
- 32. Entire
- 33. Legume
- 35. Command
- 35. Falsify
- 39. Not finished
- 41. Adjusts
- 43. Declare
- 44. Goal
- 46. Bird hatchery
- 47. Immense
- 48. Chicken house
- 49. Hawaiian Dance
- 50. In love (sl.)
- 51. Ring
- 52. "Brute!" (2 wds., L)
- 53. TV Network (abbr.)
- 55. Auto club (abbr.)
- 57. Sixth Sense (abbr.)

Word Search - Simon...

Carly Simon began her musical career in the early 1960's when she and her sister Lucy sang together as the Simon Sisters. Her first solo success came in 1971 with "That's the Way I've Always Heard It Should Be." In 1990 she reunited with Lucy on the the song "Have You Heard Me Lately?"

- "ANTICIPATION"
- "ATTITUDE Dancing"
- "BALLADS"
- "BOYS in the Trees (album)"
- CAREER
- "COMING Around Again"
- "DEVOTED to You"
- FILM Theme Songs
- "GIVE ME All Night"
- "HAVEN'T Got Time for the Pain"
- HITS
- "HOTCAKES" (album)
- "JESSE"



- "LET THE RIVER Run"
- LUCY (sister)
- MARTHA'S Vineyard
- "MOCKINGBIRD"
- NEW YORK City

- "NOBODY Does It Better"
- "NO SECRETS" (album)
- "PERFECT" (movie)
- "PLAYING Possum" (album)
- "RIGHT Thing To Do, The "
- SINGER
- SONGWRITER
- "STUFF That Dreams Are Made Of, The"
- "TORCH" (album)
- "WATERFALL"
- "YOU BELONG to Me"
- "YOU'RE So Vain"

Betel Nut No Good in Kolonia

Staff Reporter
 The Kaselehlie Press

On July 10, Mayor Michael Peterson of Kolonia Town signed into law an ordinance against betel nut spitting in Kolonia that the Town Council passed on the 22nd of June in its 8th regular session. The law, which is intended to help beautify and "provide for" sanitary disposal of "betel nut coconut skin spits" in Kolonia will, according to Kolonia Chief of Police John Johnnyboy, be rigorously enforced.

According to the law a person found to be spitting betel nut in public places in Kolonia town can be fined "not less than \$25, not more than \$100.00, imprisoned for a period not more than six months, or both"

Though the ordinance only refers to the term once again in section 3, the definition section (section 1) of the ordinance, item (4) "Public Area" is "...limited to areas within and surrounding any an(d)

all public playground[s], public corporation building[s], churches, public and private schools, government establishments and buildings, and any other areas to which are accessible to the general public for purposes of gatherings, picnics[,] and any other public activities." Section 3 later goes on to say that "It shall be unlawful for any person to spit [defined as stain causing spit from betel nut or coconut palm] in public areas, on public roads, business areas or around office areas within the jurisdiction of Kolonia Town."

Violators will be ticketed by witnessing, uniformed Kolonia Town police officers according to the ordinance and to Chief Johnnyboy.

"It's important that people in Kolonia understand this law so that they won't be in violation", said Chief Community Development officer Steve Scaliem. EPA Public Awareness officer Prez Ioanis agreed with Chief Johnnyboy's assertion that the red betel nut stains give Kolonia a "bad image".

Global Coral Reef Inventory Shows Need for Protections

Pacific Newline

Washington - A team of international researchers has analyzed NASA satellite data and found that only 2 percent of the world's coral reefs exist within marine protected areas that offer sea life some refuge from human activities.

The Millennium Coral Reef Mapping Project analyzed nearly 1,700 images taken by the Landsat 7 satellite over four years, according to a July 26 press release from the University of South Florida (USF) where the project is based. Computer processing of these data resulted in the coral reef inventory and the creation of maps that provide detailed information about the structure of individual reefs and their precise locations within marine protected areas.

Countries around the world have created protected ocean and coastal zones, limiting human activities to varying degrees. Such actions provide marine life some shelter from shipping, fishing and recreational activities that have proven frequently to be harmful to the environment and a threat to the survival of some species.

Even though the number of marine protected areas has been increasing, the study found that the level of effective worldwide protection they provide to coral reefs is small. In addition, the researchers, based at USF's Institute for Marine Remote Sensing, found that most protected zones encompass too little area to provide any actual protection to marine species whose natural habitat might extend well beyond the boundaries of the protected zone.

"This research points out how much still needs to be done to protect coral reef ecosystems, said Frank Muller-Karger at USF. "Creating large reserves such as the new Northwestern Hawaiian Islands Marine National Monument is just such a step in the right direction."

On June 15, President Bush created the largest protected marine area anywhere in the world, and largest single conservation area in U.S. history. The archipelago stretching almost 2,600 kilometers across the central Pacific Ocean is home to more than 7,000 marine species, and is the largest and healthiest coral-reef system in the United States.

