

The KASELEHLIE Press

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Long Liners Caught in FSM Law Enforcement Net Unlicensed Vessel's Catch Includes a Huge Load of Finned Sharks

By **BILL JAYNES**
The Kaselehlie Press

(Federated States of Micronesia) - Within the last month, three fishing vessels were spectacularly arrested by FSM Law Enforcement officers for fishing violations in FSM waters. On February 12th the US Coast Guard Buoy Tender Sequoia serving as a platform for the law enforcement activities of FSM National Police Officer Justino Helgen facilitated the boarding of the Koshin Maru #31, a Japanese long liner operating out of Guam. On the 13th the USCG Cutter Assateague facilitated the boarding of another Japanese longliner Koyo #8, by FSM National Policeman Nicholas Raifmai.

Both vessels were licensed to fish in the FSM and were detained for fisheries violations. Neither vessel had switched on their Vessel Monitoring Systems (VMS) as they are required to do when inside FSM waters. The VMS allows FSM National Police to monitor the movements of vessels



FSM National Police begin their count of finned sharks at the Dekehtik Marine Surveillance Headquarters. The final tally of finned shark bodies was 1766. At press time the fins had not yet been counted.

fishing in the FSM Exclusive Economic Zone. Without it the fishing vessels are invisible to law enforcement officers unless they are visible by radar within a fairly short range. The Koshin Maru was apprehended in Yap waters

north of Gaferut Island. The Koyo was apprehended a day later in waters East of Gaferut also in Yap waters and well inside the FSM's EEZ.

Those vessels are being escorted

back to Pohnpei by the crew of the FSS Micronesia, one of the three Australian donated Marine Surveillance vessels that enforce marine law in the FSM. They are due in to port on February 20 where they will face FSM charges for VMS violations as well as possible other charges.

On January 18, FSM National Police operating under an increased fuel budget for the 2008 fiscal year apprehended a Chinese flagged fishing vessel 40 nautical miles from Kapingamarangi Island. The vessel was approximately 100 nautical miles within the FSM's EEZ.

The FSM Palikir under the command of Lieutenant Commander David Marer spotted the vessel on radar at 8:30 on that morning. Officers boarded the Fu Yuan Yu 096 approximately 45 minutes later. The ship turned out to be an Illegal Unlicensed Unmonitored (IUU) vessel unlicensed to fish in the FSM, the first that the FSM has encountered in many years according to Commander R. Maluweirang of the Police Maritime Wing.

Police reports said that the Fu Yuan Yu 096 when boarded had shark fishing gear laid out on the stern (the rear) of the boat "char-

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at January 10, May 11, and September 12 "unless the Presiding Officer shall set a different date or dates." Before the end of the last special session of Congress they voted to change the date for the Third Regular Session to February 4 to give members time for hearings and committee work. The November special session adjourned on November 24, 2007.

Senator Nelson said in his measured way that "there is a lot of chaos at this point." He suggested that it is too early to allow for disintegration of the Government and that Congress should establish a committee to meet with the President and begin to work out their differences. Senator Dohsis

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Is Congress Set to Impeach President Mori? Senator Moses Nelson: "Congress should establish a committee to meet with the President to begin to work out our differences..."

By **BILL JAYNES**
The Kaselehlie Press

(Palikir, Pohnpei) The third regular session of the 15th Congress of the FSM opened on the 4th of February. All of the Senators were present in the chamber when Speaker Isaac Figir gavelled the session to order and asked for all to rise for a moment of silent prayer, a ritual observed each day when Congress is in session. The Chamber was full of dignitaries including some of the diplomatic corps, as well as visiting business people from Kobe, Japan.

Shortly after the session began it was clear to all in attendance that between the FSM Congress and the Executive Branch all is not well.

Vice Speaker Resio Moses expressed extreme disappointment in the fact that President Mori had

chosen to attend a prayer breakfast in Washington D.C. and a biodiversity conference in Rome rather than attending to affairs at home. Several Senators associated themselves with that statement including former President, Senator Urusemal. He tempered his association with the comment by saying that in the spirit of the New Year Congress should establish a new emphasis on working together for the future of the FSM.

President Mori had previously asked Congress to consider the possibility of moving the opening date of their session to February 12 so that he could be present for



FSM President Emanuel Mori



FSM Congress Speaker Isaac Figir

a good portion of it though he still would not have been available on opening day under that plan.

Speaker Figir informed the President that he had polled the members and that the members were not willing to move the session date which had already been moved back from January 10. Under the law that increased the number of sessions mandated for Congress session dates were set

..Impeachment?

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Halbert said that Congress and the President should meet together to discuss issues in the Micronesian way. Figir told the Congress that when President Mori returns from "that other breakfast we'll have our own breakfast."

Perhaps the tension that is apparent in the Congress chamber or private conversations with Senators fueled public speculation that Congress is considering impeachment of President Mori. Senator Nelson told us that he had heard the word whispered but as best he knew there was no formal move for impeachment. He said that he thought that Congress is interested in trying to work out their differences rather than making such a strong move. Senator Primo said that he'd heard no talk of impeachment and Speaker Figir said that it was news to him.

A Presidential communication to Congress on the status of a \$4 million grant for Chuuk and

Kosrae financial reforms set off a heated debate within the halls of the Congressional office in Palikir. During their special session, Congress had indeed passed a resolution accepting the grant. Within the resolution was a designation of the President as the administrator for the monies.

According to Vice President Alik Alik, the President took those words as a green light to spend the money in the way that they originally proposed. That is what the President did. He spent the money exactly the way his office had originally proposed to do.

The problem was that Congress had not yet passed an appropriation bill for the money—another stress point between Congress and the Executive Branch.

Congress was dissatisfied with the way that the President's office was handling the assignment of personnel to the FSM Consul positions in Hawaii, and Guam, as well as the Deputy Chief of Mission positions at the embassies. Those positions had been subject to the public service system meaning. The positions by law should

have been announced and the most highly qualified applicants selected for the jobs.

Vice Speaker Moses said that the action of the President in pre-selecting people to fill those positions before applications were received and reviewed was "an illegal act." Congress passed a bill requiring that the President make nominations that would be subject to their advice and consent. President Mori is free to veto that bill as he pleases, subject to a later overturn of the veto by Congress if they choose to do so.

Despite the tense environment between the two branches, Congress on a busy afternoon confirmed many of the President's nominees during the session. There are still more confirmations to come but so far Congress has confirmed the nomination of Maketo Robert for Secretary for the Department of Justice; Dr. Rufino Mauricio for Director of the Office of National Archives, Culture and Historic Preservation; Kimeuo Kimiuo for National Elections Director; Peter M. Christian for Secretary of the Department of Resources and Development; John Fritz for Ambassador to the FSM Embassy in Japan; Yosiwo P. George for Ambassador to the FSM Embassy in Washington DC; and Francis I. Itimai for Secretary of the Department of Transportation, Communications and Infrastructure.

Speaker Figir said he hopes the message is conveyed to the Executive Branch that "we are ready to work with him (the President), and we must proceed, on behalf of the people of this nation..."

Vice Speaker Moses said that he would be looking into whether or not the nomination of Maketo Robert was legal. He said that due to the relationship of Senator Kansou to the candidate he should have recused himself from the voting but that he did not. Senator Moses felt that the vote was spoiled.

Perhaps the strongest rebuke from Congress came on February 11 when Vice Speaker Moses accused the President of cronyism,

nepotism, narrow minded thinking in his appointments, and outright corruption. He said that the delegates that participated in the State trip to China had each received an envelope from the Chinese Government containing thousands of dollars and implied that the money was a bribe.