TIDE TABLE August 16-29, 2006

	POHNPEI, KOSRAE		CHUUK	
Wednesday	16 01:42AM 1.7 06:47AM 2.4 12:46PM 1.3 08:13PM 3.2	23 03:05AM 4.3 09:48AM 0.5 03:44PM 3.1 09:09PM 1.1	16 09:44AM 0.1 06:18PM 1.6	23 02:11AM 2.1 09:51AM -0.1 03:21PM 0.7 07:12PM 0.4
Thursday	17 12:31PM 1.5 10:13PM 3.1	24 03:30AM 4.3 10:05AM 0.5 04:02PM 3.3 09:37PM 1.0	17 09:34AM -0.3 11:25PM 1.6	24 02:30AM 2.1 09:52AM 0.0 03:19PM 0.8 07:51PM 0.3
Friday	18 08:48AM 1.4	25 03:53AM 4.3 10:21AM 0.6 04:22PM 3.5 10:04PM 1.0	18 09:35AM -0.4	25 02:48AM 2.1 09:54AM 0.1 03:26PM 1.0 08:26PM 0.3
Saturday	19 12:24AM 3.3 08:43AM 1.1 03:08PM 2.1 06:10PM 1.9	26 04:14AM 4.2 10:37AM 0.6 04:41PM 3.6 10:30PM 1.1	19 12:24AM 1.7 09:41AM -0.5	26 03:05AM 2.0 09:55AM 0.1 03:39PM 1.2 08:59PM 0.3
Sunday	20 01:25AM 3.7 08:58AM 0.8 03:01PM 2.3 07:22PM 1.7	27 04:34AM 4.0 10:52AM 0.7 05:02PM 3.7 10:57PM 1.2	20 12:58AM 1.9 09:46AM -0.4	27 03:18AM 1.8 09:54AM 0.2 03:55PM 1.4 09:31PM 0.4
Monday	21 02:05AM 3.9 09:15AM 0.7 03:12PM 2.5 08:05PM 1.4	28 04:54AM 3.7 11:07AM 0.8 05:24PM 3.7 11:24PM 1.3	21 01:26AM 2.0 09:49AM -0.3	28 03:29AM 1.6 09:51AM 0.2 04:12PM 1.5 10:05PM 0.5
Tuesday	22 02:37AM 4.1 09:32AM 0.6 03:27PM 2.8 08:39PM 1.2	29 05:12AM 3.4 11:21AM 0.9 05:49PM 3.7 11:56PM 1.5	22 01:50AM 2.1 09:50AM -0.2 03:52PM 0.5 06:18PM 0.4	29 03:34AM 1.3 09:45AM 0.2 04:32PM 1.6 10:41PM 0.6

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*Forecast provided by the National Weather Service (NWS).



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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 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



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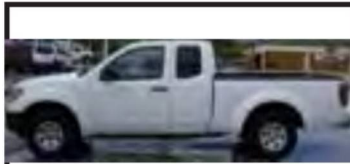
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ON THE HOOK

NEWS FROM THE POHNPEI FISHING CLUB

The Club held its second Catch-8 tournament of the year on Saturday, 12 August, and seven boats registered to try their luck in the Catch-8 format contest. The object of a Catch-8 tournament is to catch at least one of each of the following eight species: Billfish, Yellowfin Tuna, Skipjack Tuna, Mahi Mahi, Wahoo, Barracuda, Rainbow Runner, and Giant Trevally (Arong). Any fish, no matter what the size, counts towards the species, but only fish meeting eligibility weights will earn 2006 points for the angler. If two or more boats catch the same number of species, then there is a "weigh-off" to see which boat has the heavier set.

"Boat", captained by Alex Tretnoff was able to catch six of the eight species, failing only to land a Billfish and a Mahi mahi, but winning the \$150 top prize. A 32.5 pound Yellow-fin Tuna and some heavy duty Wahoo added to a total boat weight of 352.5 pounds. Alex added 79.5 points to his 2006 fish point total, and Mary piled on 47.5 points in the lady's

race.

Bavaria, with Konrad Englberger as Captain, brought in five different species, including a handsome 15 pound Skipjack Tuna, to claim the Second Place prize of \$100. In addition to the Skipjack, Konrad landed a 23 pound Wahoo.

The Third Place \$50 prize went to *Boomerang II*, which weighed in four species, including the only Dogtooth Tuna of the tournament, a 20.5 pounder caught by Jim Tobin. *Boomerang II* added 103 pounds to their 2006 total boat weight, thus jumping into third place in the annual standings. Other Boats in the tournament included *Pohnpei Ocean Cruise*, captained by Kazuhiro Fujita, which caught four different species, while *Tygris*, *Uchif*, and *Miss Pakin* all had less than perfect, or downright bad luck on Saturday.

Pohnpei Fishing Club's next tournament will be on September 9th. Check out the next issue of the K-Press for more details. Good Luck to the Pohnpei Fishing Club teams competing in the 14th Annual All-Micronesia Tournament in Majuro RMI in early September. Tight lines!

Dollar-Up

Amcres shipping agency is now offering shipping agency services for all the voyages of Matson shipping company's MV Islander to the State of Pohnpei. The following is the schedule for the months of August, September, and October, 2006:

New schedules or any changes to the schedule can be obtained at the Amcres Shipping Agency office.