According to the Department of Foreign Affairs, seventeen people were a part of the President's entourage when they traveled to China in December.

A visiting President cannot leave his hotel room when he is not on official business due to security concerns. As a result, in the absence of a first lady to keep him company, the government of China asked him to invite four of his family members.

Present on the trip to China were President Mori and his four family members, Mae Mori, Aja Mori, Joe Charjulas, and DJ Fritz. The remaining representatives were Governor Robert Weilbacher and his wife, Vince Sivas of Foreign Affairs, Secretary for Foreign Affairs Lorin Robert, Ismael Dobich, Senator Frederico Primo and his wife, Senator Dion Neth and his wife, and Senator Joe Suka and his wife. There is one name missing from the list according to the numbers provided to us. Before press time we could not discover that name. Despite rumors to the contrary it was not this reporter.

The Kaselehlie Press looked into the charge of corruption and talked with as many people as we could; people that would have first hand access to the proper information.

The Ambassador of The People's Republic of China to the FSM, Liu Fei said that the government had only given the participants approximately \$50 for incidentals like laundry and long distance phone calls. The Chinese Government paid for the hotel bills, meals expense, and transportation to and from official events including airfare.

Mr. Weijun You, the First Secre-

See "China Trip" on page 16

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AUSTRALIAN NATIONAL APOLOGY DAY!

Australian Embassy Press Release

The Australian Prime Minister, Kevin Rudd, made a formal apology to the Stolen Generations and their families on Wednesday, 13 February.

'Stolen Generations' is a term used to describe Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children who were forcibly removed from their families by past government policies.

The timing of the apology was announced in a media release from the Minister for Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs, Jenny Macklin, on 30 January 2008. The Minister described the apology as 'a first necessary step to move forward from the past' and 'the beginning of a new relationship, a bridge to build respect and a powerful healing symbol'.

The Australian Government consulted widely on the apology, including with the National Sorry Day Committee and the Stolen Generations Alliance and its patrons, Indigenous leader Lowitja O'Donoghue and former Prime Minister Malcolm Fraser. Members of Parliament representing the Northern Territory held consultations with local Indigenous people.

On the day, proceeding commenced at 9am (Australian Eastern Daylight Saving Time) when the Prime Minister moved a motion of apology on the floor of the House of Representatives. Around 20 members of the Stolen Generations were present in the House of Representatives chamber. The motion was moved in the Senate at 9.30am.

The Government arranged for as many Australians as possible to be part of this historic event in Canberra. Around 800 people were able to view the ceremony inside Parliament House, including in the Great Hall and theatre, where screens for viewing the apology were erected.

Further screens were erected on the lawns in front of Parliament House. The apology was broadcast nationally on ABC television and radio, and could be viewed on the internet via the Australian Parliament House website.

Following the apology, crowds were entertained by a concert featuring Indigenous performers including country singer Troy Cassar-Daly and local dancers and bands. Around the country, events acknowledging and celebrating the national apology were planned by State and Territory Governments.

The Australian Embassy in Pohnpei had the Australia Network coverage of the national apology screening in the public area of the Embassy from 1230 on Wednesday 13 February 2008.

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acteristic of a vessel making ready to set a long line." Many other fisheries violations were noted by the National Police when they boarded the vessel.

The vessel was carrying fishing gear typically used for catching sharks. Officers found that the long liner's catch included a significant number of finned shark bodies and shark fins. It is illegal to fish for sharks in the FSM. Several other species of fish were also found in their freezers. According to an FSM National Police Press Release some of the catch was still bloody, soft and pliable to the touch indicating that they had only recently been caught.

One FSM law enforcement official expressed surprise that the Chinese long liner held a current Solomon Islands license to catch sharks in their EEZ. He said that the Solomon Islands is a member of the Forum Fisheries Agency and that most if not all of its members had made shark fishing illegal as far as he was aware. FSM officials are checking into the validity of the purported license.

Fu Yuan Yu was apprehended as part of a vigorous and concentrated maritime patrol program driven by the Chief of Police, Colonel Pius Chotailug and Commander Maluweirang with the assistance of the Royal Australian Navy Maritime advisors.

The vessel was escorted by the FSS Palikir to the FSM Maritime Wing Headquarters in Pohnpei, Micronesia at Dekehtik. It arrived on January 21. The crew and captain are confined aboard the ship while they await a formal notification of a court hearing on the matter.

FSM Shark Seizure Record?

An August 15, 2007 arrest of a Taiwanese vessel during the Rai Balang II fisheries enforcement operation in which the FSM participated made international news when law enforcement officers found 94 shark bodies, and 650 fins. In a plea bargain arrangement in Palau the ship's captain, Tsai Nuen Teng was ordered to pay \$185,000 in fines and fees and was sentenced to two years in jail, 32 days of which he had to serve.

The rest of the two year sentence was suspended. He has been banned from Palau for life.

On the morning of February 13, 2008, FSM National Police officers began unloading shark carcasses from the Fu Yuan Yu. They stacked the carcasses on the dock in Dekehtik. There were more than 80 when it was decided that the rest of the count could be completed inside the holds of the ship.

The final tally was 1776 finned and frozen shark bodies. Officials had not yet begun to count the shark fins on the vessel at press time but said that based on the number of shark bodies there should be approximately 9000 aboard. If the fishermen began throwing back finned sharks into the water, a common and to conservationists, loathsome practice there could well be many more.

Floating Freezer?

In explaining how so many fish could fit aboard the vessel a police official said that most of the boat consists of holds for storing fish in a frozen condition with a space for fishing on deck. The crew, he said, sleeps in tiny berths into which they can just barely squeeze their bodies. "It's all about fish", he said.

In addition to the 1776 shark carcasses police found:

Big Eye Tuna: 363
Barracuda: 112
Mahi Mahi: 76
Marlin: 60
Sword Fish: 56
Wahoo: 47
Yellow Fin Tuna: 18
Oil Fish: 11
Shark stomachs: 56

The FSM Department of Justice is likely to be filing charges at some point after the fish are all counted. In preparation for a trial, the FSM hired a certified ship's surveyor from Guam to establish the value of the vessel including the volume of its holds. The figure will be used to help establish the amount of a judgment should they decide to seek it.

International Cooperation

The arrest of the Fu Yuan Yu 096 was accomplished on a vessel donated by the Australian Government. Australia also provides an expert crew of Royal Australian Navy Advisors for Marine Surveillance activities.

The Japanese vessels that were

apprehended north and northwest of Chuuk were apprehended under a temporary agreement between the United States Coast Guard and the FSM. Officials from both the FSM and the US Coast Guard hope that a permanent agreement can be put in place soon.

Lt. Commander Tess Neumann who is the Chief of Response for the USCG Sector Guam said that this is the second time that the FSM and the USCG have operated under a short term Sea Rider Agreement. Officials at very high levels of both governments are still trying to hammer out the terminology of a permanent agreement. She hoped that the success of the current operation will help to show the value of a permanent relationship.

She said that fisheries violations in one area of the Pacific Ocean affect fisheries in all EEZ's across the ocean and that a cooperative agreement to aid a country like the FSM that has limited law enforcement resources benefits all of the Pacific Ocean resources.

Commander Mark Sorby, of the Royal Australian Navy assigned to the FSM as its Maritime Advisor said that there are benefits to the FSM of a cooperative Sea Rider Agreement. He said that the US Coast Guard has assets that the FSM doesn't have that would help them to cover the huge expanse of ocean that is the FSM's EEZ. FSM waters cover an area that is only a little smaller than the continental United States

Another helpful cooperative enforcement tool is a US law called the Lacey law which, by way of an oversimplified explanation allows the United States to prosecute fishing vessels who break the law in the EEZ of another country but who then dock in a US port. The law can be exercised after notification by the country where the law was broken. The US in such a case would recoup its court expenses and send the remainder of any judgment money to the country where the violation took place.

Law Enforcement Efforts Hampered by "Spies"?

Police Officials who are charged with enforcing the fisheries laws in the FSM's EEZ say that it is often a frustrating task.

One official said that they have been having particular troubles with FSM licensed long liners

operating out of Guam. FSM Licensees are required to turn on their VMS system as soon as they steam into FSM waters. He said that oftentimes vessels do not comply, and that they are able to get away with it so often that they have become recalcitrant. He said that much of the law enforcement for the FSM EEZ relies on faith in the vessel owners to do the right thing. For long liners it is so financially rewarding to not do the right thing that they just keep violating the law over and over again.

He said that unless the fishing companies sense a real threat of harsh prosecution in the FSM if they are caught violating laws they simply have no motivation to stop making money hand over fist and operators continue to build the cost of adverse judgments for law violation into the cost of doing business. Meanwhile, the FSM's waters, which have been called the world's last great tuna fishery, is suffering at the hand of unscrupulous operators.

The official who wished to remain unnamed said that marine surveillance activities are often hampered by the inability to keep surveillance vessel movements secret. For instance, on at least one occasion the surveillance unit noticed a large group of VMS movements in the area of Kapingamarangi. They deployed one of the surveillance vessels to investigate. He said that the ship's agents in Pohnpei often see that "the law" is heading out of port and alert the vessels. There's nothing to keep them from doing it. By the time the FSM law was in the Kapingamarangi area three days after departure, all of the vessels were gone having one by one disappeared from FSM monitors as they departed the EEZ. As the FSM vessel steamed back to its Pohnpei port the group was once again amassing in the Kapingamarangi area.

Commander Maluweirang said in a National Police press release, "I want to stress to all fishing vessels to take note that the targeting of shark is not permitted in the FSM and is only allowable as a by-catch to legitimate fishing operations which must be correctly justified and carefully recorded and reported. The FSM Police Maritime Wing strongly condemns any illegal activity in the FSM EEZ and will continue to closely monitor and apprehend any vessel that is operating in breach of FSM's laws."

U.S. Compact Grants to FSM in January 2008

For the fourth month of the new fiscal year, the FSM Department of Finance received Compact-funded grants from the United States Government totaling \$5,711,651. These payments were for Compact sector grants for Education, Health, Public Sector, Environment, and Private Sector Development plus Supplemental Education Grants for January of Fiscal Year 2008. The breakdown of these grants follows:

<u>Sector Grants for FSM National Government</u>		<u>Sector Grants for Kosrae State</u>	
Education Sector (FSM Department of Education)	\$ 98,555	Education Sector	\$ 190,238
Education Sector (College of Micronesia-FSM)	\$ 950,000	Health Sector	\$ 167,720
Health Sector (FSM H&SA, Division of Health)	\$ 137,329	Public Sector (Capacity Building)	\$ 57,000
Public Sector (Capacity Building)	\$ 100,000	Environment Sector	\$ 16,292
Total Payment for FSM National Government:	\$ 1,285,884	Private Sector Development	\$ 15,594
<u>Sector Grants for Chuuk State</u>		Supplemental Education Grant	\$ 35,428
Education Sector	\$ 809,190	Total Payment for Kosrae:	\$ 482,272
Health Sector	\$ 549,527		
Public Sector (Capacity Building)	\$ 204,216	<u>Sector Grants for Yap State</u>	
Environment Sector	\$ 44,526	Education Sector	\$ 524,813
Private Sector Development	\$ 42,244	Health Sector	\$ 174,000
Supplemental Education Grant	\$ 86,637	Public Sector (Capacity Building)	\$ 8,871
Total Payment for Chuuk:	\$ 1,736,340	Environment Sector	\$ 13,114
		Private Sector Development	\$ 10,554
<u>Sector Grants for Pohnpei State</u>		Supplemental Education Grant	\$ 290,243
Education Sector	\$ 630,422	Total Payment for Yap:	\$ 1,021,595
Health Sector	\$ 443,954		
Public Sector (Capacity Building)	\$ 59,157	TOTAL SECTOR GRANT PAYMENTS FOR FSM (Jan. FY 2008)	\$ 5,711,651
Environment Sector	\$ 40,131		
Private Sector Development	\$ 11,896		
Total Payment for Pohnpei:	\$ 1,185,560		

These payments are made on a monthly basis, based upon requests submitted by the FSM Government on behalf of the national government, the four state governments and the College of Micronesia-FSM.

Vacancy Announcement

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QUALIFICATIONS: To perform this job successfully, an individual must be able to perform each essential duty satisfactorily. The requirements listed below are representative of the knowledge, skill, and/or ability required.

QUALIFICATIONS: Four year college or university program certificate; or five to ten years related experience and/or training; or equivalent combination of education and experience, preferably in banking. MCSE preferred; MCSA required. Proficient in MS Windows2003, MS Exchange 2003, Citrix 4.0 and other systems used by the Bank. Extensive networking, systems analysis, and design and programming skills.

COMPENSATION: Salary commensurate to qualifications & experience

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Kolonias Pohnpei, FM 96941
Phone: (691) 320-2724;
Fax: (691) 320-5359;
e-mail: riarte@bofsm.fm

MEMBER FDIC



Occasional work opportunities

The Tuna Commission would appreciate expressions of interest from any persons qualified in administrative, secretarial and reception work that are available at short notice to fill in during staff absences. Those that indicate their availability will be placed on a register of temporary contractors to be engaged from time to time as the need arises. The fees paid will be competitive. Those interested should send a detailed resume, cover letter and contact details to the Executive Director, WCPFC, PO Box 2356, Kolonia as soon as practicable or email to kens@mail.fm. Any queries or requests for further information should be to the Finance and Administration Officer.

Chuuk Hospital Flirts With Death

By **GEORGE HAUK**

CHUUK HOSPITAL, Weno—Chuuk hospital sits atop a hill that commands a magnificent view of downtown Weno and the usually hazy islands that make up the Faichuk region. Here, the three donated ambulances are busy almost every day—ferrying the sick to Chuuk's only hospital and returning the dead to their villages on Weno or boats awaiting their remains to their home islands. With the dilapidating economy of Chuuk as the backdrop, life seems to be hopeless. Even the roads with potholes the size of King Kong footprints and dust prove unbearable. Life is bleak at all levels.

A quick glance at the ward on the second floor of Chuuk hospital is another testament. In the men's section, a 220 volt electrical line runs downward from the ceiling through the patients ward in a pvc pipe. Part of the electrical line is not covered and, "once a piece of cloth or whatever touches, boom, the whole hospital will catch on fire." This statement was made by a hospital staff who begged not to use his name. Tangling from another section of the bare ceiling is an electrical wiring that is not covered in a pvc pipe. Less than five feet from where the nurses are stationed, a big switch box for the entire floor attaches to the wall without the cover.