Amcres Shipping Agency

P.O. Box 12
Kolonias, Pohnpei State, Fm 96941
Telephone: (691) 320-3420...Fax 320-5665

Amcres Shipping Agency is located on the ground floor of the Amcres Commercial Building across from Wall Mart store on the main street of Kolonias Town. Please call or visit our office if you wish to find out more on how to ship your goods on Matson's MV Islander.

<u>Departs Guam</u>	<u>Arrives Pohnpei</u>
8/11	8/20
8/25	9/3
9/8	9/17
9/22	10/1
10/6	10/15

Enterprises

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SPORTS**MINGINFEL WINS AGAIN!***By Paul Coffa and Jim Tobin*

On July 11th – 15th, Apia, Samoa, played host to 30 countries during the Commonwealth, Oceania and South Pacific Weightlifting Championships and also the 1st Pacific Rim International Weightlifting Tournament. The new weightlifting stadium where the Oceania Weightlifting Institute is based came alive at 5:00pm on July 12th, when 2000 spectators welcomed the 30 countries to Samoa and set up a new era of the sport of weightlifting in this region. Participating in the championships were the FSM, China, Australia, New Zealand, England, Japan, Malaysia, Indonesia, India, Singapore, Italy, South Korea, Hong Kong, Taiwan, Sri Lanka, Cyprus, Samoa, American Samoa, Cook Islands, Nauru, Tonga, Marshall Islands, Tuvalu, Tokelau, Vanuatu, Solomon Islands, PNG, French Polynesia, Fiji, Palau, Niue, New Caledonia, Kiribati and others.

A very proud, Prime Minister of Samoa, the Honorable Tuileapa Lupesoliai Sailele Malielegaoi, praised the Oceania and Samoa Weightlifting Federations on producing a world class event and in doing so creating a path whereby next year the weightlifting event of the South Pacific Games will be of equal standard. Next year's games will be the last called the South Pacific Games, with future games being called the Pacific Games. The international weightlifting event was supported by



the Government of Samoa through the South Pacific Games Authority as these championships were a test event for the South Pacific Games next year.

The lifting itself produced some excellent performances in particular from China who had the largest delegation of athletes. From the Oceania perspective undoubtedly the best per-

formance came from Manuel Minginfel from FSM winning the men's 62kg category with his best ever total of 284kg (624.80 pounds). He narrowly missed 165kg clean & jerk (attached photo), which would have given him a 293kg total. He finished up winning the category with a total of 284kg defeating Zheng Zhisheng from China with a total of 273kg.

Minginfel trains full time at the Oceania Weightlifting Institute having just received a Beijing 2008 Olympic Games Athlete Scholarship.

Another outstanding performance was put up by Yukio Peter from Nauru in the men's 77kg category. Peter, silver medalist at last year's World Weightlifting Championships, would have defeated Liu Haihu from China if he had succeeded with his second and third attempt on 194kg which he narrowly missed both times. He came in second with a total of 330kg. Liu Haihua won with 343kg.

Other outstanding performances from the Oceania region came from Richard Patterson of New Zealand winning the Commonwealth Championships in the 85kg category with a total of 305kg, Nuisilla Opeloge of Samoa also winning the Commonwealth Championships in the 105kg with a total of 320kg and at junior level, Sam Pera Jr. from the Cook Islands in the 105kg produced a best ever total of 311kg.

The overall winner by the Sinclear formula was Liu Haihua from China in the men's section winning AUD\$3,000 while in the women's section the best lifter was Shu Jie'an from China also winning AUD\$3,000.

The next major weightlifting competition that Minginfel will compete in is the IWF 2006 World Weightlifting Championships in Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic in September.

3rd ANNUAL "INS" MARASONG HALF MARATHON RESULTS*By JIM TOBIN*

The 3rd Annual "INS" Marosong was held on Saturday, July 29th on Pohnpei. The run was an official half marathon, with a distance of 13.1 miles. The run started at the main INS Store and finished at the Spanish Wall softball field, with a course that was run through Kolonia, Nett and U. Twenty-four runners completed the half marathon.

The overall winner was Keith Daniel Sepety with a time of 1 hour, 31 minutes and 12 seconds, finishing second was Makilihno Ardos (1.48.13), with third place going to Roy Alex (1.49.27). First to finish in the women's division, and fifth overall, was Venty Starlynn Ardos (1.59.10), fol-

lowed by Ludricia Ardos (2.06.03) and Maritha Ardos (2.25.20). The junior division champion was also Venty Starlynn Ardos.

The Pohnpei Athletics Association and the FSMNOC would like to thank the Nakasone family and INS for sponsoring the 3rd Annual "INS" Marosong. Prize money was awarded to the top finishers with the overall winners receiving: 1st - \$1,000, 2nd - \$500, 3rd - \$300, 4th - \$50 and 5th - \$25; women's division: 1st - \$500, 2nd - \$300 and 3rd - \$200 and junior division: 1st - \$100. All participants received a finisher's medal and ribbon, event t-shirt and INS gift bag. Next year, we hope to invite long distance runners from Japan to compete in the run.