In another underdevelopment, the same floor—an open ward that

is transparent from one end to the other—sick patients are mingled with attendants, sometimes four or five at a time. This floor "has not had electrical power from before Christmas", in the word of a nurse who also appealed for anonymity. On the fourth of this month, a young man—Tiofil Hauk—was admitted and was assigned to this very floor. It was dark, hot and everyone was bitten by mosquitoes. Upon arrival, Hauk younger brother Moses, age 22, could not stand the fact that here was his older brother—sick—and it was hot. Wasting no time, he went over and asked the attending nurses why there was no electricity. With only the light of a lantern, he was eventually let to the switchbox. "One of the lines in the switchbox was dripped from grounded." In less than 30 minutes, the sick patients of Chuuk hospital were restored with lights and fans and rid off mosquitoes, all without a single penny to Hauk. "I was very glad I was able to help them, I didn't expect anyone to pay me", so says Hauk upon questioning.

[Editor's Note: I did no editing on the above article. The issue is important and so we ran the article in its entirety. Despite my own experience with electrical wiring I could not understand the line, "one of the lines in the switchbox was dripped from grounded."]

VACANCY INFORMATION COMMUNICATIONS AND TECHNOLOGY (ICT) MANAGER



The Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission (WCPFC) invites applications from suitably experienced and qualified individuals for the position of ICT Manager to be based at its headquarters at Pohnpei, Federated States of Micronesia. Information concerning the Commission is available at www.wcpfc.int Working as a key member of a small, multi-national team in a challenging environment, the successful candidate, who will report to the Executive Director, will take responsibility for information management and security systems design, implementation and management, data management and communication technology and applications for the Commission's Secretariat. The ICT Manager will also play a lead role in the development and implementation of the WCPFC's satellite based vessel monitoring system (VMS). As the Secretariat's IT systems are yet to be developed this is an opportunity to become involved, from inception, in the design and implementation of corporate systems that will support significant demands from a range of internal and international clients. A competitive employment package will be offered as part of a 4 year contract. (This position was advertised earlier in 2007 but recently there have been a number of improvements in its terms and conditions that will apply from January 2008) Additional information, including a terms of reference and conditions of employment, is available on request from Mr Ken Smithson, Finance and Administration Officer, WCPFC at kens@mail.fm or telephone (691) 320-1992. Applications close on 29 February 2008 and should be addressed to the Executive Director and clearly identified as an application for the ICT Manager position. Applications may be emailed.

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Seen Any Good Movies Lately?



By **N.N. Isaac**
The Kaselehlie Press

Balls of Fury

If you're in the mood for a goofy comedy, I've got a suggestion for your next DVD rental at the video store. "Balls of Fury" (2007) is a hilarious action/comedy about a former ping-pong prodigy named Randy Daytona who competed in the Olympics when he was twelve years old.

After an accident that simultaneously ruined his ping-pong career and played a hand in his father's death, Daytona was cast out from the world of competitive ping-pong.

Many years, pounds, and hairs later, his life changed when the FBI enlisted his help to take down the ruthless triad boss, Feng.

"Balls of Fury" was directed and co-written by Robert Ben Garant, who also directed "Reno 911: Miami - the Movie". He played Deputy Travis Junior in the movie and in the TV series.

Thomas Lennon (Lieutenant Jim Dangle, from Reno 911), co-wrote "Balls of Fury". In "Fury" he played the part of Karl Wolfschtagg, Daytona's ping-pong arch-nemesis.

This small film has an impressive cast that includes Tony award-winner, Dan Fogler, who plays Daytona, James Hong, George Lopez, Maggie Q, Jason Scott Lee, Aisha Tyler, Diedrich Bader (Rex from "Napoleon Dynamite"), and a special surprise star who plays the part of Feng.

I laughed non-stop throughout this ironic, witty, and utterly silly comedy. In my opinion, the humor in this movie is somewhat similar to the Monty Python and The Naked Gun movies, as well as the TV show and movie, "Reno 911".

While I wouldn't call this movie a spoof, there are many funny references to Bruce Lee's "Enter the Dragon", and other classic martial arts films.

Not everyone will love this movie. In fact, it's very likely that for every person who loves this movie, there will be five others who'll hate it.

If you're not bothered by lame jokes and think that you've got a quirky sense of humor maybe "Balls of Fury" is for you. It's probably at your favorite video rental store waiting for

you to pick it up

The movie is rated PG-13 for crude and sex-related humor, and for language.

Serenity

If you don't mind a bit of sci-fi, and if you enjoy a funny quasi-western adventure, you might want to add "Serenity" (2005) to your list of DVDs to rent for the weekend.

"Serenity" is a unique sci-fi adventure, created by writer/director, Joss Whedon. This entertaining movie takes place in the distant future at a time when people have left the overpopulated Earth to colonize other planets and solar systems.

The story begins when a doctor named Simon rescues his sister, River, from a secret government facility. They book passage aboard a ship called "Serenity". Unwittingly they involve a renegade lieutenant and his motley crew in River's dangerous attempt to escape the clutches of the "Imperium."

This movie is actually a continuation of the discontinued Sci-Fi network television series, "Firefly". It picks up six-months after that show's final episode.

"Serenity" reprises the cast of the TV series with Nathan Fillion as Lt. Malcolm Reynolds, Gina Torres as Zoe, Alan Tudyk as Wash, Morena Baccarin as Inara, Adam Baldwin as Jayne, Jewel Staitte as Kaylee, Sean Maher as Simon, and the radiant Summer Glau as 'River'. Chiwetel Ejiofor ("Love Actually") makes an appearance as 'The Operative'. David Krumholtz ("10 Things I Hate About You") appears in the movie as 'Mr. Universe'.

If you're a fan of the sci-fi genre, enjoy humorous adventure films, and you still haven't seen "Serenity," you need to rush to the nearest video store and rent this movie as soon as possible.

"Serenity" is rated PG-13 for sequences of intense violence and action, and some sexual references.

The Road To Guantanamo

"The Road To Guantanamo" (2006) is a haunting documentary.

The film recreates the stories of three young British lads of Pakistani heritage, who while traveling to their homeland for a wedding, get mixed up in the post 9-11 fevered hunt for

Osama Bin-Laden.

Pegged for terrorists, they are detained, tortured and flown to Cuba where they are kept for nearly four years, where they endure endless interrogations by military officials trying to wring out "confessions" on their so-called terrorist activities.

"The Road to Guantanamo" is directed by Mat Whitecross and Michael Winterbottom, the latter of whom is known for his recent film "A Mighty Heart" (2007) starring Angelina Jolie.

Ruhel, Asif, and Shafiq, dubbed the "Tipton Trio", tell their story in narrative style. The movie depicts their narrations in dramatic fashion.

'Guantamo' effectively utilizes actual news footage from the 'war on terror' that was broadcast in the U.S.

Whether you're a liberal, or a conservative, a Buddhist, a Jew, a Christian, or a Muslim, this film could impact your world view.

If you think that the story isn't applicable to you, or that you're safe because you're not a Muslim or an Arab, 'Guantanamo' might encourage you to rethink your opinion.

If the story is sometimes frustrating and at other times horrifying to watch, imagine actually living through what the three Pakistanis lived through just because they were born with the 'wrong' skin color.

"The Road to Guantanamo" is rated R for language and for disturbing, violent content.

Remember, be kind, rewind, and watch for these great movies on DVD.

Letters to the Editor

An Open Letter to Ferny Perman

I would like to extend on behalf of the Board of Trustees and the Administration of FSM Social Security Program our sincere appreciations for your donation of the small hut recently completed at Pohnpei Branch, for the senior citizens to relax in while awaiting their monthly benefit checks. I would also like to express same sentiments on your behalf for your grave concern and generous contribution to their welfare. Some people are wondering whether you are running for an office in the future, the idea which you dodged, saying that you were only following the advice of the Bible: "Give away some of your wealth". Whether you will be running for an office or not please rest assured of our appreciations. I hope things work out for the best for everyone. Thanks again.



Ferny Perman in the new naahs he built at the Pohnpei Social Security branch

Sincerely,
Onlino Lawrence
Pohnpei Branch Manager

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Letters to the Editor

Open Letter to Governor Ehsa

Maing Governor Ehsa:

Ei tungoal wahu! As this is my first letter to you, let me congratulate you and Lt. Governor Churchill Edward for your successful election to the Governorship. I beg for your indulgence and hope that you won't mind my plan to support your administration by providing suggestions and potential solutions to assist you as you move forward with your plans.

I write to you as a private citizen particularly about certain concerns I have regarding the Japanese funded project to improve the Pohnpei International Airport and to extend its runway. But I must say first that I am not blaming the Japan Government and/or your administration for the said project because this is an initiative that was already in effect before you came into office and because we cannot blame Japan for providing grants to projects our own governments prioritize. As a matter of fact, I thank Japan for providing these grants to help us with our development needs. Nevertheless, I have to bring up these concerns in hopes that they could help enhance our development programs. Since the inception of the project, I've always had concerns about it for these following reasons:

I am very concerned about us investing funds and resources onto a low-lying island given the real threat of climate change and sea-level rise we are all going to be facing from here on. I am most especially concerned that the planned extension of the runway is situated in an area which is in close proximity to Pohnpei's largest reef passes. The proposed extension area also lacks the natural protection that the rest of the runway receives from the mangroves around them. This makes the area highly vulnerable to storms and wave surges we potentially could experience in the future. It is ironic that this project is a partnership between FSM and Japan, given that FSM is one of the most vocal nations internationally about climate change and global warming and that the international agreement on climate change is called the Kyoto Protocol, as in Kyoto Japan. And yet this development project is being proposed on low-lying island that is likely to experience rising sea levels in the future.

I am aware that the Japanese Government has already commissioned an environmental impact assessment on the project site and has concluded that the environmental damages from the extension will not have extensive negative impacts on the natural resources around and adjacent to the project site. But what hasn't been done is the same

assessment on the sites from which they are planning to extract fill material for the extension. I imagine that the project is going to need thousands, if not millions, of tons of fill material. I suspect that current plans involve the killing of even more reefs in order to obtain enough material for the extension. I pray and hope that this is not the case.

I am also concerned that the planned extension is in such close proximity to the Sapwitik marine protected area (MPA) and that the extension could divert silt coming out of the Dausokele area onto the reefs around Lenger and Sapwitik. If this happens it could inadvertently destroy the MPA and waste six years of the state government, CSP and local communities' investment on the area.

I see still more irony in the fact that the President of the FSM left for Rome this week to provide the Keynote Address at an international meeting on Protected Areas and to declare the country's commitment to conservation and effective management of our resources. He is also there to raise our concerns about climate change and sea level rise and how these are already negatively affecting our islands. One of the main strategies to abate threats from global warming is to keep our islands and natural areas intact and in their natural state so they are more resilient to climate change and global warming. Building on and extracting coral reefs for development projects are in direct conflict with this strategy. We all should seek longer term solutions and find a way to build an airport on the main island so we won't have to do this all over again in the future.

I wish and hope your administration as well as other leaders in this country will look at longer term and more compatible solutions to our social and economical development needs. When we go to international conventions and tell the world powers to stop their actions that contribute to global warming and sea level rise because they are impacting us negatively and directly, we need to show that we mean what we say by doing our part in keeping these islands resilient to those imminent changes. When we do otherwise, who is going to take us seriously? Pohnpei oh FSM pahn kin anahne en mie sapwelime kanengen uhmw nan mihting lap akan en sampah pwe en kin mie wahupen oh angin sapwelime irehkan. Ma e pahn kin kahiep oh sohte me e pahn pohnsouehki sapwelime kaweid de mehn akahkamai kan, a e pahn kakete wia mehn kemehn kouruhr rehn meh

See "Ehsa" on page 11

B N N

By Bermin F. Weilbacher

The opinions expressed in the BNN Column are those of the author.

Note: This Column appears bi-weekly in the Kaselehlie Press. Bloggers can also find it in <http://bnnpni.blogspot.com> under PROS N CONS.

Chuuk has done it again...in the news and not too good news.

According to Guam's major paper, the PDN, Chuukese and Guamanian students at George Washington High School are at each other's throats. Authorities said the root cause is cultural differences. Authorities are now asking experts in race-related violence to step in and help. The experts' first experience when they intervened? The two groups could not sit still. They wanted to fight on. Man these people should try the peace makers—if not the smoke pipe, Pohnpei Sakau will certainly cool them down.

Computer for rural kids?

Overheard two foreign gentlemen from Japan talking about installing lap top computers in the rural area schools. That would be cool. The kids don't get to watch American Idol or CNN because the cable is not out there yet but they sure can watch anything on the Internet. Now who is going to supervise them? Bill Gates has given out thousands of these gizmos to kids in poor countries so why not us? Pohnpei Met.

Reorganization back to Governor...

The reorganization of the Pohnpei State Government's Executive Branch under the new administration is taking its toll on the public's expectation. Already a month now but the paperwork has not been settled. I hear it's back to the Legislature. Well as they say, "So what the hell Pohnpei Met". "Pohnpei Met" coined to be the catch word of the new Pohnpei State Administration, has been given some subtle connotation, for example, "If anyone has any problem with the laws

not being implemented, why worry, Pohnpei Met." Or, if you catch government employees playing poker games with the government's computers, on government time, why Pohnpei Met, literally meaning "this is Pohnpei."

While Mobil and PUC continue the battle over diesel fuel supply...

With the first diesel fuel supply contract still under a TRO, as a result of Mobil suing PUC for bad bidding practice, PUC let out another RFP... No, no nothing to do with your cell phone or DVD player..it stands for REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL. Only one fuel supplier responded and guess who, B&ST, the same company that signed the first diesel fuel supply contract that is now under the TRO. The lone RFP submission was publicly opened (and I witnessed it) now goes to the PUC Board for further consideration. Mobil, did not participate but protested that the new RFP was a mere extension of the TRO-ed RFP but PUC responded that the FSM Supreme Court allowed it and it (PUC) was acting in accord with Pohnpei State law. Well, Pohnpei Met, no?

And while the feud continues, the cost of electricity, produced solely by diesel fuel, has risen past 40 cents per kilowatt.\$50 for 119.5 kilowatts gives you 0.41841 cents per kilowatt.

And those on again off again nomination/confirmation processes at the National Government...must cause for ulcer or perhaps even heart attack for the nominees, yes?



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The Right Thing

Last evening I watched part of a movie that was made a few years ago. Actor Ben Kingsley played the part of a devoutly religious Jew accused of murdering three hospital workers who, through their inaction and insensitivity allowed his son to die. It was during a conversation with his lawyer in his cell that the line was delivered that I will likely never forget. Alec Baldwin who played the sleazy lawyer (not all are despite the multitude of lawyer jokes) had just said, "It's not easy to do the right thing." Kingsley replied, "It's very easy to do the right thing. You find the right thing and you just do it. It's not hard to do the right thing. What's hard is deciding what the right thing is."

I don't know if I was supposed to be watching that movie at that particular time by some mandate of destiny or if it was my own internal dilemma that caused me to grab on to those words like a life preserver. It completely described what was going on in my mind. "It's hard to decide what the right thing is."

In January I went through the same dilemma when the President of the nation asked me to be his special assistant as the Public Information Officer. I thought through two sleepless nights about the proposal and then agreed to meet with then Chief of Staff Sabino Asor. I had many questions for the Chief. The answers he gave would determine whether or not I took the job. He gave all of the right answers as far as I was concerned. The biggest concern I had was that I would not be able to write for The Kaselehlie Press in an unbiased way and that my new boss would want to approve my articles for K-Press. I knew that I could not control what the public thought but felt that if people gave me a chance they would see that I could do this thing. After all, he needed a PIO and there weren't people clamoring to do the job.

I agreed and started the position on the 15th of January. I signed a Memorandum of Understanding that set into writing the agreements we had made and off to work I went, merrily trying to walk the tightrope between free journalism and essentially PR work. There were naysayers, all voicing the things I had cleared up in my own mind. I became the topic of conversation amongst groups of mostly expat "intellectuals" that felt I had sold out. Some of them actively campaigned in the background to shut off my contacts for news. I went so far as to resign one morning three weeks ago but by noon on that day had changed my mind and went back to work. I still felt I was doing the right thing.

People talk and they talked plenty during my tenure at the President's office. The Kaselehlie Press is a non-profit newspaper governed by a board of directors. Someone told me they had heard that when I presented the idea of taking on the position and continuing at The Kaselehlie Press that the vote in the board meeting was five to four in favor of the idea with the approving votes all coming from expats.

It's an interesting story but untrue. Our board has seven members and only one of them is an expat. Just for your information, those board members include: Board Chair Bob Spegal, John Sohl, Largo Edwin, Emeliana Musrasrik, Jeff Arnold, Bermin Weillbacher, and founding board member Mae Adams. All of them said I should give the job a try or said nothing at all. I continued in the position with the support of the Board.

On Friday, February 8 it became clear that some of my news sources had essentially been shut down. I was told point blank that I needed to make a choice, PIO or K-Press editor, one or

the other but not both.

I went back to the PIO's office, told the staff that I had some hard thinking to do over the weekend and that I might not return on Monday. I showed up for the Congress session on Monday morning still undecided about what I would do. Only I could make up my mind, no one could do it for me and it had to be for my reasons, not theirs. I knew which way I was leaning but the Congress session Monday morning clinched it for me. I knew beyond a shadow of a doubt that I could not cover the proceedings of Congress from that morning in particular while simultaneously working on the President's behalf.

Suddenly my four week long dilemma was resolved and I returned immediately to the PIO's office without lingering to talk as I normally do after a Congress session. I wrote my letter of resignation and left the office. It was not due to anything the President or the Vice President had done. I think they are good men who are trying hard to perform a hard job to the best of their abilities.

I could have stayed on full time at the President's office and continued to receive a paycheck but then who

would I release information to if The Kaselehlie Press closed its doors? We've been doing what we do for over eight years and we're not about to stop now!

I think that the character Ben Kingsley played in the movie I watched over the weekend was at least partially right. It is hard to know the right thing to do but sometimes it is equally as hard to do it. Then again the right thing is the right thing and it cannot be ignored even if the cost is personally high.

I hope to regain the trust of those of you who felt that my initial decision was egregiously wrong.

The Executive branch desperately needs a Public Information Officer. Perhaps one of our readers will consider approaching the President about taking the job on. There are many very capable people in the FSM. Perhaps one of you who is capable will also be simultaneously willing to take that thankless job. It's not glamorous but it is vital!

Bill Jaynes
Managing Editor
The Kaselehlie Press

...Ehsa

tei kan. We have to initiate change in our islands first before we can expect others to follow suit.

I understand that a lot has been invested and there is probably no way you are going to reverse the proposed Airport Project. If this is the case and the state leadership is determined to move forward on this project then I hope and humbly request that you do everything possible to minimize the environmental damages it is undoubtedly going to cause. I also encourage you to work with the national government and others to look into climate proofing the runway as much as possible so that this grant and the limited resources we have can at least last a while longer. And

finally and most importantly to me, I implore of you to please look for all other possible fill material before resorting to the use of live coral and dredging at new sites.

Honorable Governor, I hope your administration will come up with a long term comprehensive state development plan that will incorporate all the vital components (social, environmental and economic) of a balanced and sustainable growth for our unique Pei Sarawi. We have to move away from these opportunistic and donor-driven projects and begin to implement a comprehensive development plan that suits our fragile and irreplaceable island resources. I thank you for your time and have readied myself to assist your administration to the best of my ability.

Ni wahu oh Pohnpei Met,
Willy Kostka

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2008 BEIJING OLYMPIC YOUTH CAMP COMPETITION GUIDELINES AND RULES

The Beijing Organizing Committee for the Olympic Games (BOCOG) will be hosting the Olympic Youth Camp (OYC) in Beijing, China from August 6 - 17, 2008. The OYC, a gathering of 410 participants from all around the world, is a cross-cultural exchange program that brings together young people to participate in learning about other cultures, sharing the experience of the Olympics and learning about the culture of the host country.

The mission of the OYC in Beijing *"is to provide a unique Chinese experience in an environment that fosters the Olympic ideals of teamwork, sportsmanship and fair play. The ultimate goal of the program is to motivate and encourage participants to become the next Olympians."*

The OYC site in Beijing will have 24-hour security and participants will be supervised and chaperoned 24 hours a day. The OYC is being held in conjunction with the Beijing 2008 Olympic Games which will be held from August 8 - 24.

SELECTION CRITERIA AND CONDITIONS OF APPLICATION

1. The FSM National Olympic Committee will select two participants, one boy and one girl to attend the OYC. A selection committee, chaired by Susie Yoma, will review all applications and announce the two FSM participants on March 26, 2008.
2. Applicants must have been born between August 8, 1990 and August 8, 1992 (BOCOG rule – 16 to 18 years of age from the start of the Olympic Games Opening Ceremony) and be attending high school.
3. Applicants must have the ability to travel on their own and have parental consent to do so.
4. Applicants must be FSM citizens.
5. The OYC is a cross-cultural exchange program with components based around Arts, Sports, Cultural Exchange and the Environment. Applicants must be prepared to fully participate in all components of the program and possess good communication skills.

Astronomical Tide Prediction February 20 - March 4, 2007				
	POHNPEI, KOSRAE		CHUUK	
Wednesday	20 Wed 03:23AM 2.9 08:47AM 0.8 03:14PM 4.5 09:52PM 0.2	27 Wed 06:06AM 3.5 12:11PM 1.5 05:28PM 2.7 11:39PM 0.9	20 Wed 03:51AM 0.6 06:47AM 0.4 02:20PM 2.3 09:53PM -0.2	27 Wed 04:42AM 1.7 10:49AM 0.7 03:03PM 1.1 09:28PM 0.0
Thursday	21 Thu 03:45AM 3.2 09:21AM 0.6 03:43PM 4.5 10:13PM 0.2	28 Thu 06:31AM 3.3 12:41PM 1.9 05:18PM 2.4 11:39PM 1.1	21 Thu 03:30AM 0.7 07:37AM 0.4 02:42PM 2.2 09:55PM -0.1	28 Thu 05:02AM 1.7 11:15AM 0.9 02:30PM 1.0 09:27PM -0.1
Friday	22 Fri 04:09AM 3.4 09:53AM 0.5 04:10PM 4.3 10:33PM 0.3	29 Fri 07:05AM 3.0 01:44PM 2.1 03:59PM 2.2 11:21PM 1.3	22 Fri 03:30AM 1.0 08:17AM 0.3 03:00PM 2.0 09:55PM 0.0	29 Fri 05:28AM 1.6 09:28PM -0.2
Saturday	23 Sat 04:33AM 3.6 10:23AM 0.6 04:34PM 4.1 10:51PM 0.4	01 Sat 08:29AM 2.8 10:01PM 1.4	23 Sat 03:40AM 1.2 08:52AM 0.3 03:14PM 1.8 09:53PM 0.1	01 Sat 06:09AM 1.5 09:28PM -0.2
Sunday	24 Sun 04:56AM 3.7 10:52AM 0.7 04:55PM 3.8 11:07PM 0.5	02 Sun 12:34PM 3.0 08:50PM 1.2	24 Sun 03:53AM 1.4 09:25AM 0.4 03:23PM 1.6 09:49PM 0.1	02 Sun 12:18PM 1.6 09:25PM -0.2
Monday	25 Mon 05:20AM 3.7 11:19AM 1.0 05:12PM 3.5 11:21PM 0.7	03 Mon 03:19AM 2.1 06:19AM 2.0 01:18PM 3.4 08:39PM 0.9	25 Mon 04:08AM 1.6 09:55AM 0.5 03:25PM 1.4 09:42PM 0.1	03 Mon 12:45PM 1.8 09:17PM -0.2
Tuesday	26 Tue 05:43AM 3.6 11:45AM 1.2 05:24PM 3.1 11:32PM 0.8	04 Tue 02:40AM 2.4 07:20AM 1.6 01:51PM 3.8 08:47PM 0.7	26 Tue 04:25AM 1.6 10:23AM 0.6 03:19PM 1.2 09:34PM 0.1	04 Tue 01:11PM 2.0 09:10PM -0.2

6. Applicants must have a respect of different cultures and be able to share something of his/her own culture. They must also be receptive to a new culture within a short time frame.

7. Preference will be given to student athletes. The applicant must list in detail their sport background and achievements on the application form.

8. Airfares, local transportation, accommodation, meals and travel insurance during the OYC will be covered by the FSM National Olympic Committee and BOCOG. All other incidental expenses, including pocket money will be the responsibility of the successful applicants.

9. OYC Application Forms must be submitted to FSMNOC office located in Kolonia, Pohnpei by Friday, March 14, 2008. The application must include the following:

- Application Section A – Personal details
- Application Section B – 250 word essay
- Application Section C – Applicant signature and Parent signature
- Copy of FSM passport or birth certificate
- Letter of Recommendation
- Certified copy of most current high school grades

For additional information contact

Jim Tobin at 320-8914 or at

fsmnoc@mail.fm

A very surprising lack of submissions from the Pohnpei Ministerial Association or from other religious organizations has caused the temporary cessation of the religion page. Please feel free to submit your items for consideration for the page to kpress@mail.fm

CROSSWORD PUZZLE

1	2	3	4		5	6	7	8		9	10	11	12
13					14					15			
16					17					18			
19					20				21				
			22	23			24	25					
26	27	28				29				30	31	32	
33				34	35					36			
37					38				39	40			
41			42	43					44	45			
			46					47					
48	49	50				51	52			53	54	55	56
57						58				59			
60						61				62			
63						64				65			

OVERWHELMED

<p>29. Cell blocker 33. Have a tab 34. Ship areas 36. Regret 37. Corral 38. Ask on one's knees 40. Monty Python opener 41. Teacher 44. Inner torment 46. Grocery need 47. Needle part 48. Birth day event 51. Operate 53. Stereo pieces 57. Alimony collectors 58. Take care of 59. Saw or bit 60. Happiness 61. ___ the Woods 62. Otherwise 63. Put in the mail 64. Fret 65. More than want</p> <p>DOWN</p> <p>1. Fossil fuel 2. Qualified 3. Temporary gift 4. Renter 5. Women's group? 6. ___ 51</p>	<p>7. Moe, on <i>The Simpson's</i> 8. Crafty 9. Brunch drink 10. Super serves 11. Encounter 12. Requests 21. Shorten 23. Lookie! 25. Passport stamp 26. Deal 27. Overwhelmed 28. Windows pull-down 29. Portion 30. Math class 31. Pitchers goals 32. Remainder 35. Elects 39. Groundhog ___ 42. Shut 43. Broadcast 45. Make shipshape 47. Wealthy alums do it 48. Stamina, in <i>Variety</i> 49. Wheel shaft 50. "How long has it ___?" 52. Feed the kitty 54. Gopher kin 55. Sit for a portrait 56. Downhill racer 58. "Whether ___ nobler to ..."</p>
---	---

ACROSS

- | | | |
|-----------------------|----------------------|------------------|
| 1. Use the phone | 15. Italian desserts | 20. Corrode |
| 5. Airport queue | 16. Too bad! | 21. Party givers |
| 9. Talking-doll word | 17. Extremely | 22. Eternity |
| 13. Clarinets cousin | 18. Earth inheritor | 24. Night times |
| 14. Kind of tradition | 19. Camera part | 26. Carved gem |

K-Press Puzzle Pleasure

SOLUTION IN NEXT ISSUE

Drift Away

<p>Puzzle A</p> <p>Can you find the word DRIFT hidden in this diagram 25 times? Its letters read in a straight line forward, backward, up down, and diagonally.</p>	<p>Puzzle B</p> <p>The word DRIFT is hidden in the diagram only once. It will read in a straight line forward, backward, up, down, or diagonally.</p>
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COMMUNITY BULLETIN

- Alcoholics Anonymous meets every Wednesday at Cantero Hall at the Roman Catholic Vicariate office at 7:00 p.m. Public welcome. For details, call 320-8365.
- Pohnpei Lions Club meets monthly every 4th Tuesday at Cliff Rainbow Restaurant at 6:30p.m. Public Welcome.
- The Christian Ministerial Association of Pohnpei meets the third Wednesday of each month at 10:00 a.m. in Cantero Hall at the Roman Catholic vicariate office.
- Devotions every Sunday 9:30 a.m. at the Bahai Center in Dolonier. For details, call 320-2182.
- Habitat for Humanity Pohnpei holds their meetings every Tuesday from 11:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. at the Sei Restaurant.
- Soccer practice/games at PICS field Monday, Tuesday, Thursday 5:30 p.m. Everyone welcome.
- The Rotary Club of Pohnpei holds its weekly meetings Thursdays at 12:15 p.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.
- FANGO holds its monthly Issue Based Dialogue (IBD) on the last Wednesday of each Month at the Sei Restaurant at 12:00 p.m. to 1:00 p.m.. The public is welcome.
- The Rotary Club of Truk Lagoon holds its weekly meetings every Wednesday at 12:00 Noon at the Truk Stop Hotel Restaurant VIP Room. You are welcome to attend and can contact us at rotarycluboftruklagoon@yahoo.com

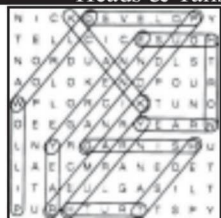
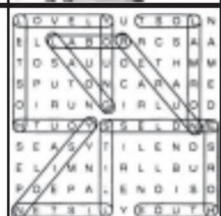
The Community Bulletin is a free message board exclusive to announcements. To post your announcements to The Kaselehlie Press

 P. O. Box 2222 Pohnpei, FM 96941
 fax to: (691) 320-6571
 phone to: (691) 320-6547
 email to: kpress@mail.fm

The deadline for Ads, News Items, or Letters to the Editor for the next issue is February 29

X-Press Puzzle Pleasure

LAST Issue's Solution

Heads & Tails		Grand Tale	
	Puzzle A		Puzzle B
		<p>LAVA STEM FLAP ERAS TUNA LAIR DETHRONED AMMO EVER SASS ALGAE GOSH TRAIL LEAK GAP EDIT PETTY OUR NOT YOGIS BONE TRY EPIC DUSTY BASS OASES MIME LAUD ODOR MARGARITA JEST ETCH AVOW OATH NEST TYPE</p>	

ANOTHER CLASSIC LIMERICK BROUGHT TO YOU BY **TRASHBUSTERS**

There was a young lady named Kite
Whose speed was much faster than light.
She left home one day
In a relative way
And returned on the previous night.

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National Workshop Discusses Local Food Crops and Plant Genetic Resources

By Dr. Lois Englberger
Island Food Community of Pohnpei

A three-day national consultation on plant genetic resources, specifically the main local and important food crops, was held February 4-6, 2008, at Pohnpei Agriculture of the Office of Economic Affairs based at the Botanical Garden, with the Governor of Pohnpei, John Ehsa, officially opening the meeting. The meeting was coordinated by Pohnpei Agriculture of the Office of Economic Affairs, Island Food Community of Pohnpei and other local agencies, including participation by all states of the Federated States of Micronesia, with support by the Secretariat of the Pacific Community (SPC) groups.

Governor Ehsa pointed out his interest in the local food movement and issues. He stated, "I became interested in this topic a few years ago when I learned about the new research findings and analyses on Pohnpei foods, and their rich nutrient content." He mentioned the plans for a school lunch program, which would include local foods and stimulate agriculture production.

The first objective of the workshop was to share activities involving the main local staple foods: breadfruit, yam, banana and taro, as well as pandanus, citrus, cassava, coconut, sweet potato, papaya, mango and other fruits, nuts and underutilized food crops. The second objective involved developing a strategy for protecting the diversity of local food crops, in particular with the threat today of the trend towards



The Governor of Pohnpei, John Ehsa (center), and participants of the FSM National Consultation on Plant Genetic Resources meet outside the office of Pohnpei Agriculture of the Office of Economic Affairs, Kolonia, Pohnpei.

use of imported foods. Dr. Mary Taylor and Mr. Tevita Kete, from the SPC Centre for Pacific Crops and Trees based in Fiji, provided information on the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (ITPGRFA) and work in the region on plant genetic resources.


The many benefits of local foods were stressed, including food security, health, economic, environmental, and culture. The importance of developing small-scale food processing, and value-added products for the market was pointed out.

The meeting agreed unanimously on the significant contribution


crop diversity makes to sustainable agriculture and that access to a wide range of diversity is becoming increasingly important as Pacific Islands have to address the challenge of climate change and continue to grow crops and produce food. This emphasizes the need to put in place policies and frameworks which promote conservation of traditional food crops and importantly their use through support for local food systems. In addition it is important to remember that no one country is self-sufficient in crop diversity. Through ratifying the ITPGRFA, Pacific Island countries will be guaranteed access to crop diversity throughout the world and must share their genetic material.

Thanks are extended to Dr. Mary Taylor for assistance in writing this article, and to those participating, including the Governor's Office, representatives from Chuuk, Yap and Kosrae; FSM Department of Resource and Development; FSM Archive, Cultural and Historic Preservation Office; FSM Environment Section; College of Micronesia-FSM Cooperative Extension Services; USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service; Pohnpei Departments of Education, Health, and Land and Natural Resources; Micronesia Conservation Trust; Ellen's Market; Etscheit Farm; Pohnpei Farmers Association; Conservation Society of Pohnpei; and Sepio Donre's Catering Service.


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King Bell Tuna
~ 85¢ ~



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Condensed Milk
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...China Trip

continued from page 2

tary of the Embassy of China said that it is not rare for China to pay for the State Visits of the leadership of developing nations who do not have the resources to pay for the trip themselves.

Ambassador Susan Cox of the Australian Embassy said that their country also allows for that practice and that former FSM President Bailey Olter had in fact made a State Visit to her country under the Guest of the State program. All expenses are paid for a Guest of the State under that program. We asked her if she knew of other countries that paid for leaders of developing nations to make state visits. She said that many governments around the world facilitate State visits in this way.

According to an Embassy source in the absence of Ambassador Miriam Hughes, the United States does not pay for foreign dignitaries to make State Visits to the US.

Secretary for Foreign Affairs Lorin Robert said that he received around \$250 in Chinese Yen (RNB). He said that he had a travel authorization for the trip but it was a zero money travel authorization that merely authorized his travel to China and provided no expense money.

Juliet Jimmy of FSM finance checked into the records on our behalf and found that President Mori had a travel authorization but that it was only for two days. That was to cover the expense of an overnight stay in Guam on his way to and from China. He received \$125 for each of the two days to cover hotel and meals expense while in Guam which is the standard amount authorized for Travel Authorizations while in Guam.

During a quiet and hurried conversation with Senator Primo in the Congress Chamber which he may not have completely understood he said that the delegates on the trip received just enough money to cover expenses.

The above was the extent of the story we were going to run until we had a conversation with one last "in the know" person to check one last fact. During the conversation that ensued just moments before the National Government office closed for the weekend we were told why it was that Vice

Speaker Moses made the accusation of corruption against the President. According to that highly placed source, one Senator who was on the trip told Senator Moses that he and his wife had received \$4000 each in cash in a sealed envelope.

With one hour remaining in the National Government's week and with heart pounding we began calling every one we knew to get a confirmation or denial of this bit of earthshaking information. Senators Primo and Neth were at the funeral of the Iso Nahnken of Madolenihmw, and Senator Suka was still in a committee meeting. We still have not talked with them.

We called Secretary Robert knowing that President Mori would arrive back on island on Saturday afternoon. He said that he had a scheduled meeting with the President on Sunday and that he would convey our urgent message. At press time we still had not talked with him.

Over the weekend we left a message at the hotel of former President, Senator Urusemal to see how his travel expenses were handled when he made a State Visit to China. He quite possibly did not receive the message since we didn't hear back from him over the weekend.

On Sunday afternoon we did have a phone conversation with Vice Speaker Resio Moses. He gave us permission to quote him. He said that he made his public and "on-journal" accusation regarding Presidential corruption because Senator Primo told him that he was uncomfortable about the fact that he and his wife had each received a substantial sum of money from, not the Chinese Government but the Chinese fishing firm, Luen Thai, a fishing company that currently operates a fleet out of Pohnpei.

Senator Moses said, "The Chinese Government pays for every-

thing on these trips. Anything delegates receive beyond that should be considered a bribe!"

We asked him if it was just Senator Primo and his wife that received money. He said, "All of them! They all did; every one of them." He indicated that every delegate whether they worked for the FSM government or not received money from Luen Thai.

We have been unable to verify the statement.

He said that when he traveled for a State Visit to China with the FSM's first President Tosiwo Nakayama, the Chinese government covered all of their necessary expenses and that delegates received no cash.

We spoke by phone with Mr. Gan Lin, the base operator of the Luen Thai fishing company. He said that he didn't know enough about the situation to tell us what had happened because he was, as he put it "just the base manager". He said that his boss would be in on Monday's flight and that he might have more information on the topic.

The Kaselehlie Press goes to print on Monday morning. We will attempt to do a follow up to this story in the next issue.

Tensions between Congress and the Executive Branch remain high.

President Mori was due back to the FSM on February 16, 2008.



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